



THE HANS INDIA

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WINDOWS



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and other leaders during a tractor rally, 'Kheti Bachao Yatra', in protest against the new farm bills 2020, in Punjab's Moga district on Sunday

Will scrap farm laws once we form govt: Rahul

Moga: Vowing to scrap the new farm laws once the Congress returns to power at the Centre, Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that the BJP-led government was acting at the behest of select corporates to "destroy" farmers.

NCB top boss tests positive for Covid-19

Mumbai: Deputy director in the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) KPS Malhotra has tested positive for coronavirus. This is at a time when the investigation is underway in the drug angle in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case. Earlier, 25 officials from the Mumbai office of the NCB tested positive for Covid and 20 of them were sent to home quarantine. Five of them have been admitted to hospital.



Tamannah tests positive for Covid



Hyderabad: Popular actress Tamannah Bhatia has tested positive for Covid-19. The actress is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bengaluru, sources said. Earlier, Tamannah's had informed that both her parents had tested positive for the virus. The actress is the latest Indian celebrity to test positive for the novel coronavirus.



COVID-19 VACCINE FOR 25 CR BY JULY

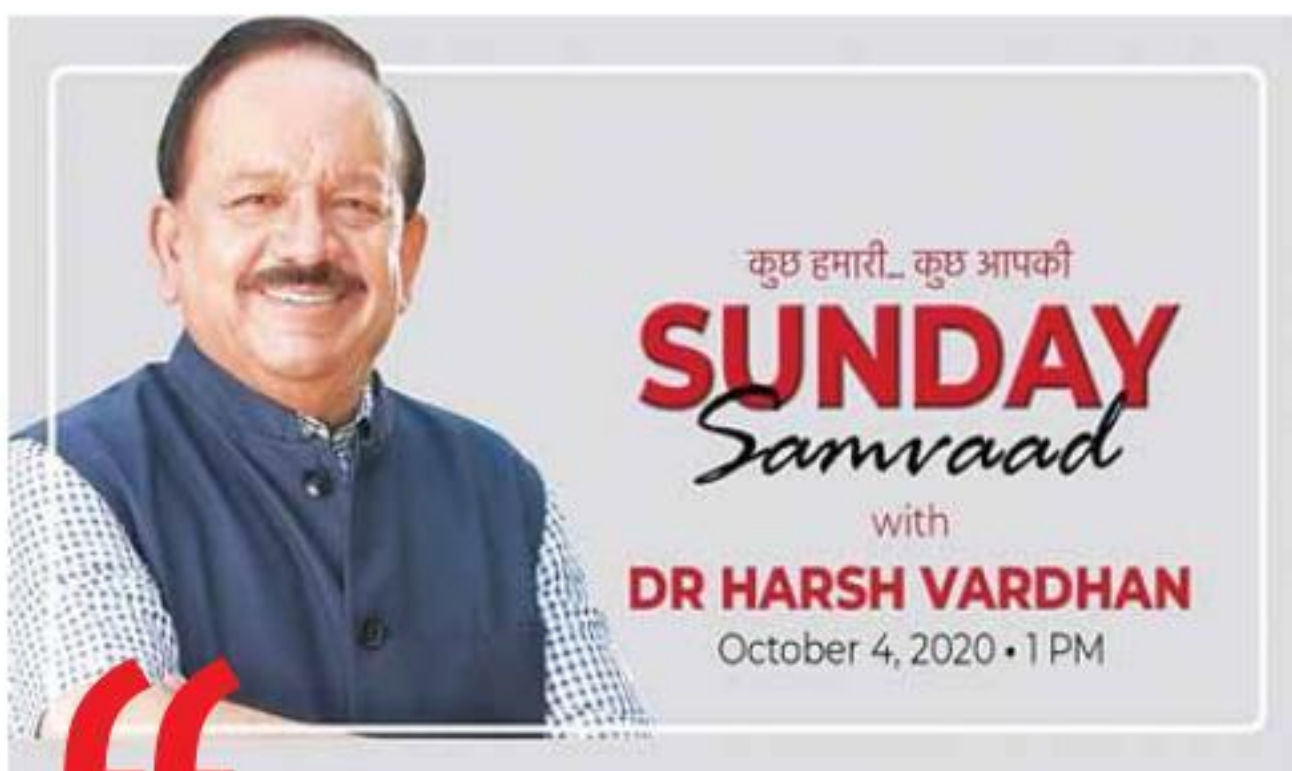
Ensuring vaccine for all our aim: Harsh Vardhan

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Sunday that the Centre is working on plans to procure 400-500 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine, which will be administered to up to 25 crore people by July 2021.

"Government plans to receive and utilise 400-500 million Covid-19 vaccine doses. Our target is to cover 20-25 crore people by July 2021. For that, we are building capacities in HR, training, supervision, etc, on a massive scale," he said at his weekly webinar 'Sunday Samvaad' for his social media followers.

The Minister said that a high-level committee under Niti Aayog Member, Health, V K Paul is drawing up the entire process. "Vaccine procurement is being done centrally and each consignment will be tracked real time until delivery to ensure it reaches those who need it most," he said.

Harsh Vardhan said these committees are working on understanding the timelines of availability of various vaccines in the country, obtaining



The list of frontline health workers will include both government as well as private sector doctors, nurses, paramedics, sanitary staff, ASHA workers, surveillance officers and many other occupational categories who are involved in tracing, testing and treatment of patients

commitments from their manufacturers to make available maximum number of doses for India's inventory, on supply chain management and on prioritisation of high-risk

groups. "This is work in progress which will be completed by the time the vaccines are ready to ensure the swift roll-out of the immunisation programme," he said. He also

indicated that the frontline workers and those having underlying health conditions are in the top priority list of the government for vaccine administration. **Continued on Page 5**

LADAKH STANDOFF India-China 7th round talks on Oct 12

New Delhi: India and China will hold corps commander-level talks on October 12, the seventh round, in eastern Ladakh sector in their latest attempt to address the ongoing military standoff between the two countries.

Both sides had held the last round of talks on the border standoff on September 21, which remained inconclusive as Indian negotiators firmly demanded comprehensive disengagement at all flashpoints and restoration of status quo ante as the only approach towards de-escalation. Beijing had asked New Delhi to withdraw its soldiers from strategic heights on the southern bank of Pangong Tso to reduce friction.

A joint statement, released in New Delhi and Beijing on September 22, said the two sides agreed to stop sending more troops to the front line and to hold the seventh round of commander-level talks "as soon as possible, take practical measures to properly solve problems on the ground, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity in the border area."

Lieutenant General Harinder Singh and Lieutenant General PGK Menon, who represented the army headquarters, took part in the sixth rounds of talks.

Continued on Page 5

Delhi schools to remain shut till October 31

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia has announced that all Delhi schools will remain closed till October 31. The Delhi government had earlier asked Delhi schools to remain shut till October 5 but permitted online classes to continue.

All schools in Delhi will remain closed till October 31 due to Corona. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that as a parent, he understands the seriousness of the situation. At this time, it will not be appropriate to take any risk regarding the health of children," Sisodia tweeted.

Earlier this week, the Union government, in its announcement for "Unlock 5", allowed state and Union Territory governments to decide on reopening schools, colleges and other educational institutions in a graded manner after October 15. "The decision shall be

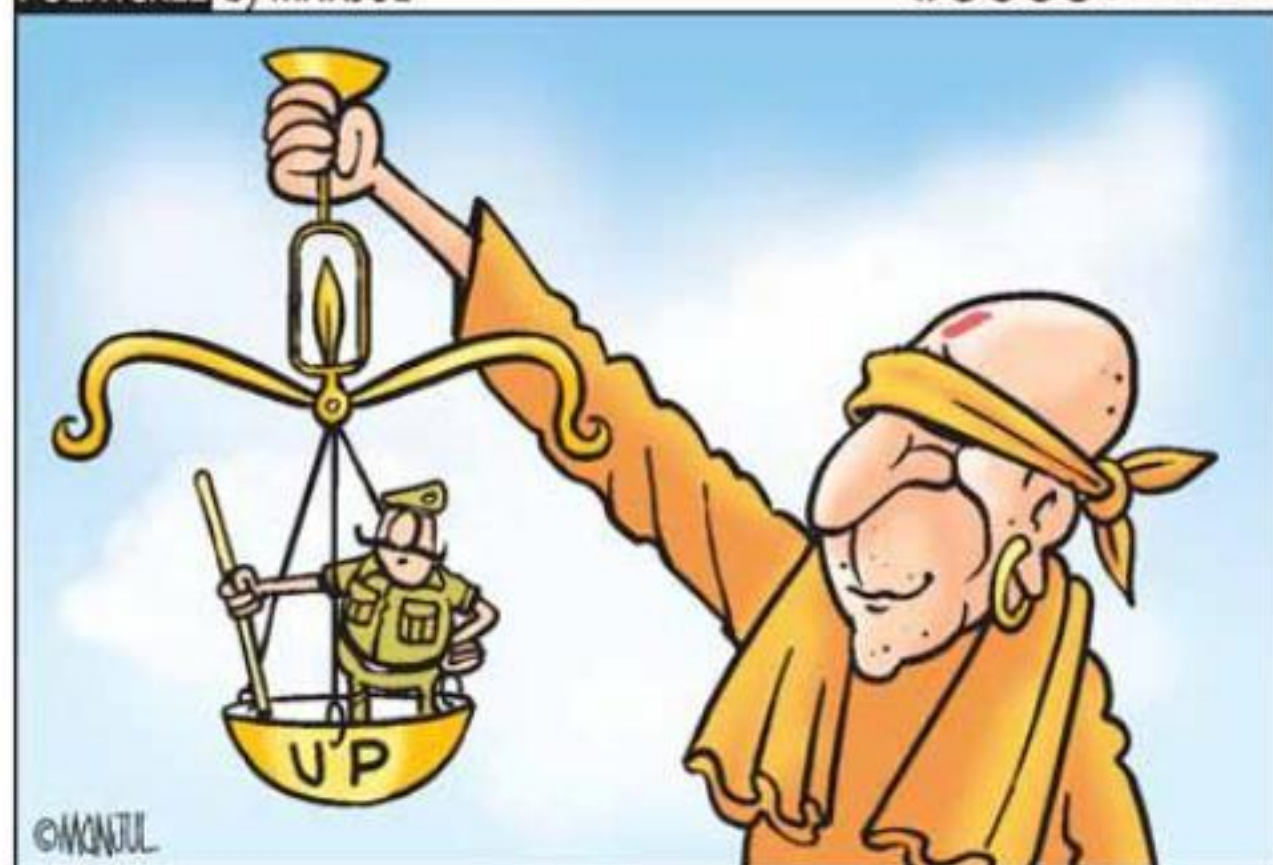
taken in consultation with the (management of the) respective school/institution, based on their assessment of the situation," the Home Ministry said, adding, however, that online and distance learning was the preferred mode of teaching at this time.

"Where schools are conducting online classes, and some students prefer to attend online classes rather than physically attend school, they may be permitted to do so," the centre, said, adding, "Students may attend schools/institutions only with the written consent of parents."

The Centre said that governments opting to restart schools must ensure attendance is not enforced and that it depends on parental consent. State and UT governments were asked to make their own SoPs (standard operating protocols) for use for schools.



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



HATHRAS HORROR

Victim's kin against CBI probe

SIT records statement of family members

New Delhi: A day after Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath recommended a probe by the CBI in the alleged gangrape of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras, a special investigation team (SIT) recorded the statement of the victim's family on Sunday.

The SIT team led by senior IPS officer Bhagwan Swaroop is continuing

with its investigation even as the CBI has been asked to take over. The victim's family, however, is not in favour of the CBI investigation and wants a judicial probe to be conducted in the case.

The SIT team present in Boolgarhi village is interacting with the people concerned and has said, "anybody who wants to give a statement is wel-

come." The team had earlier interacted with the villagers and also visited the crime spot. The woman was raped by four "upper caste" men on September 14 following which she was admitted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College of Aligarh Muslim University after she was left partially paralysed.

Continued on Page 5

Concerns rise over Trump's condition

New York: Concerns were rising over US President Donald Trump's health condition after his doctor said that he was "not yet out of the woods" following his Covid-19 diagnosis, while the 74-year-old leader also acknowledged that the next few days will be a "real test".

"While not yet out of the woods, the (medical) team remains cautiously optimistic," his doctor Sean Conley said on Saturday night in a memo released through Trump's spokesperson Kayleigh McEnany.

Also in a video message,

Not out of woods, say doctors



the President said: "Over the next period of a few days, I guess that's the real

test. So, we'll be seeing what happens over those next couple of days." The video

was made at the Walter Reed National Medical Centre where he is undergoing treatment for Covid-19.

After a briefing by doctors at the hospital on Saturday morning, Trump's Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told reporters: "We're still not on a clear path to a full recovery. The President's vitals over the last 24 hours were very concerning and the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care."

Trump has three high-risk factors for the coronavirus as a 74-year-old male who is overweight at 110 kg. **Continued on Page 5**

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Womenia

Passion of creativity turns into business

Aanchal Aggarwal through her handmade gifting firm (Instagram: Handmade_gifting) helps you out to send some personalised gifts to your loved ones in any corner of India

TEJAL SINHA

The saying 'Fortune favours the bold and if you're bold enough to chase your dreams your fortune is good enough for you to own things,' suits well for this 24 year old Aanchal Aggarwal from Surat who has taken up her creativity and artistry as her full time profession.

Since her middle school, Aanchal always used to love making crafts and was really good at doing that. It all started for her by making small crafts for her school teachers during proxies and it leads to so much more.

Aanchal says, "As a kid I always aspired to become an astronaut. That is the reason I took up science stream but then realised it isn't something I see myself doing for my long-term career. It was all flowers and shines till I was making cute little bundles of joy for my friends and family on their birthdays and occasions and the smile and appreciation was the only thing that I wished then."

