

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



PALAK MUCHHAL
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Harmony! 🎵

@shreyaghoshal #UshaUthup
@MadhushreeMusic



Beetroot for glowing skin



Beetroots have many health benefits. Scientific studies have confirmed that raw beetroots combat dementia, prevent heart disease, hypertension and even regulate blood sugar levels. Raw beetroots act as a brilliant exercise supplement. They stimulate muscle oxygenation, helping you endure high-intensity exercises. Beet-roots contain strong antioxidants, anti-inflammatory and fungicidal characteristics. They also contain homocysteine, a compound that enhances stomach acid regeneration and reduces cholesterol.

Beetroot is extremely effective for good hair and skin. It's been widely used as a face pack by many cultures. It lends a pinkish hue to your skin. Although the results are more visible on fair people, regular use of this beetroot mask for face can help give you flawless skin by reducing pores and dark spots. Here are ways to make beetroot face packs

Beetroot face pack with warm water

Splash warm water all over the face and allow it to dry. This helps remove grime and dust that would interfere with the beetroot juice. Grate some beetroot juice in a bowl and soak a cotton ball in the juice. Proceed to dab the cotton ball onto your face. Be careful to avoid the eyes and the mouth, unless you don't mind

pink teeth. Be careful to use enough to wet the skin, but don't let it slide down your face. Allow the juice to settle for a couple of minutes before reapplying a fresh layer with a new cotton ball.

The second layer ensures that your face is covered with beetroot juice. Allow it to dry for 15-20 minutes. Don't touch your face as you may remove the juice and even stain your hands. Remember to remove it after 20 minutes as it may leave stains.

Immerse a washcloth or a napkin in warm water. Proceed to wipe the beetroot juice in circular motions. Pat your face dry with a towel. You will notice an instantaneous pinkish glow. Use this face pack twice in a month to get beautiful skin.

Beetroot face pack with yogurt and lime juice

Once you have squeezed the juice from the grated beetroots, collect it in a small bowl. Add two tablespoons of fuller's earth / gram flour and add the yogurt, lime juice to the bowl of beetroot juice. Mix the contents into a smooth paste.

Proceed to spread it evenly over the face and leave it on for 15 minutes.

Rinse it off with lukewarm water. Pat your face dry. You will notice an immediate pink glow and radiant skin. Use this face pack 5-7 times to get that flawless skin you wanted.

At-home beauty can be as simple as going through your kitchen cabinets. Another plus point of it is completely cost-effective and easily available. Sometimes the best solution is the simplest one, and that definitely applies to rice water.

The magical liquid Kanji or rice water is traditional home remedy used as a beauty potion for skin whitening, brightening, tightening pores, reducing black spots and make skin firmer and softer by women around the world.

Rice water, the water leftover after boiling or soaking rice in it is loaded with vitamins, minerals, and amino acids that are essential for maintaining healthy, beautiful skin during winters. Rice water contains the nourishing antioxidant ferulic acid, as well as allantoin, an organic compound that helps soothe and heal the skin during freezing temperature. Rice water has inositol, a carbohydrate that can repair hair damaged due to extreme weather conditions and dryness during winters. It can strengthen the roots, make it smooth and silky by combating the losses due to natural atmospheric conditions.

Rice water is a natural skin toner which promotes cell growth, stimulates blood flow and keeps the skin smooth and bright in chilly weather conditions. You can use rice water cubes to boost collagen and nourish, refresh skin. Put rice water into the ice tray and freeze it. Add cucumber too. Apply these ice cubes onto the face and uncovered areas around the face, neck and uncovered area around face etc as a toner. Rice water is great to keep the skin glowing and hydrated during winters.

You can use rice water for reducing dark patches or achieving fair complexion by mixing rice powder with raw milk to form

Rice water is a natural skin toner which promotes cell growth, stimulates blood flow and keeps the skin smooth and bright in chilly weather conditions. You can use rice water cubes to boost collagen and nourish, refresh skin



Shahnaz Husain

thick paste. Apply thick paste on your face and uncovered skin and leave it for few minutes and wash it with clean fresh water. Repeat it once in a week to achieve amazing results. Although many beauty companies have launched soaps, toners, and creams etc containing rice water but it is always advisable to go for herbal homely products.

Rice water acts as excellent hair conditioner. You can add a few drops of essential oils like rosemary, lavender or tea tree oil and apply it on hair to balance PH level on the

scalp and act as an excellent hair conditioner. After shampooing, apply rice water to your hair along with a few drops of lavender essential oil or rosemary essential oil. Let the rice water dry on hair in a natural environment for 15-20 minutes and then rinse with normal fresh water. Fermented rice water is rich in vitamin B which also happens to promote melanin production for hair.

Fermented rice water protects the skin from UV rays and sun tan. Leave your boiled rice water out on your kitchen in open space for 48 hours. When it starts to smell slightly sour, bottle it up and store

it in your fridge. You can use fermented rice water in the same ways you can use regular rice water. Using rice water is also an effective remedy in treating sunburns. Applying it on sun-damaged skin can help the burns heal faster.

You can also prepare rice water with fermentation. In a glass jar put some rice and water (twice the quantity of rice). Keep it at room temperature for a day or two. Strain the mixture and keep the water in the fridge.

Dip a clean washcloth into the rice water, then apply it over the affected area. After 2 to 3 minutes,

allow the skin to dry by itself. In fact, acne-prone skin or even skin with acne eruptions can be washed with rice water to soothe and heal the skin. It also helps to tighten the pores and refine the skin. Rice water may be applied on the face with cotton wool and then massaged for a few minutes to revitalize the skin. In fact, rice water has an astringent effect and helps to prevent pimples and acne.

Transcending the boundaries of food, rice offers a plethora of benefits for your skin and hair, a rather surprising beauty staple that's been used across the world.

Keep your garments healthy and germ-free

Come winter, we are faced with huge piles of clothes that just refuse to fit into assigned spaces in our wardrobes. While we look forward to the season to wear amazing jackets, sweaters, denim etc this year we also have the additional consideration of keeping our winter wear disinfected.

Most of the heavy garments we use are not of the 'wash after every wear' variety. The continuous tension of cleaning and disinfecting our surroundings and clothes is a serious and tedious task, especially when stepping out of our homes has increased manifolds. Here are some easy hacks to manage and disinfect our winter garments:

Purge

While we all have our routines of transitioning our wardrobes from summer clothes to winter clothes, we often forget to sift out the clothes we are done with. It is hard, yes. One often feels 'Maybe I'll wear it with something else', 'Maybe I'll use it at home' et cetera, but do we really? Purging always helps.

Separate fresh clothes from the ones that have been worn before

Having an assigned rack space or hanger space to hand jackets/sweaters that are used on the regular helps to separate them from the garments that are only used on occasion. Especially this year, creating this designated space frees up the mind from

clothes and disinfection management worries. You know where each item belongs, and you don't need to mess up the section of clothes not used often.

Keep a clothes spray handy

Every time we come home from outside, the hand washing ritual has become sacrosanct. We usually go straight into the shower and add the clothes we have been wearing to the 'to be washed' pile. This doesn't work for winter clothes though does it? In the area designated for 'already worn' garments, keep a clothes disinfectant spray handy. This product doesn't need any water for use, disinfects clothes in-between washes while also leaving a fresh smell behind and it is completely safe for all a wide variety of materials.



NEWS ROUNDUP

Chhattisgarhi Coffee House 'Gadhkalewa'

On the lines of Indian Coffee House, the new government has decided to open a Gadhkalewa in every district of Chhattisgarh. Gadhkalewa would not only serve traditional delicacies but would also have Devbhog products available for sale. State Government is establishing Gadhkalewa as a new brand.

As per the vision of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, folk art

forest produce, which makes it rich, diverse and interesting. There is a huge range of delicacies for both happy and sad occasions. Some of the important dishes of Chhattisgarh are cheela, besan cheela, gurha cheela, farra, muthiya, dhuska, chour roti, chour paatar roti, khupurri, bafauri, chausela, pataal chatni, deharuri, ainsa, dudhfara, pakwa, thethri, khurmi, bidiya, pidiya,

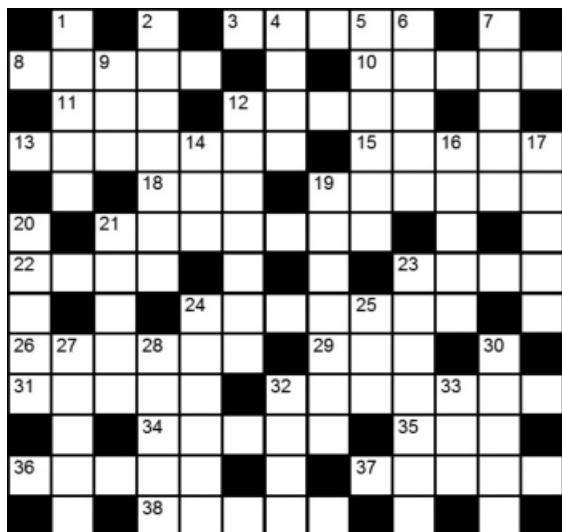


and culture of Chhattisgarh is being promoted. Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board has released a new series of bamboo art furniture on the theme of Chhattisgarhi traditions to give a new attractive look to Gadhkalewa. In Raipur, Gadhkalewa is located at Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum Premise. This Gadhkalewa outlet at the capital city gives a tough competition to other restaurants in the city. Food served here is up to the mark as a result of which traditional healthy and tasty food is gaining popularity among the masses.

Chhattisgarhi culture has special food traditions for every occasion, season, festivals and events. Forest dweller tribes have their food habits based on natural

papchi, puran laddu, kari laddu, murra laddu, bundi laddu, laai laddu etc.

The State Government has decided to open Gadhkalewa in every district headquarters of the state in financial year 2020-21, for which local self-help groups will be provided training along with place, shade etc, to run the centre smoothly. This would help the members of self-help groups to become self-employed and earn a decent income to take care of their families. At the International Kite Festival organized by Government of India under 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' Scheme from January 6-14, 2019 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, a Stall of Chhattisgarhi Cultural Programme and Traditional Cuisine was put up.



SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 10

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Eccentric (5)
- 6 Inexpensive cigar (5)
- 9 Royally or kingly (7)
- 10 Resume (5)
- 11 Did wrong (5)
- 12 Worth (5)
- 13 What a second-hand automobile dealer sells ? (4,3)
- 15 Female bovine (3)
- 17 Numerous (4)
- 18 Royal seat (6)
- 19 Brings up (5)
- 20 Firmly implanted (6)
- 22 Border (4)
- 24 No matter which (3)
- 25 Moves very fast (7)
- 26 Give up (5)
- 27 GP's stand-in (5)
- 28 Reddish dye (5)
- 29 Hansen's disease (7)
- 30 Poplar tree (5)
- 31 A sacred song (5)

Down

- 2 Ukrainian seaport (6)
- 3 Fashionable (6)
- 4 A type of tree (3)
- 5 Detection device (5)
- 6 Detectives (7)
- 7 Rubber tube (4)
- 8 Continues (4,2)
- 12 Fledged (5)
- 13 Shadow (5)
- 14 Diplomatic agent (5)
- 15 Small jazz band (5)
- 16 Heavy blows; thrashes (5)
- 18 Group of three (5)
- 19 Set of dietary rules (7)
- 21 Pungent vegetables (6)
- 22 Bronze, brass, steel, et al. (6)
- 23 An ___ task : a difficult job ? (6)
- 25 Fierce look (5)
- 26 Christmas (4)
- 28 Psychic power (3)

SUDOKU

	8		7	2		5	
6			8	4			3
	2					1	
		1	4		8	9	
	7	2				5	3
		6	2		5	1	
	9						4
4			1	3			7
	1		6	9		8	

6	3	8	5	7	2	9	4	1
2	7	1	8	4	9	5	3	6
4	9	5	1	3	6	8	7	2
7	1	4	3	2	8	6	9	5
3	5	9	6	1	4	7	2	8
8	6	2	9	5	7	3	1	4
5	2	7	4	8	3	1	6	9
1	4	6	7	9	5	2	8	3
9	8	3	2	6	1	4	5	7

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 10

No compulsion to hold 2021 CBSE Board exams in March: Nishank

No plan to cancel NEET 2021, considering multiple attempts for JEE Main, says Education Minister

NEW DELHI

Adequate time would be given to the students preparing for the CBSE board exams for Classes 10 and 12 to be held next year, said Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

The Minister clarified on Thursday that there is no compulsion to conduct examinations in March. Parents across the country have urged the Senior Secondary Board to conduct the board examinations for 2021 in May.

Nishank said, "Students will be given ample time for preparation based on the new pattern on which the exam would be conducted. There is no compulsion to conduct the exams in March. Keeping in view the coronavirus pandemic, the scheduled

dates for the exam will be fixed. Practical exams will not be held clashing with the dates of any entrance exam."

"Practical exams in the CBSE board are held at the school level. If a situation arises that the students cannot go to laboratories for practicals then it will be difficult to conduct the examination and the Central government will consider further steps to resolve the issue," Nishank added.

On reopening all schools the Minister said, "The School Education department and Literacy department have issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and released other specific guidelines for reopening the schools. These guidelines pertain to health and safety and maintaining physical and social distancing. Apart from this, given the current



health scenario, the concerned state governments will take a decision in the matter." Addressing a live session with students, teachers and parents across the country, Nishank said that the CBSE has reduced the syllabus by 30 percent for the 2021 board examinations. The word 'fail' has been removed from the marksheet and no student would be considered as failed.

Nishank gave a detailed talk on examinations and education-related issues during the live interaction with teachers, parents and students in the 21st edition of Shiksha Samvaad.

He said, "After the previous year's dialogue a lot has changed over this year such as declaration of board exam results, many students have also participated in several competitive examinations, the

cutoff lists of all colleges have been released and the new academic session has also started."

"The way we have successfully moved forward by adopting change, the entire credit goes to the overall education system in the country."

He said there is no plan to cancel the Medical entrance test -- NEET 2021, and his is considering holding multiple sessions of JEE Main. In the live session, students asked questions regarding CBSE Board Exam 2021, JEE Main 2021 and NEET 2021. 'Nishank' invited suggestions from them and ensured that their concerns will be addressed.

As students asked about JEE, he said, "We are looking into the feasibility of holding JEE exams more than twice, there can be three or maybe four occasions to sit for JEE."

Farmers to block trains

SCBA condemns repressive measures against protesting farmers

'Anti-farmer remarks': MVA seeks Union Minister Danve's scalp

Dushyant Chautala breaks silence, backs Centre's assurance on MSP

NEW DELHI

THE farmer leaders on Thursday said that they will intensify their agitation to press for repeal of three farm laws and railway tracks will be blocked.

At a joint press conference on the Singhu border, the farmer leaders also said that agriculture is a state subject and Centre has no right to make such laws.

"We had given an ultimatum till December 10 that if the Prime Minister does not listen to us and does not repeal laws, we will block railway tracks.

"It was decided in meeting that all the people of India will take to the tracks. Sanyukt Kisan Manch will fix a date and announce," Buta Singh, a farmer leader from Punjab, said.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (R) leader Balbir Singh Rajewal alleged that the laws have been made for traders.

"If agriculture is state subject, they do not have the right to make laws regarding it," he said.

The farmer unions had on Wednesday rejected the Centre's proposals to make amendments in the farm laws and insisted on their repeal.

Farmers are on protest on borders of Delhi against three farm laws.



The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) passed a resolution condemning the use of repressive measures against farmers protesting peacefully against Centre's new agriculture laws.

A statement issued by SCBA said: "The Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association has been dismayed to read reports in the media about the use of brute force to break up peaceful protests, where citizens raise their voices against State actions which they believe denigrate their basic rights."

A day after Union Minister Raosaheb Danve alleged that Pakistan and China were behind the farmers' protests in Delhi, Maharashtra's ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and farmers leaders on Thursday demanded he should be sacked from the Union Cabinet.

Ending speculation of 'cracks' within the alliance partners -- the BJP and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) -- over the demands of the protesting farmers to revoke the new farm laws, JJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Thursday said the Centre has accepted the demand of assuring minimum support price (MSP) of crops.

"The Centre has accepted the demand of the farmers by assuring the MSP in writing. It is now up to the farmers' union to decide on it," he told the media here.



Pranav youngest to represent India at International Publishers Assn

PRANAV Gupta, the Honorary Joint Secretary at the Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) and the Managing Director of Prints Publications Pvt Ltd has been elected as a member of the Executive Committee of International Publishers Association (IPA). In a virtually conducted elections in November this year, the IPA declared the results of several decisions and elections in a conference.

Pranav, 31, is the youngest ever to become the EC member at the coveted IPA. An entrepreneur, publisher and traveller, Pranav is a third-generation publisher with a pivotal role in Prints Publications at the age of 16.

Charkha installed at Hubballi Rly Station

A Charkha has been installed at the entrance of Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Railway Station, Hubballi recently with Samridh Bharat Slogan in the background made on artificial grass structure. The charkha has been placed on a base of 3 feet height and Mahatma Gandhi's quote 'My life is my message' has been written on it.

A charkha is a symbol of self-reliance, which has inspired millions of Indians who took part in the freedom struggle led by father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi. It has been installed as part of station beautification work. On October 2nd, Meditating Mahatma Gandhi statue installed at the entrance and the charkha is an addition to that which instills the sense of patriotism. It also enhances the aesthetics of the station and motivates in keeping the station premises clean.

The Charkha has been sponsored by M/s. Durashine and M/s. S.C. Shettar & Sons and curated & made by M/s. Artwaley, Hubballi. The civil works for installation has been done by the Railways. The station beautification work at Hubballi is being executed under the guidance of Arvind Malkhede, Divisional Railway Manager of Hubballi Division.



Tripura crisis: Biplab calls off 'mandate' event

NEW DELHI

A day after he called a public meeting on December 13 to seek the peoples mandate on whether he should continue in office in the face of intense factionalism in the BJP state unit, Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb called it off following intervention of the partys central leadership.

Sources said the BJP central leadership stepped in to resolve the internal crisis triggered by allegations from a section of leaders about Debs dictatorial style of functioning -- hours after the chief minister's announcement. BJP national president J P Nadda spoke to Deb following which the public meeting was cancelled. After the discussions it was decided that the chief minister will not hold any such meeting. There is no threat to his leadership in the state and he will continue to serve the people of Tripura as chief minister. Let the organisation handle the issues in the party, BJP central observer Vinod Sonkar was quoted as telling The Indian Express.

Sources in the BJP said Deb has been asked to focus on governance issues while the central leadership would resolve the internal issues in the partys state unit.

Ayurveda docs to perform surgery

OPD, clinics shut today in protest

NEW DELHI

THE Indian Medical Association (IMA), the apex body of Indian doctors, has strongly opposed the government's move to allow the Ayurveda doctors to perform surgery. The IMA has called for a strike on December 11 at 10,000 locations across the country to protest against the government notification listing surgeries that Ayurveda practitioners can perform.

Calling it 'mixopathy', the IMA had earlier also threatened to withdraw all non-essential, non-Covid services in hospitals and hold demonstrations across the country on December 8.

The government notification issued on 20 November listed 58 varieties of surgeries that postgraduate Ayurveda medical students must be "practically trained to acquaint with, as well as to independently perform". The gazette notification issued by the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), a statutory body under the AYUSH Ministry, listed 39 general surgery procedures and 19 other procedures, involving the eye, ear, nose and throat, by amending the Indian Medicine Central Council (Post Graduate

Ayurveda Education) Regulations, 2016. These surgeries include general surgery, orthopedic, ophthalmology, ENT and dental surgeries. The IMA has criticised the move and questioned the competence of Ayurveda medical students to carry



out these procedures.

The term 'mixopathy', which doesn't have a legal definition, is used to describe vital parts of modern medicine being mixed with Ayurveda or homeopathy. The IMA used the term in the current context of allowing Ayurveda postgraduates to perform the 58 surgeries.

While MBBS doctors have severely criticised the government move, Ayurveda doctors said they have been performing surgeries since decades.

Pawar not taking over as UPA chief: NCP

MUMBAI

THE Nationalist Congress Party on Thursday termed as baseless media speculation that its chief Sharad Pawar may head the United Progressive Alliance (UPA).

NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said there are unsubstantiated reports in the media regarding Pawar taking over as the chairperson of the UPA.

"The Nationalist Congress Party would like to clarify that there is no discussion within UPA partners regarding any such proposal," Tapase said.

"The reports appearing in the media seems to be have planted by vested interests to divert the attention from the ongoing farmers' agitation," he added.

