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WINDOWS



Smriti Irani tests Covid positive

NEW DELHI

UNION minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday said she has tested positive for Covid-19. She asked people who came in contact with her to get themselves tested at the earliest. "It is rare for me to search for words while making an announcement; hence here's me keeping it simple – I've tested positive for #COVID and would request those who came in contact with me to get themselves tested at the earliest," Irani tweeted.

Hong Kong bars AI flights again

NEW DELHI

HONG Kong has banned Air India flights from Mumbai till November 10 after a few passengers on its flight earlier this week tested positive for Covid-19 post arrival, a senior government official said on Friday. This is the fourth time that Air India flights from India have been banned by the Hong Kong government for bringing passengers who tested positive for the infection after arrival. Passengers from India can arrive in Hong Kong only if they have a Covid-19 negative certificate from a test done within 72 hours prior to the journey, according to rules issued by the Hong Kong government in July.

Dr Reddy's Q2 net falls 30% to ₹762 cr



CITY-BASED pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories Limited (DRL) on Wednesday reported a 30 per cent fall in net profit at Rs 762.3 crore for the second quarter ended on September 30, 2020, as compared to Rs 1,092.5 crore in the corresponding period last year. ▶ Report: P11



ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN national assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution to recall Islamabad's envoy to France as the Muslim world erupts over President Emmanuel Macron's comments on Islam. The only problem is that Pakistan does not have an ambassador in Paris.

Amid simmering tensions between Islamic nations and France over French President Emmanuel Macron's comments on Islam, Pakistan's national assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution to call back its envoy from Paris. There's only a slight problem with the resolution -- Pak-

DHARANI LAUNCH TODAY

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Dharani portal is all set to usher in a new chapter in the land administration in Telangana and bid adieu to the decades-old practice of land records' management system. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao will launch the portal at Mudu Chintalapalli village of Medchal mandal in Malkajgiri district on Thursday.

The Revenue department had conducted trial runs of the portal and fixed the technical glitches. Accord-

KCR to usher in new era of land administration

ing to sources, under the new Revenue Act on Record of Rights (RoR) - Telangana Rights in Lands and Patadar Passbooks Act 2020, the lands and properties which have been uploaded with all documents on the portal will only be permitted for registrations and ownership transactions through Dharani online portal.

According to the State government, the portal is first of its kind facility created in the country to bring in 100

per cent transparency in the registrations of property and ownership of lands. The property details which are not uploaded on the portal will be treated as illegal and the same will not be permitted for transactions.

The new facility will also put an end to the growing involvement of Revenue officials in the land registrations which led to encroachment of costly government lands and private properties. This will also check cor-

ruption in the department. The portal has already locked the government lands and Endowment and Wafq lands from registrations by the encroachers.

The Dharani portal will provide hassle-free services like slot booking, citizen open portal, successor modules and partition modules. Under the new portal, the registration and mutation will be completed on the same day and the required documents will also be given to the buyers in short time.

Continued on Page 7

Be wary of Chinese intent & actions, Rajnath tells Army

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH
NEW DELHI

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday cautioned Army commanders to be wary of Chinese actions at disputed borders and their intent during military talks.

The minister said this while addressing the 'Army Commanders Conference,' an apex biannual event that formulates important policy decisions through collegiate deliberations.

Border tensions with China at the Line of Actual Control are the main focus of deliberations in this year's four-day conference.

Sources privy to the minister's address said Singh pointed out that talks should be held honestly and in an atmosphere of trust to



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with CDS Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff Manoj Mukund Naravane and others at the Army Commanders' Conference, in New Delhi on Wednesday

reach a solution. The defence minister also hinted that there has been a trust deficit since Chinese intent has been questionable.

In the meantime, Singh said on social media: "Addressed the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi today. I'm extremely proud of the initiatives undertaken by the Indian Army in the current security environment."

He also said that the Ministry of Defence is committed to facilitate the Army in their forward movement on the road to reforms and help them in achieving advantages in all areas.

Talking about empowering the force, Singh tweeted, "We will leave no stone unturned to strengthen the arms of our Armed forces."

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Scheduled global flights suspended till Nov 30

NEW DELHI

THE suspension of scheduled international passenger flights has been extended till November 30 amid the corona virus pandemic, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said on Wednesday.

"However, the international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis," the Indian aviation regulator said in a circular. The scheduled international passenger services have been suspended in India since March 23 due to the corona virus pandemic. But special international flights have been operating under the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under the bilateral 'air bubble' arrangements with selected countries since July.

India has formed air bubble pacts with around 18 countries, including the US, the UK, the UAE, Kenya, Bhutan and France. Under an air bubble pact between two countries, special international flights can be operated by their airlines between their territories.

The DGCA circular also mentioned that the suspension does not affect the operation of international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by it. The scheduled domestic passenger flights resumed in India on May 25 after a gap of two months amid the pandemic situation.

Report: P11

KTR spits fire on BJP, Congress

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AS the date for Dubbaka byelection is drawing closer, the war of words between the ruling TRS and the BJP is reaching a new crescendo.

While the campaign witnessed high drama, TRS working president K T Rama Rao in an informal chat with the media said the TRS was sure of winning with a majority of one lakh votes as the people had seen the performance of the pink party during the last six years and how it had brought in revolutionary changes in the state which had helped it to progress at a rapid speed.

KTR said despite all the noise the Congress and the BJP have been making, it would not be a surprise if they failed to save even their deposits. He said the comments of the saffron party leaders during the election campaign were highly objectionable. He said the TRS leaders and party workers also can retaliate with similar language, but they were restraining themselves since that was not the culture of the TRS. He felt that the BJP leaders should learn how to speak from Union Minister for Home G Kishan Reddy. If the BJP was so sure of its strength, it would have accepted the challenge thrown by state Finance Minister T Harish Rao, he added. The BJP, KTR felt, had no

right to talk about the development in the state. The state has been progressing though the Centre had not been cooperative and had not even cleared the dues to the state. The BJP leaders could do nothing to put pressure on the Centre and get funds for the state. The BJP should release a white paper on Centre's help to the State since 2014.

"They do not have even the courage to accept that the money that was seized by the police from the house of relatives of their candidate M Raghuandan Rao was theirs."

Continued on Page 7

► Says will win Dubbaka with thumping majority
► Both national parties will lose deposits in byelection

With the breeding season of birds ending with the onset of winter, a group of Indian Silverbill birds are seen together enjoying the chill weather in Hyderabad. The white throated munia, similar to house sparrows, is a small passerine bird found in the Indian sub-continent and adjoining regions. These birds breed throughout the greater part of the year. As a bird with a sweet repeated flight call of chirrup, the Indian Silver-bill often goes unnoticed due to its small size and soft voice. The males and females look very similar, with fawn-brown upper parts, a whitish face, a long pointed black tail and white rump. These birds are gregarious and are found in flocks of as many as 60 birds. They feed on the ground or on low shrubs and grass stalks. Photo: Ch Prabhu Das

Birds of same feather...



53.54% turnout in 1st phase of Bihar polls

PATNA

OVER 53 per cent voter turnout has been recorded till 6 pm in the first phase of Bihar assembly polls on Wednesday, the Election Commission said in its provisional data. Voting ended at 6 pm.

A total of 71 assembly segments of the state's 243 constituencies voted in the first phase in which nearly 2.15 crore voters were to decide the electoral fate of over 1,000 candidates.

Voter turnout was low in the beginning, but it progressed with the time everywhere notwithstanding raging coronavirus cases in the state.

As per the provisional voter turnout data updated by the Election Commission at 6 pm, 53.54 per cent of the total electorates have exercised their franchise. The 71 constituencies are spread across 16 districts. The maximum 55.95 per cent turnout has been recorded in Kaimur, followed by 55.44 per cent in Lakhisarai, Buxar (53.84 per cent), Bhagalpur (52.16 per cent) and Patna (51.02 per cent) among others.

Union minister and senior BJP leader Giriraj Singh cast his vote at a polling booth in Lakhisarai, while former Bihar chief minister and HAM president Jitan Ram Manjhi exercised his franchise at a booth in Gaya.

Pakistan assembly votes to call back envoy from France. But they don't have one



ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN national assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution to recall Islamabad's envoy to France as the Muslim world erupts over President Emmanuel Macron's comments on Islam. The only problem is that Pakistan does not have an ambassador in Paris.

Amid simmering tensions between Islamic nations and France over French President Emmanuel Macron's comments on Islam, Pakistan's national assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution to call back its envoy from Paris. There's only a slight problem with the resolution -- Pak-

istan does not have an ambassador in France. Pakistan's last ambassador to France, Moin-ul Haq, left the European nation three months ago as he was transferred to China.

Since then, Pakistan has not sent a replacement for Haq to Paris.

Interestingly, Pakistan's Foreign

Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was one of the movers of the resolution in the national assembly.

As part of his duties in the Foreign Office, Qureshi would be aware of the fact, currently, Pakistan does not have an envoy in France. However, this did not stop him from demanding that the supposed envoy be called back to Islamabad. Meanwhile, Pakistan on Monday summoned the French ambassador in Islamabad, a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan accused French President Emmanuel Macron of attacking Islam by defending the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

Who created Aarogya Setu? RTI body pulls up govt over evasive reply

NEW DELHI

THE Central Information Commission has issued show-cause notices to the CPIOs, Ministry of Electronics, National Informatics Centre and National E-Governance Division (NeGD), seeking to know as to why penalty under Section 20 of the RTI Act should not be imposed on them for prima facie obstruction of information and providing an evasive reply on an RTI application

related to the Aarogya Setu App, the Live Law reported.

The report said that CIC also asked the NIC to explain that when in the Aarogya Setu website it is mentioned that the platform was designed, developed and hosted by it, then how is it that it doesn't have any information about the creation of the App.

The Commission directs the CPIOs, NIC to explain this matter in writing as to how the website <https://aarogya.setu.gov.in/> was created

with the domain gov.in, if they do not have any information about it," Information Commissioner Vanaja N Sarna ordered.

"None of the CPIOs were able to explain anything regarding who created the App, where are the files, and the same is extremely preposterous," Sarna said.

The Commission has issued show-cause notices to SK Tyagi, Deputy Director and CPIO, DK Sagar, Deputy Director, Electronics, and RA Dhawan, Senior General Manager (HR and Admin) and CPIO NeGD, the report said. "The Commission directs the above-mentioned CPIOs to appear before the bench on 24.11.2020 at 01.15 pm to show cause as to why action should not be initiated against them under Section 20 of the RTI Act. The CPIOs are also directed to send a copy of all supporting documents upon which they choose to rely upon during the hearing.

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THE CITY HANS

Speed up R&R works in rain-hit areas: KTR

Minister asks officials to provide helpline numbers to citizens so they can ask it to clear debris and flood-related trash. He also tells them to rope in resident welfare associations and NGOs in providing relief

Bittersweet experience for people in twin cities

Onion price skyrockets, but apples come cheaper

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE heavy rains that lashed the State have not only left the city battered but also brought tears in the eyes of common man as the price of onions has crossed Rs 100 per kg. On the other hand, apples which are considered to be costly fruits, now cost cheaper than onions. Good quality apple is being sold for Rs 80 per kg in retail markets.

Since onion is important in the daily menu, people are buying the damaged onions which are available at comparatively cheaper prices. The worst affected by this steep increase in onion prices are snack makers and tiffin centres. They have drastically cut down on the use of onion as ingredient in the cuisines. Hotels are charging extra to prepare onion dosa. State marketing department officials said that the problem has got compounded as there has been supply crunch from Maharashtra and Karnataka, which are also hit by heavy rains. The crop in Telangana and Andhra hit an all-time low. Farmers in Moinabad and Shankarpally in Telangana and parts of Gadwal and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh reported exten-

- ▶ Extensive crop losses in Moinabad and Shankarpally in TS and parts of Gadwal and Kurnool in AP push prices steeply
- ▶ Common man in tears as the price has crossed Rs 100 per kg Special counters set up to sell onions at Rs 35 a kg at Rythu Bazaars facing closure due to short supplies
- ▶ With crop damages in other major producer-states too, unless imports arrive, situation would not improve, say officials
- ▶ Meanwhile, good quality apple is being sold for Rs 80 per kg in retail markets



sive crop losses. Officials feel that the situation may improve only around third week of November.

In order to mitigate the crisis, the Telangana government has announced opening of special counters to sell onions at Rs 35 per kg at



all Rythu Bazaars in Hyderabad. The shortage of supply led to closure of some counters, officials said, adding that unless onions are imported from other countries, the prices of the commodity will not come down.

HYDERABAD:

MUNICIPAL Administration and Urban Development Minister K Taraka Rama Rao held a review meeting on Wednesday with GHMC, HMWSSB, electricity and municipal administration department officials to discuss the ongoing relief and restoration works in rain-affected areas.

During the meeting, KTR instructed the officials to speed up the relief and restoration works in GHMC and surrounding areas. He asked the officials to work towards bringing back normalcy in these areas.

GHMC officials informed the Minister that Rs10,000 financial assistance is being handed over to the rain and flood-affected families at a fast pace. They also stated that additional municipal workers have been appointed to take up sanitation drives across the areas apart from spraying disinfectants, collecting garbage, clearing the puddles actively.

Through the ongoing special sanitation drive, 3500 metric tonnes of waste have been collected, and so far, about 18,000 metric tonnes of waste has been



collected through these drives, the officials informed the Minister. KTR asked the officials to provide helpline numbers to citizens through which they can ask the GHMC to clear the debris and flood-related trash which got accumulated during these heavy rains.

The Minister also asked the officials to rope in resident welfare associations and NGOs for more assistance in providing relief measures. Minister KTR also asked the officials to take

up road repair works in each circle in GHMC. He asked the officials to immediately start the road repair works on all major main roads to avoid inconvenience to the citizens.

The Minister instructed the officials to set up retro fittings to all the flyovers for the rainwater to flow down easily. The officials informed the Minister that all the suggestions and inputs given by the irrigation department are being taken into consideration while repairing

the damaged lakes. He asked the officials to also clear the garbage from the nala which had accumulated during the recent rains.

Mayor Bonthu Rammohan, MAUD Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar, GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar, EVDM Director Viswajit Kampati, and officials from HMWSSB and electricity departments participated in the meeting.

Govt forms panel to study Hussain Sagar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Government has constituted an official committee to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the famous Hussain Sagar lake which faced the threat of breach due to recent heavy rains. The 10-member committee headed by state Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation) C Murliidhar would study the lake's structural stability, hydrological aspect, flood routing and improvements to the structures to prevent any flood-related damages. The committee has been asked to submit a report in 15 days. Required funds to strengthen the lake will be released by Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, an official order issued by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general are hereby informed that my client Mr. Ammineni Narasimha Prasada Rao R/O-Villa no-50, Indufortune fields, phase 13, 1st, Hitech city Railway station, Kukatpally, RR.District has entered an Agreement of sale with 1.Mr.Thakkalapelli Venkateshwar Rao, 2.Dugyal Anurag Rao, 3.Kalikaneni Pruthivipati Rao, 4.Kotha Aravind Kumar, 5.Gundamaneni Viprala, 6.Gandra Venkata Gopal Rao, 7.Ponugoti Radhika Rao, 8.Gunuganti Saritha Rao, 9.Himabindu Dhanwanthry, 10.Hari Krishna Lingamallu, 11.Maturi Deepthi Sri, 12.Mogalapu Sahya Harichandra Prasad, 13.Inturu Kiran Babu for purchasing the Agricultural land in Survey number:- 181/P, 182/P, 184/P, 185/P admeasuring: AC-13-25 Gs situated at Dhobipet village, Shankarpally Mandal, Range ready district My client already paid substantial amount to the vendors towards advance sale consideration and intended to get the sale deed executed by the owners /vendors in his favor within short time, if any person/persons having any objections or claims over the said property may send the objections or claims with the relevant documents to the given address or mail id as under within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, objections or claims will not be entertained and my client will proceed with the sale transaction treating as no claims or objections over the said property.