Belonging to a typical Marwari household, Aanchal's dad did not support her as he wanted her to

only focus academically whereas her mom was always supportive just and would always motivate her by saying 'Do what makes you happy. I am with you!'.

Aanchal worked at night when everyone was asleep and cleaned the room spik and span before anyone would wake up "I still remember I used to wait for everyone to sleep so that I can get my stuff out and work," recalls Aanchal.

However later her friend suggested her to create an Instagram page.

She shares, "Everything was the same until one day my best friend suggested that I create a page for fun and let's see how people react as back then in 2014 Instagram was in trend and we started a page on Instagram for fun after that. Back then I didn't really have much content nor the clientele. It took almost a year for my page to gain a kick start and from then, there was no looking back. Not even a single order came through. But I still kept waiting and consistently posted all my handmade momentos and eventually, my work

caught up with time."

By the time she joined college, she started getting orders in a huge number. From a naive girl who'd create cards for friends on their birthdays, she soon became a manufacturer of most handmade products in business. Gradually when Aanchal's parents saw her grooming and taking this seriously they started supporting her.

"I am glad that I took it as a full time profession as it gives amazing returns, because that is something which will be there with you till the end. I felt like an accomplishment every single day. But the cherry on the top was when dad started encouraging me. When he felt that it was

not just anything that I started and had concrete to it, he supported with full vigour," shares Aanchal.

Now, after six years and having a family of around 65k plus followers Aanchal and her talent is growing and reaching more people every day serving happiness to almost every city in the world by collaborating and keeping in touch with so many celebs and stylists and so much more.

Like every other business, the nationwide pandemic also affected Aanchal's business. Seeing the difficulties in dispatch Aanchal made all her business digital.

"In future, I wish that the handmade giftings will increase worldwide and when one thinks about

gifting they opt for handmade gifting. I am also planning for a workshop on zoom where people can learn this and with Diwali coming near and keeping the pandemic in mind we can send them a personalized gift as a token of love," she concludes.

Aanchal Aggarwal

Transform your summer wardrobe to be autumn-ready

PUJA GUPTA

or the outfit might look too bulky.

The transition from summer to fall can be quite tricky. Until you shop for your fall and cold weather essentials, there are plenty of summer outfit tricks that you can try.

While it is still risky to go hop to your favourite stores for shopping, you can extract maximum wear out of your summer staples and as you continue to make additions to your wardrobe, these clothes will continue to reinvigorate your wardrobe until winter.

This is the time of the year wherein you surely need to step out of the box and try on some mix and match combinations. Layering is always a great way to utilise your summer wardrobe in the autumn season. However, bulky fabrics can make layering a little tricky, to its best to stick to light breathable fabrics like viscose and modal.

Shorts with leggings

Sport your beloved denim shorts with solid viscose leggings for a cozy yet fashionable look. Add a plain oversized shirt on top with a belt. Add some gold jewellery to elevate the look further. This is a great comfortable option for Friday night virtual session with your friends or a fun games night.

Dresses

Dresses are always a great option for every season. Recycle your printed summer dresses in the fall season by pairing them with a scarf. You can also wear a simple t-shirt underneath the dress for a more preppy look. Keep in mind to not have more than three levels of layers on you

Blazers and Jackets

Leather and denim jackets are always a great addition to any outfit. Pair any of your basic summer outfits with a smart jacket or blazer for autumn ready look. Graphic t-shirts, summer dresses, lace singlets, shorts and skirts are all great options that can be paired with jackets and blazers.

Jeans

Fortunately, wide leg jeans transit easily into the fall season. Summer fashion was all about pops of colour and was quite inspired by the flair of 70's and 80's. Carry it forward in your autumn wardrobe by pairing them with a turtle neck sweater. Also your favourite summer skinny jeans would give a fantastic look with trendy metallic while attending virtual celebrations. For example, you could team up grey denims with gold and bronze tops. You could also wear your slashed jeans with a black bucket bag and sneakers.

Skirts

The fall season is full of bright and splendid skirts to wear from work to parties. You can opt for a knee-length eyelet coat over a white tee and a denim skirt. You could also team your summer skirts with long sleeves and mules. You could team up tribal print blush mini skirt with a blush blouse and crispy white blazer. Or you could tuck in your favourite turtle neck in a high rise leather mini skirt for that chic look.

You could also go for skirts of bold prints, tulle styles, cozy pencil skirts, floral print boho chic light weight bottoms, etc. this season.

Before bed routine to enhance your beauty

Either you shell truckloads of money and consult a reputed beauty expert, or just stay glued to the screen when you come across an article like this. Here is a list of the ultimate beauty habits, which, if followed can enhance your beauty in ways you would have never imagined!

No makeup, please

Going to bed with makeup on is like sending a cordial invite to skin problems. Your skin starts repairing itself when you are asleep. The skin pores open up and a dermatological patching-up happens. But when you have your facial skin shrouded under thick inches of cosmetics, you are only asking for trouble. This will result in spots and acne breakouts.

Hand cream is a must

Every night before hitting the bed, wash your hands with warm water and a mild soap. Pat dry with a soft towel, and then apply



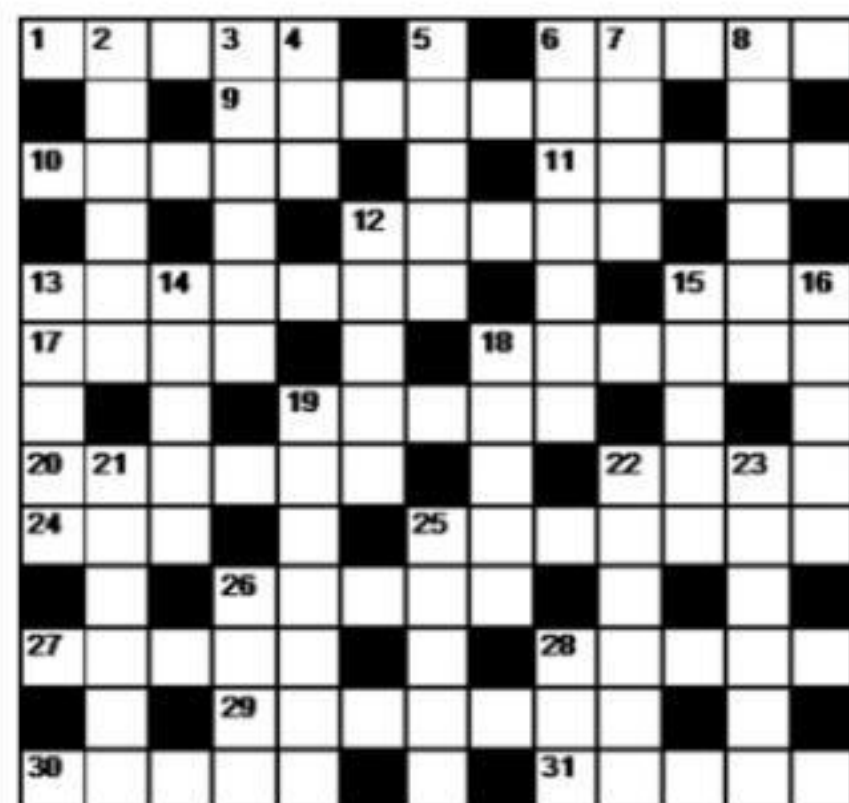
hand cream. Make sure you use a thick and less greasy hand cream. This will keep your hands moisturized during the night, and when you wake up next morning, you won't be able to help but fall in

love with your hands. Also, hand cream plays a role in reducing skin dryness and roughness.

Toner is a double must

Toner is to your face what your

face is to you. It helps restore the natural pH levels of your skin. This ultimately makes your skin resistant to bacteria and other microorganisms, and also cleanses your skin of dirt and impurities.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 03

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Russian ballet company (5)
- 6 Cause for pause (5)
- 9 Capital of the Chaldean empire (7)
- 10 In the lead (5)
- 11 Out of practice (5)
- 12 Sauce seasonings (5)
- 13 Flower (7)
- 15 Moral offence (3)
- 17 Hankers after (4)
- 18 Plaster for moulding (6)
- 19 Take as one's own (5)
- 20 Come out (6)
- 22 Hybrid (4)
- 24 Put in place (3)
- 25 Reside in (7)
- 26 Slope (5)
- 27 Japanese gateway (5)
- 28 2 under par (5)
- 29 Belief that there is no God (7)
- 30 A very small person (5)
- 31 Laconic (5)

Down

- 2 A frozen taper (6)
- 3 Preoccupy the mind with an idea or emotion (6)
- 4 Large container (3)
- 5 Woody plant tissue (5)
- 6 National park in Uttar Pradesh (7)
- 7 Burden (4)
- 8 Legendary (6)
- 12 Throng (5)
- 13 Units of computer memory (5)
- 14 Start (5)
- 15 Scour (5)
- 16 Piece for nine players (5)
- 18 Used up (5)
- 19 Nimbleness (7)
- 21 Recollection (6)
- 22 French woman (6)
- 23 Fine cotton threads (6)
- 25 Deduce (5)
- 26 Old Asian place (4)
- 28 Superlative suffix (3)

SUDOKU

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9	1	4	2	5	6	8	3	7

SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 03

NEWS ROUNDUP

KAJOL ASKS FANS TO PLAY 'CHOR POLICE'

Actress Kajol does not fail to entertain her fans with her social media posts. And her recent Instagram post is proof of the fact.

On Sunday, Kajol posted a selfie of her sporting a mask.

She can be seen taking the picture against the backdrop of an elevator and a mall. But more than the image, it was her caption that left netizens in splits.

"Chalo chor police khetle hain.... anyone???? #all-masked #ready #smilingunderneath," she captioned the post.

Reacting to it, a user commented: "Let's play. I will be the police and will catch you."

"Hahaha....your caption game is too strong," another one wrote.

On the work front, Kajol will be seen making her digital debut with Netflix's film "Tribhanga", which is directed by Renuka Shahane. It also features Mithila Palkar, Tanvi Azmi and Kunaal Roy Kapoor.



Noida police regrets manhandling of Priyanka, sets up probe

Noida (IANS): The Noida police on Sunday regretted the manhandling of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at DND Flyway while she was on her way to meet the Hathras gang-rape victim's family in a standoff between the police and Congress workers. An inquiry into the matter has also been initiated.

"Noida police profoundly regrets the incident @priyankagandhi while handling an unruly crowd at the DND. The DCP HQ has taken suo moto cognisance of it and ordered an inquiry to be conducted by a senior lady officer. We Noida police are committed to ensure safety and dignity of women," Noida Police tweeted.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was pushed and manhandled on Saturday while she came to the rescue of a party worker, who was being lathi charged by Uttar Pradesh police at the Delhi-Noida Direct (DND) Flyway when Priyanka, Rahul Gandhi and several Congress workers were trying to go to Hathras to meet the family of the victim.

The videos captured during the commotion shows Priyanka jumping a police barricade to shield a Congress worker as cops with lathis surround the man. Both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka later went on to meet the victim's family at Hathras.

'Justice for accused'

Justice should be given to the men accused of gang raping the 20-year-old woman from Hathras, a meet of the so-called upper caste men in Hathras has demanded. The demand came days after the postmortem report from the Forensic Sciences Laboratory said the woman, who belongs to the Scheduled Castes, was not raped.

The alleged sexual assault and the woman's horrific injuries had shocked the country and after her death last Tuesday, parallels have been drawn between the case and the 23-year-old raped and tortured in Delhi in 2012, dubbed Nirbhaya, according to NDTV report.

On Sunday, around 500 people, including the family of one of the accused, gathered at the house of BJP Leader Rajveer Singh Pelwan, who said he is involved "in a personal capacity". Alleging that the four men arrested have been falsely accused, they said justice must be given to them.

The men have been charged with rape. Murder charges were added after the woman died at a Delhi hospital on September 29.

The Yogi Adityanath government is under pressure over the police handling of the case, which included a 2 am cremation of the woman's body, while her family was kept locked up.



LJP not to contest Bihar polls under Nitish Kumar

Patna: The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) on Sunday virtually walked out of the National Democratic Alliance in Bihar ahead of the state assembly polls, saying that it will not fight the election under JD(U) president and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's leadership of the ruling alliance in the state.

An LJP parliamentary board meeting chaired by its president Chirag Paswan instead passed a resolution in favour of an alliance with the BJP and said its MLAs will work to strengthen the hand of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP has already announced that the NDA will fight the polls under the leadership of Nitish Kumar.

As such, the LJP resolution makes the party's break up with the NDA in the state inevitable. The BJP central election committee is meeting later in the evening to finalise the party's candidates for the three-phase assembly election, which begins from October 28.

Earlier on Thursday, top BJP leaders, including Home Minis-



ter Amit Shah and party president J P Nadda, held a meeting with LJP chief Chirag Paswan to thrash out a seat-sharing arrangement with allies.

Paswan, LJP sources said, listed his grievances with Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar and spoke of pressure from within his party to contest on 143 seats in the elections to the 243-seat assembly at the meeting here.

"No seat-sharing deal was finalised at the meeting," an LJP

leader said, adding that Shah noted that the BJP has had no differences with the LJP. The presence of Shah at a meeting of BJP leaders on the Bihar polls on Wednesday and now his meeting with Paswan underscored his effort to settle the internal differences within the ruling National Democratic Alliance amicably.

In 2015, it contested 42 seats and won two. The JD(U) was then part of the opposition alliance which decisively defeated the NDA.



Pak resorts to heavy shelling along LoC

Jammu (IANS): Pakistan resorted to heavy shelling and firing on Sunday at Indian positions on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

At about 3.20 a.m., Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Mankote sector, Defence Ministry Spokesman Colonel Devender Anand said. "Indian army retaliated befittingly," he added. Since the beginning of this year, Pakistan has been violating with impunity the bilateral ceasefire agreement signed by the two countries in 1999.