Shiv Sena, NCP's ruling ally in Maharashtra, said anything can happen in politics, and expressed confidence that the former Union minister, who turns 80 on December 12, is capable of a bigger national role.

Asked about speculation by a section of media that Pawar may replace Congress president Sonia Gandhi as UPA chairperson, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said, "Politics is unpredictable. You never know what will happen next."

Raut said Pawar has 'all the capabilities' to lead the country.

AAP: Sisodia's residence attacked by BJP goons

NEW DELHI

THE AAP on Thursday claimed that the house of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was "attacked by BJP goons". The Delhi BJP, however, refuted the allegations, saying their protest was peaceful.

The BJP workers earlier staged a protest near Sisodia's residence over an alleged conspiracy to kill mayors and leaders of the party-ruled municipal corporations staging an indefinite dharna demanding payment of dues from the Kejriwal government. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also condemned the incident and wondered why the BJP was "getting so desperate by the day in Delhi".

"I strongly condemn the systematic, organised and violent attack on Dy CM Manish Sisodia's home. The goons entered his house in police presence when he was away. Why is BJP getting so desperate by the day in Delhi?" he tweeted. Addressing a press conference, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj alleged that the police did not stop the goons from entering Sisodia's residence and even removed the barricades around the house. He also played a



purported video of the outside area of Sisodia's residence where a group of people can be seen forcefully entering inside. "BJP goons attacked the house of deputy chief minister while he was not at home. The Delhi Police helped the BJP goons in this act," Bhardwaj

added. No immediate reaction was available from the city police. AAP leader Atishi called it a "black day" in Delhi's political history. "This is a black day in Delhi's political history that the Union Home Minister is now using his party goons and Delhi Police to attack the family of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in his absence from his residence," she said.

Officer held for forgery in Civil Services exam

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police have arrested an Assistant Audit officer in the Income tax department posted at Ahmedabad in Gujarat on the charges of using unfair means for selection in Civil Services Examination 2019.

In March this year, a complaint from Under Secretary, UPSC was received at Tilak Marg police station alleging therein that one Raj Kumar Sharma, who qualified CSE (Mains) 2019 and IFoS (Mains) 2019 has sent eight letters to UPSC purportedly by the PMO and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for inclusion of his name in the final list of both the examinations.

"Prime Minister Office and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change were clarified with in this regard. It was informed that the said office order purportedly sent from PMO and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change were not genuine," said Eish Singhal, DCP New Delhi.

The letters were sent to CFSL to verify the handwriting on the envelopes of the letter.

SpaceX's starship prototype blasts off, crashes into fireball on landing

'Mars, here we come!' Tesla's Elon Musk tweets just minutes after the flight

WASHINGTON

A prototype of the future giant SpaceX rocket Starship -- which the company hopes will become its go-to for Mars missions -- crashed in a fiery explosion during a test launch along the Texas coast on Wednesday. But the company line was upbeat as a live stream of the launch displayed the on-screen message "AWESOME TEST. CONGRATS STARSHIP TEAM!"

"Mars, here we come!!" SpaceX founder Tesla's Elon Musk tweeted just minutes after the flight, explaining that a too-fast landing speed was to blame for the crash. He recounted the suc-

cessful parts of the rocket's short late afternoon trip: the take-off, the change of position in flight and its (pre-explosion) precise landing trajectory. "We got all the data we needed! Congrats SpaceX team," he tweeted.

Wednesday's test launch took off and ascended properly in a seemingly straight line, before one and then another of its engines went out. After 4 minutes and 45 seconds of flight, its third engine extinguished and the rocket began its descent in its expected position.

The engines were restarted just seconds before landing in an effort to slow the ship, but it crashed hard into the



Earth. Smaller prototypes have already blasted off several hundred yards (meters) into the air for less than a minute as part of a series of tests aimed at developing the next generation of rockets from the company at lightning speed.

After several aborted attempts this week, the flight was live-streamed on the @SpaceX Twitter account.

The test flight was planned to check the huge metal body of SN8 (Starship number 8) and its three engines for their aerodynamicism, including during the ship's return to Earth -- which happens vertically, in the same vein as SpaceX's pioneering Falcon 9 rocket. "With a test such as this, success is

not measured by completion of specific objectives but rather how much we can learn, which will inform and improve the probability of success in the future as SpaceX rapidly advances the development of Starship," a statement on the company's website said, implying even before the launch that an explosion or crash would not mean a failed mission.

Construction on SN9, the next prototype, is already almost finished.

The experimental flights are taking place in a nearly deserted part of southern Texas on the Gulf of Mexico near the US-Mexican border -- an area empty enough that any flight malfunc-

tion would be unlikely to cause physical or property damage.

Musk recently announced he plans to move to the vast southern US state from California.

Any future completed Starship rocket will be equipped with 37 engines instead of nine and will measure 120 meters (390 feet) tall and be capable of carrying 100 tons of cargo into orbit around the Earth.

Musk hopes to be able to one day launch several of these space ships to Mars, though they could prove useful even in the short term as NASA eyes re-establishing an ongoing presence on the Moon in 2024.

Eluru tragedy: It's time to curb use of pesticides

ELURU tragedy was only waiting to happen. That hundreds of people were admitted to hospitals and the stream of visitors seems to never stop with even repeat cases coming up should not only be a concern for the authorities but also to the people. Because, the medical opinion is veering around the consumption of organochlorines used as pesticides through food and water. Or else there could be another reason - usage of mosquito control sprays. One welcome feature was that so far only one death has been reported while more than 500 have been hospitalised. The unknown illness has infected more than 300 children, with most of them suffering from dizziness, fainting spells, headache and vomiting. They have tested negative for Covid-19. GVL Narasimha Rao, who is

a member of Parliament from the State, said on Twitter that he had spoken with government medical experts and that the "most likely cause is poisonous organochlorine substances". It is one of the possibilities," said a medical official in the State, adding they were awaiting test reports to ascertain the cause. Exposure to organochlorine pesticides over a short period may produce convulsions, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, tremors, confusion, muscle weakness, slurred speech, salivation and sweating. Organochlorines are a group of chlorinated compounds. These are widely used in pesticides. Similarly, Organochlorine insecticides were earlier successfully used in control of malaria and typhus despite the fact that these are all banned or restricted in most of the advanced coun-

tries after research linked them to cancer and other potential health risks. Punjab should be an eye opener in this regard with its 'cancer special train' itself to prove the impact of these pesticides on health. These chemicals remain in the environment for years and build up in animal and human body fat. The review statistics on the use of different pesticides shows that 40% of all pesticides used belong to the organochlorine class of chemicals. Due to their low cost and the need against various pests, organochlorine insecticides such as DDT, hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), aldrin and dieldrin are among the most widely used pesticides in developing countries of Asia. It is not immediately clear how extensively the chemicals are used in India, though it is found in DDT which continues to be

used for fumigation against mosquitoes in several places in India. A partial ban on DDT was introduced in 2008 wherein it could not be used for agricultural purposes. As pesticides have a high effect on the animal and bird community, ultimately humans also take up pesticides as meat, milk and crops derived from these animals and plants. The AP government has laid out a huge budget on healthcare unlike most other States. It is mostly about the curative aspect. It's time, the preventive aspects and attempts to curb the practice of pesticide usage are taken care of too in the agri-intense State. It is high time other governments make note of this and wake up to the pesticide reality. Due to the high persistence and bioaccumulation potential, the Stockholm Convention has classified most of the organochlorine compounds as environmental hazards and banned the use of many. However, we keep using them.



Carbon neutrality by 2050: World's most urgent mission

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

AS the world marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change, a promising movement for carbon neutrality is taking shape. By next month, countries representing more than 65 per cent of harmful greenhouse gasses and more than 70 per cent of the world economy will have committed to achieve net zero emissions by the middle of the century.

At the same time, the main climate indicators are worsening. While the Covid-19 pandemic has temporarily reduced emissions, carbon dioxide levels are still at record highs - and rising. The past decade was the hottest on record; Arctic sea ice in October was the lowest ever, and apocalyptic fires, floods, droughts and storms are increasingly the new normal. Biodiversity is collapsing, deserts are spreading, oceans are warming and choking with plastic waste. Science tells us that unless we cut fossil fuel production by 6 per cent every year between now and 2030, things will get worse. Instead, the world is on track for a 2 per cent annual rise.

Pandemic recovery gives us an unexpected yet vital opportunity to attack climate change, fix our global environment, re-engineer economies and re-imagine our future. Here is what we must do:

First, we need build a truly global coalition for carbon neutrality by 2050.

The European Union has committed to do so. The United Kingdom, Japan, the Republic of Korea and more than 110 countries have done the same. So, too, has the incoming United States administration. China has pledged to get there before 2060.

Every country, city, financial institution and company should adopt plans for net zero - and act now to get on the right path to that goal, which means cutting global emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 compared with 2010 levels. In advance of next November's UN Climate Conference in Glasgow, Governments are obligated by the Paris Agreement to be ever more ambitious every five years and submit strengthened commitments known as Nationally Determined Contributions, and these NDCs must show true ambition for carbon neutrality.

Technology is on our side. It costs more to simply run most of today's coal plants than it does to build new renewable plants from scratch. Economic analysis confirms the wisdom of this path. According to the International Labour Organization, despite inevitable job losses, the clean energy transition will create 18 million net new jobs by 2030. But we must recognize the human costs of decarbonization, and support workers with social protection, re-skilling and up-skilling so that the transition is just.

Second, we need to align global finance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, the world's blueprint for a better future. It is time to put a price on carbon; end fossil fuel subsidies and finance; stop building new coal power plants; shift the tax burden from income to carbon, from taxpayers to polluters; make climate-related financial risk disclosures mandatory; and integrate the goal of carbon neutrality into all economic and fiscal decision-making. Banks must align their lending with the net zero objective, and asset owners and managers must decarbonize their portfolios.