KIRANKUMAR.GANNAMANENI
ADVOCATE
PH.NO-9848787666
EMAIL-ID:gkriranad@gmail.com
ADDRESS:- H.No. 10-5-6/B,
Flat No. 107, 4th Floor,
My Home Plaza, Banjara hills,
Hyderabad-500028.TS.

Date: 28-10-2020

Cyberabad CP says they cracked the case within 12 hours with AP police cooperation

HYDERABAD:

CYBERABAD police on Wednesday arrested seven persons for kidnapping a city doctor for Rs 10 crore ransom.

Hours after the doctor was rescued by police in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district, Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar announced the arrest of seven accused while six others, including the main accused, a relative of the doctor, are absconding.

Behjet Hussain, a 56-year-old dentist, was kidnapped from his clinic in Kismatpur under the limits of Rajendranagar police station on Tuesday. He was rescued by the police at Anantapur early on Wednesday when a four-member team of abductors was taking him to Bengaluru in a car. While one abductor was arrested, the remaining managed to escape.

Sajjanar said the police cracked the case within 12 hours with the cooperation by their counterparts from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. According to police, main accused Mustafa, who is a relative of the victim's wife, had returned from Australia after incurring huge losses and started real estate business in Hyderabad and Pune. He, along with Mubashir Ahmed alias Khaled, who was his business partner in Australia,



hatched a plan to kidnap the doctor for a ransom to make easy money.

Mubashir, through Mustafa, took a flat on rent from the doctor at Bandlaguda and kept a close watch on the movements of the victim through housekeeper Mohammed Raheem. They joined hands with Ganesh alias Guniya of Pune, and through him, hired other accused Sumit Chandrakanth Bhosale, Akshay Balu Vairekar and Vicky Datta Shinde, all residents of Pune. The main accused also joined hands with Imran and his brother Imran who hail from Kukatpally in Hyderabad.

They formed two separate teams for execution of their plan, one for abduction of the victim and the other 'escort team' headed by Puneet of Udupi in Karnataka. His team comprised Sanjay, Siri and Prithvi, who all hail from Udupi. They threatened the doctor and technician with toy pistols, and tied the technician's hands and mouth. They took the victim to Yellamma Banda of Kukatpally where they kept him till late night and sent a voice message to the family members demanding the huge ransom.

They threatened to kill the victim's wife, father and kids if the required amount is not paid within 48 hours. After late night as per their plan, they handed over him to Karnataka team who took him and proceeded towards Bengaluru, but were intercepted by the police. The police seized three cars, seven cell phones, toy pistols and other material used in the commission of offence.

Cyberabad police had formed 12 teams, which acted quickly on the leads and made the arrests. The Police Commissioner praised the work of the police personnel and rewarded them.

NGO distributes ration kits

SECUNDERABAD:

THE city-based NGO Kriya Sangh Society, along with Sadhu Vaswani Mission, organised rehabilitation operation to help families affected by the floods in Indiramma Nagar, Raosulpura on Wednesday. "At present we have identified around 200 flood-affected families and distributed one groceries that includes 10 kg of rice, sugar, dal, salt and oil packet. For this mission like-minded people help us financially," said Shaik Nayem, the founder-secretary of Kriya Sangh society.

ACB nabs SI red-handed

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE sleuths of Anti-Corruption Bureau on Wednesday nabbed a Sub-Inspector (SI) Lakshminarayana and a constable of Gandhinagar PS, red-handed while they were taking a bribe amount of Rs 30,000 from a complainant.

According to ACB officials, the SI demanded a bribe amount of Rs 50,000 from the complainant to settle a matter in relation to the cheating case and he sent the constable to collect the money.

However, the complainant filed a complaint with the ACB and the officials laid a trap and nabbed the police constable and SI after they took the money from the victim. A chemical test was conducted to identify their fingerprints and later on both were arrested and would be produced before the special court for ACB cases, said an official.



HYDERABAD:

A Hyderabad-based innovator has come up with a cost-effective automated multi-level car parking solution.

Kaushik Rachapudi, co-founder and CEO of BigParkin, said, "An automated multi-level car parking a cost-effective solution for efficient use of parking space. We enhance every two-car parking space to 16 cars and two bike parking spaces to 72 bikes." "I have designed, developed, and built a smart bike parking which is indigenously built in Hyderabad it is first in the country to enhance bike parking system. We aim to solve the parking problem across all metro stations, public parking, and other locations in Hyderabad," he added. He further said, "Current parking need in Hyderabad is about 25,000 bike parking and 7,000 car parking spaces. We are going to address this issue by installing smart parking which is 600 per cent efficient by partnering with government, public and private organisations."

About 40 per cent of Hyder-



abad's parking problems can be addressed with the new solution in one year. Installing a smart car parking system with 16 cars every 5 km and a smart bike parking system with 72 bikes every 2 km in the city is one of their goals for the next 3 years. Additionally, each smart parking location will have a hybrid electric vehicle charge point for all-electric vehicle users.

Rachapudi further said that he is planning to establish a manu-

facturing plant in Telangana to cater to the need for smart parking. "We built a mobile application to identify, book/reserve parking with digital wallets which makes it convenient for users to park hassle-free. The bike parking unit is an indigenous design with patented technology. We are establishing a manufacturing plant in Telangana to cater to the need for smart parking," he said.

"Currently, we have a few

work orders from Cyberabad Police, Telangana Government to install smart car and bike parking to address their parking issue. A few other government projects are in line which may take shape by end of this year. We wish to act as a bridge between the government and the public by enhancing traditional parking spaces by introducing smart parking," he added.

GENERAL NOTICE

Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Gold Loan - Amberpet Branch hereby informs to its esteemed customer(s) that the company is shifting the present office from **FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD, 1ST FLOOR, 2-2-1052/1, 2, 3 & 4 (OLD NO. 2-2-1052/4, Ground Floor, Vinayaka Happy Homes Arcade, Amberpet X Road, Hyderabad, Telangana Pin code - 500013** for better service and operations. Company will be operating from the current office till 04th November - 2020 only and with effect from 05th November 2020 the company will operate from new office.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED,
Gold Loan – Amberpet Branch



City startup designs novel parking system

In place of every 2-car parking space, 16 cars can be parked and a 2-bike parking space can accommodate 72 bikes, says Kaushik Rachapudi, co-founder and CEO of BigParkin

work orders from Cyberabad Police, Telangana Government to install smart car and bike parking to address their parking issue. A few other government projects are in line which may take shape by end of this year. We wish to act as a bridge between the government and the public by enhancing traditional parking spaces by introducing smart parking," he added.



HYDERABAD THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020 3

PANDEMIC FALLOUT

250 child marriages during lockdown

Poor parents marry off girls with cops busy enforcing lockdown curbs and activists confined to homes

T P VENU
HYDERABAD

THOUGH the Indian government has banned child marriages, the social evil continues to prevail among the different communities ceremoniously and brazenly in rural areas and clandestinely in urban zones. According to the latest data, 250 child marriages took place in the Old City during the lockdown. Alarmingly, the number of child marriages has gone up by a whopping 100 per cent.

Last year, 110 marriages took place just in the 20-odd slums in Talabkatta and its surroundings with a maximum number taking place in Hassan Nagar. Jameela Nishat, who has been working with the slum dwellers since 2012, says, "The young girls were saved from the old men from the Gulf but due to job loss of their parents and poverty, many were married away to people within the community in a secretive manner, so secretly that even the neighbours did not get a whiff." Shaheen's Women Resource & Welfare Association was able to save eight marriages. Taking advantage of the lockdown, many families got minor girls married as the police were busy imposing coronavirus guidelines and social activists were restricted in their homes. Archana of Shaheen says, "Four witnesses from both sides and a broker is all that is needed to conduct marriages. Also, with the lockdown restrictions, it was all that was needed."

Most marriages took place in Baba Nagar, Shaheen Nagar, Vattpally, Barkas and Hassan Nagar. In most cases, the marriage is from the same slum. Jameela says, "These people are settled here and are not migrants. We go door-to-door and know each one of them. This year it was unfortunate we were unable to monitor due to the lockdown." The spike from 110 to 250 marriages just from 20-odd slums says it all. The coronavirus has not spared anyone, even the minor girls.



"As there were no flights during lockdown, many girls from Old City were saved from getting married to old men from the Gulf, but due to poverty they were married off to old men within the community"

— Jameela Nishat, Founder, Shaheen's Women Resource & Welfare Association

Early marriage has so many implications. Their education comes to a standstill and they are left to do household chores. It is a myth that early and child marriages only take place in nearby districts of Hyderabad. It is very much prevalent in the Old City

— M S Chandra, Founder, Centre for Action Research and People's Development

Alarmingly, the number of child marriages has gone up by a whopping 100 per cent. Last year, 110 marriages took place just in the 20-odd slums in Talabkatta and its surroundings with a maximum number taking place in Hassan Nagar



New consumer law sees more people move courts

VASAVI KALERU
HYDERABAD

20% rise seen in cases at the three fora in city after new Act came into force on July 20



Previously, according to the 1986 Act, if any item was purchased by a consumer from a trader and if it was damaged or was of inferior quality, he/she had no right to question the trader as he was only projected as a facilitator. But, according to the latest Act, the consumer enjoys complete right to question and file a case against the trader if there is any malpractice

teams. Each team has three advocates. Daily a team comes to the forum and completes the task. On the same lines, the State Consumer Com-

mission has six teams. Each team has an advocate who visits on a single day and completes the hearings," he added.

Adventure Academy opens at MCR HRDI

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

To infuse a spirit of adventure in trainees, organise trekking activity



base with a view to cover a larger chunk of people of Telangana.

Shekhar Babu stated that the Academy has ambitious plans to initiate, encourage and develop adventure sports for the benefit of different sections of society, especially weaker sections from rural areas, to bring out a broad-based change in their personality.

"Contrary to popular belief, adventure sports are useful for people coming from all walks of life, rather than for a small number with a daredevil attitude," he pointed out. He had coached Poorna and Anand Kumar Sadhanapalli, the students of Telangana Social Welfare Residential Schools, to scale Mount Everest.

₹68.4 cr sanctioned for nala works: Mayor

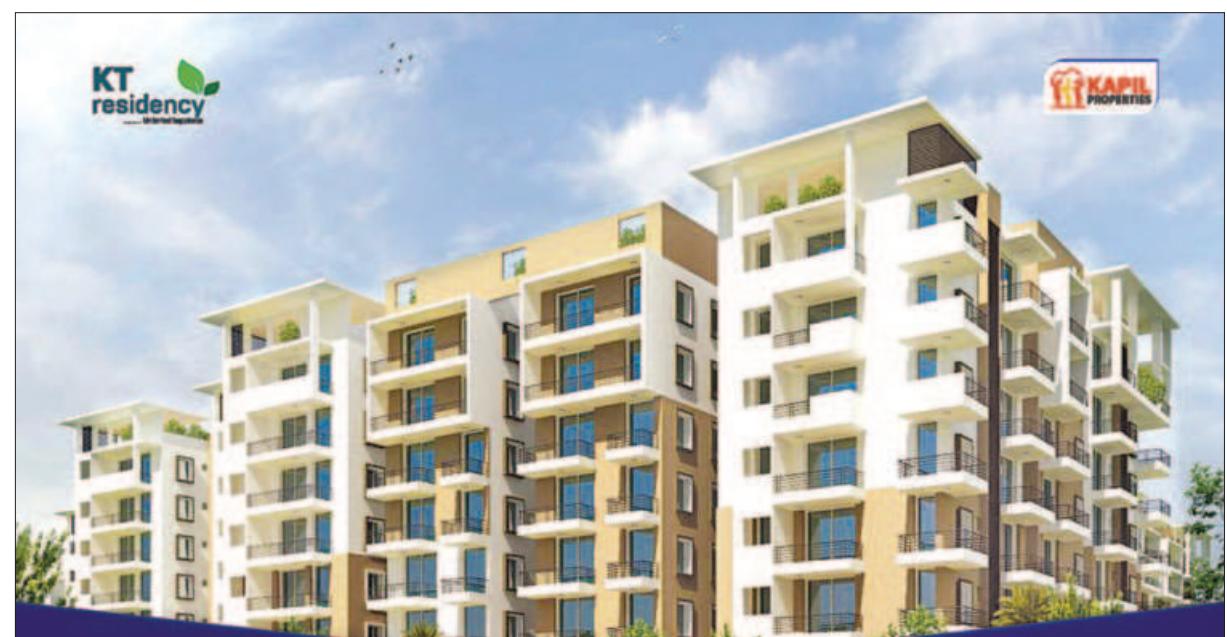
HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor, Bonthu Ramamohan along with MLA Kaleru Venkatesh on Wednesday visited Rattanagar, Nallakunta and inspected the places where inundation occurred due to overflow of nala during recent incessant rains in the city. He said government has sanctioned ₹68.4 crore towards strengthening the retaining wall from Hussain Sagar to Golnaka stretch of 8

km and new retaining wall from Golnaka to Musi of 1 km length in order to avoid inundation in the low-lying areas along the nala. "During the recent visit of MAUD Minister KT Ramarao to Golnaka, he assured to provide retaining wall from Fever Hospital to Musi so that it solves the flooding problem in that area," he added.

Zonal Commissioner B Srinivas Reddy, corporators Muta Padma, Gariganti Sridevi, Retired SE (Irrigation) Y Shekar Reddy, EE Renuka, AE Rajesh and others were present.

LOST DOCUMENT
I, CH ANAND VERMA S/o. Ch V Satyanarayana Raju would like to inform general public that I have lost first page of my original sale deed doc bearing No. 3662/2017 registered at Kesara Sub-Registrar Office. If anyone finds it, kindly Contact me at 9547217671 within 15 days from the date of issue of this document.
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4 HYDERABAD THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020

THE CITY HANS

Restaurants neglecting Covid safety norms

VASAVI KALERU
HYDERABAD

THE State government initiated the unlock process under stringent Covid preventive guidelines to be followed by all citizens and sectors. However, lack of monitoring mechanism and punishments has resulted in complacency taking over the people and some sectors, including the restaurants. Lately, it has been observed restaurants brazenly flouting the Covid-preventive norms in the city. The hotels are seen functioning to their full seating capacity flouting the norms of no crowding, to allow 50 per cent of their capacity and regular sanitisation.