In over 3,190 such ceasefire violations since January 2020, 24 civilians have been killed and over 100 injured.

Security forces on Sunday recovered some arms and ammunition during a search and cordon operation in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Rahul leads tractor rally against farm laws

Moga: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a tractor rally in Moga, Punjab on Sunday to protest against the Centre's new farm laws.

Gandhi, who arrived in Moga district on Sunday afternoon, will lead tractor rallies for three days beginning today.

Holding a public meeting at Badni Kalan in Moga, Gandhi said, "What was the need to implement these laws amid COVID-19? What was the haste? If you had to implement, you should've discussed in Lok Sabha-Rajya Sabha."

"The PM says laws are being framed for farmers. If it's the case, why didn't you discuss openly in the House," he said.

"If farmers are happy with these laws then why are they protesting across the nation? Why is every farmer in Punjab protesting?" Gandhi said.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, All India Congress Committee general secretary in-charge of Punjab affairs, Harish Rawat, Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar, State Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and other leaders during a tractor rally, 'Kheti Bachao Yatra', in protest against the new farm bills 2020, in Punjab's Moga district on Sunday

and other leaders also present.

Former minister and MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu, who had been staying away from all Congress activities, is also among those present in the district.

The tractor rallies, which have been named as 'Kheti Bachao Yatra', will cover more than 50 km, spread over three days in various districts and constituencies.

Farmers in Punjab have been

protesting against the new farm legislations.

Farmers have expressed apprehension that the Centre's farm reforms would pave the way for the dismantling of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system, leaving them at the 'mercy' of big corporates.

The government has maintained that there will be no change in the MSP.

UP BJP youth leader held on rape charges

Prayagraj (IANS): The Prayagraj police on Sunday arrested Shyam Prakash Dwivedi, vice president of BJP Yuva Morcha, who was absconding after charges of gang rape by a student.

The Kashi Prant or Varanasi unit leader was arrested from near Bakshi Dam. Another accused, Anil Dwivedi, has already been arrested.

According to reports, a B.A student had alleged about a fortnight ago that she had been gang raped by Shyam Prakash Dwivedi and Anil Dwivedi at gun point.

The victim claimed that the accused had led her to his hotel and raped her there with his friend.

She stated that earlier in March, the two accused had barged into her house and had raped her. The family was afraid of the consequences and asked her not to report the incident. The Colonelganj police had registered the case and started investigations.

The medical examination of the victim was also done and her statement was recorded in the presence of a magistrate.



Parents responsible if daughters are raped, says BJP MLA

Baliya: In a bizarre statement, Surendra Singh, BJP MLA from Baliya, has said that incidents like the alleged gang-rape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit girl in Hathras can be stopped only if parents inculcate good values in their daughters. Talking to local reporters in Baliya, the BJP MLA said neither governance nor use of weapons can prevent such crimes. "Incidents like these can be stopped with help of good values - 'na shashan se, na talwar se'. All parents should teach their daughters good values.



2 Navy personnel die as glider crashes in Kochi

Kochi: Two Navy personnel died as a glider on routine flight crashed here on Sunday morning, a Defence spokesperson said.

He said the naval power glider was on a routine training sortie and took off from INS Garuda. It crashed near Thoppumpady bridge close to the naval base at around 7 am.

Lt Rajeev Jha and Petty officer Sunil Kumar, who were in the glider, were rescued from the crash site and shifted to INHS Sanjivani.

However, they were declared brought dead, the spokesperson said.

The glider is being salvaged and a board of inquiry has been ordered by the Southern Naval Command into the incident, he said.

75,829 new cases in a day

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 tally has crossed the 65-lakh mark with 75,829 new cases and 940 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, the Health Ministry data released on Sunday.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 55 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 84.13 per cent. The country now has 65,49,373 total cases of coronavirus, including 9,37,625 active cases.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.55 per cent. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16 and crossed 60 lakh on September 28. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of



COVID-19 patients perform yoga asanas at Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre and Hospital, at Chhatrapur in New Delhi.

7,89,92,534 samples have been tested up to October 3 with

11,42,131 samples being tested on Saturday.

UP Cong leader succumbs

New Delhi(IANS): Former Congress MLC Naseeb Pathan died of COVID-19 at the Medanta Hospital on Sunday, with party leaders condoling his demise.

Hailing from Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh, he began his political career with party leader Sanjay Gandhi and was twice elected the MLC in the state. State Congress chief Ajay Kumar

Lallu said that Pathan was a true fighter in spirits and a very active party worker.

Pathan was among a few Muslim Congress leaders in Uttar Pradesh and a loyalist of the Gandhi family. On Saturday, he had made a video clip from his hospital bed on Rahul Gandhi's and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's visit to Hathras.

Punjab police arrests 2, busts Khalistan terror module

Hoshiarpur: The Punjab Police on Sunday said it has busted a terror module of banned outfit Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) by arresting its two cadres in Hoshiarpur district of the state.

They were identified as Makhan Singh Gill alias Amli and Davinder Singh alias Happy, both residents of Noorpur Jattan village in Hoshiarpur, Punjab Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta said.

Police have seized two sophisticated arms and ammunition, including one MP5 sub-machine gun (with two magazines and 30 live rounds) and one 9mm pistol (with two magazines and 30 live rounds), besides a white colour car, four mobile phones and an internet dongle from their possession, Gupta said in a statement. The DGP said based on inputs about



the disruptive designs of certain pro-Khalistan elements, who had plans to disturb peace and communal harmony in the state by launching terror attacks, security forces had launched a major drive in the state to conduct raids and check the movement and whereabouts of members of various terrorist modules busted in the past.

"The current breakthrough is the result of these concerted efforts and the drive launched in the recent past," he added.

Time and again women in India faced brutal sexual assault

New Delhi (IANS): Hathras, a small district in Uttar Pradesh, has become the epicentre for media reportage, political and social activism for the alleged gang-rape victim who died in a Delhi hospital recently.

This isn't the first time India is seeing protests across the nation over a gang-rape and sexual assault. India has seen brutal rapes and gang-rapes in the past, many of which resulted in a public outcry on the streets.

The most prominent was the 2012 Delhi gang-rape and murder case which involved a rape and fatal assault that occurred on December 16, 2012 in Munirka in south Delhi inside a moving bus. The incident took place when a 23-year-old female physiotherapy intern who was later dubbed 'Nirbhaya' (Fearless), was beaten, gang-raped, and brutally tortured in a private bus in which she was travelling with her male friend.



Four of the adult convicts were hanged in Tihar jail in March this year.

The infamous incident in 2013 in Mumbai also known as the Shakti Mills gang-rape, where a 22-year-old photojournalist, who was interning with a magazine in Mumbai, was gang-raped by five people, including a juvenile. The

incident occurred on August 22, 2013, when she had gone to the deserted Shakti Mills compound, near Mahalaxmi in south Mumbai, with a male colleague on an assignment.

Earlier in 1996, a 25-year-old law student, was found strangled in her uncle's residence. She had been raped, struck 14 times with

a motorcycle helmet, and finally strangled with a wire by Santosh Kumar Singh, son of a former IPS officer, who was later arrested and convicted for the crime.

In November 2019, the gang-rape and murder of a 26-year-old veterinary doctor in Shamshabad, near Hyderabad, sparked outrage across India. Her body was found in Shadnagar on November 28, 2019, the day after she was murdered. Police found that her body was doused with kerosene and then burnt. Four suspects were arrested and were killed in a police encounter on December 6, 2019, under a bridge on Bangalore-Hyderabad national highway, while they allegedly tried to flee from police custody.

In 2018, the infamous Kathua rape case made headlines when an 8-year-old girl was abducted, raped, and murdered in Rasana

village near Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir. The girl disappeared for a week before her body was discovered by villagers a kilometre away from the village. The incident made national news with protests across the country.

In April 2019, a nine-year-old girl was allegedly raped and killed by a man in Vile Parle area in Mumbai. The girl's body was found inside a public toilet at Nehru Nagar area in Vile Parle following which the accused was arrested.

Crimes against women increased 7.3 per cent from 2018 to 2019, and crimes against Scheduled Castes also went up 7.3 per cent in the same period, according to the annual National Crime Record Bureau's 'Crime in India 2019' report released on Tuesday. In terms of absolute numbers, Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of cases in both these categories.

Jagan’s Delhi visits intriguing

A healthy sign is now visible in Andhra Pradesh. The social media which was targeting the judiciary for past some time has gone silent. This has led to speculations that the State government has been told by the Centre to see that the social media was reined in or else it could lead to unnecessary clash between the executive and judiciary. This of course also gave rise to another speculation that the political equations in Andhra Pradesh are set to change and that the YSR Congress party may join Modi government. YSRCP had recently denied any such move but speculations are speculations and refuse to die down.

It is being said that during the recent meeting the Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Centre had advised him to see that the social media refrains from making any derogatory comments targeting the judges. They are said to have brought to his notice the displeas-

ure expressed by the Andhra Pradesh High Court over the Crime investigation Department failing to act on the cases of posts on High Court judges. The bench comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar and J Uma Devi felt that there could be larger conspiracy behind such posts against judiciary.

The High Court said that the attempts to lower the dignity of the judiciary which is one of the three pillars of democracy and thus calling it redundant could lead to internal strife. The judges were so angry that they went to the extent of saying that court cannot remain a mute spectator to the social media posts destroying the reputation of the judiciary. The court, without mincing words, went on to say that the people who do not have faith in the judiciary can go on to Parliament and seek the abolishment of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

The Centre which needs support of other parties in Rajya Sabha while passing many important bills wants to keep regional parties in good humour. It may maintain the cat on wall attitude regarding the three-capital proposal mooted by the AP government ducking under the alibi that the Centre has no role in deciding where

the state should have its capital. May be, like YSRCP, they too are waiting for the decision of the High Court on this issue. The State government on its part is ready to shift the executive capital to Visakhapatnam anytime if the court decision comes in its favour.

But what the Centre needs to clarify is will it take similar stand if in future some other government wants to shift capital to some other place? What is more important? Constitutional position or political convenience? Will the Centre also turn a blind eye to the slow progress of Polavaram project and the controversy pertaining to payment of R&R package to those who gave land for the project. Silence on certain issues may be good policy but not on crucial issues like lifeline projects of the state.

Amidst such developments, the decision of the AP Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to go to Delhi again on Monday and the possibility of meeting the Amit Shah, (his last meeting with Amit Shah was on September 23 and 24) and others gives credence to the political talk that the AP government was moving in the direction of joining the NDA sooner than later.



Vajpayee and Jaswant were friends but could differ like gentlemen

SAEED NAQVI

Jaswant Singh's final goodbye acquired extra poignancy. Ushered into his study in my mind's eye by the reliable Thomas, his secretary, I can see him induce a smile by way of politeness, gesture with his right hand, slowly nodding his head disapprovingly. He would have been pained at the Hathras rape and a blanket "not guilty" verdict on all and sundry accused in the Babri Masjid demolition conspiracy case. He was a gentleman politician with whom one could disagree and yet return satisfied with many takeaways. He had the rare ability to change his views (as on Jinnah) if that is what the evidence suggests.

Jaswant Singh reminded me of Ismat Chughtai's description of Dilip Kumar who acted in films for which she had written the script and which her husband, Shahid Lateef, had directed. "Dilip Kumar is not a handsome man but he knows how to act as one."

Likewise, Jaswant Singh's "haw, haw" English was plausible, if not always authentic. He spoke with deliberation which was custom made for pauses enabling him to pluck out words he enjoyed using. His feudal Rajput background, polished by his years at the National Defence Academy under the supervision of Commandant Leslie Keith Malcolm (Bonny), a fastidious Scottish officer, his yen for polo and custom made safari suits with epaulettes (sans insignia), all these enhanced his aristocratic bearing.

The 'style' came in handy when as External Affairs Minister, he kept Bill Clinton's Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, in his thrall during the marathon series of exchanges on the nuclear issue.

In the choreography of Atal Behari Vajpayee's cabinet, the Jaswant Singh persona had a deliberate placement. Was his 'princeliness' a criteria? That would have exposed Vajpayee to the charge of having a class fetish. After all, the Minister of State in the foreign office, Vasundhara Raje was a thoroughbred princess. It was Vajpayee's larger than life figure, his seniority over any RSS chief during his time, his evolution into international cosmopolitans through the Nehru years, his incomparable oratory and a natural bent for deep reflection, left in him no smallness of mind to nurse prejudices or be overawed by 'style'.

Jaswant Singh's flair was allowed full play in the cabinet but the reins were firmly with Vajpayee, something which became so clear when Vajpayee flinched away from what would have been a disastrous military engagement in northern Iraq and on which Jaswant Singh had set his heart. Having pulverized Iraq in April 2003, the US thought of sharing administrative responsibility with 'allies' on what it imagined was a 'conquered' oil rich country. Blandishments came India's way.

Singh was not the only one so dazzled by the projection of American power on new global television, particularly the hyped up drama on April 9 on the pulling down of Saddam Hussain's statue: the story put out by the US was that the statue had been pulled down by anti Saddam masses. Nothing of the sort had happened. That's another story which must be told in detail.

The pulling down of the statue registered with Vajpayee as the rise of an "awesome power", an event which dictated that festering regional conflicts should be ended. A week later, on April 18, 2003, while on a visit to Srinagar, he held out his hand of friendship to Pakistan. This, despite the two armies poised for military action -- after Operation Parakram. Jaswant Singh saw the same events somewhat differently: as a confirmation of a powerful unipolar world. India had come so close to this powerful entity that a bonding was full of promise. Hence his enthusiasm for an Indian role in Iraq. India was to take charge of the Kurdish North -- an imperial role at last. Something in Jaswant Singh was turned on.