Third, we must secure a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience to help those already facing dire impacts of climate change. That's not happening enough today: adaptation represents only 20 per cent of climate finance. This hinders our efforts to reduce disaster risk. It also isn't smart; every \$1 invested in adaptation measures could yield almost \$4 in benefits. Adaptation and resilience are especially urgent for small island developing states, for which climate change is an existential threat. Next year gives us a wealth of opportunities to address our planetary emergencies, through major United Nations conferences and other efforts on biodiversity, oceans, transport, energy, cities and food systems. One of our best allies is nature itself: nature-based solutions could provide one-third of the net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Indigenous knowledge can help to point the way. And as humankind devises strategies for preserving the environment and building a green economy, we need more women decision-makers at the table. Covid-19 and climate have brought us to a threshold. We cannot go back to the old normal of inequality and fragility; instead we must step towards a safer, more sustainable path. This is a complex policy test and an urgent moral test. With decisions today setting our course for decades to come, we must make pandemic recovery and climate action two sides of the same coin.

(The writer is UN Secretary-General)

Modi's radical reforms & hostile Opposition



AGRICULTURE is the core of Indian economy. It contributes to around 18% of India's GDP and employs close to 50%, more than any other singular sector in India. There are over 600 million farmers in India, which is close to half of the nation's population. The agriculture allied sectors directly impact the productivity of the other two top GDP contributors, manufacturing and service sectors.

India has seen large scale macro-economic reforms in 90's under the leadership of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and since then almost all sectors were led into necessary reforms by successive governments. The BJP while in Opposition never stalled these reforms, which are essential for nation's progress. The BJP in Opposition was an enabler for governments which undertook reforms for the growth of Indian economy and employment.

Progressive spirit of the BJP, paired with unwavering conviction to the ideology of 'Nation First', has strengthened this nation and enabled successive governments to take progressive national policies. That is the true spirit of democracy. Elected governments should be empowered and enabled to make national policies and take up reforms to lead the nation towards progress and development.

However, the Opposition parties like the Congress, Communist parties and other regional parties in India today are quite regressive and are desperate to score political gains, through obstructionism and obfuscation. They are willing to stall progressive agriculture reforms, which can lead the small and marginal farmers towards self-reliance and prosperity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been elected for the first term and re-elected for the second, on the promise of transforming the nation with massive reforms. 'Reform, Perform and Transform' is the governance agenda of Modi government.

Modi has courageously undertaken massive agriculture reforms in the recent past. The

Central government has followed due process of consultation and discussion both inside and outside the Parliament and made laws accordingly. These new laws can be 'game-changers' for Agriculture sector in India and can empower small and marginal farmers, to possess more options to sell their produce and increase their income. These laws can liberate the farmers from restricted market access and dependence on middlemen, after humongous investment and hard work put in by them, throughout a crop season.

Opposition parties led by Congress, Communist and many regional parties like TMC, SP, NCP, SAD, DMK, RJD, TRS, TDP, YSRCP are trying to obfuscate and mislead few farmer unions with misinformation about the new Agri laws enacted by Modi government.

These parties are trying to fear-monger farmers on issues which are purely imaginary and hypothetical, to arouse insecurity and fear among them. These parties have sponsored, manufactured and organized protests around Delhi and are continuing to escalate the same for their petty political expediency.

The below are some key reasons why these reforms are progressive and why those obstructing them are regressive:

Simple Economics
For any product to get the best market rate, it has to be subjected to real demand and supply. Nothing in the world can permanently be sold or purchased at a price, without demand and supply impacting it.

Agricultural products have to be subjected real time demand and supply of the regional, national and international markets to get the best possible price for the produce. This price can be many times more than what the gullible farmers currently are selling to the middlemen and touts, in the local mandis for decades.

The new laws open the agriculture sector to market factors and ensures the farmers get the best price for their produce. It eliminates multiple middlemen in the system and provides farmers direct access to the market and buyers.

Reforms in marketing of the produce

The agri laws enacted by the Modi government impact the marketing of the Agriculture produce. This is the most critical phase in the entire spectrum of farming. After producing a crop yield, investing into the seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and rigorous hard work, the farmer is left in



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the hands of middlemen to sell his produce through geographically restricted local mandis. The price of the produce is mostly decided by the middlemen in cahoots with the local traders and corrupt junior government officials.

The new laws unshackle the farmer and allows him to access both online and offline markets anywhere, and directly sell the produce to the highest bidder. This process is scientific, market driven and rewards farmers for his risk and hard work of choosing a crop and producing it, according to the needs of the market.

Small farmer is the worst hit

The small and marginal farmers with small landholding are the worst hit in every crop season. Even if the weather is conducive, all cultivation factors are favorable, and the farmers reap a good harvest, the price they get for their produce eventually is rarely profitable. Many times, it doesn't cover the cost of cultivation.

Just imagine what would happen, if things go wrong and all other factors are unfavorable.

Most of the farmers in this scale, have no crop insurance to cover their losses.

The heart-breaking cases of farmer suicides across the nation are a testament to this fact. The farmers at the bottom of the pyramid can only make good fortune, if they pool their resources either in the form of large agri-cooperatives or venture into large scale contract-farming. These farmers will get assured returns, subsidiary income, parallel employment and continue to hold their land as an asset, if the new laws passed by Modi government are enabled and executed.

Millions of poor and small farmers and their families will eventually be rid of mounting debt and will find assuring income and a bright future, with the new reforms.

Agri sector needs huge investments

Indian agriculture sector needs to optimize its true potential and rise to its optimum productivity. This needs huge investments into the full-spectrum of farm-operations. End-to-end agricultural-industrial invest-

ments are necessary to ensure the entire life cycle of crop production to be standardized, removing unreliability in return on investment.

Massive investments into research, mechanization, input process, crop management, yield management, warehousing, logistics, branding, marketing and other key result areas is essential.

Lopsided reforms don't work

Narendra Modi has the courage to take risk, even against a possibility of popular back lash, mostly driven by misinformation. That's what a great leader with vision is made of, full of resilience and conviction for greater good. The lop-sided reforms in agriculture sector are corrected and balanced with these new laws.

Input sector of Agriculture was opened up for free market players years back. Successive Congress governments has allowed big businesses to enter seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, feed and other areas of Agri - input industry. However, Congress party lacked vision and courage to take up full scale reforms in marketing the produce, which will ensure farmers prosperity.

Narendra Modi's path-breaking initiatives in enforcing full-spectrum reforms is historic. The result of these bold and necessary reforms will impact the macro-economic might of India and lead this nation to be an Agricultural-Hub for the entire world.

The true potential of Indian farmers and agriculture sector will be unleashed by the new reforms. The future generations will judge these laws on massive prosperity they will bring to those hands who will feed the world, the Indian farmers.

(The author is the chief spokesperson of the BJP Telangana State, an organisational strategist & a leadership coach)

Poor turnout in GHMC polls unfortunate

IT is unfortunate that only 45 percent votes were polled, and 55 percent absconded from voting in the recently held GHMC elections. Still our politicians do not shy away from proudly claiming their supremacy in terms of growth rate of their seats, etc but not speak of the poor turnout in Old City of Hyderabad. It is a matter of grave concern how long a handful of people continue to rule the roost and turn decisive in choosing their choicest governance; and how long the majority continues to abscond from exercising their constitutional obligation of voting, paving way to the hard-core criminals to govern us. It is, at a time when the country is passing through difficult times and utter chaos prevalent due to various incriminating factors and bad governance. Don't they have any responsibility towards their own family, the society and the nation as a whole? Or, do they think that they will not be affected come what may? Then, it is their misconception. Excuses like continuous three days holidays enabled them to drive out of the city, fear of corona pandemic, or the questions like, what difference does it make if I vote or evade from voting won't do, they are invalid and absurd. The other day, we witnessed heavy traffic on the roads. Is this the importance the majority give to their voting right? The more astonishing is that quite often

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the illiterates from remote areas fare well than the educated living in the city, in exercising their franchise (in terms of polling percentage). Then who is to blame for the present scenario and the state of affairs in the country? Those who govern us? or those who let them govern and rule us? Think.

Shaikh Ismail, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad

Farm laws should be repealed

THE Central government's effort to portray newly passed agriculture laws as empowering the farmers have failed not because of any fault of the public relations campaigns but because of the inherent content of these laws. There are limits to PR efforts in converting something to just the opposite of what it is. The spread of mass literacy in India and the development of multiple forms of mass media have certainly enabled a very large section of the Indian population to differentiate between truth and falsehood presented as truth. This deserves to be celebrated as deepening of democracy in Indian institutions and practices. Effective and truthful communication between the government and the farmers' representatives is central to strengthening the process of understanding the merits of the farmers' plea that all the three farm laws should be repealed. The farmers' argument that the mere provision of MSP and APMC public procurement is not acceptable is based on a slowly emerging iterative and mature understanding that these two issues cannot be delinked from the other key features of the interconnected web of the farm laws.

Meghna S. Habsiguda, Secunderabad

Schools should ensure safety of students

WHENEVER schools reopen in India, of course, wearing masks will be mandatory, strict hand hygiene routine will have to be followed, and students will be asked to sit six feet apart in classrooms. Yet, the apprehension over reopening of schools is natural considering whenever the day will come when staff, parents and children congregate at the school gates, the school has to ensure they are entirely prepared. From a health and safety perspective, this is the time when there needs to be very stringent legislation or standards for schools in terms of Covid-19 safety. In fact, compliance has never been more important. It is essential that schools take all 'reasonably practicable' steps to ensure the premises are safe before they are ready to welcome students and staff members back. The crucial hinge in any health and safety management system is risk assessment, and the management of Covid-19 is no



exception. Now is the time for schools to dedicate resources towards a rapid risk-assessment framework along with a comprehensive plan to identify and determine appropriate control measures to help mitigate issues arising from Covid-19. This whole procedure of maintaining safety policies, procedures, and protocols is bound to require an immense amount of commitment. A risk assessment is not about creating reams of paperwork, but rather about identifying sensible measures to control the risks, and the role of others in supporting that. The risk assessment will help school authorities to decide whether they have done everything they need to. Schools now have to balance the educational, social and emotional needs of their students along with the health and safety of students as well as staff in the midst of the pandemic.

Harshavardhan Rao, Nalgonda

2.10 lakh new names added for white ration cards in AP

- Civil Supplies Minister Kodali Nani denies reports that the govt has culled 10 lakh cards, accuses TDP of launching false propaganda
- Says CM has ordered issue of white ration cards within 48 hours of application
- Informs that 9,260 vehicles have been purchased by Civil Supplies Dept for door delivery of ration from Jan 1

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

CIVIL supplies minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) said 2.10 lakh new names were added in the list of white ration card holders in the last few months in the state. He said Chief Minister



Minister Kodali Nani

Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy issued orders to sanction ration card within 48 hours of application to the eligible families. Kodali Nani participated in the market yard panel oath taking ceremony in Gudivada on Wednesday night. Speaking on the occasion, he said the TDP launched a false propaganda alleging that the state government had scrapped 10 lakh ration cards in the state.