"These days restaurants are not sanitising every table once the customer leaves after finishing their meal. I have recently been to a reputed hotel in Lakdikapool, there I was offered to sit at a table which was not even cleaned and the plates of customers were yet to be picked up. It is dangerous in the times of pandemic, I immediately asked for sanitization of table and I took the seat only after it was sanitized. The hotel sees heavy crowding inside and outside against the Covid norms. Also, there is no proper sanitisation, crowds are seen in groups and gloves are hardly worn by the hotel staff" said K Di-



SAFE DINING TIPS

- Prefer outdoor seating than dine-in indoors
- Maintain 6 feet distance from table to table
- People should not talk without wearing a mask
- Ensure windows and doors are open for ventilation
- Better to have gloves and take your meal with well sanitised spoon
- Sanitise maximum number of times and ensure tables are sanitised after customer leaves

nesh Kumar, Manager, Nature Spa, Madhapur.

Moreover, not every customer is sanitizing their hands

while entering in the restaurant and very few are wearing facemasks "A restaurant should have safe distancing concepts.

Personally, I'd still be hesitant to visiting a restaurant, said Ice Al-mannat Mandi in Soma-jiguda.

IIIT hosts virtual EU Day

EU supporting in setting up a Centre of Excellence at the institute

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIITH), hosted a virtual EU Day on human-centric digitalisation through policy dialogue, research and innovation between the European Union and India.

Speaking on the occasion, EU Ambassador Ugo Astuto said: "Covid-19 has demonstrated how important the digital dimension is to the economy, society and individual lives. We've seen how we can effectively perform many roles remotely, but for these IT tools to work we need adequate infrastructure. The EU and India, two of the world's largest democracies, are working together on various aspects of this". He further said: "We have been collaborating with IIITH on a Centre of Excellence for IoT and smart cities and look forward to promoting a human-centric digital

(MEITY), Telangana government, and academic institutions (IIITH and NITW). Sessions included EU-India cooperation on enablers for a data-driven economy, EU-India Cooperation on the ICT standardisation, policy and legislation project in collaboration with IIITH and Future cooperation opportunities between EU and India on Research, Innovation and Education. In the first session.

Benoit Sauvieroche from the EU delegation, presented the concept of data-driven economy, highlighted the challenges and enablers for the same, and why India-EU cooperation was important in this field. He also emphasised the need for human-centric approach for the application of AI.

Free health camp held

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SALAR-E-MILLAT trust organised a free health camp for flood victims at Narqi Phool Bagh in Hafiz Baba Nagar on Wednesday. Doctors from Owaisi group of Hospitals rendered their services. Medicines were provided free of cost to patients. Hundreds of people from surrounding colonies availed the opportunity. According to doctors, many patients are being treated for viral diseases and also patients with symptoms of dengue and malaria have been examined. The doctors advised patients that besides taking medicines, people should remain alert and aware for keeping their surroundings clean.



Corona cases again surge past 1 k mark

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA on Wednesday reported 1,481 new COVID cases, taking the state's tally to 2,34,152. After reporting daily count of less than 1,000 for three days due to fewer tests, the cases surged to over 1,400 as the authorities conducted 40,081 tests.

The authorities had drastically reduced the number of daily tests due to weekend and Dussehra holidays and this had led to a big drop in number of cases. Four deaths during the last 24 hours pushed the death toll to 1,319. The fatality stands at 0.56 per cent against the national average of 1.5 per cent.

Officials said the percentage of deaths due to Covid-19 was 44.96 while the remaining 55.04 had co-morbidities. Greater Hyderabad reported 279 new cases. Medchal Malkajgiri recorded the second highest number of cases at 138 followed by Rangareddy (111), Khammam (82), Nalgonda (82), Bhadrakothagudem (79), Karimnagar (79) and Suryapet (47).

According to the daily media bulletin released by the office of the director of

Reports daily count of less than 1,000 for 3 days due to fewer tests

public health and family welfare, 1,451 people recovered from the virus during the 24-hour period that ended 8 p.m. Tuesday. The state's recovery rate improved to 91.78 per cent as against the national average of 90.7 per cent.

The total number of active cases stands at 17,916 of which 14,883 are in home or institutional isolation.

During the last 24 hours, 40,081 samples were tested in 18 government-run laboratories,

46 private laboratories and 1,076 Rapid Antigen test centres.

According to officials, 37,237 samples were tested in government-run laboratories and 2,844 in private. Of the total samples 17,635 were primary and 4,809 were secondary. The cumulative number of tests mounted to 41,55,597. Samples tested per million population ratio rose further to 1,11,649. The daily testing target for the state is 5,600 per day as per the World Health Organisation (WHO) benchmark of 140 per million per day. Out of 2,34,152 total positive cases so far, 70 per cent (1,63,906) were asymptomatic while the remaining 30 per cent (70,246) were symptomatic.

Nala drains excess water from Fox Sagar Lake

MEGHNA NATH
HYDERABAD

FOLLOWING recent torrential rains, various lakes in the city overflowed, inundating surrounding colonies. At Fox Sagar, officials swung into action and to release water from the brimming lake, a kacha nala was dug. At present the condition of the lake is under control.

It may be recalled that the sluice gate of Fox Sagar Lake was successfully opened by a local automobile mechanic, Mohammad Khadeer, after engineers and officials in charge were unable to unlock the vents for over a week. The gate was last opened almost two decades ago, after which it remained jammed with debris, rocks and plastic. A big rock was stuck exactly where the wheels

of the sluice gate were supposed to rotate. After the technical staff failed to remove the rock, Khadeer stepped in on the request of local councillor Ravi.

Khadeer said he realised that it was not an engineering issue, rather, debris from the lake had got stuck at multiple levels of the four sluice gates. "I and a couple of boys from my shop, tried to understand which part of the gate could or could not be worked around, since it is a very old structure. It took us over four hours to cut through layers of

tarpaulin, fabric, debris, plastic, loose rocks and boulders," he added.

Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner Mamatha said surplus water from Fox Sagar had been diverted through kacha nala. The water level in the lake has come down by 1 foot and at present commuters are able to travel by the lake. Surrounding areas including Subash Nagar, Uma Maheshwari Colony-Kompally, and Jeedimetla would have been affected if the water had not been released," she added.



The sluice gate of Fox Sagar Lake was successfully opened by a local automobile mechanic, Mohammad Khadeer, after engineers and officials in charge were unable to unlock the vents for over a week. The gate was last opened almost two decades ago, after which it remained jammed

ALL SET FOR EID

Streets decorated for the Milad un-Nabi (Eid-e-Milad) in Borabanda on Wednesday. Eid falls on October 30. Muslims celebrate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad as Eid Milad-un-Nabi or Eid-e- Milad. The festival is celebrated during Rabi Al-awwal, the third month of the Islamic calendar.

Photo: Ch Prabhu Das



Grace NGO in Guinness for awareness drive

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CITY-based Grace Cancer Foundation has entered the Guinness World Record for uploading 5,000 cancer awareness videos in Facebook in an hour and catching most live viewers for a female health awareness lesson on YouTube on October 10 this year.

The illustrious recognitions were announced and formally bestowed on the foundation by Rishi Nath, Adjudicator, Swapnil Dangarikar, Official Adjudicator, and Sonia Chadha Nihal, Commercial Account Manager - APAC & India, Guinness World Records, at a virtual event on Wednesday.

Rishi Nath said the female health awareness lesson was of 30 minute duration. It was measured for the most number of concurrent viewers at one point of time. So, the maximum viewers at one time present online would contribute to the record and result. The record was achieved by Grace Cancer Foundation, India; Collective Power of One International, America; Apollo Hospitals and AP

Police. Swapnil Dangarikar said: "I am presenting the second attempt you did for most videos of people running, jogging and uploaded it on Facebook in one hour."

"A dream of creating cancer awareness conceived seven years ago has achieved unprecedented success beyond our imagination," said Dr Chinnababu Sunkavalli, CEO of the foundation, which gave huge momentum to this exercise with specially designed content. It uploaded 111 videos with a total reach of more than 8,00,000

screens. The reach through Facebook and Instagram was more than 4,67,000 and 2,76,000 respectively. In addition, it had Facebook live sessions, every Sunday evening through September and responded to the question of the affected population, he added.

Dr Hari Prasad, President, Apollo Hospitals Group; Dr Satya Kalangi, Executive Director, Collective Power of One International, and Y Subramanyam, Regional CEO, Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, were present on the occasion.

Police. Swapnil Dangarikar said: "I am presenting the second attempt you did for most videos of people running, jogging and uploaded it on Facebook in one hour."

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HYDERABAD THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020 5

Dearth of takers for popping multivitamin, multimineral pills

- ▶ Sales of sanitisers also drop considerably
- ▶ General public was not showing the same zeal as before to buy and use them

MAHESH AVADHUTHA
HYDERABAD



with

Vitamin C tablets being available every pharmacy store. This apart, there was also a huge demand for devices like pulse oximeters, thermal scanners, digital thermometers etc with prices of these shooting up like never before.

The pulse oximeter that used to cost thousands are now available for Rs 300 to Rs 400, with noted brands costing a little extra.

Similarly, the sale of sani-

tisers has also come down drastically. Earlier, a medical store used to sell 20 to 30 sanitiser bottles a day, but now, the sales are limited to just one or two.

P Krishna Kumar, Acting General Secretary of Telangana Chemists and Druggists Association, stated that the general public was not showing the same zeal like before to buy and use multivitamins tablets. Except for using masks, people have stopped

MLA INAUGURATES CC ROAD WORKS

SHADNAGAR

SHADNAGAR MLA Anjaiah Yadav inaugurated CC road works under SDF scheme in Chegur village of Nandigam mandal on Wednesday.

On this occasion, the MLA said that the government is constructing these new roads in colonies as a part of devel-



opment activities. The CC road is being constructed with the cost of Rs 5 lakh. This road is being constructed so that the people would not have any problem, he added. Ranga Reddy ZP vice chairman Eta Ganesh, MPP Priyanka Shiva Shankar Goud, sarpanch Santoshava Vital, PACS chairman Ashok and local leaders were present.

Many private engineering colleges shut down this year

SRINIVAS GUDUPALLI
RANGA REDDY

THE number of private engineering colleges in Telangana State are gradually decreasing in every educational year since 2014-15. The seats in engineering colleges were vacant, which created a problem. Which is the only reason the colleges are shutting down. In 2014-15 there were 325 colleges in Telangana State. But many colleges were closed and in the 2020-21 there

were only 178 colleges which survived and 156 colleges were shut down. In the present year some colleges have applied for the government to grant NOC to close the colleges.

In the first phase of EAM-CET-2020 counselling for 70,135 engineering seats only 50,137 seats were fulfilled mainly in the colleges of Hyderabad and outskirts of Hyderabad. As usually, rural engineering colleges were facing problems as the students are not joining the

college. The seats were filled only in 35 colleges, which are located in the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Colleges in Hyderabad got maximum number of students and fulfilled the quota of seats. However, private engineering colleges management said that running a college in the districts does not give them any returns. The State government's delay in releasing the fee reimbursement dues for the past few years has only made matters worse. "We

barely made any revenue in the past few years as the number of admissions have been less than 100. Now, renting out the building to the government or leasing it to a school will fetch us revenue of at least Rs 4-5 lakh per month," a correspondent of a college management said.

While many others have explored options such as converting the premises into a hostel or a paying guest facility, some have sold their property.

Edn Minister releases five lakh fish seedlings

MAHESHWARA M

EDUCATION Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy released five lakh fish seedlings in seven lakes in Maheshwaram constituency on Wednesday.

On this occasion, the Minister said that the government has decided to release 82 crore fish seedlings into the lakes across the State worth Rs 52 crore. 106 crore fish seedlings will be released into the lakes in Ranga Reddy district. The government has decided to increase the budget for releasing more fish seedlings into the lakes in the State to provide livelihood to the



fishermen. Community members can also make good profits if they use good market facilities for selling in urban areas. The government has already provided vehicles for marketing. Offi-

cers should give suggestions regarding good marketing and help knowing the prices in the market. Fish seedlings of good quality are being released into the lakes so that the fishermen would

yield profits. From the last 5 years in Telangana, we have achieved good results by launching a fish fry distribution programme. In order to strengthen the rural economy, The Chief Minister KCR is carrying out programmes to brighten the lives of those who depend on caste occupations.

ZP Chairperson Anitha Harinath Reddy, Badanpet municipal corporation Mayor Parijatha Narasimha Reddy, deputy mayor Ibrahim Shaker, Thukuguda municipality chairman Madhusudhan, vice chairman Bhavani Venkat Reddy and local leaders participated in the programme.

SIO hails HC order on Urdu medium online classes

HYDERABAD

THE Students Islamic Organisation(SIO) has welcomed the High Court direction to the State government to start online Urdu medium classes on par with Telugu and English media.

The HC gave the order on the PIL of the organisation's

representative Abdul Sami urging the Court to give direction to the government to start online Urdu medium classes on par with Telugu and English media.

Welcoming the order, SIO hoped that the ruling will help address the concerns of thousands of Urdu medium

students who were being denied the chance of continuing their education in online mode during the pandemic.

Dr Talha Faiyazuddin, State President SIO Telangana said that it's shameful that the students had to approach the courts for continuing their education. "The government at the first in-

stance should have considered the interests of the Urdu medium students and created tools and means for the Urdu medium students to participate with other medium students. It's very insensitive on part of the government for having neglected the future of thousands of students," he added.