A senior Indian diplomat was dispatched on a secret mission to gauge the level of hospitality India would receive, should it accept its new imperial role. The diplomat returned after meeting Masoud Barzani, Jalal Talebani and, by way of a bonus, with a bag full of truffles strewn all over Talebani's Estate.

With foresight, the diplomat made a clever detour to Dubai to establish contact with Adnan Pachachi, a former Iraqi Foreign Minister who the diplomatic grapevine in West Asia tipped as the possible front for the new 'conquerors' of Iraq.

The Indian Ambassador to Iraq, B.B. Tyagi, had been parked in a three star hotel in Amman, waiting for the Americans to declare themselves the country's new rulers. Tyagi would charge down and present his credentials. Such unseemly obsequiousness.

Away from the herd, Vajpayee had made his own calculations. He realized his cabinet colleagues had been taken in by the sole superpower moment. At this moment (his colleagues thought) it would be tactless to refuse an American invitation. But Vajpayee asked tough questions. A Division plus 8,000 soldiers and men would be required. The thrill and grandeur of the expedition was alluring, but not if New Delhi had to foot the bill. Permanent membership of the Security Council would be worth the gamble but that is not what the Americans were talking about.

Vajpayee the skillful politician came into play when he called up CPI leader, A.B. Bardhan, a friend of many years. Would Bardhan be happy at the sight of Indian troops, in Division strength, operating under US command without a UN flag? Vajpayee's signal to Bardhan was to mobilize public opinion against the idea. Not only would it help India, but it would enable his colleagues to slide down the pole they had climbed up to impress the Americans.

That Singh corroborated to me bits of this untold story, a story in which he himself does not come out smelling of roses, shows the kind of gentleman he was. In fact Vajpayee's was a cabinet of women and gentlemen, a few rotten apples notwithstanding. Supposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood in front of a mirror and kept a photo of this nation of seniors by his side, for easy contemplation, I wonder what thoughts would cross his mind.

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala

Good news is that our exports were more than imports in the April-June of the current year 2020-21. The combined trade is known as "Trade Balance." Excess of exports over imports is known

as "Trade Surplus." We have made such a trade surplus after 13 years. We are getting more dollars from exports and requiring less dollars for imports.

The Trade Balance is part of the "Current Account Balance." We get dollars from the exports made by us and from the investments made in India by foreign investors. On the other hand, we send dollars to pay for the imports made by us and from the outward investments made in other countries by our investors. The combined receipts from exports and inward foreign investments are called current account receipts. The combined remittances made for imports and outward foreign investments are called current account remittances. The net difference between current account receipts and remittances is known as "Current Account Balance."

As said above, our current account balance has turned positive in tandem with the trade surplus. We had incurred a Current Account Deficit of USD 15 billion in April-June 2019. "USD" stands for United States Dollars. This has now become a Current Account Surplus of USD 20 billion in 2020. This is good news. We are holding our fort in the global economy.

The second good news is that our exports of services have grown through marginally during the Covid pandemic. Our future lies in services and it is heartening that we are holding our ground in this difficult period. Further we have secured an increase in the exports of chemicals and drugs in this period. The third good news is that there has been a steep reduction in our imports of fuel oil. This is partly due to the slowdown of the economy and reduced demand. But it is also due to the growth of solar power which has provided the required energy to keep the

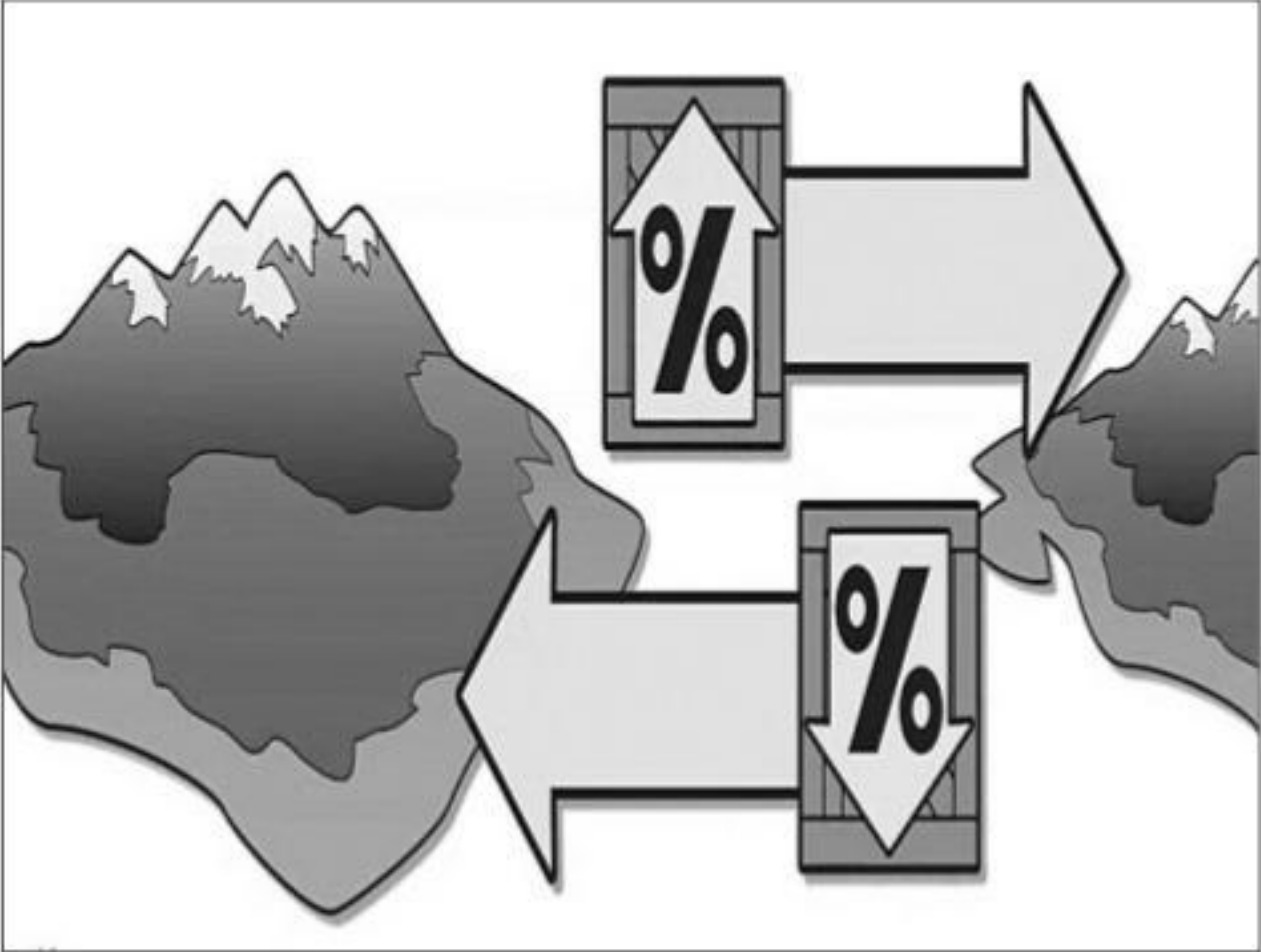
economy going. The challenge is to make this Current Account Surplus sustainable. Number of indicators suggest that the present Current Account Surplus may hide major weaknesses in our economy. The first weakness is that the price of the rupee is declining against the dollar. A Current Account Surplus means that the country can manufacture goods at a cheap price and sell them to the world. It can earn dollars.

This leads to greater availability of dollars in our foreign exchange market. This leads to a reduction in the price of the dollar just as the price of potatoes in the market decreases with increased supply of that vegetable. The reduction in the price of dollars means that the value of rupee increases. One dollar available in Rs 60 is "cheap" while one dollar available in Rs 70 is "expensive." Thus, the present Current Account Surplus means that we are getting more dollars than we need.

This should have led to a reduction in the price of dollar. The simple formula is that the currency of a country rises with a Current Account Surplus. However, the opposite is taking place in India today. The price of dollar was Rs 72 in September 2019, it has increased to Rs 75 at present. The Current Account Surplus has increased at the same time. The two movements are contradictory. Perhaps, this is happening because the sentiment is negative. Although we are exporting more at present, the pundits reckon that Indian economy is going downhill, and the future is bleak. Thus, speculators may be hoarding dollars to make a quick profit from the impending change of Current Account Surplus into a Current Account Deficit.

The second weakness is that our exports of raw materials have been buoyant while those of manufactured goods have declined. According to a Press Information Bureau report, our exports of iron ore have increased by 63 per cent, those of oilseeds have increased by 50 per cent and those of rice by 33 per cent between June 2019 and June 2020. On the other hand, the exports of jewelry have declined by 50 percent, leather products have declined by 40 percent and textiles have declined by 35 percent in the same period.

Instead of moving towards becoming



a global manufacturing hub, we are losing ground in exports with the exception being that of chemicals and drugs. The third weakness is that a survey got done by Reserve Bank of India indicates that the Consumer Confidence Index declined from 100 in March 2019 to 64 in March 2020 and further to 54 in July 2020. This means that consumer confidence was going downhill even before the Covid Pandemic and has continued to slide.

These three weaknesses indicate that the underlying economy of the country is in a bad shape even though we are having a Current Account Surplus at present. It is like a person is suffering from TB. He is not able to eat. He need not buy much food leaving a "surplus" in his home budget even though his economy is in shambles. Therefore, the present Current Account Surplus should not be taken as an indicator of strength of our economy. Rather it is a short reprieve from the secular decline in our fortunes. This prognosis is supported by the decline in Consumer Confidence Index mentioned above and the decline in our total exports by 5 percent between 2018-19 and 2019-20--before the Covid pandemic. Our present weaknesses are not due to Covid. They are structural.

The Government must get out of the business-as-usual mode and take three

steps. One, the education system should be turned towards English, which is the base of computer and internet-based services, and foreign languages, which are the base of our global export of services. We are instead moving in the opposite direction of promoting local languages at the cost of English. The two should go together--local languages for our cultural empowerment and English for our economic empowerment. Two, the Government must come up with a huge scheme to upgrade our manufacturing and agriculture to the technological frontiers.

A scheme to subsidise import of frontier technologies much be launched. That will reduce our cost of production and retrieve our global loss in competitiveness. Three, the Government must reform the administrative machinery at the ground level so that the entrepreneur can focus on his core job of producing goods and services instead of worrying about managing the government officials. The reduction of exports and the fall in consumer confidence even before the Covid pandemic indicates that Indian economy is on a long-term decline. Hiding behind the pandemic will not do.

(The writer is formerly Professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)

LETTERS

SSR death report exposes media

But for the simulated high TV drama full of sounds and furies signifying nothing and clouding the Covid-19 pandemic over the last few months, the AI-IMS medical board's conclusive medico-legal opinion that actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death was a suicide and not a murder would have received only little notice. The tale told by the TV idiots who proved that they would not hesitate to go to any lengths for TRP ratings came to nothing; its falsity was exposed by the AIIMS' report in no uncertain terms.

It was clear from day one that the "murder theory" was floated to malign Maharashtra government, the Mumbai police and Bollywood as well as to capitalize on the sentiment over the death of a young actor who belonged to Bihar in the upcoming Assembly election. The CBI, ED and NCB were fielded with the task to investigate the case to give the actor's family justice and a sense of closure, but these agencies could not establish anything beyond his depression and drug dependence. Incidentally, the drug probe in Bollywood has descended into a witch-hunt of the first order.

Now that the AIIMS' report that is admissible as evidence in court vindicated the Maharashtra government and Mumbai police, the BJP and JD (U) cannot use the issue as a slam dunk in the Bihar election. SSR family lawyer Vikas Singh's claimed that an AI-IMS doctor revealed to him that it was 200 per cent, a murder. BJP MP Subramaniam Swamy claimed that the actor might have been murdered by a Dubai professional killer. All these outlandish claims fell flat in the face of AIIMS' report.

Actress Kangana Rawat who led the pack in crying foul play has lost her face and credibility; she has been reduced to say that abetment to suicide is murder. Police officer-turned politician Gupteshwar Pandey should be ashamed for his 'aukat kya hai' remark. Arnab Goswami and Rahul Shivshankar of the world stand totally exposed and discredited for their dissemination of gossip, lies and half-truths. The AI-

IMS' report that has brought out the truth and ruled out any cover-up should restore sanity in all those who have been obsessed with a tragic death for so long.

G David Milton, Maruthancode, TN

A marvellous engineering feat

This refers to the news item "A new strength to India's border infra", The Hans India, October 4. The inauguration by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the Atal tunnel, the all-weather 9.02 km road that links the Lahaul and Spiti valleys of Himachal Pradesh, is an engineering feat that deserves the highest praise, not least for the many challenges that construction posed. A tunnel under the Rohtang pass was first discussed 60 years ago, but it was not until then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee - tunnel is fittingly named - visited Lahaul in June 2000 that a feasibility study was ordered. Thereafter construction faced many challenges including the tragic death of 42 labourers in cloud burst.

Notwithstanding these setbacks and delays the completion of the tunnel described as the world's largest tunnel constructed at a height above 10000 feet is very important for the development of the region. In view of the tension between India and China and need to move the troops and equipment rapidly to the western sector, the tunnel is of crucial strategic importance. The horse shoe shaped tunnel with permit speeds of 80 km per hour on its two carriage ways is expected to see movement of cars and trucks seamlessly. The project has advanced safety features, including an emergency route for evacuations, fire safety provisions that will contain any blaze to 200 metres, CCTV cameras, air quality monitoring sensors and control rooms at either end. A semi-transverse ventilation system will ensure that large fans circulate air throughout the tunnel. Overall, it's a feat of which India can be proud.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

II

There was lack of political will in defence projects. Large projects of such strategic importance were kept pending for years. It is also a compromise in the security of the country but now everything is possible because of Modi's government. "Make in India" is being promoted. We have to increase our strategic strength. The Atal Tunnel is a symbol of this confidence and "Atmanirbhar bharat". The

atal tunnel will help strengthening India's border infrastructure and boost growth of economy also and it was an example of "world class border connectivity". The decision of our government is a testimony to the fact that it does what it says. Fulfilling the defence needs are government's top priority. This strategic Rohtang tunnel project is expected to save crores of rupees in transport costs.