Responding to the allegations, the minister said the total number of ration cards in the state was 1,44,26,595 with 4.20 crore names. He is said the TDP was levelling false allegations against the state government on scrapping of ration cards.

Kodali Nani said the state government had conducted survey and collected the names of eligible people under Navasakam programme. He said 9,260 vehicles were purchased by the civil supplies department for the door delivery of ration to the beneficiaries from January 1. He felt the door delivery mechanism would check irregularities like diverting of rice meant for the Public Distribution System. (PDS) because the officials get information as soon as the swipe card is used by the beneficiaries and the staff.

All set for TTD Saharsra Deepotsavam in Vizag today

- 800 women devotees light the Karthika Deepams on Beach Road

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

TTD has made elaborate arrangements for conducting Srivari Karthika Saharsra Deepotsavam at the MGM grounds of Ramakrishna Beach road in Visakhapatnam on Friday, December 11.

As per Covid-19 guidelines, 800 women devotees observing social distancing would light the traditional Karthika Deepams.

The TTD engineering department has put up barricades and colourfully decorated the dais on the ground with flowers and electrical lighting.

As part of the programme in the evening, Veda Swasti, Sankeertana Ganam, Punyahavachanam, Agni Pratistha, Sri Sukta Homam, Sri Lakshmi Chaturvimshati Namavali will be performed.

Thereafter, Ashtalakshmi stotra, Kuchipudi dance, Deeparadhana, Samuhika Deepa Nirajanam and Govinda Nama recitation, Nakastra Harati, Kumbha Harati and Karpooora Harati will also be rendered during this fete.

TDP smells rat in MoU with ‘tainted’ Allana Group

AMARAVATI

TDP national spokesman Kom-mareddy Pattabhiram on Thursday accused the YSRCP government of committing yet another massive fraud by unilaterally giving away total rights on Rs 4,500 crore worth goats to a ‘tainted company’ like the Allana Group.

Pattabhi demanded the government to immediately cancel the MoU with the Allana Group as cases were filed against it for evasion of Rs 2,000 crore income tax. Just like birds of a feather, the Jagan regime had now entered into a tie-up with the Allana group, he said.

Addressing a press conference at party state office in Mangalagiri, the TDP leader asserted that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had no rights to give away total control to one single company on the 38 lakh goats whose total worth comes to around Rs 4,500 crore. Moreover, all these goats were being distributed under the latest ‘Jagananna Jeevana Kranti’ by spending Rs 1,869 crore. So, public money was being spent and then the benefits

JEEVANA KRANTI



Kommireddy Pattabhiram

- Party spokesperson Pattabhi alleges Rs 500 cr commission is involved in Rs 4,500 cr worth goats
- Says Jagananna Jeevana Kranti is another quid pro quo scheme by the YSRCP regime

were being given to a private company for the sake of commissions.

Pattabhi said that the ‘Jeevana Kranti’ and the Allana MoU were just part of another quid pro quo of the Jagan regime. The YSRCP would get a commission of Rs 500 crore in the whole scheme. As such, the goat rearers would have

TTD files case on fake laddu website

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

TTD has filed a case against fake laddu website www.balajiprasadam.com which cheated devotees on social media alluring them that it could deliver Srivari laddu prasadam anywhere in the world. According to TTD vigilance wing officials, a case has been filed against the operators of the fake website on December 8 which was registered by the police at East police station in Tirupati.

The fake website was launched on December 6 and publicised that it would deliver Srivari laddu prasadam anywhere in the world.

On receiving the tip-off, the TTD Board chairman Y V Subba Reddy immediately directed vigilance officials to identify and book a case against the website operators who are playing with sentiments of devotees.

The TTD IT wing also plugged into action and immediately blocked the fake website on December 7.

It is pertinent to note that taking advantage of huge demand for Lord Balaji prasadam some unscrupulous elements luring devotees through the website for providing the much sought after prasadam and cheating the devotees.

BJP DEMANDS FRESH LOCAL BODY POLLS

- Party State chief Veerraju alleges that YSRCP misused power to grab 50% seats in the name of unanimous election
- Accuses Jagan of trying to loot crores in the name of projects
- Promises that BJP will complete all the pending irrigation projects in the State when it comes to power after 2024 elections

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KADAPA

BJP state president Somu Veerraju demanded that the State Election Commission (SEC) issue new notification for local body elections afresh by cancelling the elections held before lockdown.

Addressing party workers here on Thursday, Veerraju alleged that the YSRCP government had misused the power in large scale in securing more than 50 per cent of ZPTCs, MPTCs unanimously.

He stressed that his party after coming to power in 2024 will complete all the pending irrigation projects in the Andhra Pradesh. Questioning the statement of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy that his govern-



BJP State president Somu Veerraju addressing party activists' meeting in Kadapa on Thursday

ment would complete irrigation projects by spending Rs 40,000 crore, he said there was no need to spend such huge amounts and alleged that Jagan was planning to loot public money in the name of projects adding that Jagan had amassed crores of rupees after he became Chief Minister AP.

He promised that the BJP would complete all projects at a cost of Rs 20,000 crores in Rayalaseema region.

He said what was the use of appointing an SC woman as home minister as she has no power even to transfer DSP cadre officer.

The BJP state chief said people were vexed with the family poli-

tics in Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and were looking towards BJP as the only alternative to end family rule in these states. He claimed that the BJP was the only party which has every right to rule the country as it has never encouraged family politics.

Veerraju said former chief minister N Chandra Babu Naidu has to answer the people why he could not construct capital with Rs 7,200 crore he had spent. He demanded High Court should be in Rayalaseema region.

Party vice-president C Adinarayana Reddy, party leaders S Vishnuvardhan Reddy and others were present.

MYSTERIOUS DISEASE

Cases fall drastically, Health Minister meets victims

AMARAVATI

ONLY 13 new cases of the mysterious disease surfaced in Eluru city since Wednesday midnight, showing clear signs of abating, even as the total touched 609 on Thursday. Deputy Chief Minister (health) Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas (Nani), who interacted with the victims in the Government General Hospital in Vijayawada, said 32 people were being treated in the district headquarters hospital in Eluru and another 21 in Vijayawada. So far, 553 patients had fully recovered and been discharged from hospitals. Though two patients died in the GGH, Vijayawada, on Thursday, the mysterious disease was ruled out as the cause.

“One woman was diagnosed with Covid-19 while another male died of heart attack,” the

- Minister says 32 people are being treated in hospital in Eluru and another 21 in Vijayawada
- Some of those patients brought to Vijayawada are found to be suffering from other ailments while one tested positive for Covid



Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas (Nani)

Deputy Chief Minister said. “We have found out that some of the patients, who were brought to Vijayawada from Eluru, were suffering from other ailments. Appropriate treatment is being provided to them,” Srinivas added.

He said the various Central institutions were expected to submit on Friday their reports on the causative factors of the mysterious disease. Based on the reports, necessary steps would be taken to ensure such disease outbreak did not re-

cur. The Deputy Chief Minister asserted that (contaminated) water was not the cause of the disease outbreak. “Preliminary reports established that water contamination is not the cause but we are getting an in-depth analysis done. Eluru citizens need not panic and consume the drinking water supplied there. Extensive chlorination is also being done in all the overhead reservoirs to ensure water safety,” Srinivas said. (PTI)

Over 25k house sites to be distributed in Tirupati

- Bhumana says CM will launch the distribution on Dec 25 from Tadepalli
- Formally starts lucky dip procedure for selection of beneficiaries
- Visits Mutton Market in Chebedu street, interacts with Muslim leaders on amenities there

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

TIRUPATI MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy said that free house sites will be distributed on the auspicious day of Viakunat Ekadasi as well as Christmas festival on December 25. He formally inaugurated the selection of beneficiaries through an online lucky dip system at Municipal Corporation office here on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, he said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch the distribution of pattas across the state from Tadepalli. The same day, Municipal



MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy and Municipal Commissioner P S Girisha lunching the online lucky dip for house site beneficiaries' selection, at MCT office in Tirupati on Thursday

Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) officials will distribute 25,481 house site pattas.

Karunakar Reddy said that 1,036

house sites at Surappakasam in Renigunta mandal, 8,143 house sites at M Kotta Palli village of Chandra-giri mandal, 9,470 sites in Yerpedu

mandal, 4000 sites in Vadamalapeta mandal and 1,735 house sites to be allotted in another place in Renigunta mandal. He said Jagan Mohan

Reddy was fulfilling the promises in election manifesto with sincerity and the government targeted to build 30 lakh houses in next four years. Later, the MLA and MCT commissioner P S Girisha visited the Mutton Market in Chebedu street and spoke to Muslim community leaders over mutton market problems. In this connection, Muslim mutton vendors brought the various problems to the notice of MLA like water and hygiene. Karunakar Reddy instructed the engineers to take up all necessary measures for improvement of conditions in mutton market. From there, the MLA went to Babu Jagjivan Ram community hall construction site besides the ESI hospital and directed the officials to complete the pending works in a speedy manner. He alleged that the previous TDP government had diverted the SC, ST sub plan development funds to Pasupu Kumumuma programme.

Deputy commissioner Chandramouleeswar Reddy, superintending engineer Mohan, executive engineer Chandrashekar and other officials took part.

Sachivalayms to get permanent buildings soon

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHITTOOR

MINISTER for Panchayat Raj Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has decided to construct permanent buildings to all the Sachivalayams in the state in a phased manner.

Irrespective of funds shortage, instructions were given to all the CEOs to finalise an action plan in this regard assuring that all the ongoing and proposed Sachivalayam buildings would come up by March, he added.

The Minister took part in a series of programmes at Thimminayanipalli village in Chouddepalli mandal in Punganur Assembly Constituency on Thursday. He laid foundation stones for several buildings pertaining to Rythu Bharosa Kendrams, Anganwadi centres and Sachivalayams in his constituency. He also inaugurated Transco power sub-station at Chouddepalli. MP N Reddappa, NREGS state representative Viswanatham, PR SE Amarnath Reddy, ZP CEO Prabhakaar Reddy and others accompanied the Minister.