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 I, SHAIK KHADER BEE Is Legally My Wife Name of ARMY NO. 14626065.H. Rank: NAV. Name PEELRA MOULAI SHAIK. Presently Residing At VILAKAVEEDU, Modli RACHERLA, Teh-GODDALAR, Dist: PRAKASAM, State: ANDHRA PRADESH, India. I Have Changed My Name From SHAIK KHADER BEE To " SHAIK KHADAR BI " Vide Affidavit No. 92AA 778373 Dated: 21-10-2010 before Advocate S. YASIN BASHA, notary public, Giddalur, Prakasam Dist.
CHANGE OF NAME
 I, MEENAKSHI NOTANI W/O ANIL NOTANI, R/O.P.O.no.107 Ramachandra Residency Raghavendra Cly, Vivekanandapuram Secbad, T.S., Changed my Name as MEENAKSHI NOTANI to MEENAKSHI SHARMA W/O INDRANIL SHARMA. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, ANIL NOTANI S/O CHAMANLAL NOTANI, R/O.P.O.no.107 Ramachandra Residency Raghavendra Cly, Vivekanandapuram Secbad, T.S., Changed My Name as INDRANIL SHARMA. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Tummu Sujana Rani, R/o.F.No.003, MM Avenue Apts, East Marredpally, Sec'bad-500026, TS. Changed my name as SUJANA THUMU W/O.RAJASHEKARA REDDY TUMMURI. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, FAHMEDA BEGUM R/O.F.NO 101, MOGHAL MINAR APARTMENTS AKBAR HILLS UPPERNALLY HYD-48 TS CHANGED MY NAME as BASHA BEGUM W/O.M RAZA AHAMED. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Sangeetha Chennannagari, R/o.3-5-1138/F, No.402, Sri Brindavan Apts, Kachiguda X Road, Hyd, Changd my name as ANIREDDY SANGETHA REDDY, W/O.ANIREDDY RAGHU RAM REDDY. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, SEVILLA JAYASRI R/O.F.NO.105, 3 S APTS, JYOTHI Cly, NEAR AOC GATE, PICKET, SEC'bad, TS Changed my name as KOVOORI JAYASHREE W/O. KOVOORI HARISH CHANDER. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Arash Sarawat, r/o.23,Vineyak Nagar,bohra Ganesh i road, Udaipar Rajasthani 313001, hereby state that my parents names in my passport bearing no.96259439 were recorded as PANKAJ & SONA their actual and correct names as per Aadhar cards are PANKAJ SHARMA & SONA SHARMA. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Shaik Parveen R/o.9-A/415-1, R K Nagar, Thattianaram Village, Pedda Amberpet Mdl, R.R. Dist TS. Changed my name as PARVEEN BEGUM W/O.KHAJA MIYA MAHAMMAD. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, SAJAN GOPIKISHAN PANDEY, R/O. 1-3-71&133, Second Floor, Kalasiguda, Sec-bd-03, T.S. Changed my name as SAJAN PANDEY S/O.GOPIKISHAN PANDEY. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Mahan Bin Mukashin R/o.18-10-38/E, Barkas, Hyd. In my wife's passport no. G3814620 my name is mentioned as "Mahsan Mukashin" which is incorrect & the correct name is " MAHSAN BIN MUKASHIN ". (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, SADHANA R/O.16-2-740/75/114/B, V. K. Dhage Nagar, Gaddiannaram, Hyd, T.S. Changed My Name as SADHANA RAJESHWARKAR W/O. BALVANT RAJESHWARKAR. (TH_20875)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, SYEDA NAJAMUS SAHAR NIZAMI, R/O.1-6-749, Pathan Basti, Daira Kamana, Musheerabad, Hyd-20, Ts, Changed My Name as SYEDA NAJAMUS SAHER W/O.SYED SHAH AFROZ NIZAMI. (TH_20875)

LOST
 I, SABA TANVEER W/o SYED FARIED UDDIN, D.O.B. 01/04/1996, R/o H.No. 19-2-21/D/36, Kalapather, Badharpura, Hyd, T.S. Lost My Passport No. L8252125, Lost in Home. If anyone found Contact Cell: 9177517405. (TH_20875)

LOST
 I, AKSHAY KUMAR SONI S/o.ASHISH KUMAR SONI, R/o.H.No.1-3-15, Budwel, Bandlaguda Jagir, R.R.Dist- 30, I have Lost my Original CBSE Certificate Roll No. 4220108, B.W.B'S VIDYASHRAM NIRD CAMPUS HYD AP, Year of Pass 2013 & other xerox papers, while travelling from Hyderabad to Rajendranagar by bike. If anybody found please Contact: 9014327331. (TH_20875)

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The countdown has begun in Bihar

The Bihar assembly elections for 243 seats assumes importance for two reasons. One, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had completed a record of 15 years in power and second because this is the first Assembly election since Covid-19 had disrupted normal life affecting the economy on all fronts. Apart from negative impact on the economy, the Nitish government is facing strong criticism from opposition over the way the pandemic was handled.

The biggest criticism was that apart from having failed to take timely measures to contain the pandemic, there has been reverse migration of labour. This election certainly is a litmus test for Nitish. It is a fact that before Nitish

led government came to power in 2005, there was jungle raj in the state. During his first term there was lot of improvement in governance but then he could not sustain the same pace.

Though Nitish brought Bihar out of jungle raj, law and order in the state had later worsened and the 69-year-old leader is now asking people to judge his 15 years of performance in totality as against the 15 year rule of Lalu government.

The fact is that his popularity has been dented and age too is not in his favour. The opposition had made the mismanagement of the return of migrant labour from other states to Bihar a major poll issue. The campaign had turned emotive and rhetoric. The sus-

pected suicide of film actor Sushant Singh Rajput who hails from Bihar was also used by opposition to face caste and parochial emotions. The AICC president Sonia Gandhi appealed to voters to script a new future.

Lalu's son Tejaswi Yadav attacked Nitish Kumar for having failed to attract industries to the state and questioned the chief minister as to how many jobs he had created during his 15-year-rule. He also promised 10 lakh government jobs if his party was voted to power. This promise has proved to be a hit among the people in the backdrop of the lockdown and widespread unemployment.

The third factor in this election is Chirag Paswan, the son of the late Lok

Janshakti Party chief Ram Vilas Paswan, whose rebellion against Nitish Kumar is believed by many to be backed by the BJP.

This time Nitish looks alone and embattled in the Election 2020 frame, as voters ask: "Road aur bijli se pet bhar jayega? (Is road and electricity enough?). But despite all the cacophony, the social coalition of upper castes, non-Yadav backward castes and good number of Dalits seem to be behind NDA. It now remains to be seen if the Opposition had succeeded in breaching it or not. The Opposition does not appear to be battle ready.

For the first time in three decades, the state is witnessing an election where Lalu Prasad could not lead the campaign. One will have to wait for a few more days to know whose 15-year-long rule finally gets the nod from Bihar voters.



Jagan Mohan Reddy and '151 syndrome'

IYR KRISHNA RAO

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy seems to be suffering from 151 syndrome . Now that people of Andhra Pradesh have given him a majority of 151 in the legislative assembly of 175 he feels there should be no restraint on his functioning either from the bureaucracy or judiciary. Budget is no constraint and funds should flow as required to implement his promises. This attitude seems to be guiding his behaviour either while dealing with bureaucracy or his recent spat with the judiciary.

In bureaucracy only the yes men and sycophants are preferred and those who advise citing the rule and legal position are shown the door . Though there can be no two opinions on the need for judicial reforms and judicial accountability, the path chosen by him to highlight the same is questionable. Within the party since there is a landslide win nobody is willing to advice and caution for fear of incurring his wrath . Such unbridled power can lead to committing of costly mistakes.

But the very basis of this 151 syndrome is questionable. Is it a positive assertion in favour of Jagan Mohan Reddy's party or strong anti-incumbency vote against the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu?

Even in 2014 few months before the election it was generally assumed that the odds were in favour of Jagan Mohan Reddy. The populist path his father followed, and a general impression that he was unfairly treated and put in jail for a longer time than is required created a sympathy factor in his favour.

All this changed the moment separate state was formally announced along with the elections. People's perception of Chandrababu Naidu as someone who built Cyberabad guided their thinking and they felt for a new state he would be the right person to guide its destiny. TDP tying up with BJP wave across the country, support of Pawan Kalyan ensured a comfortable though not a landslide win for TDP.

But a series of blunders committed by TDP after coming to office created a strong anti-incumbency factor which led to the landslide win of YSRCP in 2019 elections.

A more inclusive governance both in terms of regions and social groups by Chandrababu Naidu could not have created such anti-incumbency factor benefiting Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Hence to think the landslide victory of 151 was the result of personal charisma of Jagan Mohan Reddy may not be correct. There is nothing that a chief minister can do with 90 MLAs. In any case state assembly does not have powers of amending any constitution which requires two-thirds majority. In fact managing popular mandate of this size can itself create serious problems for the government in power.

The track record of the performance of the present government of Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is not that impressive to give him a chance of repeat performance of same landslide victory in 2024. The charge that Chandrababu Naidu government favoured certain social group in terms of dispensing favours and patronage equally applies to this government as well

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This government came to power promising the moon to the electorate . Fulfilling those promises for a five year period requires a magic wand . Budgetary constraints are going to show up sooner than later. Populism can only take a government to a point . But no further. There cannot be greater populists than Mrs. Gandhi and NT Rama Rao but then it was not good enough for them to win successive elections.

Political scenario in Andhra Pradesh for 2024 is going to be interesting. Much would depend on how deep and strong BJP-Janasena combination is going to penetrate with a positive agenda and an action plan for implementation if they come to power. People of Andhra Pradesh are vexed with politics dominated by certain families and certain caste groups. Ability of BJP Janasena combination to come up with viable alternative articulating the aspirations of politically marginalised communities of Andhra Pradesh would decide the course of future politics of Andhra Pradesh.

(The author is a BJP leader)



TALKING OF MANY THINGS

Dr Mohan Kanda

The close relationship between the existence of water and the flourishing of life is well known. Not only have civilisations sprouted on the banks of rivers in the history of mankind, but even the search for extraterrestrial life in the universe (Search for Extra-Territorial life - or SETI), is primarily an exercise to discover whether water exists on a given celestial. Water has been described as the 'foundation of the universe'.

As is known the state of Punjab acquired its name from the fact that the five rivers namely Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej and the Beas flow through it. According to Vedic scriptures, in fact, water is said to be of the same age as the universe, having originally been inside an egg from which the entire cosmos emanated. The resemblance of this theory (but for the water part) to the currently accepted 'standard model' theory regarding the origin of the universe, can hardly be missed.

One recollects the excitement one felt when, as a teenager, my uncle Dr. Gandhi used to take us children on a ride to Kotipalli village to watch the Godavari in flood rushing past to meet the sea which was only a short distance away.

Human beings depend on rain as the most important source of freshwater. While marine life can subsist on salt water, life on land needs fresh water for survival. And rain is the primary means for the creation of freshwater. While processes such as desalination of ocean water are, no doubt, available, they are prohibitively expensive and, therefore, impractical. Even in the verses of the Holy Quran every stage in the formation of rain is described, which is called the resource that 'gives life to a dead land' and sustains men and cattle. Like any other good thing there can be such a thing as too much of rain. An allusion is also to be found in the Holy Bible

and the Godavari rivers are usually in spate every year, around the months of August and September. I remember one time when I was driving my parents to Amalapuram, where my grandparents stayed. The journey involved crossing four 'Anicuts' (or dams), over the Godavari River. That was necessary because the two bridges spanning the Godavari at Alamaru and Siddhamtam villages had yet to come up by that time.

While on the subject of floods it is well known that the Krishna

I recollect vividly how I negoti-

ated the car over the first Anicut, leading to what is known as the Central Delta of East Godavari district, the entry to which was a village called Bobbarlanka. The mighty Godavari was falling rapidly through the partially opened gates and over them, on my left and, on the left, there was a seemingly endless sheet of water. The margin of the road was totally invisible, and had to be guessed approximately, remembering the width of the road. A truly scary expe-

rience which I am happy to have gone through successfully!

Practices and technologies that lead to sensible use of water have, therefore, engaged the attention of political leaders, senior civil servants and scientists for several decades now.

One method that has gained wide acceptance, and proved considerably successful, is watershed management. The technology adopts what is known as the 'ridge to the valley' approach and, while ensuring that soil and water are judiciously used for the production of crops, plantations and afforestation, also results in the conservation of those two resources.

Another technology that has caught the eye of the planners as well as the farmers for over three decades now is micro irrigation comprises of techniques such as drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation.

While these technologies have served the purpose of water conservation and judicious use in the rural areas and primarily for agriculture and related purposes, the introduction of water harvesting structures as compulsory components of building design, especially in urban areas, has proved very effective in recent times. In fact, many urban local bodies have built this requirement into their building bylaws to ensure more effective compliance.

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

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the path of violence. Land law was major hindrance in setting up industries in the state, hopefully such measures will usher in an era of development. Although, State opposition parties like PDP and NC took umbrage on Centre's notification and called it a "betrayal".

Yashi Bairagi, Amaravati



Reduce number of exams

Now the state government is contemplating reopening of schools from November 2. Already children lost five months of the academic year. Even if the schools are reopened, most of the parents are not willing to send their children to schools. In this context, syllabus has to be reduced considerably so that teachers can complete it comfortably in the remaining next few months. Hence, I request the authorities concerned to consider reducing the number of exams for 10th class students. Just as the CBSE is doing, we too should conduct only one exam for each subject.

At present, except for Hindi, for all other sub-

jects two exams are conducted. SCERT too should consider the same pattern of exams as followed by the CBSE. It will reduce the burden on students and cut the expenditure on conducting exams.

D V Seshasai, Narasaraopet

Strong Indo-US friendship

The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement being signed between India and America is a big leap forward in bilateral relations between these two countries. BECA, the last one in troika of foundational agreements between two military apparatuses has made the mutual trust complete as part of the long term partnership. By providing real time access to Geospatial intelligence the USA's help would come handy not only in times of war but also in times of natural disasters.

Though the talks between India and America for such strategic agreements have been on anvil for one and half decades, animosity with China has hastened the final agreement to get realised. India should not move further from other world leaders like Russia over diplomatic relations in its hurry to befriend its fair weather friend. The camaraderie should bring mutual benefits not only in military terms, but also in trade and other areas.

Dr DVG Sankararao, Nellore

its sovereignty and its liberty is heartening, what is shocking that China not only sees red in the Indo-US ties but asks India without reason to maintain distance from the US even as it acts and works against the interests of India in all matters related to terrorism. Further, key strategic matters like giving access to India to US satellite images and in particular focusing on

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad

Indonesia Pacific ocean is laudable, at the same time it sends a strong message to China that like US and India, other democratic nations in the world have chosen democracy and freedom and sovereignty over authoritarianism and tyranny because respecting the rule of law and rules based on international order only promotes peace and stability throughout the world always.

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Solar power for Bhadrabri temple

MoU with Sun Tech to cut power bill by 60%

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHADRACHALAM

SRI Sita Ramachandraswamy temple in Bhadrachalam will soon become the first temple in the state to have solar lighting.

As part of reducing expenditure, temple authorities have decided to enter into an MoU with Sun Technologies, which provides solar power to all Road Transport Corporation (RTC) depots in the state.

It has been agreed that the Sun Technologies will supply power at the rate of Rs 5.20 per unit if the consumption was below 100 kilowatts and at Rs 4.80 if it was more than 100 kilowatts for next 25 years. The project is likely to cost about Rs 3 crore.

At present, the power bill of the temple is around Rs 1 crore. Once it switches over to solar power, the cost is likely to come down to Rs 40 lakh



Bhadrabri Rama temple

per year.

This proposal got impetus following talks between the Executive Officer B Sivaji and Endowment Commissioner Anil Kumar during his recent visit. The commissioner is said to have given his nod to the temple authorities to go ahead with the proposal.

TS govt fixes mutation charges in ULBs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA government on Wednesday finalised charges for mutation of properties.

The government has fixed 0.1 per cent of the registration value or Rs 1,000 in municipalities and 0.1 per cent of registration value or Rs 3,000 whichever is higher in municipal corporations.

The State government had introduced the concept of "Auto Mutation", whereby whenever there is a transac-

tion in respect of any immovable property, the mutation of such property in municipal records will take place automatically and through online mode in Dharani portal coinciding with the process of registration done by the sub-registrar concerned.

The Director of Municipal Administration has reported that, there was no procedure prescribed in fixation of mutations rates in the Urban Local Bodies.

Presently, the practice is, the ULBs fix the mutation rates as

per the council resolution. As such, the rates of mutation are fixed differently in different ULBs ranging from Rs. 100 per transaction to 1.5 per cent on registration value and are without any uniformity.

Government on Wednesday passed orders that bring uniformity.

Mutation fee would be collected in all Urban Local Bodies including Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, at the time of Registration of immovable properties by way of sale and gift etc.