Khushboo Ved, Hyderabad

Dubious distinction

It is distressing to note that Andhra Pradesh has got the dubious distinction of ranking second in India in human trafficking next to Maharashtra. In the number of Covid-19 cases also A P stands. next to Maharashtra. It is also noted that close to 100 per cent of the trafficked are women that too for sexual exploitation of prostitution. The conviction rate also is very low. It is a clear failure on the part of state government and its police. Anti- trafficking squads must be set up and the government also should provide work to them who are vulnerable who are forced to go on trafficking squads for want of money. A concerted effort must be taken to arrest the human trafficking especially in the wake of International Day of no Prostitution on October 5.

TSN Rao, Bhimavaram

Hathras, a murder by State

Last sanity dawned on the UP Government in allowing Rahul and other leaders to meet the parents of the Hathras gang rape victim the other day. The UP government under Yogi has utterly failed in ensuring the safety of minorities and Dalits. Though incidents of rape and murder have become the order of the day in UP, the indifference and insensitivity of the government in handling such cases make us hang our heads in shame! After remaining silent and inactive for 14 long days, what made the government complete the funerals of the victim in utter disregard to the constitutional rights and family sentiments of her parents? Suspending the District police top brass and others is just an eye wash. While the perpetrators raped and killed a hapless Dalit girl, the government has raped 'the rule of law' and has committed 'a murder by State' by conducting hurried funerals of the victim.

M Somasekhar Prasad, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

Over 22,000 pilgrims have darshan of Lord on Saturday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: As many as 22,533 pilgrims had darshan of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala on Saturday which is the highest so far after darshan was resumed in the famed shrine on June 11 this year after a gap of nearly three months due to Covid-19.

While the number of devotees who had tonsured their heads fulfilling their vows also increased to 7,494 which was also the highest so far.

Temple sources also said that for the last 10 days, the daily cash offerings in the Hundi has also been ranging from 1.25 crore to 1.45 crore showing about 20-25 per cent increase.

According to sources, the big increase in darshan was due to increase in the issuing of Kalyanotsavam tickets against payment of Rs 1,000 each which has now crossed two thousand daily. The TTD decision to allow two persons for darshan against each Kalyanotsavam ticket (i.e. two persons per ticket) saw the number of devotees opting for it steadily increasing.

The pilgrims who are keen on darshan of Lord Venkateswara have no other option after the Rs 300 special entry tickets get exhausted but to go in for purchase of Kalyanotsavam ticket



TIRUMALA TEMPLE

- Thus the temple records the maximum attendance of devotees on a single day after the Tirumala temple is reopened for darshan following a nearly three-month closure due to the pandemic
- 7,494 devotees fulfill their vow by tonsuring their heads
- There has been a significant rise in Hundi cash offerings which is between ₹1.25 cr and ₹1.45 cr for the last 10 days
- Meanwhile, the Cong urges TTD to resume issuing at least 5,000 free darshan tokens daily as the Covid cases in Tirupati have gone down and to enable the poor to have darshan of Lord Balaji

as the TTD also suspended the issuing of off line free Sarva Darshan tokens since last month.

In other words, since almost a month there is no dharm darshan in Tirumala temple due to cancellation of issuing of offline free tokens due to rapid increase of Covid in the pilgrim

city and also to avoid pilgrims from far off places coming to Tirupati during Tamil Paratasi month, as a precautionary measure to check spread of virus in the city, resulting in the darshan being allowed only on payment basis through special entry and Kalyanotsavam tickets booked in advance online.

This apart, issuing of VIP break-darshan tickets and 'Spatham' (Rs 300 special entry ticket) liberally against the recommendation letters from TTD chairman office, trust board members and also VVIP rose manifold leading to the number of devotees having darshan on Saturday increased to 22,533.

In the last two months, 20,000 Kalyanotsavam tickets have been booked which reveals the big demand for the tickets from the devotees after the TTD began allowing darshan facility to the Arjitha seva.

It may be noted here that the TTD after suspending offline free darshan tokens increased the Rs 300 special entry tickets to 13,000 daily which was 3,000 only in the beginning i.e. in June.

Meanwhile, Congress leader P Naveen Kumar Reddy demanded that the TTD management resume issuing offline free darshan tokens for the sake of poor pilgrims who cannot afford darshan on payment basis.

In a release here on Sunday, he said as the Covid cases also declined considerably in the city, the TTD should immediately resume issuing at least 5,000 free darshan tokens daily keeping in view the ardent devotees coming on foot from far off places.

Covid +ve cases go past 7.19 lakh

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh's Covid-19 tally rose to 7.19 lakh on Sunday as East Godavari crossed the one lakh mark, becoming the sixth district in the country to register cases in six digits.

The State saw an addition of 6,242 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday, taking the aggregate to 7,19,256.

The latest bulletin said 7,084 patients had recovered and another 40 succumbed to the infection in 24 hours.

The number of active cases dwindled to 54,400 after a total of 6,58,875 recoveries and 5,981 deaths so far, the bulletin said.

East Godavari district's Covid-19 tally stood at 1,00,785 cases after 826 were added afresh. The number of active cases in the district, however, is 9,165 after 91,079 recoveries and 541 deaths.

● 6,242 fresh cases in last 24 hours

● 40 deaths reported and toll increases to 5,981

● Covid cases cross 1 lakh mark in EG district

● However, the district recorded 91,079 recoveries and the active cases are 9,165

It is now behind Pune, Mumbai, Thane, Bengaluru Urban and Chennai in having over lakh Covid-19 cases.

"The infection has now spread to other parts of the district.

Initially, there were more cases in Rajamahendravaram (urban and rural) and Kakinada (urban and rural), but now more cases are being reported from the Konaseema region of the district," Special Chief Secretary (Health) K S Jawahar Reddy pointed out.

During most of August and September, the daily addition of cases in East Godavari was as high as 1,500, but in the last couple of weeks the number has fallen to 1,000 and now to around 800.

Its neighbour West Godavari crossed the 70,000 mark on Sunday, making it the second district in the State with the highest caseload.

The active cases in the district is 6,706.

Jagan to launch Vidya Kanuka on Oct 8

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: The State government's prestigious Jagananna Vidya Kanuka for the students of schools would be formally launched by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on October 8, said Tumma Vijay Kumar Reddy, Commissioner of Information and Public Relations.

He said in a statement here on Sunday that 42,34,322 students of all government

schools from first class to tenth class throughout the State would be distributed student kits at a cost of Rs 650 crore.

The commissioner said that there would be three pairs of uniform, one pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, belt, one set of textbooks and notebooks and a school bag in each student kit.

The Vidya Kanuka is aimed at increasing the attendance of students in schools and curtailing the school dropout rate.



● The scheme is intended to increase the attendance of students in govt schools

● Over 42 lakh students from first to 10th classes will get kits at a cost of Rs 650 cr

● Each kits consists of three pairs of uniform, one pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, belt, one set of textbooks and notebooks and a school bag

Naidu struggling to prove his existence: YSRCP

MLA Jogi Ramesh says TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu has lost his relevance and is trying to be in limelight by spreading false campaign against the State govt and Chief Minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: YSRCP MLA Jogi Ramesh praised the services of village volunteers for relentlessly serving the cause of corona affected people. Four lakh volunteers were working like warriors for a genuine cause while opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu ran away to Hyderabad and is hiding there and making false statements against the government just to prove his existence.

He said Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was working for the welfare of poor people by doling out Rs 70,000 crore under various welfare schemes to them. Naidu has lost his relevance and is trying to be in the limelight by resorting to untruths through Zoom and Twitter against the government and

the Chief Minister.

Naidu has lost face among people for the scams he had committed during his regime and the TDP has even lost the opposition party status, he said.

He criticised former MP Sabbam Hari for abusing the GVMC officials in Vizag who had gone there to demolish the unauthorised structures built by him. It is ridiculous for Sabbam Hari to threaten leaders like Vijayasai Reddy.

The MLA said there was no meaning in Naidu blaming the government for a stone-pelting on the car belonging to TDP leader Pattabhi. He asked what the government or the YSRCP leaders got to do with the stone-pelting incident. Naidu was bent on mud-slinging against the government just to be in the limelight, he said.

Withdraw proposal to set up Bulk Drug Park in Kakinada: TDP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Demanding that the State government withdraw the proposal to set up Bulk Drug Park at Kakinada Special Economic Zone, senior TDP leader and Opposition Leader in Legislative Council Yanamala Ramakrishnuudu alleged that benami transactions worth at least Rs 2,610 crore took place in the project.

Out of the total benami transactions, a minimum of Rs 1,000 crore should be paid to the genuine farmers, he observed in a statement on Sunday.

Yanamala demanded that the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government to make sure that additional compensation of Rs 1,000 crore is paid to the farmers in the Kakinada SEZ. He also demanded that share should be given to the local people in the Aurobindo Infra income.

"The government should withdraw plans to set up the

Senior TDP leader Yanamala urges the Centre to conduct an inquiry into the benami transactions in the Kakinada SEZ deal

bulk drug industry. Jagan Reddy's silence was reason enough for the benami transactions that took place in this deal. If the Chief Minister has no interests in this deal, why is he not ordering for compensation to the farmers and locals," Yanamala questioned.

The TDP leader urged the Central Government to intervene and hold an inquiry into the benami transactions in the Kakinada SEZ deal.

The inquiry should be done under the new benami transactions prohibition laws. The TDP would soon complain to the Centre on these benami

transactions, he said.

Yanamala asked why the Chief Minister was not taking steps to help the farmers if he was not having any links with the benami transactions. Each farmer should be paid a compensation of at least Rs 10 lakh. There was severe opposition among the local people to the setting up of the bulk drug industry in Kakinada. Many fishermen's families would lose their livelihoods because of the pollution that would be caused by the industry, he pointed out.

He demanded that a special financial assistance should be ensured to the fishermen who would lose their livelihood. Jetties should be set up on either side of the port to enable fishermen to carry out fishing in the sea. Unfortunately, many families dependent on the local hatcheries would also be deprived of their livelihood because of the bulk drug industry, he added.

Darshan tickets: Cases booked against 12

Tirupati: Tirumala Two town police registered cases against 12 persons who allegedly indulged in blackmarketing of darshan tickets on Sunday. According to sources, the 12 persons after collecting huge money helped the pilgrims get darshan tickets based on the recommendation letters in the names of an MLC, MLA and a senior TTD woman officer, which was found in the verification of the tickets by vigilance personnel before allowing them for darshan.

Continued from P1

Thirty days are left for the November 3 election and Trump, who had controversially criss-crossed the country holding closely-packed rallies without wearing a mask, will have to come up with new strategy to campaign.

His Democratic rival Joe Biden, who had campaigned mostly electronically from his home for till last month, is able to campaign in person as he did on Friday in Michigan.

Trump was admitted to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre in Washington on Friday evening after tests the previous day had shown him positive for COVID-19.

In his press briefing, Conley said that Trump spent most of Saturday afternoon "conducting business" and the medical team at the Walter Reed military hospital "will be closely monitoring his clinical status, while supporting his conduct of presidential duties" on Sunday. He added that Trump "has been up and moving about the medical suite without difficulty".

The White House released pictures on Saturday night showing him at work at the hospital that has a presidential suite and facilities for him to work.

Trump's four-minute video released on Twitter showed him seated at table with his hands resting on it and dressed casually with a blue jacket. His voice sounded firm, but slightly scratchy.

Explaining his move to the hospital, Trump said that he chose not to be "locked up in a room upstairs and totally safe" because "we have to confront problems. As a leader, you have to confront problems".

Conley said that Trump completed a second dose of the experimental medicine Remdesivir on Saturday without complications and will continue with it on Sunday.

Earlier on Saturday, there was confusion in the timeline of Trump's infection.

Concerns rise over Trump's condition

TECHIE'S PASSION TO BECOME MOTOVLOGGER

● Rupesh Minchala, a B Tech graduate from Sri Vidyunikethan in Tirupati, who went to Britain (UK) for pursuing MBA, returns to his home town to continue his hobby 'Motovlogging'

● Rupesh says he always wanted to make videos after watching favourite programmes in YouTube

● Says he travelled around 11,250 km since the beginning of his YouTube channel

K NETHAJI

Tirupati: Taking advantage of lockdown holidays, Rupesh Minchala, a student from Tirupati, has been exploring many new places on his bike and vlogging his travels by capturing videos.

Rupesh, a B Tech graduate from Sri Vidyunikethan in Tirupati, went to Britain (UK) for pursuing MBA. But due to coronavirus outbreak, he came back to hometown Tirupati in May and continued motovlogging as his hobby. From the childhood days, Rupesh has had a strong bond with cameras and drones. He used to ask his father to take him to camera showrooms, whenever a new camera was launched in the market. This also promoted him towards a motovlogging hobby. First, this kind of thinking started in his mind when he was working in Bengaluru in 2018. He and his friends went on a road trip on



Rupesh Minchala with his bike in Tirupati

their bikes to Ooty via Bandipur forest sanctuary and captured nature sceneries.

That journey had changed his whole perspective towards a motovlogging. Speaking to The Hans India, Rupesh said "I realised to visit many places and to see different kinds of lifestyles in the society by practically learning and experiencing them. I always want to make videos after watching his favourite programmes in YouTube. One day I just decided to vlog, but I didn't have any equipment except my phone. My first few vlogs were taken with my phone. Later, I bought all the necessary gadgets."