Deadlock over farmers, govt talks

Continued from P1

At least five rounds of formal talks have taken place between the central government and representatives of thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab and Haryana, protesting on various borders of the national capital for about two weeks, but the deadlock has continued with the unions sticking to their main demand for the repeal of the three contentious laws and repeatedly rejecting the Centre's offer to make some changes in law and give written assurances or clarifications on few issues such as MSP and mandi systems.

Addressing reporters along with Food, Railways and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Tomar said he is still hopeful of a resolution. “The government is keen and ready for further discussions with protesting farmers...To clear their apprehensions, we have sent our proposal to farmer unions. I want to urge them to fix a date for discussion as early as possible. If they have any issue, the government is ready for discussion,” the agriculture minister said.

Nadda's convoy attacked in WB

Continued from P1

“Bengal has descended into an era of tyranny, anarchy and darkness under the Trinamool rule. The manner in which political violence has been institutionalized and brought to the extreme in West Bengal under TMC rule is sad and worrying,” Shah tweeted. Dhankhar accused the state administration of failing to act in spite of his alerting the chief secretary and the director general of police. The governor tweeted that he had intimidated the state administration, at 8.19 am and 9.05 am on Thursday, of the possibility of the collapse of law and or-

der during a BJP meeting at Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas district.

“Concerned at alarming reports of anarchy and lawlessness @MamataOfficial indicating ruling party harmads on rampage at BJP President Convoy and political police @WBPolice in support,” the governor wrote. “Am sure they have immunity and protection of political police with administration extension of political outfit,” Dhankhar wrote, adding “Events indicate total abdication of lawful authority.”

Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee represents Dia-

mond Harbour in the Lok Sabha. Those present at the scene said scores of alleged TMC workers, some carrying sticks and iron rods and others armed with bricks, blocked the road near Sirakul in South 24 Pargana district adjoining Kolkata with motorcycles. Shouting slogans against the BJP and the media, they squabbled with police when they tried to clear the way. As the convoy tried to move past the protesting crowd, many ran alongside the vehicles, ominously thumping them with fists, sticks and iron rods, smashing wind-screens and window panes.

All eyes on KCR's meet with Modi

Continued from P1

KCR, however, would be meeting Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman and other Union ministers. KCR would submit a memorandum to her requesting release of funds for disaster management activities following the recent floods in Hyderabad and pending GST dues. The CM will also raise the issue of release of the central grants to various departments which has been pending for long.

In the wake of reports that Governor of Group of Ministers (GoM) on IGST Council Sushil Kumar Modi is quitting the post and the

Centre is planning to allot the post to Finance minister of a Southern state, sources said that the issue of nominating Telangana Finance minister T Harish Rao to the post is likely to figure in the meeting between KCR and the Union Finance Minister.

He is also contemplating to participate in the all opposition parties meeting on the three farm laws which is likely to be organised by NCP chief Sharad Pawar. He will also visit the land allotted for Telangana Bhavan in Delhi and is likely to finalise the designs of the building.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Innovation key to reduce imports

“MORE innovation and research is needed to identify products that can be indigenously manufactured as cost-effective import substitutes. This is the time for the industry, for the government to identify the things which we are presently importing and how we can manufacture them here.


— Nitin Gadkari, Union MSME Minister



NEW JOBS

TCS expands operations in Texas

TATA Consultancy Services (TCS) said it plans to invest more than \$100 million in Austin and hire 1,000 new employees across Texas. TCS has expanded its business operations in Austin, Texas with the construction of a new facility, doubling its presence to more than 400 professionals in the city

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	78.07	South	
Euro	93.62	African Rand	5.64
UAE Dirham	22.06	Hong Kong Dollar	10.93
Thai Baht	2.82	Japanese Yen	0.81
British Pound	102.01	New Zealand Dollar	54.48
Australian Dollar	57.9	Saudi Riyal	21.59
Canadian Dollar	60.43	Swedish Krona	9.99
Swiss Franc	86.16	Singapore Dollar	57.81

DELHI FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Heritage new product launched

HERITAGE Foods launches probiotic curd containing the bifidobacterium strain which boosts the immune system by improving overall gut health. The new product has the goodness of two special strains of probiotic bacteria - Bifidobacterium and Lactobacillus Acidophilus. The Bifidobacterium strain helps to improve bowel function in adults with infrequent bowel movements and with reduced incidence of crying and fussing in babies too. Every 100 g serving of Heritage Probiotic Curd has more than 100 million good bacteria and will give RDA of calcium 20 per cent and protein 5 per cent for a day for an adult. Brahmani Nara, company's Executive Director, said, "Probiotic curd from the market leader in curd, is a muse for our consumers, which would further strengthen our overall immunity boosting product basket and our consumers are pampered with a wide range of choice, be it in milk or curd".

Fakespot raises funds

FAKESPOT, a platform for consumers to protect themselves from e-commerce scams on Amazon, Walmart and Shopify sites, announced that it has secured a \$4 million in Series A funding led by Bullpen Capital with participation from Graph Ventures, Ty Shay, 500 Startups, Faith Capital Holdings, and founders Saoud Khalifah and Rob Gross. Fakespot will use the funds to expand its product offerings to its rapidly growing user base that is eager to avoid the growing problem with e-commerce scams on the top online marketplaces. Saoud Khalifah, co-founder and CEO of Fakespot, said "We are very proud to have secured funding to continue building the next generation platform that protects consumers from fraud".

New campaign of Mangaldeep

MANGALDEEP launched its brand new TVC campaign, "The Tradition of Sandal". The new campaign will reinforce Mangaldeep sandal variant's strong preference with consumers that exemplifies tradition and uniqueness of the product. The TV commercial stars Mangaldeep's brand ambassador Bhumi Chawla, as the protagonist, passes on the tradition and legacy of Mangaldeep Sandal. Ravi Rayavaram, Chief Executive, Agarbatti & Safety Matches Business, ITC Limited, said "Devotion is the ethos of Indian culture, and when we talk about devotion, agarbattis inevitably become of immense significance. Our flagship variant Mangaldeep Sandal is one of the best products in this category and has long been loved and trusted by devotees across the country. Our new communication celebrates the tradition of original sandal and its close association with the fragrance of Mangaldeep

5L products on Udaan platform

Udaan, e-commerce platform, said that it now has over 5 lakh products curated across 2,500 national and regional brands on its platform. Leading brands across categories from HUL, P&G, ITC, Coca Cola, PepsiCo, Reckitt Benckiser, Dabur, etc, are leveraging Udaan's strong distribution network to reach over three million retailers with an everyday delivery cycle across 900 cities. Vaibhav Gupta, co-founder, Udaan said, "Udaan is opening up access through the breadth and depth of the country by bringing "internet scale" to localised distribution paradigm. The presence of over 2500 national and regional brands on our platform validates the confidence of these reputed players on Udaan."

GDP recovery faster than expected: ADB

Forecasts lower GDP de-growth of -8% in India in FY21

NEW DELHI

ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday upgraded its forecast for the Indian economy, projecting 8 per cent contraction in 2020-21 as compared to 9 per cent degrowth estimated earlier, on the back of faster than expected recovery. Observing that the economy has begun to normalise, the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Supplement said the second quarter contraction at 7.5 per cent was better than expected. The economy contracted by 23.9 per cent in June quarter of the current fiscal on account of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The GDP forecast for FY2020 is upgraded from 9.0 per cent contraction to 8.0 per cent, with GDP in H2 probably restored to its size a year earlier. The growth projection for FY21 is kept at 8.0 per cent," it said. Highlighting that India is recovering more rapidly



than expected, the report said the earlier South Asia forecast of 6.8 per cent contraction is upgraded to (-)6.1 per cent in line with an improved projection for India.

Growth will return in 2021-22, at 7.2 per cent in South Asia and 8

per cent in India, it added. Earlier this month, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the economy is recuperating faster than anticipated and growth rate is likely to turn positive in the second half of the current financial

year. In the year as whole, the economy is likely to contract by 7.5 per cent, which is an improvement over Reserve Bank's previous projection of 9.5 per cent contraction, Das had said while unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy review.

Observing that the prospects of growth have brightened with the progress on the vaccine front, Das said, the economy was likely to record a growth of 0.1 per cent in Q3 and 0.7 per cent in Q4. With regard to inflation, ADO said, it is expected to ease in the coming months, and the 4 per cent update projection for 2021-22 is maintained. In India, supply chain disruption brought food inflation to an average of 9.1 per cent in the first 7 months of 2020-21, pushing headline inflation to 6.9 per cent in the same period, it said. As a result, ADO revised India's inflation from 4.5 per cent to 5.8 per cent for the current fiscal.

Markets slip from record highs on profit-booking

FMCG stocks stand tall; Sensex closes 144 pts lower

MUMBAI

THE BSE Sensex snapped its five-session winning run to close 144 points lower on Thursday as investors pocketed gains in bank and IT counters after the recent rally. A weakening rupee and lacklustre global markets further weighed on sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened lower and stayed in the negative territory throughout the session to end at 45,959.88, down 143.62 points or 0.31 per cent.

The broader NSE Nifty ended its seven-day record-setting spree to close 50.80 points or 0.38 per cent lower at 13,478.30. UltraTech Cement was the top loser among the Sensex constituents, tumbling 3.27 per cent, in line with other cement stocks after fair trade regulator CCI initiated a probe against cement companies for alleged anti-competitive behaviour. M&M, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, NTPC and Reliance Industries were the other laggards, shedding up to 2.50 per cent. On the other hand, FMCG counters led the gainers' chart, with Nestle India spurring 4.17 per cent, ITC 3.58 per cent and HUL rising 2.61 per



cent. Other winners included Kotak Bank, L&T, Tata Steel and ONGC, climbing up to 1.13 per cent. Asian markets skidded while European bourses held steady ahead of ECB's policy decision, while investors also monitored the UK-EU Brexit talks. "After five days of bullish rally, the domestic market reversed along with Asian peers, backed by weak global markets, triggering profit booking across major sectors.