Six students washed away in rivulet

- The teenagers venture into the water body for swimming after a garden party at Pedavegu in West Godavari district
- The water level of the rivulet has risen to 10 feet as against the 2 feet in normal times
- The youngsters drowned one after another as each of them tried to rescue another

AMARAVATI

A garden party with families and friends ended on a tragic note as six teenagers, all students, drowned in a swollen rivulet in West Godavari district on Wednesday, police said. After the community lunch, the teenagers tried to swim in the nearby Pedavegu but drowned one

after the other in the rivulet. "Normally, the depth in the rivulet is just about two feet but because of the recent heavy rains and floods, the depth increased to about 10 feet. The unsuspecting youths tried to swim and unfortunately drowned," a police official said. In fact, after seeing one of them drown, the others

tried a rescue effort but they too drowned, he added. Expert divers were deployed to fish out the bodies. The deceased, who belonged to Bhudevipeta village, have been identified as G Manoj, 16, Konavarapu Radhakrishna, 16, Karnati Ranjit, 16, Sriramula Sivaji, 17, Gangadhar Venkat, 17, and Ch Bhuvan, 18, police said.

The Velerupadu police registered a case and launched an investigation. Meanwhile, Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan expressed his deep sorrow and sadness at the death of six students. The Governor offered his heartfelt condolences to members of the bereaved families.

Be wary of Chinese intent & actions, Rajnath tells Army

Continued from PI

He expressed his confidence in the force and said that he is extremely proud of the initiatives undertaken by the Indian Army in the current security environment.

"The Indian Army has been successful in addressing several challenges to the security and sovereignty of this country since Independence," Singh said. "Be it the problem of terrorism, insurgency or any external attack, the Army has played a significant role in neutralising those threats," added the minister.

On Tuesday, during the two plus two Indo-US ministerial

dialogue, Singh had said that India was challenged by Chinese "reckless aggression" on northern borders. Singh had said,

"Excellencies, in the area of defence we are challenged by reckless aggression on our northern borders." Singh talked about China as the US department of State read out of the opening statements of all the dignitaries of US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue. India and China have been engaged in a six-month-long standoff at the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh.

Both the countries had seven military commander-level meetings, however, the border issue remains unresolved. IANS

Who created Aarogya Setu? RTI body pulls up govt over evasive reply

Continued from PI

The said documents be sent to the Commission at least five days prior to the hearing via linkpaper.

If any other persons are responsible for the said omission, the CPIO shall serve a copy of this order on such persons to direct their presence before the bench as well. Swarup Dutta, Scientist F and CPIO NIC, to explain why penalty under Section 20 of the RTI Act should not be imposed on them for prima facie obstruction of information and providing an evasive reply," CICI said.

The development comes in a

complaint filed by one Saurav Das, stating that the relevant authorities, i.e., NIC, National E-Governance Division (NeGD) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), had failed to furnish information about the process of creation of Aarogya Setu App and other information relating to its creation.

He submitted that the RTI was filed with the NIC, which stated that it "does not hold the information" relating to the App's creation, which is very surprising since it is the App's developer. IANS

TS govt creates sub districts in all 32 districts

Establishes Joint Sub Registrar offices; appoints tahsildars as Joint Sub Registrars to register agricultural lands in rural areas

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ANNOUNCING the enforcement of new Revenue Act from Thursday, the Telangana government has created sub districts in all (except Hyderabad) 32 districts.

The government established Joint Sub Registrar offices and appointed tahsildars as Joint Sub Registrars to register agricultural lands in the rural areas.

The order said that tahsildars of the Revenue mandals concerned are hereby appointed as Joint Sub-Registrars with an office at the headquarters of the mandal to deal with registration of documents pertaining to the lands to which the Telangana Rights in Land and Pattadar Passbook Act, 2020 applies, and allied matters under the Registration Act, 1908 and the Rules 7.

In the absence of tahsildar, the naila tahsildar of the Revenue mandal or such person designated by the District Collector shall discharge the functions of Joint Sub-Registrar.

Conditions not apt to hold local body polls: AP govt to SEC

► CS tells that Covid situation is not conducive for elections

► TDP, BJP, CPI request for fresh election notification

► YSRCP leader Ambati Rambabu accuses SEC of working in collusion with TDP

► TDP proposes to conduct elections with the help of Central forces as the State resorted to irregularities in the previous elections process

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI



TDP Andhra Pradesh president K Atchanna and CPI State Secretary K Ramakrishna arriving at R&B building to meet SEC in Vijayawada on Wednesday

YSRCP afraid of facing elections, taunts TDP

► TDP State president Atchanna and requests SEC to issue fresh notification for local body elections

► Says Chief Minister and his party leaders are behaving disrespectfully towards SEC

► Claims Jagan made casteist remarks against SEC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP state president K Atchanna and demanded the State Election Commissioner (SEC) Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar to issue a fresh notification for local body elections in the state.

Speaking at all party meeting held by the commission in Vijayawada on Wednesday, Atchanna pointed out that massive irregularities and offences took place in the first phase polls held in March as the ruling YSRCP attacked and humiliated even the SEC. Casteist allegations

elections should be linked to Covid-19 conditions and protocols while the SEC is ready to go ahead with the elections. The SEC said that he had already met the officials of the health department on Tuesday afternoon and will thrash out the matter with the chief secretary too.

Senior YSRCP leader and spokesman Ambati Rambabu in a statement said that his party did not attend the SEC meeting which, he said, "was illegal and arbitrary".

He accused Ramesh Kumar of being hand in glove with TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu.

He said the Supreme Court was categorical in its observation that the SEC should consult the state government on holding elections and coordinate whereas the latter was acting unilaterally. "He should have adopted the same procedure before postponing the elections the last time. Why didn't he do it?" he said.

However, Ramesh Kumar brushed aside the allegation of Ambati that the SEC had not bothered to meet the health officials and the government in the first instance. Any decision on local body

elections should be linked to Covid-19 conditions and protocols while the SEC is ready to go ahead with the elections. The SEC said that he had already met the officials of the health department on Tuesday afternoon and will thrash out the matter with the chief secretary too.

Most of the opposition parties which attended the meeting, including TDP state president K Atchanna. He demanded that the SEC issue a fresh notification for local body elections in the state, in the wake of alleged large-scale irregularities that had taken place in the first phase.

The SEC explained to the attendees that he would like to go ahead

were made against Ramesh Kumar only to create a fear and hijack the election process altogether, he said.

Addressing the media after meeting the SEC, the TDP leader said that the YSRCP colluded with the police and the returning officers to get many MPTC and ZPTC posts declared in its favour unanimously. The Chief Minister, ministers and ruling party MLAs were acting in a strange manner with utter disregard for the democratic conventions of the elections. In an unabashed manner, the Chief Minister made openly casteist remarks against SEC Ramesh Kumar without any respect for the Constitutional institution.

The TDP leader said that Jagan was changing his stand in a whimsical way on local body elections. When the virus infections were at their peak in the state, he stuck to his demand for conducting the elections. Now, when the virus cases were showing a drop, Jagan and his ministers were against conducting the elections. It was only because of the fear of defeat that the YSRCP was not ready to face the elections now, he added.

with the local elections as countervailing the situation was conducive for the same. TDP proposed to conduct elections with the help of Central forces as the state government had resorted to large scale irregularities during the last elections process. The SEC should undertake all measures to prevent it, he said. CPI leader, K Ramakrishna, asked the SEC to study the conduct of the elections in the country to decide. Like the TDP, the CPI too demanded for fresh election notification.

BJP leader Satyanarayana and BSP leader Pushparaj, too expressed a similar demand to scrap all elections that were unanimous in the past as such a result was more because of the highhandedness of the ruling party.

CPI leader Venkateswar Rao, cautioned the SEC against the growing cases of coronavirus. Jana Sena sent a mail stating that it would go by any decision of the SEC.

Defected MLC Sunitha resigns from Council

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ment at every stage using courts. "The TDP has been acting in violation of the spirit of the Constitution of India. I am quitting my post in protest against the party stand," she asserted.

She also said her decision to quit the post was to express solidarity with the pro-poor decisions of the Jagan government.

Early this year, when the Jagan government decided to abolish the Legislative Council, Sunitha defected to the YSRCP.

The TDP gave a letter to Council Chairman requesting that she be disqualified for defecting to the YSRCP. The decision has been pending with the Chairman.

Dharani launch today

Continued from PI

Revenue officials said that the MROs will be held responsible in case any wrongdoings in the registration of agriculture lands was noticed and the Sub Registrars will be punished if they indulge in irregularities in the transaction of non-agricultural properties. In case of any civil disputes about the property ownership, civil courts will address the issues. Earlier, Tahsildars and RDOs were given judicial powers to resolve the property rights. The new Revenue Act has taken away all extraordinary powers enjoyed by the officials till recently.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, who also holds the post of Special Chief Secretary to Revenue department, had taken the responsibility of successful implementation of the Dharani portal and held a series of meetings with Mandal Revenue officials and facilitated training to all MROs.

KTR spits fire on BJP, Congress

Continued from PI

"None of the MPs could get any additional sanctions even for their constituencies," he added.

"Can they show one good act they had done for Telangana?" he said.

The Centre had not even helped the state to tackle the recent situation arising out of the heavy floods in the state, KTR said.

Referring to the Congress, KTR said the party would not only lose the deposit but also see many desertions after the polls. Replying to a question on Revanth Reddy, he said, he had turned into a political commentator. It is also being said that he may cross over to the BJP.

only state to implement loan waiver to the tune of Rs 27,718 crore. In addition, the State government spent another Rs 28,000 crore under Rythu Bandhu directly benefiting farmers during the corresponding period. "The RBI report also claimed that around 95 per cent of the recipients of the crop exemption scheme were marginal farmers and small farmers. Despite being the youngest state, Telangana has been progressive and has emerged as a pioneer among the country's top performing states," he said.

Short supply sparks sharp spike in onion prices in TS

The staple of the kitchen is now selling at Rs 100 per kg, price may go further up

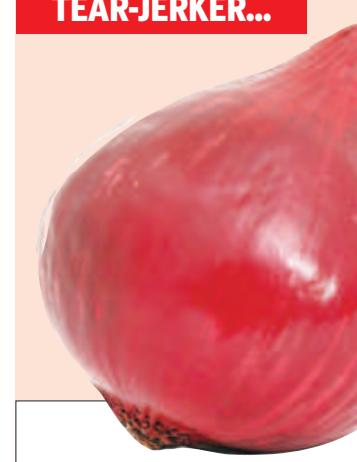
HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE price of onions has surpassed that of apples in the State as the staple of the kitchen is now selling at Rs 100 per kg due to severe shortage of supply from other States.

Lower middle classes and poor are buying the damaged onions which is available at cheaper prices as they could not afford to go for good quality onion in the city.

Snack makers and tiffin centers have already stopped using onion as ingredient while restaurants are charging extra to prepare Onion Dosa which is most sought after breakfast for many denizens. The State Marketing department officials said that limited supply from the heavy rain-hit Maharashtra and Karnataka was one of the main reasons for the skyrocketing prices of onions from Rs 40 to Rs 100 in a just 10 days time. The onion farm output in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh was also hit all time low due to recent incessant

TEAR-JERKER...



Snack makers and tiffin centres have already stopped using onion as ingredient

Poor are buying damaged onions which is available at cheaper prices

Restaurants are charging extra to prepare Onion Dosa

Rising onion prices leave citizens teary-eyed

Onion price crossed Rs 100 per kg whereas apple is available at Rs 80 per kg

Onion price skyrocketed from Rs 40 to Rs 100 in a just 10 days' time

Limited supply from the rain-hit Maharashtra and Karnataka was one of the main reasons for the skyrocketing prices of onions

Growing gap between demand and supply set to spike the onion price further

rains. Farmers in Moinabad and Shankarpally and Gadwal in Telangana and Kurnool in Andhra major producers of onion.

But due to short supply, prices have shot up in the Malakpet wholesale market. The gap between demand and supply is increasing everyday and prices may

rise further till Diwali, officials said. The State government has announced opening of special counters to sell onion at Rs 35 per kg at all Rythu Bazaars in Hyderabad.

On the other, apple, which is considered a costly fruit, is available at Rs 80 per kg in the retail markets in the state particularly in Hyderabad.

prices of the commodity will not come down. It will take at least three to four months to hit the markets the new stocks from the farms.

On the other, apple, which is considered a costly fruit, is available at Rs 80 per kg in the retail markets in the state particularly in Hyderabad.

Cong alleges irregularity in postal ballot voting in Dubbaka bypoll

Demands action against erring electoral officials for forcing voters to vote for Car symbol of TRS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WHILE referring to incidents where officials on election duty for Dubbaka by-election allegedly forcing senior citizens to vote in favour of 'Car' symbol during their collection of the postal ballot, the Congress asked the Election Commission to ensure transparency in the entire exercise.

In a letter addressed to Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), TPCC convenor, Election Commission Coordination Committee, G Niranjan pointed out that besides irregularities in maintaining schedule, the teams of officials on election duty were indulging in manipulation while collecting postal ballots. "A team collected the postal ballot from a

very old-person of Congress family of Rayapole village. As his vision is weak, he expressed his intention to cast his vote in favour of 'Hand' symbol, but the team of officials cast it in favour of 'Car' symbol," he pointed out.

Niranjan also brought to notice that the ECI, CEO and Returning Officer who failed to provide list of voters under Postal Ballot category, but Returning Officer of Dubbaka Assembly Constituency has failed to follow due norms and appointed about 15 teams to collect the postal ballots without proper instructions. Moreover, on Wednesday, the teams collected the postal ballots from voters of some villages which are not part of the schedule. "A team of officials visited Rayapole, Ramasagar and Thammakkapally villages of Rayapole mandal

which are not part of Wednesday's schedule, as prescribed by the Returning officer," he added.

The Congress leader demanded that a detailed inquiry into this incident should be conducted and the action should be initiated against the erring officials and order for the recollection of postal ballots in the presence of political parties or candidate's representative to have transparency in entire process of postal ballot voting.

Similarly in a letter to ECI, State BJP general secretary G Premender Reddy alleged violation of postal ballot facility meant for senior citizens above 80 years. He alleged that Anganwadi workers were threatening voters to vote for TRS to ensure they continue to receive pension.

Kavitha to be sworn in today

The former MP had recently registered a huge victory in the Council bypoll from the Nizamabad Local Authorities Constituency

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FORMER MP and Telangana Jagruthi president Kalvakuntla Kavitha will take oath as member of Legislative Council on Thursday. Several party leaders, including Ministers will attend the oath-taking ceremony at Durbar Hall of the Telangana Legislative Council at 12.45 pm on Thursday. Kavitha was under home quarantine after she had come into contact with Jagit MLA M Sanjay Kumar who was tested positive for corona.

She had recently registered a huge victory in the Council bypoll from the Nizamabad Local Authorities Constituency (LAC). While Kavitha secured 728 votes out of 823 votes in her favour, BJP candidate P Lakshminarayana was able to get 56 votes and Congress candidate B Subhash Reddy secured 29 votes.

Cong denies buzz about Vijayashanti joining BJP

Party leader attributes her absence from party affairs to the prevailing pandemic situation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FOLLOWING his meeting with actor-turned-politician Vijayashanti, Telangana Congress Committee working president J Kusum Kumar poohpoohed the rumours of her joining BJP. The Congress leader claimed to have convinced Vijayashanti to remain with the party and attributed her absence from party af-

fairs to the prevailing pandemic situation. After discussing different issues that have come to the fore in the recent days, Kumar concluded that the leader would not leave the party as she has great respect for the Gandhi family, whose role in bringing Telangana cannot be ignored. "She remained aloof only because of the prevailing covid scenario. The talks of her switching over to other parties are mere rumours," he said.