He added that his parents were always extended support to him for motovlogging, especially his mother even though she didn't understand the concept of YouTube, travel vlogs. "Now, I have traveled to eight states in In-

dia and visited three countries. I have travelled around 11,250 kms since the beginning of my YouTube channel. My longest ride was from Tirupati to Lonavala, 2,676 km. Some of my favourite places are Bali, Goa, Pudukcherry, Udipi, Chikmagalur and Vagamon."

"Everyone encouraged me for doing motovlogging and they are loving my drone footage. Their constant encouragement is a big boon to me. Last November, I went to Bali (Indonesia) for 11-day amazing trip. People are so friendly and I didn't want to come back," he added.

"When I was in the UK for my studies, I went to Manchester and did a few vlogs on student's lifestyles. Currently, I started a new series on Tirupati," he said.

Rupesh stated that he wants to do more vlogs till the normalcy returned.



Make the investment when the stock is not popular
-Rakesh Jhunjhunwala



HANS INVEST

Stocks.MFs.Bonds.Commodities

DELHI MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2020

MKTS LOOKING TO GLOBAL CUES

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

buoyed by positive global cues, decreasing new number of Coronavirus cases in India, encouraging macroeconomic data and renewed burst of optimism that an additional stimulus package to bolster the economy will be announced before onset of festival season; equity benchmarks staged a strong comeback during the week ended October 1, 2020. The NSE Nifty jumped 366 points, or 3.3 per cent to close at 11,417 and the BSE Sensex vaulted by 1,308 points, or 3.5 per cent, to finish at 38,697 points. The NSE banking index Bank Nifty outperformed the bellwether indices and jumped, gaining 1,263 point, or six per cent. Broader markets performed in tandem with the benchmarks as the Nifty Mid-cap and Small-cap indices rose over three per cent each. It is pertinent to observe that India's equity capital markets (ECM) activity hit an all-time high so far this calendar year and raised \$32.7 billion during the first nine months of this year, up 87.7 per cent in proceeds from a year ago, surpassing the annual record set in 2007 (\$31.2 billion).

Indicators like positive growth in the country's exports in September and increase in GST collections show that India will bounce back to high growth levels say observers. On the global front, the US Federal Reserve's meeting minutes in the coming week can lend direction for the global markets, apart from updates on the US President's health. Markets hate uncertainty.

Announcement of President Trump and the first lady testing positive for coronavirus jolted investors and added to the political

MARKET Khabrein



uncertainty about a month ahead of the US Presidential election. In a tightly correlated market, in-

Announcement of President Trump and the first lady testing positive for coronavirus jolted investors and added to the political uncertainty about a month ahead of the US Presidential election

vestors holding cash would be better positioned to take advantage of buying opportunities in

Ramco Systems Ltd (Ramco) is engaged in computer programming, consultancy and related activities, and hosting and related activities. The company offers software solutions and services. Its integration gateway iRIS supports message queue-based information exchange. Buy on declines for medium term target of Rs750. Cigniti Technologies Ltd is engaged in software testing business. The company offers Quality Engineering, Advisory and Transformation, Next Generation Testing and Core Testing.

STOCK PICKS

It caters its services to airlines, banking, communications, energy and utilities, insurance and retail industries. It offers SMART Tools, Predict Quality and Labs. Strong accumulation suggested for medium term target of Rs750.

Contrarian Sector Choice

The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the tourism and hospitality sectors. Q1 quarter has been bad and Q2 quarter can also be bad. But there's a fair possibility that most of the hotel stocks hit extremely badly due to Covid-19 could bounce back pretty fast in coming quarters. It is pertinent to observe that just a few months back most of these stocks were trading at least 60-70 per cent higher than where they are now. Two stocks on the radar of fund managers and checking good volumes are The Indian Hotels Company Limited and Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd.

Indian Hotels Company Ltd is a holding company. Its area of business includes Taj, Taj Safaris, Vivanta by Taj, The Gateway Hotel, Ginger, and Taj Trade and Transport. Its other areas of business include Taj Air. The company has ap-

proximately 110 hotels in over 60 locations, including over 25 Ginger hotels across India, with an additional approximately 20 international hotels in the Maldives, Malaysia, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Africa and the Middle East. Its subsidiaries include TIFCO Holdings Limited, KTC Hotels Limited, Lands End Properties Private Limited and Sheena Investments Private Limited. Buy for medium term target of Rs175.

F&O/ SECTOR WATCH

Mirroring the exuberance in cash markets, derivatives segment witnessed heightened activity. The Nifty futures closed the week with gains of 3.56 percent with addition in futures Open Interest (OI) by 22.36 percent on a weekly basis, which indicates long build-up. In the options segment, maximum Put OI was at 10,500 followed by

11,000 strike, while maximum Call OI was at 11,500 followed by 12,000 strike. Options data suggests a wider trading range in between 11,000 and 11,800 zone and also an immediate trading range in between 11,200 and 11,600 zone. The Implied Volatility (IV) of Calls closed at 17.76 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 18.73. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 19.53 per cent. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.34 slightly down from the previous week indicating Put writing. Bank Nifty futures closed the week with gains of 6.37 percent with a reduction in open interest by 2.48 percent on a weekly basis which again suggests short covering. Maximum Put open interest is at 21,000 followed by 21,500, while the maximum Call OI is at 22,500 followed by 23,000. Expect surprising sharp rally in Bank Nifty say punters.

Buy Vedanta, Hindalco and National Aluminium. Reports from Nalco indicate Bauxite Mines has achieved 73.02 lakh tonnes production which is highest ever since inception; and Alumina Refinery has achieved 102.9% of normative capacity (i.e. 21 lakh tonne) with production of 21.61 lakh tonnes of Alumina Hydrate, which is also highest ever since inception. Nalco has been rated as lowest cost producer of Bauxite and Alumina in the World for the year 2019. Buy at current levels for target of Rs60 in next few months.

The pick-up seen in September auto sales could boost select auto stocks and keep the bullish momentum in place for the near term. Stock futures looking good are ACC, Asian Paints, Britannia Inds, Hindalco, Infosys, National Aluminium, TVS Motors and Ultratech Cements.

IN SHORT

CHD Chemicals on growth path

BSE listed CHD Chemicals Ltd, a chemicals and dyes manufacturing, is planning a major expansion drive whereby it will enhance its plant capacities. The company, which has recently announced that it had received a Rs 56 crore export order, is making efforts to expand its business throughout South East Asia and for the same purpose the company has formed tie-ups in the region. "This new order can be a game changer for the company. It will help the company in establishing its base in the global market and will help in increasing turnover as well as profitability," the company said in a statement. CHD Chemicals supplies industrial chemicals and dyes for textiles industry, leather and paper industries and also construction sector. It offers a range of products, which include basic chemicals, dyes, water repellent, ink for digital printing and auxiliaries. The company also has R&D centres with modern equipment with focus on R&D initiatives for pharmaceutical APIs, chemicals, etc. It seeks to double its R&D capabilities.

FPIs pull out \$0.33 bn in Sept

Persistent uncertainty regarding economic recovery and the surge in Covid-19 cases, led foreign portfolio investors (FPI) to pull out of the Indian markets September after record investments in August. The recent outflows in equities indicate increased heightened volatility in the global markets, according to the Department of Economic Affairs. "While July and August witnessed record capital raising by leading domestic firms and low global interest rates, net FPI flows moderated to record an outflow of \$0.33 billion in September owing to uncertainty around the pace of economic recovery and rising Covid cases in Europe and other countries including India," said the Monthly Economic Review for September 2020. It also noted that India garnered the highest foreign portfolio inflows in the first half of 2020 compared to its emerging market peers. Noting that the recent outflows in equities signal heightened volatility in global markets, it said: "However, reversal of selling spree in debt markets in September is a welcome change possibly triggered by low global bond yields."

Forex reserves decline by \$3 bn

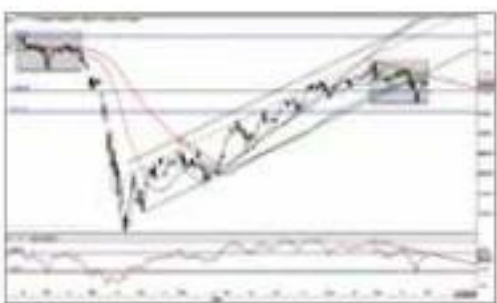
India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves plunged by \$3.017 billion during the week ended September 25. According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly statistical supplement, the reserves decreased to \$542.021 billion from \$545.038 billion reported for the week ended September 18. India's forex reserves comprise of foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs), and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged lower by \$1.523 billion to \$499.941 billion. Similarly, the value of the country's gold reserves decreased. It declined by \$1.441 billion to \$35.999 billion. Besides, the SDR value was down by \$10 million to \$1.472 billion. Additionally, the country's reserve position with the IMF declined by \$43 million to \$4.608 billion.

Focus on stock-specific deals for accumulation

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

Equity benchmark indices staged a decent comeback last week ended October 1, 2020, after the previous week's fall. The market continued last Friday's momentum. The NSE Nifty gained 367 points or 3.3 per cent and closed at 11,417 points. The BSE Sensex rallied 3.5 per cent. The Broader indices also performed in line with benchmarks. The Nifty Midcap-100 and Smallcap-100 closed with 3.8 per cent and 3.7 per cent gains respectively. On the sectoral front, the Bank Nifty advanced by six per cent and the financial service gained by 5.9 per cent. Auto, metal and realty sectors closed three to four per cent higher. Including IT and pharma, all other sectoral indices closed higher. In September, the FPIs sold Rs11,410.69 crore, highest after March 2020. The DIIs bought just Rs 110.30 crore.

Technically, the Nifty formed an inside bar during the last week. It retraced almost 78 per cent of the previous downswing. It decisively closed above the 20 and 50-DMA after two days of hovering around them. The 20DMA still trending down, and the 50DMA flattened. On Thursday, the benchmark indices higher by 1.51 per cent, the volumes are lower than the previous day. As we mentioned earlier, the current market condition is similar to the Oct-Feb structure. Our stance further confirmed by the recent price action. Compare price action



on the August 31-October 1 to January 20- February 12. It is almost exactly similar. We argued that Oct-Feb is nothing, but a topping formation with a distribution. The current price action since late July to the latest is also a topping formation. With seven distribution day count, we can classify it as distribution phase or a stage-3 formation. Now, the question is 'Will History Repeat?'

In any conditions, the follow-through is important to confirmation of a trend. The last week's rally requires a follow-through. Unless the buying interest continues with a decent volume, we can't assume that the trend has reversed. The Nifty closed near to the sloping resistance line, which connects to two prior tops. A close above this resistance line will be the first signal, and a close above prior swing high of 11,618 will be the confirmation for a trend reversal. Before that, there is another resistance line, which drawn from the April lows. Shaun Downey's peak expansion or a fractal pivot placed at 11,794. Unless this level is taken out, the probability of continuing the current short term is high. There are already two lower tops and two lower bottoms in place, which meets the Dow Theory about the trend

reversal. In any case, Thursday's high (11428) is protected and closes in negative territory. 11428 could be the third lower top. In any case, it closes below the 20 and 50-DMA's, that is the end of the current upside move. In such a case, we can expect the downswing like the previous week, which can go below the 11790. In another way, as the Nifty formed an inside bar on the weekly chart, we need to wait for a weekly close above 11,535 for an uptrend to continue. But for a downside move, a close below the current bar low (11,100) is enough for a confirmation for a resumption of a downtrend.

On the indicators front, the RSI (54.67) is at an inflexion point. It exactly closed at a resistance line and the prior support. A move above 62 levels is a positive signal for the index and overall Market. The directional movement indicator and a trend strength indicator ADX has not turned up even though index went up. In fact, it is further moved down and expressing doubts about the trend strength. In a nutshell, it is not a time to be complacent. There is an element of doubt about the upside move. But we need confirmation for a bearish move. As long as 11,618 is protected on the upside, it is better to be in sidelines. Unless another over 1.5 per cent up day with an above-average volume, I am convinced to take long positions. Focus on the stocks with good relative strength and accumulation.

(The author is a financial journalist and technical analyst. He can be reached at tbchary@gmail.com)



K Naresh Kumar

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has been monitoring the current pandemic crisis and the resultant issuance of guidelines for the health insurance companies so that the end user or policyholder's interests are not diluted. While the pandemic was a surprise for all health insurance companies, the regulator IRDA has proactively came out to clarify that all the policies where the hospitalization is covered would include the pandemic related treatment. This has put a lid on the confusion that prevailed initially around the responsibility of the health companies.

While the regulator encouraged the companies to come up with pandemic-related standalone products (coronakavach) for ensuring the serviceability of the need, IRDA has made certain changes to the way the health insurance poli-



The new regulations would mandate the insurers to clearly define the associate medical expenses in the policy and disallows the cost of pharmacy, consumables, implants, medical devices and diagnostics to be considered in this category

cies are issued and administered easing the policyholders to compare and use. From this October, of the many changes, one major benefit for those policyholders who have paid for eight consecutive years, the insurance company can't reject any claim. Thus, making a long list of procedures and/or diseases being covered while the exclusion list of major diseases is reduced to under 20 from over 30 till now.

Considering the contactless and social-distancing nature of the post-pandemic world, insurance coverage for telemedicine has also been included by the regulator in health plans. This allows the insurers for the claims pertaining to telemedicine consultation instead of the normal consultation. The insurers also have to adhere to a

standardized wording prescribed by the IRDA for an informed choice of the existing and the prospective policyholders. The standards terms and clauses mentioned cover various critical items such as material facts (the information to be disclosed by the insured at the time of application of policy) which determine the claim settlement, management of pol-

icy i.e., porting, renewal, etc. This helps in the informed decision making for the policyholders.

For instance, if one has a Rs10 lakh Sum Insured cover with one percent cap on the room rent i.e. effectively eligible for Rs10,000 per day. However, if one were to opt for a room costing, say, Rs15K per day, which is 50 per cent higher than the eligible cap then the insurer would typically deduct 50 per cent from the total claim including the room charges and others. The new regulations would mandate the insurers to clearly define the associate medical expenses in the policy and disallows the cost of pharmacy, consumables, implants, medical devices and diagnostics to be considered in this category.