PSU Banks, small and midcaps which were so positive recently were also under bearish attack... "A sell-off was seen in the US tech stocks which led to a correction in the US market as the stimulus package talks dragged. Markets being at the highest level, any unfavourable events, domestic or global, can result in temporary profit booking. However, we be-

lieve that the market is optimistic enough to continue the rally post a required consolidation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sector-wise, the BSE basic materials, power, auto, energy and utilities indices shed up to 1.35 per cent, while FMCG jumped 2.69 per cent, followed by realty (0.54 per cent), telecom (0.28 per cent) and metal (0.26 per cent). The broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices slipped up to 0.65 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday upgraded its forecast for the Indian economy, projecting 8 per cent contraction in 2020-21 as compared to 9 per cent degrowth estimated earlier, on the back of faster than expected recovery. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended in the red, while Shanghai was in the positive territory. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading with gains in early deals. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.76 per cent to \$ 49.23 per barrel. The rupee snapped its two-day winning run to close 9 paise lower at 73.66 against the US dollar. (PTI)



Lexus India opens showroom in Hyd

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

LUXURY carmaker Lexus India opened its showroom in the city. The new Guest Experience Centre (GEC) is the luxury carmaker's fourth showroom in India after New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. It expects the new outlet to further strengthen its footprint in the Southern market.

Spanning over 7,000 square feet, the outlet is a space where design and technology coalesces with sustainability and luxury.

"Lexus Hyderabad combines the Japanese philosophy of Omotenashi with the Indian spirit of 'Athithi Devo Bhava' which takes guests on a journey of the senses. The exterior of the GEC is inspired by the flowing lines of Lexus' signature spindle

grill and the 'L' finesse design language is subtly incorporated into different aspects of the architecture," the company said.

PB Venugopal, president, Lexus India, said "We are constantly trying to bring the Lexus experience closer to our customers across the nation and are committed to building lifetime relationships. The overwhelming response we received from Hyderabad to our self-charging hybrid electric portfolio is what prompted us to bring the Lexus Guest Experience Centre here". To mark this special occasion, the Lexus flagship luxury coupe LC500h is also on display at the GEC. We look forward to welcoming more guests to the Lexus carbon-neutral family and embarking on a journey of amazing experiences together, he added.

NSE derivatives on Nifty FSI from January 11

NEW DELHI

THE National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Thursday said it will launch derivatives on the Nifty Financial Services Index (FSI) from January 11, 2021.

The exchange has already received an approval from markets regulator Sebi to launch derivatives on the index. Currently, it offers index derivatives on only two equity indices - Nifty 50 Index and Nifty Bank Index, the NSE said in a statement.

The financial services space assumes significance, as the sector accounts for 33.5 per cent of the Nifty 500 Index. The Nifty FSI consists of 20 stocks and is designed to reflect the behaviour and performance of the Indian financial market, which includes banks, financial institutions, housing finance, insurance companies and other financial services companies. The index has delivered annualised returns of 15 per cent in the past five years. The NSE said it will offer futures and

options in seven serial weekly, excluding the monthly expiry and three serial monthly contracts.



CCI team raids ACC, Ambuja Cement offices

NEW DELHI

FAIR trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Wednesday conducted raids at the offices of some cement companies, including LafargeHolcim. LafargeHolcim, which is the parent firm of two leading cement manufacturers ACC and Ambuja Cements, has confirmed the development. "LafargeHolcim confirms that ACC's and Ambuja Cement's offices in Mumbai were visited by the officials from the Indian Competition Authority yesterday i.e. 9th December," said a LafargeHolcim spokesman. "LafargeHolcim/ACC and Ambuja Cement are fully cooperating with the authorities, but cannot comment further as the matter is ongoing," he added.

According to the media re-



ports, the fair trade regulator has also searched the offices of the leading cement maker and Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement and Shree Cement. Comments from the Aditya Birla group and Shree Cement could not be ascertained by the time of filing story as the email remained unanswered. Earlier in the day, ACC and Ambuja Cements in a regulatory filing said "the CCI has initiated an investigation against cement companies in India including them for alleged anti-competitive behaviour".

Swiggy to onboard 36k street vendors

Announces expansion of its street food vendors programme to 125 cities

NEW DELHI

FOOD ordering platform Swiggy on Thursday announced the expansion of its street food vendors programme to 125 cities under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme.

In the first phase, the company will onboard 36,000 street food vendors to whom the loan has been disbursed in 125 cities on its platform, Swiggy said. This follows a pilot that Swiggy initiated with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Chennai, Delhi and Indore, through which it has already onboarded over 300 street vendors on its platform, it added.

At the time of onboarding, all vendors will be registered with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and



PM SVANIDHI

provided with a Food Safety Training and Certification (FOSTAC) in partnership with FSSAI and their empanelled partners, Swiggy said.

"As a platform committed to bringing the widest choice of food to the doorsteps of con-

sumers safely and hygienically, we're delighted to bring them their favourite street food which they have been missing for many months now," Swiggy COO Vivek Sunder said.

Street vendors are integral to the food culture in India and, "we

thank the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for giving Swiggy the opportunity to do our bit to help them adapt to the 'new normal' and embrace and thrive in the digital economy," he added. The company has created a dedicated team to continuously explore and identify iconic, popular, and proven-safe street vendors on the platform, Swiggy said.

On the development, Rajesh Gupta a street vendor who runs Shree Ram Chhat Bhandar in Varanasi said: "As Covid-19 restrictions came into effect, all customers, including those who regularly came to my stall stopped, putting a lot of stress on me". "I'm grateful for this new scheme by the government and this initiative by Swiggy that is helping vendors like me use mobile technology for the first time to reach customers," he added. (PTI)

ACP inaugurates police outpost

SHADNAGAR

ASSISTANT Commissioner of Police Surrender inaugurated a police outpost near government hospital in Farooqnagar on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the ACP said that the outpost would be useful for peacekeeping in Farooqnagar area, and the police could write Panchanama at the checkpoint instead of going to the police station. Further, it can also be used for attending the medico-legal cases that might come up at the adjacent government hospital. Government hospital Superintendent Dr Srinivas and others participated in the programme.

RTC rolls out door delivery of parcels

Minister Puvvada Ajay says corporation revenue gradually increasing

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TSRTC has announced a new value-added service to reach out to people right at their doorsteps. It will now deliver the parcels directly to the doorsteps of consumers of its cargo services. It will use third-party mobile aggregators for delivering the parcels.

Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar on Thursday launched the door delivery of parcels under the cargo services of the corporation. He noted that it was a proud moment for TSRTC as not a single untoward incident took place in the delivery of parcels till date even as the cargo unit delivered about 12,50,000 parcels. He informed that the revenue of TSRTC was increasing day-by-day to pre-Covid levels because of hard work of employees, supervisors and officers of TSRTC. The occupancy ratio now rose to 63 per cent.

The TSRTC started parcel and cargo services on June 19 this year. Parcel and courier business started at 147 bus station locations. It is expanding the business by roping in agents and employee agents with a mission to provide fastest, safest and nearest to the public through their



Puvvada Ajay Kumar, Minister for Transport, launching the door delivery service of parcels service at Transport Bhavan, Khairatabad, on Thursday. Photo: Ch Prabhud

buses. At present, parcel services are being carried out manually at the counters. MGBS and JBS bus stations have been functioning with dispatching and receiving of parcels counters.

The corporation earned revenue of Rs 11.85 crore from the parcel services and it has also transported 12.50 lakh parcels.

Initially, the home delivery would be taken up in twin cities

of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Parcels would be directly delivered to the respective customers. In this process, on arrival of parcels at receiver counters in MGBS and JBS, they would be segregated as per pin code. The appointed agents would collect parcels either area-wise or PIN-wise for subsequent handover to the receivers at their respective doorsteps.

The corporation selected three agencies having experience in home delivery system. Dunzo Digital Private Limited would cover Kukatpally and Gachibowli sectors (Part of Cyberabad), Smart ship Logistics Private Limited would cover in and around Secunderabad area and part of Cyberabad. Adnigam Private Limited would cover areas in and around Hyderabad and Old City

2 kids die after falling into quarry

RANGA REDDY

TWO children from Sangiguda village, Ganesh (13) and Nandeeshwar (8), drowned as they went to play in a water hole at a

quarry on the outskirts of Mekaguda village in Nandigama mandal on Thursday. Nandigama police said that the case has been registered and investigating was initiated.

BJP to stage protests at Collectorates on Dec 14

Demands the State government to immediately pay revised salaries, take up promotions and transfers besides filling up of 1.5 lakh vacant posts in the government departments

HYDERABAD

IN a bid to exert pressure on the State government, the Telangana BJP has decided to organise protests in front of 33 district Collectorates on December 14. Addressing the media here on Thursday, the BJP Retired Employees and Teachers' Wing chairman, B Mohan Reddy and the former Telangana Legislative Council chairman, Swamy Goud, appealed to the employees, teachers, pensioners and unemployed to take part in the protest in a big way.

The BJP leaders said that the protests would be held from 11 am to 2 pm to demand

the State government to resolve the problems of employees, teachers, pensioners and unemployed in Telangana.

The leaders called for immediate payment of salaries according to revised Pay Revision Commission rules from July 1, 2018, and pending Dearness Allowances of June and July of 2020. Besides, they sought the government to immediately take up promotion of teachers, employees and inter-district and other transfers and also start the process for filling up of 1.5 lakh vacant posts in the government departments and reopening of schools duly following Covid-19 guidelines.

Woman given triple talaq over phone

She requests External Affairs Minister to help her get divorce officially

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A woman from Chandrayangutta in Old City has appealed to Union minister of external affairs Dr Subrahmanyam Jayashankar to help her get official divorce from her husband, a Somali national, who had pronounced triple talaq over phone from the US around two months ago. In a letter, Saba Fatima, a resident of Gazi-e-Millat Colony in Chandrayangutta, requested the Minister of External Affairs to direct the Indian embassy in the US to speak to her husband, Abdi Wali Ahmed, who is presently working as a driver in Boston, USA and settle the divorce issue as soon as possible.

"I request you to kindly interfere in this matter and help me in getting justice. Ask the concerned Embassy to speak to my husband and settle my matter as soon as possible as there is no

one to look after me and I cannot remarry without any authentic divorce papers," she wrote in her letter.

According to her, she approached MBT spokesperson Amjedullah Khan and asked him for help. With the help of Amjedullah she approached and wrote a letter to the Minister of External Affairs. Saba said she got married to Abdi Wali Ahmed on January 25 in 2015, when he was studying engineering in Hyderabad, while his family lived in Abu Dhabi. The Nikah was performed by a Qazi as per Islamic Laws and registered with Telangana Wakf Board. "A week after the wedding reception, Ahmed left for his parents' place. After that, he used to come to Hyderabad

every six months and we used to stay in a rented house in Tolichowki and Malakpet areas of Hyderabad," she added.