BIHAR MAN GETS DEATH FOR KILLING 9 IN WARANGAL

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WARANGAL

THE Warangal court gave death sentence to the accused, Sanjay Kumar Yadav (24), for killing nine migrant workers by throwing them into a well after mixing sedatives in their food in Gorrekunta of Warangal rural district on May 20 this year.

The court verdict came five months after the shocking incident as First Additional District Court magistrate found Sanjay Kumar Yadav guilty of the gruesome killings and sentenced him to death, after defendant Sanjay Kumar



pleaded guilty to murder before the judge.

The police investigations had revealed that Md Maqsood along with his family had migrated to Warangal from

Will continue fight against govt's anti-people policies: BJP MLA

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

BJP firebrand MLA T Raja Singh said that party leaders and cadre will not fear about cases and going to jail and stated that the party will fight against the government's anti-people policies.

On Wednesday, along with party district president K Sridhar Reddy, he spoke to the media at the party district office in Nalgonda. While addressing the media, he alleged that police have been terrorising the saffron leaders and cadre with false cases and con-

demned the arrest of party leaders and cadre by police and imprisoning them for a week for staging dharna before Collectorate. BJP is going to win Dubbaka by-poll and ruling party leaders have been mudslinging on Lotus party with envy, he said.

Later, he along with party leaders went to the house of BJP leaders, M Srinivas Goud and Rukma Goud who were recently released from jail and enquired about their well-being. He was accompanied by party leaders G Manohar Reddy, N Narasimha Reddy, V Rakhi, Ch Muthyal Rao and others.



BJP MLA Raja Singh along with party district president Kanakanala Sridhar Reddy addressing the media at party district office in Nalgonda on Wednesday

lives with her two children. Rafika demanded Sanjay to marry her immediately after noticing him moving closely with her teenage daughter.

Sanjay killed Rafika by throwing her out of the train near Nidadavolu in Andhra Pradesh on March 11, on their way to West Bengal. When Maqsood's family questioned him about Rafika, he decided to kill all of them. He mixed sleeping pills in the food during the birthday party of Maqsood's grandson and later threw them into the well.

Police on May 25 arrested Sanjay Yadav, who confessed to the killing.

KTR opens TRS Tech Cell office

The Tech Cell has been maintaining the party's technology-related programmes since 2013



MAUD Minister and TRS working president KT Rama Rao being greeted by members of the TRS Tech Cell after inaugurating it at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Wednesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MINISTER and TRS working president KT Rama Rao inaugurated the office of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi Tech Cell (technical wing) at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday.

The party's Tech Cell has been preserving the party's technology-related programmes since 2013. The party's membership database, committee database and other software applications, party website, social media platforms are undertaken by the Tech Cell.

Rama Rao said that the Tech Cell would play

a key role in strengthening the party organisationally. The new office would help in taking various programmes by the Tech Cell. He said that Krishnan Manne, P Jagan, Satish Reddy and Dinesh Chaudhry would be TRS party's social media conveners.

Stating that the party had most number of voluntary workers, he said that they have been strengthening the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao right from the time of agitation. He asked the conveners to counter the propaganda of opposition parties and take the development works of the government to the people.

Anti-incumbency will help Cong win Dubbaka: Gudur

Though the BJP and TRS are trying to show the people that they are competing with each other, in fact, they are helping each other, alleges the senior Congress leader

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TPCC treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy on Wednesday said that voters of Dubbaka are ready to teach a lesson to the ruling TRS in the bypoll, by defeating the ruling party candidate. The Congress leader added that the anti-incumbency factor will help party win the by-election scheduled on November 3.

He said that though the TRS and BJP, which are considered to be two faces of the same coin, were indulging in theatrics and the Congress candidate Cheruku Srinivas Reddy was the right leader to win MLA seat.

He alleged that though the BJP and TRS are trying to show the people that they are com-

peting with each other, in fact they have been helping each other.

He said that resentment among the people against the TRS government and the development being done by former MLA Cheruku Muthyam Reddy in the constituency would ensure hands down victory to Congress.

Narayana Reddy added that people have been defeating the ruling party since the election to Graduate Constituency by causing the win of Congress candidate T Jeevan Reddy in 2019. They would continue this practice in the Dubbaka by-election also.

He said that Congress would win the by-election under the leadership of Telangana Congress incharge Manickam Tagore and TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy.

Narayana Reddy said that the government has failed in providing the infrastructure to face the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic to the frontline warriors and in hospitals. The disease was not added to Arogya Sri scheme and due to this lakhs of people have faced financial problems.

TN IPS officer appointed police observer for Dubbaka bypoll

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a significant development, the Election Commission of India appointed IPS officer Suraj Kumar Thakur (Tamil Nadu batch) as a police observer for Dubbaka by-election.

The decision assumes significance in view of heightened tensions in the constituency for the last two days. BJP took serious exception to the actions of Sid-dipet police on the searches in house of BJP candidate Raghu-nandan Rao's relative and alleged manhandling of State BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar by the police. Union Minister of State (Home) G Kishan Reddy took objection to the police actions while Bandi went on a fast demanding sacking of Joel Davis, Siddipet Police Commissioner for physical assault on him.

Election Commission of India took stock of the situation and took this decision. State election officials informed that Suraj Kumar will be directly reporting to New Delhi and there is no role of the State office in his appointment.

Shapoorji Group grabs new Sectt project

TS govt finalises agency to construct new Secretariat

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

NOTED construction company Shapoorji Pallonji Group has been awarded the construction project of the new Secretariat of the State. Telangana government on Wednesday finalised the tender for the construction of the new secretariat building which will come up in the old Secretariat premises.

L&T company also filed the bid but Pallonji group grabbed the work tender. The government has set 12-month dead-

line to complete the construction of the integrated secretariat complex. The government and the representatives of Pallonji group entered into an agreement to speed up the official process for the construction of the building.



Womenia

Acid-alkaline balance; a key to good health

I have never seen such a huge number of people getting obsessed with nutrition or counting calories, any time before the pandemic and the lockdown. Even the healthy foods are displacing their metabolic balance. Think of the digestive process as a raging fire where the ash left behind depends on the type of wood used. Similarly, the type of food you eat, leaves behind either an acidic by-product or alkaline.

The acidic waste, increases acidity of blood which in turn leaches minerals like calcium, phosphate from bones and hampers the optimum balance of all the various processes in the body.

The body functions optimally based on the balance of alkaline and acid levels, measured on the basis of pH. The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14. Seven is neutral. Below 7 becomes in-



Naini Setalvad

creasingly acidic, above 7 increasingly alkaline. One needs 75 per cent percent alkaline foods and 25 per cent acidic foods. It is really easy to make the shift and reap the multiple benefits. Simply see that 50 per

cent of your diet is vegetables and fruits; most of them being alkaline.

Fruits

Top of the list is Lemon – squeeze it on every food as it is

acidic on the tongue but alkaline in the body. Seasonal and local fruits are the ones to add on. Currently it is papaya, bananas, chickoos, pineapple, pomelo. This will give you natural micro-nutrients as well as alkalize the digestive environment.

Vegetables

The entire gourd family from bottle gourd to bitter gourd is alkaline including pumpkin and most vegetables! They add fibre, vitamins and minerals and phytochemicals as well.

Root vegetables

Root Vegetables like sweet-potato and yam are alkaline in nature. Eat as a grain exchange and add antioxidants Vitamin A and C to your meal.

Nuts and seeds

Coconut and flaxseeds are easily available in India and are the most alkaline in this category.

Whole grains and millets

Rajgira, jowar, unpolished

rice are higher on the alkaline scale. Other grain flours like wheat when soaked, sprouted and ground reduce their acidic nature.

Pulses

Owing to their high protein content are acidic but when soaked and sprouted is more digestion friendly. Add in freshly squeezed lemon juice to reduce acidic content.

Herbs like ginger has a pH of 7(neutral), cumin prevents acidity and green chili is less acidic than red chili, and your natural salts contribute to alkalinity in the body. Highly acidic foods include red meat, fish, poultry, egg, dairy, processed white flour products, refined sugar, aerated drinks and excess caffeine.

Condiments like soy sauce, chilli sauce, vinegar, jams are acidic as well. Correct your body's acid- base balance by increasing the alkaline foods and reducing the acidic foods in your diet and reach your optimum potential.

What exactly are dark circles?

Tiredness and lack of sleep

If you are tired for a long time and are completely sleep-deprived, the skin under your eyes turns pretty pale and blood at this area becomes more visible and looks darker.

Age

In general, the skin under the eye is thin as well as delicate. With ageing, the skin of this area tends to turn even thinner, making the blood vessels protuberant that result in giving dark circles.



son is that because of itching, you scratch that area. It holds true especially in case of children.

Overexposure to the sun

Due to overexposure to sun, skin surface develops pigmentation and creates dark circles under the eye. Being exposed to the sun for long produces a high amount of melanin around eyes than regular, thus causing that unwanted dark colour. When excess melanin is being made in the epidermis (outer layer of skin), it looks brown, and when there is more than usual melanin in the dermis (inner layer), it appears blue or blue-grey.

**Set
your
lipstick
with
powder
through
a tissue**



Here's what you need

Your favourite lip colour, facial tissue, some loose face powder and a Powder brush

Process of the tissue trick

Apply your favourite shade of lip colour to your lips. Take a facial tissue and split it so you only have one ply of the tissue. Keep your lips together and place the single ply tissue over your mouth. Take a small amount of loose face powder on a powder brush and tap the brush over your mouth

while the facial tissue is still in place. The loose powder filters through the tissue and "sets" your favourite lip colour into your lips, just like loose powder sets liquid foundation on the face. Apply a second coat of your favourite shade of lip colour for more longevity. Although most busy women find loose powder to be a hassle and too messy to bother with, the Tissue Trick is still a great tip for those times and special occasions when you really need your favourite lip colour to last.

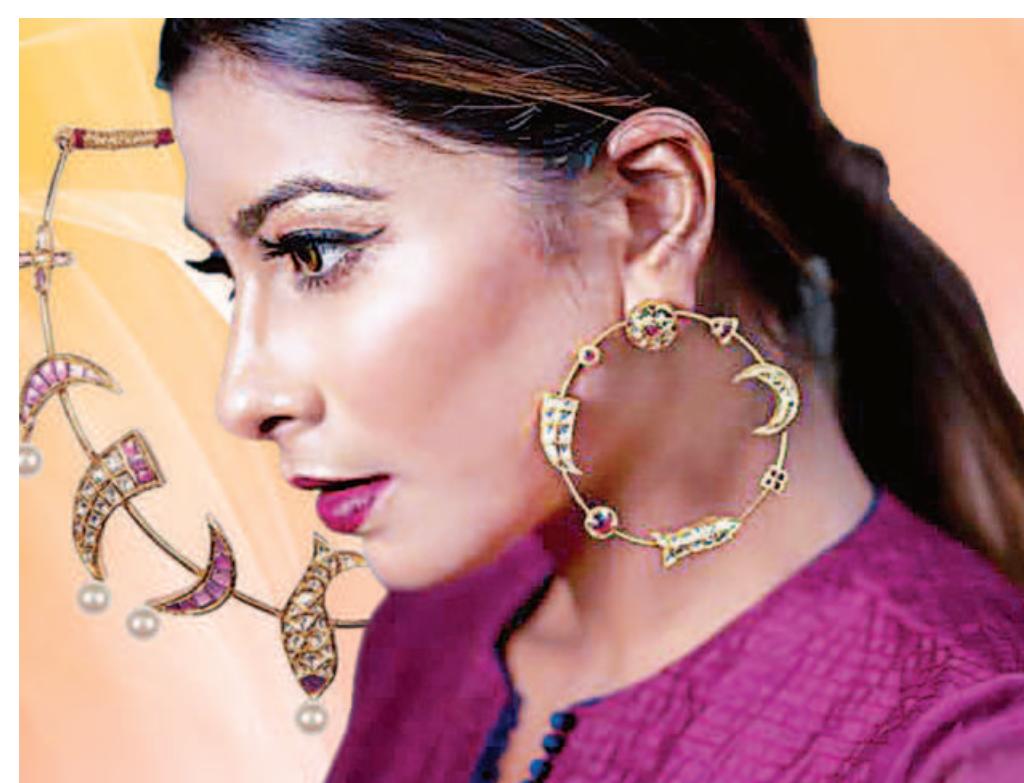
While picking a piece of jewellery for your beloved, buy what feels right rather than what the trend suggests

PUJA GUPTA

KARWACHAUTH is a special occasion for married couples. In addition to its symbolic importance, women also lay emphasis on how they look. Karwachauth fashion is all about ethnic and fusion looks with jewellery playing an important role. From eating your favourite baubles to gifts from husbands and family.

This year there is a growing interest in designer and fusion jewellery among consumers, says jewellery designer Aditi Amin. "We have seen a shift in trend from big chunky pieces to unique yet functional luxury jewels. Consumers are opting for jewellery which can be worn on several occasions and styled in many ways. Thus more sustainable!" she says.

Opulence is attractive and



beautiful, but functionality is also important now. While heritage jewellery will never go out of style, the rapidly evolving consumer taste and aesthetic, has given birth to a new design lexicon, points out the founder of the jewellery brand 'Uncut by Aditi Amin'. Suggesting a few tips men to keep in mind while

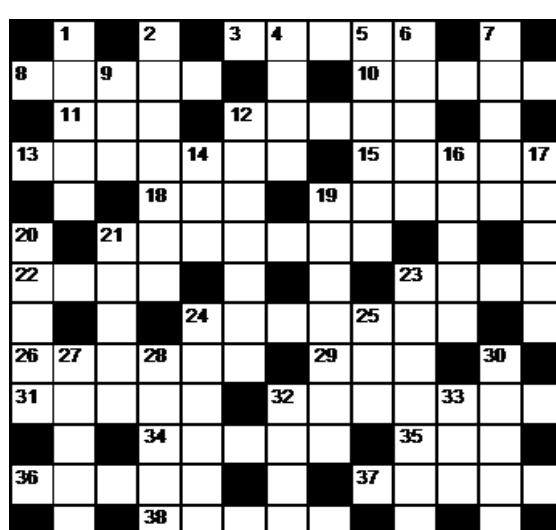
buying jewellery for their loved ones, she adds, "When it comes to gifting jewellery, you can never go wrong with personalised fine jewellery. It's trendy, chic, and functional. Personalised, fine pendants or bracelets will always be appreciated and never go out of style. Always go the classic route. Classics never go

out of fashion and are always trending. Choose minimal. What works best is gifting something for everyday wear, functional jewellery pieces. Follow your heart and not fashion trends. While picking a piece of jewellery for your beloved, buy what feels right rather than what the trend suggests."

EVERYONE loves a great looking lip colour. The issue that most busy women have is getting your favourite lip colour to last longer.

Our Stay Put Matte Lip Creams are a fantastic option for a great lip colour that is super long lasting.

However, if you have a favourite shade that is a different formulation, here is an old stage makeup trick that will make your most favourite lip shades last longer.