Moreover, insurers need to further ensure that the

proportionate deductions are not applied to those hospitals that don't follow differential billing or for those expenses where differential billing based on the room category aren't followed. Additionally, insurers are not permitted to apply proportionate deduction for ICU charges. The regulator's view is that there are no different types or categories of ICU. These clauses have to be incorporated in the new products filed by the insurers on or after October 1, 2020, and for the existing products, which are due for renewal from April 1, 2021.

Though, this would push the insurance premiums upwards up to 20 per cent from the current median, it would enhance the experience of the policyholders with the benefits. This also makes for the younger age individuals/families to opt for health insurance and take advantage of the discounts by good health keeping - most plans provide deductions in the renewal premium upon non-claim and for maintaining healthy habits.

(The author is a co-founder of "Wealocity", a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealocity.com)

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

Highest Open Interest (OI) concentration at 11,450CE and 11,400PE after trading hours on Thursday (holiday on October 2) as against 11,500CE-10,000PE in previous week is indicating higher movement of Put strikes, while undertone remains range-bound. Lower volatility is giving further room for upward movement.

The 11,450 strike, which recorded maximum Call OI addition of 31.84 lakh contracts, has highest Call OI of 47.25 lakh contracts followed by 11,500 strike with 42.25 lakh contracts, 11,400 strike with 19.21 lakh contracts and 12,000 strike with 15.16 lakh contracts. Significant unwinding of Call OI was seen in the range of 11,400-11,200 strikes.

Coming to the Put side, 11,400 strike, which witnessed maximum Put OI build-up of 40.47 lakh contracts, recorded highest Put OI of 40.47 lakh contracts followed

by 11,300 strike with 36.74 lakh contracts, 11,000 strike with 33.74 lakh contracts and 11,350 strike with 32.46 lakh contracts. Further, the 11,300-11,350 strikes recorded reasonable Put OI addition.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "From derivatives front, Call writers at 11,300 & 11,400 strikes triggered short covering and seen shifted at 11,500 Call strike, which will act as immediate hurdle for Nifty in coming week."

The first week of the October series witnessed recovery amid significant volatility. However, NSE Nifty may find stiff resistance around 11,300 in a couple of sessions, the Nifty finally moved above the stated resistance with a gap due to positive global developments. For the coming week,

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

no major Call option positions are visible and maximum writing is seen at 11,200 and 11,300 strikes suggesting immediate support for the index. The relative Call option positions are visible at 11,500 strike, above which the Nifty may attempt to test its previous highs of 11,800, according to ICICI Direct.com. Derivatives analysts expect that the Nifty to consolidate with a positive bias with support around 11,200.

The Nifty recovered the losses in the last week on positive global cues as expectations of a new stimulus by the US government before US election enhanced the market sentiment. Despite FII selling,

Major unwinding of Call OI in 11,400-11,200 range; Fresh upmove likely as volatility declines; Put-Call Ratio of OI at 1.34 indicating Put writing



the NSE Nifty gained almost three per cent last week.

For the week ended October 2, 2020, BSE Sensex recovered by 1,308.39 points or 3.38 per cent and closed at 38,697.05 points from the previous close of 37,388.66 points. Similarly, NSE

Nifty gained 366.7 points or 3.31 per cent, to end the week at 11,416.95 points as against last week's 11,050.25 level.

Bisht forecasts: "Nifty also managed to end the week above the key resistance level of 11,400 mark. From technical front as well 22500 for bank nifty would act as strong resistance level. In coming week, we expect markets to remain choppy while bias will still likely to remain bullish as far Nifty is trading above 11,200 levels."

Volatility moved below 19 level after testing 23 in the penultimate week. Analysts see positive bias may continue in the broader markets till volatility does not move above 22 level.

"The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 15.54 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 18.61. The Nifty VIX for the week closed

at 18.35 per cent. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.34 slightly down from the previous week indicating Put writing," added Bisht.

Bank Nifty

Moving up by 1,263.65 points or six per cent, Bank Nifty closed at 22,246 points as against the previous week's closing of 20,982.35 points. Weekly settlement saw sharp short covering among banking heavyweights, which led Bank Nifty to close above 22,000.

"Indian markets rallied sharply last week with Bank Nifty leading the run to settle the week with gains of more than 3.5 per cent," remarked Bisht.

The BFSI segment witnessed a sharp recovery as the banking index also moved above 22,000 on settlement. Significant Call

writing for Bank Nifty was seen at 22,000 strike, while sustainability above it may trigger another round of short covering.

The banking index, which was declining from 22,000 strike in the last week of September and moved towards 20,000 level. Significant Call writing was recorded at this strike. As per ICICI Direct.com, with the Bank Nifty closing above these levels, further short covering can't be ruled out. For the recovery to continue, the Bank Nifty should sustain above 21,500 strike.

For the coming weekly settlement, the major Call base is placed at the 23,000 strike while Put base is at ATM 22,000 and 21,500 strike as per the data at ICICI Direct.com. Hence, a short covering move may continue in the coming week if the Bank Nifty sustains above 22,000. Analysts feel that ongoing momentum in the private sector space may continue due to short positions remaining intact.

TRS leaders trade blows at party brawl

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Infighting in the TRS came to fore as the party leaders engaged in physical fight in front of Home Minister Mohd Mahmood Ali during a meeting on Sunday.

A meeting of party leaders of Goshamahal Assembly constituency was held here at Ruby Garden Function Hall to take up enrolment for the ensuing Council elections under Graduates constituencies. The issue started with TRS leader RV Mahender, who has been with the party from the agitation period, raised his voice for not being invited onto the dais. This led to arguments between two groups as the party activists hurled abuses on each other even as the Home Minister was trying to pacify the leaders.

The meeting was organised by the Goshamahal Assembly constituency incharge Prem Singh Rathore. RV Mahender was in charge of the constituency before Rathore joined TRS from BJP. As Mahender was not invited onto the stage, he objected to this. However, a seat was later arranged on the stage for Mahender by the party leaders.

The leaders again indulged in an argument and exchanged punches on each other after the Ministers had left. The leaders from two groups punched each others outside the venue of the meeting. Earlier, Minister Talsani Srinivas Yadav asked the party leaders to take up enrollment of Graduates in the con-



Leaders of two groups of TRS having heated exchanges at the party meeting in Hyderabad on Sunday

SORE POINTS

► The incident took place during a meeting of the party leaders from Goshamahal Assembly constituency

► The brawl started when senior TRS leader RV Mahender raised his voice for not being invited onto the dais

► This led to arguments between two groups as the party activists hurled abuses on each other even as Home Minister Mahmood Ali was trying to pacify the leaders

► Then there was free for all. The leaders from two groups punched each others outside the venue of the meeting as well

stituency. He said that there are many graduates in the areas like Dhoolpet and Goshamahal and asked the leaders to focus on these areas.

“There are some leaders who are not serious in the party, they will be shown the door. Take up public issues and bring them to my notice, I will ensure the

works are done,” said Srinivas Yadav.

He said that the party should win the Goshamahal constituency during the next elections. He also wanted them to introspect why the party was not winning in the constituency.

Mahamood Ali asked the party leaders to take up enroll-

ment and start from their house. He wanted the party leaders to explain to people the development activities of the government. “Our government is giving 24-hour power to the farmers, many welfare activities were also taken up. Tell these to the people, they will vote for the party,” said Mahamood Ali.

Harish task cut out, eyes one lakh majority for TRS in Dubbaka bypoll

- Party is yet to announce the candidate
- Solipeta Sujatha, Cheruku Srinivas Reddy likely to be in the fray

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Telangana Rashtra Samithi, which is aiming for a majority of one lakh votes in the Dubbaka, is yet to name the candidate for the bye-election even as Finance Minister T Harish Rao is extensively campaigning without the contender.

The Finance Minister has been on a mission to ensure the party locks a majority of one lakh votes. However, he has been campaigning without the candidate in the constituency. According to sources, the party is in a dilemma over the candidate for the bypoll. While the party leaders said that the party might give ticket to Solipeta Sujatha, wife of Ramalinga Reddy, the party is moving cautiously on this. Some of the party leaders said that there was some opposition to Sujatha. Earlier, the name of Satish Reddy, son of Ramalinga Reddy, did rounds, but there is no talk of that presently.

Another factor for the cautiousness of TRS is that Cheruku Srinivas Reddy, son of former minister Ch Muthyam Reddy, also threw his hat for the bypoll. Srinivas Reddy has fol-



lowing in the constituency by virtue of the works done by his father late Muthyam Reddy, who had won from Dubbaka earlier. He had later joined TRS and Srinivas Reddy is also expecting the party ticket. Sources said that Srinivas Reddy has told his followers that he would be leaving if the party denies ticket to him.

Interestingly, another name has also surfaced and that is of Collector P Venkatarami Reddy. It is said that the officer wanted to contest elections during the Lok Sabha elections. Reddy votes are crucial in the constituency as Reddys' have been winning in the constituency in successive elections.

Party leaders said that the candidates would not matter for the party as people would see

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao as their representative. During an informal interaction with the media persons, Minister Harish Rao had said that whoever be the candidate may be, the party was trying for a majority of one lakh. Harish has been saying in the campaign meeting that the Chief Minister would disclose the candidate. The notification would be issued on October 9, last date for filing nomination papers is October 16 and the election will be held on November 3.

During the 2018 Assembly elections, Ramalinga Reddy won with a majority of 62,500 votes as he secured over 89,299 votes defeating his nearest rival M Nageshwar Reddy of Congress.

Rural Telangana sees uptick in two-wheeler sales in pandemic

MAHESH AVADHUTHA

Hyderabad: Two-wheeler sales have jumped up in rural areas of the State in the corona pandemic period. Not only the brand new ones, but even the second-hand vehicles that are in good condition are also in demand since the Unlock began in June.

People from villages and towns are the ones who decided to buy their own vehicles and this rush was not seen in district headquarters or in GHMC limits during the pandemic period.

And there are a few reasons for this trend observed this season. Public transport was not like before and there were restrictions on plying of sharing autos and private travels connecting urban, semi-urban, and rural areas within the district. This hampered movement of men folk staying in villages who move regularly two and fro for work or trade-related activities. Also, the fear of not traveling in groups, that they do regularly, also played a part.

According to D Dinesh Reddy, an automobile dealer, normally two-wheeler sales in GHMC limits per month equals the sales in the rest of the districts in the state. However, this time sales in rural areas were consid-



- Brand new and second-hand vehicles in demand
- No public transport and restrictions on autos meant people have to buy own vehicles

Dependence on work from home in the private sector, closure of educational institutions meant people are staying indoors and hence two-wheeler sales were not like usual in GHMC limits

erably high. Also, second-hand vehicles were in demand and their prices were also quoted a tad high. A second-hand bike that used to be sold for 30,000 in pre-Covid was sold between Rs 35,000 to 40,000 now, Dinesh Reddy said.

Also, a majority of them bought vehicles paying full cash not preferring to opt loans.

The automobile dealers are expecting a jump in sales from October which is the festival season. Telangana Automobile Dealers Association president Ramakoteswar Rao predicted increased sales in the coming weeks for both two-wheelers and four-wheelers. Sales are a bit high in September and we are expecting it to continue in the coming weeks.

Cong to throw its hat in bypoll ring

To deploy top leaders in each village of the constituency from Oct 7

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Congress leadership, which until recently was pondering over fighting on the sympathy factor in Dubbaka bye-election, has decided to throw all the weight behind the campaign starting from October 7. Nearly 140 top leaders will be stationed in each of the villages, including MLAs, till the last day of canvassing.

The new AICC in-charge for State, Manickam Tagore, who was furious as only 100 leaders were present during the preparatory meeting on Sunday held in Indira Bhavan asked the leaders to ensure they influence the voters by staying close during the period.

During the preparatory meeting for the bypoll, the AICC in-charge called upon the State leaders to highlight the failures of both the TRS-led State government and the BJP-led Union government that have let down the people's aspirations after coming to power.

While referring to the way the Congress leaders were arrested on their way to meet the Governor recently, Tagore expressed criticism over the way the issue was handled and felt the constitutional authority



AICC in-charge for Telangana State, Manickam Tagore along with TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy and other leaders addressing Congress preparatory meeting in Indira Bhavan on Sunday

failed to act upon.

“Citing coronavirus, the Governor avoided meeting the public representatives including MPs, MLAs and important leaders, while on the other hand, she provided a chance to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

This attitude speaks volumes of the collusion between the TRS and the BJP.

Taking this as a challenge, Congress should stand for the aspirations of people and fight

harder to resolve their grievances,” he said.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy called upon party men to hold demonstrations in view of Hathras case, where a Dalit was raped and tortured to death.

“When Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi attempted to meet the family, they were arrested. Hence, a silent protest should be organised throughout the State and in districts,” he said.

Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, AICC secretaries Bose Raju and Srinivasan Krishnan, former MLAs Ch Vamshi Chand Reddy and S A Sampath Kumar, MPs A Revanth Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, former MP Ponnampallabharathi, MLAs, Seethakka and Jagga Reddy, MLC T Jeevan Reddy, former PCC presidents Ponnala Lakshmaiah and V Hanumantha Rao and others were present.

Rahul, Priyanka's visit to Hathras a jolly trip: TS BJP

Hyderabad: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi tour to Hathras, on Saturday, to console the family of alleged gang rape victim was more a political jolly trip than to show any genuine concern said Telangana BJP leader NV Subhash. In a statement here on Sunday, he alleged that the Congress leaders trip exposed that it was meant only to defame the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath Das, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He pointed out that the Congress leaders' sudden shift from their agitation against the farm bills to Hathras showed their real concern was not people but their party's political agenda.