CROSSWORD

Across

- 3 Type of parallelogram (5)
- 8 The thigh bone (5)
- 10 In mythology, the Muse of love poetry (5)
- 11 Label (3)
- 12 Dispatch boat (5)
- 13 Motivate (7)
- 15 Headband (5)
- 18 Set on fire (3)
- 19 Gaming area (6)
- 21 Abilities (7)
- 22 Mock or scoff at (4)
- 23 Eat out (4)
- 24 Comes into view (7)
- 26 Jesus; the messiah (6)
- 29 Untruthful and deceitful (3)
- 31 Froglike amphibians (5)
- 32 Minimally (2,5)
- 34 Vows (5)
- 35 Bark sharply (3)
- 36 Pens and needles (5)
- 37 Relinquish (5)
- 38 Kills or slay (5)

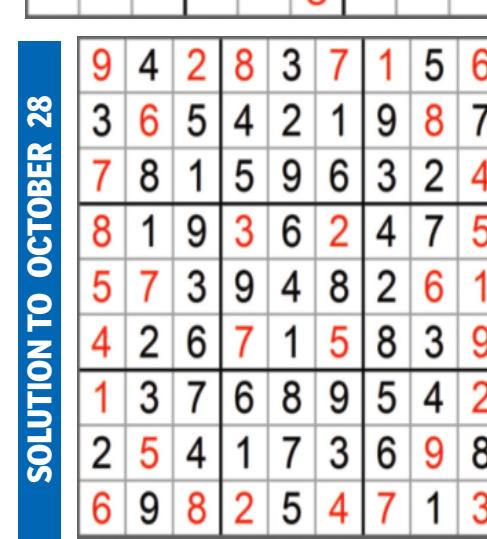
SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 28



SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 28



NEWS ROUNDUP

Lara Dutta recalls how Bengaluru welcomed her after Miss Universe win

ACTRESS Lara Dutta Bhupathi on Wednesday walked down memory lane and recalled returning to her hometown Bengaluru after winning the Miss Universe title in 2000.

Mumbai, Oct 28 (IANS) Actress Lara Dutta Bhupathi on Wednesday walked down memory lane and recalled returning to her hometown Bengaluru after winning the Miss Universe title in 2000.

Mumbai, Oct 28 (IANS) Actress Lara Dutta Bhupathi on Wednesday walked down memory lane and recalled returning to her hometown Bengaluru after winning the Miss Universe title in 2000.



Lara posted throwback pictures on Instagram, of people in Bengaluru gathered in large numbers to welcome her.

"Year 2000. My home town of Bengaluru came out in full force to give me the biggest, grandest welcome I have ever experienced!! The Miss Universe officials who had accompanied me on this trip were overwhelmed! They had never experienced such large numbers of people!! I still meet adults who were kids then, who had been a part of this parade, who say it was an unforgettable experience! Was for me too," she captioned the post. In the images, Lara waves at the crowd.

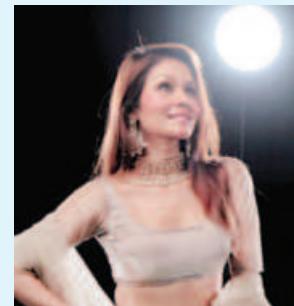
Lara was the second Indian to win the title after Sushmita Sen. She was crowned the 49th Miss Universe in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Later, she entered Bollywood with the film "Andaaz" in 2003. Lara will next be seen in the film "Bell Bottom", starring Akshay Kumar, Vaani Kapoor and Huma Qureshi.

TWEET PATROL



Angel energy
Styled by: styledbysujata
Assisted by: _asmiiiii_ dhruvi.kotaanushkanil
Outfit: @payalkeyalofficial
Necklace: rianajewellery
Bangles: thejewellabel
#sonukakkar #NehuPreet Ki shaadi #nehudavyah



'Twitter's explanation on showing Ladakh as part of China inadequate'

NEW DELHI

MICROBLOGGING site Twitter's explanations to a parliamentary panel on showing Ladakh as part of China are inadequate and the act amounts to criminal offence attracting imprisonment of seven years, committee chairman

Meenakshi Lekhi said on Wednesday.

Representatives of Twitter appeared before the joint committee of parliament on Data Protection Bill, 2019 and were questioned by the members on showing Ladakh as part of China, Lekhi said. "The committee was

unanimous in its opinion that Twitter's explanation on showing Ladakh as part of China was inadequate," Lekhi told PTI.

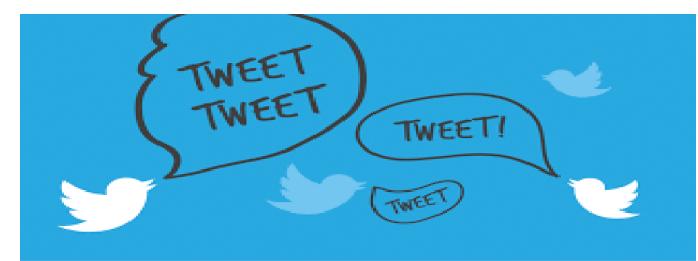
However, representatives of Twitter told the panel that the social media company respects the sensitivities of India, she said.

"It is not a question of sensi-

tivities only, it is a matter of India's sovereignty and integrity, showing Ladakh as part of China amounts to criminal offence which attracts imprisonment of seven years," Lekhi said.

Officials who deposed before the panel on behalf of Twitter India included Shagufta Kamran,

senior manager, public policy, Ayushi Kapoor, legal counsel, Pallavi Walia, policy communications, and Manvinder Bali, corporate security. Officials from the Ministry of Electronics, Information and Technology, and Ministry of Law and Justice also deposed before the panel.



Modi rakes up Ayodhya, 'jungle raj' at Bihar rally

Cong can't compete with PM in lying: Rahul



PATNA

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched the second leg of his campaign for Bihar assembly elections, raking up the Ayodhya issue and urging the people to defeat the opposition which had ushered in a "jungle raj" in the State and embezzled funds meant for development schemes.

Invoking the imagery of Goddess Sita and her father Janaka, the king of Mithila of which this north Bihar town became the capital later on, Modi said those who used to taunt the BJP over the delay in construction of Ram temple were now forced to applause.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing a rally in Balmiki Nagar said: "Prime Minister doesn't say in speeches that he'll give jobs to 2 crore youth. He knows he was lying and people also know

it. I guarantee, if PM comes here and says he'll give 2 crore jobs, the crowd will chase him away."

"Congress gave direction to the country. We gave MNREGA, waived off farmers' loans. We know how to run the country, stand with farmers and generate employment, but yes, we do lack one thing -- we don't know how to lie. We cannot compete with him (PM) at lying."

Min in trouble for wearing lotus mask

PATNA

SENIOR BJP leader and Bihar Agriculture Minister Prem Kumar landed in a controversy after he visited a polling booth wearing lotus flower printed face mask while casting his vote. Kumar is the BJP

Polling agent dies of heart attack

PATNA

A polling agent died due to heart attack in Nawada district on Wednesday during the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections, officials said. Krishna Kumar Singh was deployed at booth number 258 at Fulma village in Hisua Assembly constituency when he complained of chest pain, eyewitness said. He was rushed to Sadar Hospital at Nawada where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The eyewitnesses claimed that there was no medical staff deployed at the polling booth to help in emergency situations. (IANS)

1 lakh VVPATS, ballot and control units set up

NEW DELHI/PATNA

AS polling in the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections began on Wednesday morning, the Election Commission of India (ECI) said that over 1 lakh VVPATS, ballot and control units were installed to enable voters exercise their franchise. These ma-

chines have been set up at 31,371 polling stations in 71 Assembly segments in 16 districts of Bihar, where balloting began at 7 am. In all, 41,689 ballot units, 31,371 control units and 31,371 VVPATS have been deployed in 71 constituencies for the first phase of elections.

Out of these, the replacement rate has

been 0.18 per cent for ballot units, 0.26 per cent for control units and 0.53 per cent for VVPATS as per a report at 10 am, it said. The Commission shared the information following reports about EVM malfunctioning during the polls. In the first phase, 1,066 candidates, including 114 women are in the fray. (IANS)

Two Jaish terrorists killed in encounter

SRINAGAR

TWO Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists were killed on Wednesday in an encounter that started on Tuesday in Aribagh Machama area of Budgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

"One soldier was injured and two ter-

rorists were killed. Both the terrorists were affiliated with the Jaish-e-Mohammed terror outfit. One of them was a citizen of Pakistan while the other was from Pulwama district," Vijay Kumar, Kashmir IG said on Budgam encounter.

The encounter started in Mouchwa area of Budgam between the security

forces and terrorists on Tuesday. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Moachwah area of Budgam district.

A top police officer said that two terrorists' bodies are visible and expressed possibility that there could be one more as searches are still underway.

Chirag Paswan's video shoot immediately after father's death triggers row

PATNA

HE jokes, talks about 'cuts and edits' in Bollywood parlance, and even the 'texture' of hair, as he stands in front of the smiling portrait of his father Ram Vilas Paswan. A purported video of LJP president Chirag Paswan rehearsing for a video message a day after the death of his father, one of the foremost Dalit leaders Bihar produced after Jagjivan Ram, has gone viral.

The 37-year-old LJP chief, embarrassed over the development, reacted with indignation and accused Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of "stooping so low", suggesting that he suspected the JD(U) president's hand in the damaging video. In the nearly two-minute clip, shot before he got his head tonsured as a sign of bereavement, the Jamui MP can be seen standing in front of a garlanded portrait of his late father, donning white clothes worn as part of mourning.

Chirag, who has pulled out of the NDA in Bihar vowing to oust Nitish Kumar from power while, paradoxically, helping his junior ally BJP in the state to form the next government, can be heard bantering with his associates about people having "different textures of hair". "You people will do the cut and edit part. I will include a line about our candidates (in the video)," Chirag Paswan is purportedly seen as telling the camera crew while asking if a single or double camera was being used.

Senior JD(U) leader Neeraj Kumar, who is also the state's Information and Public Relations Department Minister, came out with a statement dripping with sarcasm. "It has been our parampara (tradition), our sanskar (value system) to serve our fathers. But

look at actors of the new generation who get busy with shooting immediately after their father's death," Kumar said, without naming anybody, but obviously taking a swipe at Chirag's unsuccessful attempt to make it in Bollywood before joining politics.

He also said the video presented "a shameful facet of dynastic politics where one's own father becomes a tool for setting political agenda". "Take to serving the people, mister. Politics is about hard reality, not the make-believe world of acting," Kumar added, twisting the knife.

The LJP chief came out with a flurry of tweets alleging that the controversy had been triggered at the behest of the Bihar chief minister to "divert public attention". "I had to release the first list of my party candidates within six hours of my father's death. I had to fulfil all my duties in capacity of the party president without stepping out of my home for 10 days. So I had no choice but to shoot the video for digital campaign," he tweeted.

"Do I have to prove to Nitish Kumar how much grief the death of Papa has

caused me," Paswan asked indignantly in another tweet and added "I had been shooting videos on a daily basis. What other option did I have, at a time when campaign for elections was picking up". "I had never imagined that the Chief Minister can stoop so low. I am appalled. This attempt at diverting public attention from the incident at Munger would not be successful," said the LJP chief referring to the violence that rocked the Bihar district Monday night during immersion of Durga idols, killing one person and injuring many.

Bihar BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal, whose party was said to be tacitly approving of Paswan's rebellion before deciding to drop him like a hot potato, reacted with bemusement. "I can only say Chirag Paswan is a fine actor. A reason why movies were his first choice," Jaiswal said with a smirk when asked about the video.

"The people of the state will never forgive this," asserted Paswan, ending his tweet with the hashtag "asambhavNitish", apparently seeking to assert that the incumbent chief minister's return to power was "impossible".

Meenakshi Lekhi said on Wednesday.

Representatives of Twitter appeared before the joint committee of parliament on Data Protection Bill, 2019 and were questioned by the members on showing Ladakh as part of China, Lekhi said. "The committee was

unanimous in its opinion that Twitter's explanation on showing Ladakh as part of China was inadequate," Lekhi told PTI.

However, representatives of Twitter told the panel that the social media company respects the sensitivities of India, she said.

"It is not a question of sensi-

CASES IN INDIA NEARS 80 LAKH

NEW DELHI

WITH a fresh spike of 43,893 coronavirus infections and 508 deaths in 24 hours, India's tally stood at 79,90,322. The daily spike in cases as well as deaths have been on the decline, the Union Ministry of Health stated on Wednesday.

Out of the total Covid-19 cases, 6,10,803 are currently active, 72,59,509 have been discharged, while 1,20,010 lost the battle against the pandemic. On October 26, the single-day deaths were 480, lowest in recent times.

While the recovery rate



stands at 90.85 per cent, the fatality rate is 1.50 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare showed.

"Signifying a landmark achievement, India has registered continuous decline

in the average daily new Covid-19 cases over the past five weeks," the Ministry stated in a tweet on Wednesday.

A graph attached with the tweet showed a spike of 83,232 cases between Sep-

tember 23 to September 29 which has come down to 49,909 between October 21 to October 27.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 16,54,028 cases, including 43,463 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 10,66,786 sample tests in a single day on Tuesday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 10,54,87,680. (IANS)

Over 35% TN people don't wear masks: CM

CHENNAI

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Wednesday rued that about 35 per cent of the people in the state don't wear mask, one of the preventive measures against Covid-19, and urged authorities to ensure strict implementation of the safety protocols. The pandemic, however, was under control in the state due to a multi-pronged approach of the government, he said, reviewing the Covid-19 situation at a meeting with bureaucrats and district collectors. "In Tamil Nadu, over 35 per cent of the people don't wear mask.

Standoff with India doesn't concern US, says China

BELING

CHINA on Wednesday said its border standoff with India in eastern Ladakh is a bilateral issue, and asked the US to "stop" its Indo-Pacific strategy, terming it as an attempt to impose American hegemony in the region. The remarks by the Chinese Foreign Ministry came a day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo assured India that the US stands firmly with it



to confront threats to its sovereignty. Pompeo's remarks came after the third edition of the Indo-US dialogue in New Delhi during which the two sides deliberated prominently upon the Sino-India border row and situation in

the Indo-Pacific region.

Reacting to the US push for closer defence ties with India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing in Beijing on Wednesday that "the border affairs between China and India are matters between the two countries."

"Now the situation across the border is generally stable and the two sides are in resolving relevant issues through consultations and

negotiations," he said, in apparent reference to the military and diplomatic level talks between India and China to resolve the standoff.

In a blunt criticism of China, Pompeo cited the killing of 20 Indian Army personnel in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in a clash with the Chinese military and said the US stands firmly with India in confronting threats to its sovereignty.



Pawar blames Centre's policies for onion crisis

MUMBAI

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday blamed the central government's policies for the spiralling prices of onion and said he would speak to the Centre about the stock limit imposed on the commodity traders. Speaking to onion growers and traders in Nashik district of Maharashtra, Pawar said a comprehensive policy is needed regarding lifting of the export ban and stock limit of onion, and it should cover interests of all stakeholders.

Onion is being sold at Rs 80 to Rs 100 per kg at retail markets in Mumbai. To contain onion prices, the Centre last week imposed stock holding limit on retail and wholesale traders till December 31 to improve the domestic availability of the key kitchen staple and provide relief to consumers. Retailers can stock up onion up to 2 tonne, whereas wholesale traders are allowed to keep up to 25 tonne, it said. To register their protest against the Centre's move, traders kept off onion auctions for the last two days in all 15 Agriculture Produce Market Committees in Nashik, including Lasalgaon APMC, Asia's biggest onion market.

Revolt in Maya's camp, 5 BSP MLAs join SP

LUCKNOW

IN an unprecedented development, five legislators of Bahujan Samaj Party have withdrawn their support to the BSP's official candidate, Ramji Gautam, for the Rajya Sabha biennial elections.

The five legislators informed the returning officers that their signatures as proposers for Gautam were forged.

Immediately after informing the returning officer, the five legislators -- Aslam Chaudhary, Aslam Raini, Muztaba Siddiqui, Hakam Lal Bind and Govind Jayat -- went straight to the Samajwadi Party office to meet Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav.

This is the first time that the BSP has faced such a major setback, and that too, from her 2019 ally, the Samajwadi Party. (IANS)

AIIMS BOARD MEMBER

Kanimozhi 'shocked' at selection of Shanmugam

CHENNAI

DMK Lok Sabha MP Kanimozhi on Wednesday expressed shock at the appointment of Subbiah Shanmugam as a board member of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Madurai.

In a tweet Kanimozhi said: "I am shocked by the appointment of Dr Subbiah Shanmugam, who stands accused of harassing his elderly woman neighbour, as a Board Member of AIIMS."

"Is this an endorsement of indecent behaviour and also an incentive for other BJP cadres to follow suit?" Kanimozhi asked.

Shanmugam, Head of Surgical Oncology at Kilpauk Medical College and Government Hospital in Royapettah here also heads the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

"Two families residing in the said colony in Chennai have jointly signed a document to the satisfaction of both parties. We hope this statement puts to rest all allegations being levelled against Subbiah," said the ABVP, the student wing of the BJP.

He hit the headlines after a police complaint was initially lodged against him for harassing an old woman and allegedly urinating outside her apartment. (IANS)

Case filed against retd Justice Karnan

CHENNAI

THE Cyber Crime Wing of Chennai police has registered a case against the retired High Court Justice C.S. Karnan, said his lawyer. "The Cyber Crime Wing has booked a case against retired Justice Karnan after 10 women lawyers wrote to the Chief Justice of India against him and the apex court's asking the advocates to approach the appropriate authorities," Peter Ramesh Kumar, the counsel for Karnan told IANS.

He said the case has been booked under Sec 295 and 195 of the Indian Penal Code.

Karnan had recently released a video in which he was heard making objectionable comments and threatening sexual violence against judiciary officials.

He also alleged that some Supreme Court and High Court judges have sexually assaulted women staff and named the alleged victims.

It may



THE

HANS BUSINESS

TODAY'S QUOTE

New national retail trade policy in final stages

"We are in the final stage of drafting a national logistics policy, a new industrial policy, an e-commerce policy and a national retail trade policy. Retail policy is being formulated to support the development of the sector that will benefit 65 million small traders."

- Union Minister Som Parkash



GETTING BACK

I-T refunds of ₹1.26 lakh cr issued so far

The Income Tax department has issued refunds worth over Rs 1.26 lakh crore to over 39 lakh taxpayers this fiscal so far. This includes personal income tax (PIT) refunds amounting to Rs 34,532 crore and corporate tax refunds amounting to Rs 92,376 crore during this period.

BIZ BRIEFS

Smart speakers gain traction

SMART speakers are comparatively new in India. However, in less than three years of their availability, they have already established an awareness of 54 per cent across non-metro cities, finds a study by Karvy Insights for Amazon India. The study titled 'Understanding Smart Speaker Usage in Non-metro Cities' collected inputs from over 1,000 respondents, including owners and non-owners of smart speakers. Respondents from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam and other cities shared that on an average they use smart speakers for over 2.5 hours every day. "Smart speakers bring convenience and simplify the lives of customers. From switching on a light, listening to music, shopping or even paying utility bills, voice is the most natural way to get things done," said Parag Gupta, Head of Amazon Devices, India.

Bolo Indya's new feature

SHORT video content platform Bolo Indya launched Bolo Meets, a peer-to-peer commerce service capability for a wider audience base. With the platform wide launch of Bolo Meets on the platform, Bolo Indya gets deeper into the content services segment where creator partners can market their specialized skills-based content services to their follower base. The platform currently has over 65 lakh users including 28 lakhs creators, spread across 14 languages. Varun Saxena, founder and CEO, Bolo Indya, said: "As we make Bolo Meets open for a wider audience, we will not only positively boost the financial independence journey of our creator partners, but we will also be empowering every Indian sitting in the remotest of location in the country to avail services, learn and grow with the creators".

New MF scheme from Mahindra

MAHINDRA Manulife Investment Management Private Limited, a joint venture of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL) and Manulife Investment Management (Singapore) Pvt. Ltd. Came out with 'Mahindra Manulife Focused Equity Yojana,' an open ended equity scheme that aims to invest in maximum 30 stocks across market capitalization. The multi-cap scheme is suitable for both long-term and medium-term investors as it offers capital appreciation, and risk-adjusted return potential. The new fund offer (NFO) which opened for subscription on October 26 will close on November 9. Ashutosh Bishnoi, the company's MD and CEO, said, "Indian economy and the equity markets are poised for a strong recovery, as the economy unlocks and we see improvement in corporate performance."

Reliance Jewels unveils collection

Jewellery brand Reliance Jewels has launched a new jewellery range, Utkala, to mark the beginning of the festive season. The collection is inspired by the cultural traditions of 'Odisha' and is a true confluence of the distinctive motifs, patterns and designs that embody that State's art, tradition and culture to perfection. The exquisite collection features intricately-designed and tastefully-crafted jewellery pieces for customers to choose from. The collection is inspired by designs at Konark Sun temple, Mukteshwar temple and Puri Jagannath temple, among others. "Diwali is one of the most important festivals celebrated in India. The purchase of gold is considered auspicious during Dhanteras and we are pleased to offer Utkala, our exquisitely created ornate collection to continue our design legacy of jewellery," the company said.

Dr Reddy's Q2 net falls 30% to ₹762 cr

Its revenues up by 2% to ₹4,896 cr; No impact of cyberattack: DRL

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

CITY-BASED pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories Limited (DRL) on Wednesday reported a 30 per cent fall in net profit at Rs 762.3 crore for the second quarter ended on September 30, 2020, as compared to Rs 1,092.5 crore in the corresponding period last year.

The consolidated revenue for the quarter under review was up by two per cent at Rs 4,896.7 crore, Saumen Chakraborty, Chief Financial Officer, Dr Reddy's, told the media here. The company posted Rs 4,800.9 crore in the second quarter last financial year.

The company had the advantage of out-licensing some of the products and also tax benefits during the second quarter of the last fiscal, he said explaining the reasons for drop in the PAT in the last quarter.

Replies to a query on the recent cyberattacks on the company's IT infrastructure, Chakraborty said the company is working with international cyber experts and also law enforcement agencies on the issue.

"There is not much impact on our operations. Recovery and restoration of all applications and data are underway. All critical operations are being enabled in a controlled manner," he said.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Russian Direct Investment Fund, Russia's sovereign wealth fund, recently received approval from the Drug Control General of India to conduct an adaptive phase 2/3 human clinical trial for Sputnik



On October 22 this year, the company experienced an information security incident involving a ransomware attack and consequently isolated the affected IT services.

Erez Israeli, Chief Executive Officer, Dr Reddy's, said the company is expected to complete the phase-2 trials of Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V by December and phase-3 may be finished by March-end or beyond depending on the situation.

Israeli further said the company needs to engage 100 and 1,500 volunteers for phase-2 and phase-3 trials respectively.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Russian Direct Investment Fund, Russia's sovereign wealth fund, recently received approval from the Drug Control General of India to conduct an adaptive phase 2/3 human clinical trial for Sputnik

vaccine in India. Commenting on the results, G V Prasad, co-Chairman and Managing Director, Dr Reddy's, said: "We are pleased to report continued growth across all the markets and improved productivity which is reflected in the healthy EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) margin and RoCE (return on capital employed)." Our research teams are working on several potential remedies for COVID-19 in addition to the already launched products," he said.

The company's revenues from global generics segment were at Rs 3,980 crore, year-on-year growth of 21 per cent driven primarily on account of new product launches, volume traction in the base business and integration of the acquired business from Wockhardt in India.

Company expects to complete the phase-2 trials of Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V by December and phase-3 by March-end

Synchrony partners with UoH on blockchain

HYDERABAD

SYNCHRONY, a consumer financial services company, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the University of Hyderabad to help fund India's first blockchain project for providing financial services to farmers in need throughout the country.

This public-private partnership is a three-year partnership including a grant from Synchrony to the university for the project which will focus on leveraging the blockchain technology to help lenders provide financial assistance to farmers with no collateral and fixed assets. This project can bring all the parties together - from farmers to financing experts in the supply chain together to simplify the exchange of information and payments.

"Through our partnership with the University of Hyderabad, we are helping to push the technology boundaries to help farmers reach their financial goals," said Andy Ponneri, Senior Vice President and Business Leader, Synchrony India. This grant can provide access to blockchain technology to help farmers more readily access the financial assistance they need to support their operations, he added.



Heritage Foods posts ₹54 cr net in Q2

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

HERITAGE Foods Ltd, one of the leading private dairy players in India, has announced its financial results for the second quarter ended September 30, 2020. The consolidated revenue from operations was at Rs 610.03 crore. EBITDA rose 258 per cent to Rs 88.99 crore in the second quarter as compared to Rs 24.18 crore in Q2FY20.

The dairy major's net profit after adjustments significantly increased to Rs 53.94 cr in Q2 from Rs 10.66 cr in the previous corresponding quarter.

Brahmani Nara, Executive Director, Heritage Foods, said: "We're delighted to ensure uninterrupted procurement of all the milk produced by our farmers. Our uninterrupted delivery of health and nutrition during the Covid-19 times to our consumers is very fulfilling." The consolidated results for

the first half of 2020-21 financial year, Heritage Foods recorded Rs 1,248.83-cr revenue from operations, while EBITDA moved up by 99 per cent to Rs 146.29 cr as compared to Rs 73.55 cr in H1FY20. For the first half, the net profit after adjustments was at Rs 83.17 crore as compared to Rs 29.51 crore in H1FY20.

Brahmani further added: "During the quarter, we have strengthened our value added products portfolio by launching immunity boosting Ginger, Tulsi and Turmeric milk variants. We strengthened our online presence by launching Heritage TUCH App, for online ordering of milk and milk products for the convenience of our consumers."

The adjustments to net profit outlined above are the fluctuations in the fair value of an investment in equity shares of Future Retail Limited and the corresponding derivative liabilities.



L&T Q2 net down 45% to ₹1,410 cr due to Covid

NEW DELHI

ENGINEERING and construction giant Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Wednesday posted a 45 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,410.29 crore for the quarter ended September, hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The company had clocked a net profit of Rs 2,551.67 crore in the year-ago period, it said.

"Net Profit After Tax (PAT) and share in profit / loss of joint ventures / associates from continuing operations before exceptional items for the quarter is at Rs 1,410 crore, registering a sequential improvement of nearly 4 times reflecting pickup in the business momentum," said the company said in a statement. However, the



impact of pandemic in terms of lower revenue, higher credit provisions in the Financial Services business and disruption of the Metro services, led to decline of 45 per cent vis-à-vis reported PAT of corresponding quarter of the previous year at Rs 2,552 crore, it added.

Total consolidated income fell to Rs 31,593.77 crore in July-September quarter, from Rs 35,924.89 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses slipped to Rs 29,455.57 crore as against Rs 32,622.14 crore earlier.

During the quarter, the company completed divestment of its electrical and automation (E&A) business to Schneider Electric (SE), France and has transferred the business to Schneider on receipt of consideration on August 31, 2020, it said.

buyers. Both PSUs, in association with WDRA, are also exploring possibilities for trading of Warehouse Receipts (WRs) of FPC bales in the national and international market, through trading platform of various exchanges. The joint co-operation is also intended to make the Govt. of India's drive of doubling farmers' income (DFI) and procurement of FPC bales at minimum support price (MSP) a grand success. CWC is a premier warehousing agency having presence at 421 locations pan-India.

Towards this, CCI had been utilizing logistics services of multiple agencies for storage, handling and transportation of fully pressed cotton bales.

Traditionally, CCI has been procuring fully pressed cotton (FPC) bales and auctioning for national and international buyers.

During the quarter, the company completed divestment of its electrical and automation (E&A) business to Schneider Electric (SE), France and has transferred the business to Schneider on receipt of consideration on August 31, 2020, it said.

It has developed huge expertise in scientific storage and preservation of agriculture produce over the last 63 years.

Gold loan NBFCs set to shine in FY21

Likely to grow at 15-18% as banks, NBFCs tightened norms for other loans: Crisil

NEW DELHI

WITH the pandemic-driven lockdowns being lifted slowly and economic activity clawing back, demand for gold loans would rise, especially from individuals meeting urgent personal requirements and from micro enterprises for working capital to restart businesses, Crisil said on Wednesday.

According to a report by the ratings agency, gold loans would be preferred also because non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and banks have tightened their underwriting norms for other loans, leading to cautious lending to micro and small enterprises, traders and the self-employed.

That, and higher average gold prices year-on-year mean gold-loan assets under management of NBFCs could grow 15-18 per cent this fiscal, the report added.

Gold loan was flat in the first



quarter of this fiscal because of low disbursements in April and May due to the nationwide lockdown.

Krishnan Sitaraman, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings, said:

"Unlike other asset classes, gold loan has not faced major issues in collection and disbursement, or re-pledge of loans, barring in the stringent lockdown phase in April and May. With many NBFCs facing collection challenges and a likely increase in delinquencies, fresh disburse-

ments, especially to the MSME and unsecured loan segments, have remained low. Consequently, gold-loan financiers are expected to benefit."

Preliminary estimates indicate that gold loan disbursements, including re-pledge, at NBFCs have more than doubled sequentially in the second quarter of this fiscal."

The Reserve Bank of India recently relaxed the loan-to-value (LTV) for gold loans given by banks. While this is expected to

benefit banks focused on gold loans, any substantial weaning away of customers of large gold loan NBFCs will hinge on banks replicating the quick turnaround time, seamless disbursement process and flexible foreclosure options with interest rebate that the NBFCs are known for, and their customers are used to.

The monthly static pool analysis of Crisil-rated gold loan NBFCs shows that for a typical 12-month loan product, 60-65 per cent of the loan is foreclosed within the first six months. The short tenure of most gold loans, the part-foreclosure option and associated rebates offered by NBFCs make them a convenient choice. To provide a smooth re-pledging process in times of pandemic, larger NBFCs are offering online renewal since the underlying collateral - gold in various forms - is already in their possession.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.3	South
Euro	91.09	African Rand
UAE Dirham	22.12	Hong Kong Dollar
Thai Baht	2.72	Japanese Yen
British Pound	99.63	New Zealand Dollar
Australian Dollar	55.01	Saudi Riyal
Canadian Dollar	58.58	Swedish Krona
Swiss Franc	84.26	Singapore Dollar



HYDERABAD THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020