It proved beyond doubt that they did not have any constructive role to play in politics. Unfor-

tunately, the political parties in the country were becoming more of power-mongers than thinking about people's welfare.

Referring to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's remarks that the country was under dictatorship, the BJP leader dubbed her as Congress party's mouthpiece.

Subhash said that the opposition parties in the country were eager to grab or retain power without a sense of responsibility and accountability towards the people.

He welcomed Uttar Pradesh government's decision of a CBI probe into the alleged gang rape. He said that accused in such incidents should be brought to justice and should be awarded stringent punishment.

Smoke-free norms rake in rich moolah for govt

- Govt collects over Rs 37 crore fine from smokers
- Over 26 lakh people were fined during 2007-2020 for violating no-smoking rules



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad : Twelve years after the implementation of smoke free rules, which came into effect on October 2, 2008, the governments have collected Rs 37,33,64,148 as fines from people for violating the no-smoking rules. A total of 26,16,050 people were fined during the period 2007-08 to 2020-21 (upto June 2020).

In 2008, after a prolonged struggle, smoking was banned in all public places in the country with effect from October 2. Section (4) of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce Production, Supply and Distribution) Act COTPA 2003 prohibits smoking in all public places.

Dr Harit Chaturvedi, chairman of

Max Institute of Cancer Care said that

“The implementation of the no smoking rules shows the government's commitment towards tobacco control, however, COTPA 2003, presently allows smoking in certain public places (restaurants, hotels and airports), in the form of designated smoking areas.”

He recommend that government should abolish all designated smoking areas in hotels and restaurants and even airports to ensure a 100% smoke-free environment.

Nalini Satyanaraya, a passive smoking victim and health activist said, “Exposure to passive smoking happens in eateries specifically hotels, restaurants, bar & restaurant, pubs and clubs, risking lives of thousands of non-smokers by exposing them to the smoke of cigarettes.”

Devotees throng Yadadri shrine for darshan

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Yadadri: Yadadri shrine witnessed huge rush on Sunday as Arjitha Sevas to Lord Laxmi Narasimha Swamy in Balalayam restarted on Sunday.

Devotees were allowed to take part in Arjitha Sevas – Abhishekam, Sudarshana, Narasimha Homam and Nitya Kalyanam following Covid-19 norms.

Temple authorities made special arrangements to maintain social distancing and sanitised temple premises at regular intervals. It took 45 minutes for devotees to reach Lord Laxmi Narasimha Swamy for darshan in Bal-



alayam. Large number of devotees were witnessed at Kalyana Katta and at the venue of Satyanarayana Swamy vratham which resumed on Sunday.

ALL-IMPORTANT ADVISORY



We said it in 1918, we're saying it in 2020: Red Cross shares advisory on masks

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) shared an advisory about wearing a mask that was issued during the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. “We said it in 1918, we're saying it in 2020.” ICRC wrote sharing a picture of the advisory. Reacting to ICRC's post, a Twitter user wrote, “One statement relevant 100 years later”

French Open

Djokovic advances, Muguruza crashes out

Paris (IANS): World number one Novak Djokovic has moved clear of Roger Federer with his 71st Roland Garros victory, after he cruised past lucky loser Daniel Elahi Galan of Colombia in his third round contest in the ongoing tournament. On Saturday, Djokovic defeated Galan 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 to improve to 71-14 in French Open grand slam. The world number one, who broke serve on seven occasions and saved all five break points he faced en route to victory, also helped sweep the court during a brief rain delay while the roof was being shut. "If you impose yourself from the very beginning on the court, which I have in those

first three matches here, then it makes it hard for them to really believe that they can come back and make a turnaround in the match," said Djokovic after the match as per the ATP Tour website. He will next face Karen Khachanov for a place in the semi-finals. Djokovic owns a 3-1 head to head record against the World No. 16, but Khachanov emerged victorious in the pair's previous encounter in Paris. Meanwhile, in women's singles, former champion Garbine Muguruza crashed out of the tournament, losing to Danielle Collins. In a roller coaster match that lasted two hours and 28

minutes, Collins came back from a double break deficit in the final set against Muguruza to claim a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 win. "She (Muguruza) was playing really well, and there was only so much I could do," Collins said after the match as per the WTA website. "I just told myself, Okay, I've got to ride out the storm a little bit. Just give it all I have. Just stick through the process," she added.

snapped Muguruza's streak of reaching the second week at Roland Garros every year since 2014, including her title-winning run in 2016. She will now face No.30 seed Ons Jabeur in the fourth round.

MI CRUISE TO 34-RUN WIN OVER SRH

Sharjah (IANS): Mumbai Indians (MI) on Sunday coasted to a 34-run win over SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. Chasing a target of 209, SRH were limited to 174/7 by MI's bowling lineup. This is the first time this season that a team has not been able to score more than 200 runs in Sharjah. SRH kept losing wickets but captain David Warner kept them in the chase for much of the innings. Their pace fell off however after Trent Boult dismissed his New Zealand captain Kane Williamson in the 13th over. Warner soon fell on 60 off 44 balls in the 16th over by which time the required run rate had gone beyond 16 an over for SRH. It came down to SRH needing 37 to win from the last over in which Pollard gave away just one run. Earlier, Quinton de Kock's 67 and Krunal Pandya's last over car-



Krunal's last over carnage takes MI to 208/5

nage helped MI. MI's lower middle order of Hardik Pandya, Kieron Pollard and Krunal added a combined 61 runs for the fifth and sixth wickets in the last five overs. Krunal ended the innings with a six, consecutive fours and another six off the last over which

started with Siddharth Kaul taking the wicket of Hardik. **Brief scores:** MI 208/5 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 67, Ishan Kishan 31; Sandeep Sharma 2/41) vs SRH 174/7 in 20 overs (David Warner 60, Manish Pandey 30; Trent Boult 2/28).

IPL

Jadeja 1st to score 2K runs & scalp 110 wkts

Dubai (IANS): Star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has added a new feather to his illustrious hat by becoming the first cricketer in the Indian Premier League (IPL) to score 2,000 runs and scalp 110 wickets. In the match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday which Chennai Super Kings lost by seven runs, the Arjun Awardee scored 50 runs in 35 balls during their chase of 165. During the course of his knock, he smashed 2 sixes and 5 fours. The left-hander has become only the fourth cricketer to touch the 2,000-run mark and bag more than 50 wickets in the IPL. He has joined Shane Watson, Kieron Pollard and Jacques Kallis in the list of players who



have achieved the feat. "I am humbled to be the only cricketer in the history of IPL to achieve the double. This will only push me to work harder and bring more glory to my country and my team. I hope that my family and the cricket-loving audience are proud of me," Jadeja said in a statement. The 31-year-old has played a total of 174 matches so far in IPL (106 for Chennai Super Kings, 27 for Gujarat Lions, 14 for Kochi Tuskers Kerala and 27 for Rajasthan Royals). The MS Dhoni-led side have not been in the best of form in IPL 2020 and have registered just one win out of the four games they have played so far. They will be taking on Kings XI Punjab in their next game at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday evening.

Dubai (IANS/GloFans): It will be a battle between equals when two top IPL teams -- Delhi Capitals (DC) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) -- square-off at the Dubai International cricket stadium here on Monday. Both teams have six points each, but on net run rate DC were ahead of RCB till the start of the Mumbai Indians-Sunrisers Hyderabad match on Saturday. Both Mumbai and Hyderabad had four points each before their game began, and by the end of their match, the equation on the points table could alter. Delhi and Bangalore are fresh from wins on Saturday. While the Virat Kohli-led RCB side thrashed Rajasthan Royal (RR), the Shreyas Iyer-captained DC defeated KKR by 18 runs. Both contests saw their respective skippers leading from the front. After three below-par shows, Kohli regained his touch and played a fantastic unbeaten 72-run knock, helping his side register their third win of the league. Similarly, Iyer's blitzkrieg (unbeaten 88 off 38) propelled DC to a massive 228/4 against KKR before their bowlers defended the target to set up their third win. The DC top-order, barring Shikhar Dhawan, looks in sublime touch and has explosive Marcus Stoinis and Shimron-



Hetmyer in their arsenal for late fire-works. DC stumper Rishabh Pant also showed signs of getting the form back after he dusted off his rustiness with a 17-ball 38-run cameo on Saturday. Dhawan (26 off 16) started his innings well against KKR but the left-hander failed to convert it. RCB, on the other hand, have young Devdutt Padikkal along with Aaron Finch at the top. The youngster was quite impressive against RR and the 20-year-old sits at the fourth place in the list of highest run-getters so far in the league. Padikkal will surely aim to replicate the show against DC by providing a flying start to his side with Finch. In the middle-order, Kohli's form was the major cause of concern for the RCB think-tank. However, the skipper's knock against KKR will be a major relief. He will get support from AB de Vil-

liers who, too, has been amongst runs after 146 from four games. They have all-rounders Shivam Dube and Gurkeerat Singh down the order and both of them are capable of going big on any track. **Squads:** Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli (captain), AB de Villiers and Parthiv Patel (w-k), Aaron Finch, Josh Philippe (w-k), Chris Morris, Moeen Ali, Mohammed Siraj, Shahbaz Ahmed, Devdutt Padikkal, Yuzvendra Chahal, Navdeep Saini, Dale Steyn, Pawan Negi, Isuru Udana, Shivam Dube, Umesh Yadav, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, Washington Sundar, Pavan Deshpande, Adam Zampa. **Delhi Capitals:** Shreyas Iyer (captain), Ravichandran Ashwin, Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, Shimron Hetmyer, Kagiso Rabada, Ajinkya Rahane, Amit Mishra, Rishabh Pant (w-k), Ishant Sharma, Axar Patel, Sandeep Lamichhane, Keemo Paul, Daniel Sams, Mohit Sharma, Anrich Nortje, Alex Carey (wk), Avesh Khan, Tushar Deshpande, Harshal Patel, Marcus Stoinis, Lalit Yadav.

Chahal now holds Purple Cap, Orange stays with Agarwal

Sharjah (IANS): Yuzvendra Chahal of Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mayank Agarwal of Kings XI Punjab currently hold the Purple and Orange Caps respectively following the end of the 16th match of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) between Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders which the Shreyas Iyer-led side won by 18 runs. Chahal took over the Purple Cap from Mohammad Shami after his match-winning spell against Rajasthan Royals at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi. On Saturday afternoon, Chahal returned with figures of 3/24 which took his tournament's tally to eight from four games. Along with Chahal, Shami and Kagiso Rabada too have scalped eight wickets so far but because of better average and economy, the Bangalore spinner is at the top of the list. Meanwhile, Agarwal remains at top of the list of leading run scorers having scored 246 runs from four games. KL Rahul is at the second spot with 239 runs from four games and Chennai Super Kings' Faf du Plessis (195 runs in four games) is third on the list. These running caps are presented to the leading wicket-taker and run scorer and keep changing hands throughout the duration of the tournament. In the points table, Delhi Capitals are currently at the numerouno spot with six points from four games. They are followed by Royal Challengers Bangalore (six points), Mumbai Indians (four points from four games) and SunRisers Hyderabad (four points).

Morgan should lead KKR, surely not Karthik: Sreesanth

Sharjah (IANS): Eoin Morgan should lead Kolkata Knight Riders instead of Dinesh Karthik in the remaining matches of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020, believes out-of-favour fast bowler S Sreesanth. "Genuinely feel Eoin Morgan should lead the side, surely not DK. World Cup-winning captain should surely lead IPL side," Sreesanth tweeted after KKR suffered an 18-run defeat against Delhi Capitals at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in their latest IPL encounter. "I hope KKR looks at this issue and they need a leader who will lead from front like Rohit, Dhoni or Virat, what a player," he added. On Saturday, Delhi Capitals first posted a monstrous total of 228/4 in their allotted 20 overs and then restricted KKR to 210/8, thus moving at the top of the points table. On the other hand, KKR have won two out of the four games they have played so far and are currently placed at the fifth spot. During the chase, Morgan was held back and Andre Russell sent ahead of him to up the ante, something which miffed former India cricketer Madan Lal. "What is KKR management thinking sending the best white-ball player Morgan so lower down the order...They really need to put their thinking caps. The lost the match coz of bad decisions taken," Lal said in a tweet on Sunday. The England batsman, however, defended the team management's decision. "When you look at our batting line-up, we have a number of match-winners, so it's very difficult to go up the order, particularly when you have a world-class all-rounder in Andre Russell. He is an incredible striker, and when he comes up the order, obviously everybody else has to shift down a little bit," said Morgan after the match. "We went from a position of being behind the 8-ball, because Delhi bowled well, to a position of strength and looking like winning it. It just wasn't meant to be," he added.

Golden Baby Leagues help brew footballing revolution in Assam's tea gardens

New Delhi (IANS): Across the world, Assam is renowned for its tea gardens as well as its passion for football. In state's Golaghat district, the two come together to form a perfect blend through the Golden Baby Leagues to take Indian football forward together -- giving hope of a "brighter future" -- to the families living in the tea estates. "A large portion of our players come from the surrounding tea gardens. They possess so much talent. But the mindset of most parents isn't much in tune with modern times. The lives of most of the kids begin and end in the tea gardens itself," Chinmay Bora, the



league operator for the NRL Football Academy Golden Baby League in Numaligarh, told www.the-aiff.com. "However, through football and the Golden Baby Leagues, they gain exposure of life outside the gardens and gives the families hope that the sport can change their lives and give them a brighter future," he added.

PYRAMID REIGNS



Pyramid team members celebrate their Seven-a-side football tournament title win with the trophy during the closing ceremony at Yousfguda ground. Pyramid FC beat Ethihad FC 6-5 in the breaker after the match ended goalless in normal time. Chief guest S M Faiyaz of Sarkar Developers and Qisar Mohammed, international footballer, who presented the winners trophy, are also seen.

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