Last Ahmed visited in February 2020 and went to meet his mother and was there till lockdown ended and later proceeded to Boston in USA. "After reaching Boston also, he was in touch with me and used to send money for my daily needs. Suddenly on October 7, 2020, he called on my father's number and pronounced Talaq three times without any reason," she said. As repeated efforts to contact them in the last two months failed, she approached the Ministry of External Affairs seeking their help to get justice



e-waste management gets crucial boost

Circulate Capital invests in city-based Recykal, a digital waste-commerce solutions company



HYDERABAD

CIRCULATE Capital, an investment management company headquartered in Singapore focused on preventing plastic from leakage into the ocean and promoting the circular economy, has announced that the Ocean Fund of Circulate Capital (CCOF) has made a strategic investment in city-based Rapidue Technologies (Recykal), a digital waste-commerce (w-commerce) solutions company.

Founded in collaboration with PepsiCo (its first investor), Procter & Gamble, Dow, Danone, Chanel, Unilever, The Coca-Cola Group, and Chevron Phillips Chemical, CCOF is South and Southeast Asia's first global investment fund for the fight against ocean plastics.

Through an ecosystem of digital cloud-based solutions that promote clear and traceable material flows and transactions for all stakeholders, Recykal's integrated approach links waste generators with waste processors and recyclers and brand owners. Through its digital marketplace for waste, Smart Centre Solutions and EPR solution, an EPR management tool, the business enables more reliable and effective dry waste management.

More than 4,00,000 customers, over 1,000 enterprises, 500 aggregators and waste management firms, more than 100 recyclers and 30 municipalities across 25 states, union territories in India, constitute Recykal's digital footprint for waste collection and channeling. Abhay Deshpande, founder of Recykal, said on this occasion, "This investment will enable us to bring our offerings to more markets in India and put us in a good position to lead a digital revolution in the waste management and recycling industry in the country."

Commenting on the commitment, Rob Kaplan, CEO, Circulate Capital, said, "As the first company in India to create a digital waste marketplace and provide the entire waste management and recycling industry with comprehensive digital solutions, Recykal plays a key role in bringing revolutionary change to the circular economy of India through targeted solutions to specific pain points such as transpire."

To date, \$39 million has been invested by Circulate Capital to form India's largest investment portfolio to tackle plastic pollution and advance the circular plastic waste economy

Concern over growing violation of SC/ST Acts

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

DALIT Stree Sakthi, an NGO working for the uplift of SCs, expressed serious concern over the increasing violation of acts meant for protecting the SC and ST communities in Telangana.

Addressing a roundtable conference here on Thursday, organisation's national convenor G Jhansi said the accused booked under the SC, ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act were going scot free due to the government's non-serious attitude in addressing the cases fast. She alleged that encroachment of lands owned by SCs, kidnap and atrocities against women and damage of crops cultivated by dalit families in villages were being reported regularly in the State.

The State government officials said that the pending 24 serious cases would be addressed on a priority basis soon. State Social Welfare Commissioner Yogita Rana, Women Welfare Commissioner Divya Devraj and other officials were present.

TS HC gives nod for commencing registration of non-agri properties

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

THE High Court bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijayen Reddy on Thursday heard the batch of seven public interest litigations and writ plea against the Dharani portal opposing the Telangana government's move of digitalising the entire agriculture and non-agriculture lands on the ground that the Dharani portal work was not backed by a law or statute. The CJ bench clarified that there was no stay accorded by the court on registrations. However, the only stay was on to not to insist people to divulge their Aadhaar and caste details while uploading data on the said portal. The court permitted the State government to register the documents dealing with the non-agricultural lands in compliance with Section 70A to 70C of the Registration Act, 1908 in the Computer Aided Administration of Registration (CARD) format. Moreover, the State government has been permitted to direct the people to register for a slot and only thereafter to register the documents. Any person who does not possess the Property Tax Identification Number (PTIN) should

- Court clarifies that it had not accorded stay with regard to registrations
- Its only concern was not to insist people to divulge their personal details like Aadhaar and caste while registering their properties on the Dharani portal
- Advocate General promises that no personal details would be sought from the people and property registration would be carried out through CARD method



LEGAL NOTES

be provided with the PTIN number within a period of two days and the registrations should be taken up thereafter.

It can be recalled that the State government had put on hold the registrations of the non-agriculture properties since September 7 as this issue has been subjudice in the High Court and the Advocate General requested the court to issue a clarification and permit the government to go ahead with the registrations.

Senior Counsel Desai Prakash Reddy appearing for one of the petitioners, I Gopal Sharma, opposed the State government stalling the registrations stating that when the court had not stayed the registrations, how can the State do?

The Chief Justice stated that the government was of the opinion for whatever reasons that there was a stay on

the registrations, unless the court issues a clarification, the registrations cannot com-

mence. Advocate General Banda Shivananda Prasad urged the court to issue a clar-

Govt sought to explain steps taken to provide relief to farmers

HYDERABAD

THE division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijayen Reddy issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary Revenue, Home and the Principal Secretary and Commissioner Agriculture department, directing them to respond to the notices within three weeks duly explaining the steps taken by the State government to pay compensation to the farmers whose crops were washed

The court gives three weeks' time to the State government to inform the steps it has taken to rescue the farmers who lost their produce to the torrential rains recently

away or destroyed due to recent rains and further inform as to whether it had notified any input subsidy and whether the farmers have been given the benefit of claiming insurance.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by V Kiran Kumar and two others, aggrieved by the action of the State government in not taking steps to enumerate and assess the

extensive crop damage that occurred across Telangana during the months of September and October. The petitioners sought a direction to the government to pay compensation to all the farmers whose farm yield was damaged by notifying input subsidy and also extend crop insurance scheme 2020-2021 to the farmers. The matter has been adjourned for three weeks.

Court refuses to issue notices to State govt

HYDERABAD

THE division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijayen Reddy on Thursday refused to issue notice to the Telangana government with regard to a plea filed by an NGO, Forum for Good Governance, seeking a direction to the State government to expedite prosecution of criminal cases against the MLAs and MPs of Telangana.

Stating on the ground that the Supreme Court had already seized of the matter and adhering to the directions of the Supreme Court, the Telangana High Court is supervising the adjudication of the criminal cases in the special court.

Moreover, CJ Chauhan refused to accept the contentions of the petitioner's counsel, Satyam Reddy, that the police personnel were gripped in a sense of fear in attending the court as the cases pertain to public representatives and further, due to paucity of staff viz., public prosecutor and other staff, adjudication has lost pace.

The CJ bench, while apprising the petitioner on the endeavor of the courts in strengthening the Special Court dealing with the

criminal cases pending against public representatives said, "The High Court has already directed the Telangana government to fill up 200 vacancies of public prosecutors out of the sanctioned strength of 414 and the government has already initiated the process."

The CJ pointed out that the lower courts and the special courts were functioning adhering to the High Court orders which has directed them to function abiding by the SOP-1, Phase-1 Covid norms and the working of lower courts and special courts were minimal due to wide spread of Covid-19, which was why the hearing was a bit slow.

Chief Justice Chauhan observed that the High Court was obtaining a daily report from the special court on the progress of adjudication of the criminal cases pertaining to MLAs and MPs and a monthly report was being sent to the Supreme Court.

Hence, neither the petitioner nor anyone else can worry about the prosecution of the cases against the public representatives by the special court as the trial of cases cited was directly monitored and supervised by the Supreme Court and the High Court.

ICC ODI RANKINGS FOR BATSMEN

Kohli, Sharma continue to keep top two spots

SYDNEY

INDIA'S Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have maintained their top two spots in the latest ICC ODI rankings for batsmen while ace fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has stuck to his third spot in the bowlers' list.

Skipper Kohli scored two half-centuries in the recently concluded three-match ODI series against Australia which India lost 1-2. Despite missing the ODI series against the Aaron Finch-led side owing to a hamstring injury, Sharma remains at number two, five points ahead of Babar Azam who is on third.

During the first ODI at the Sydney Cricket Ground, India's Hardik Pandya missed out closely from becoming the third batsman to score a century in the match following the likes of Finch and batsman Steven Smith. Playing his first ODI since the 2019 World Cup, Pandya struck 90 in the first game and 92 not out in the third to make his first appearance in the top 50 batsmen at 49th place with a career-best of 553 points.

From the Australian camp, Finch's innings of 114 in the first ODI, followed by 60 and 75 in the subsequent matches has helped him up to a career-best tally of 791 points and fifth place, just behind his best of fourth achieved earlier June 2019.

Smith's pair of 62-ball centuries in the first two ODIs against the Men in Blue has enabled him to move back into top 20 ODI batters for the first time since 2018. He is currently at number fifteen with 707 points. Glenn Maxwell's 167 runs in the series came at a strike rate of 130.5 and featured two half-centuries, to push him back up to 20th rank. This is the first

Aus vs Ind: 30K spectators per day allowed at MCG for Boxing Day Test

MELBOURNE

A total of 30,000 spectators will be allowed each day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) for the second Test of the upcoming four-match series between Australia and India to be played from December 26 to 30.

"We're so excited to be able to welcome so many fans to the MCG in what's been such a challenging year for Victorians," Cricket Australia tweeted on Thursday along with a photo which said "Boxing Day Test capacity increased to 30,000 per day".

Earlier, the board had put a cap of 25,000 fans per day of the Boxing Day Test amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

A total of 27,000 spectators, which is 50 per cent of the total capacity at the Adelaide Oval, will be allowed on each day during the first Test which begins from December 17. The Adelaide Test, which will be a day-night affair, will also be the only Test which Virat Kohli will feature in after which he will return to India to be with his wife Anushka Sharma for the birth of their first child.

Sydney Cricket Ground, venue for the third Test, will allow 50 per cent of its total capacity on each day of the match slated to be played between Jan 3 to 7.

Brisbane's Gabba venue will host up to 30,000 fans, or 75 per cent of its capacity for the fourth and final Test to be played from January 15 to 19. (IANS)

time he has been in the top 20 since February 2017.

In a series dominated by batsmen, Adam Zampa made the big impact with the ball, enabling him an entry in the top 20 ODI bowlers for the very first time. Zampa's seven wickets at 23 took him to the fourteenth position with a career-best 623 points. Josh Hazlewood took six wickets and moved up a place to the sixth rank. Bumrah is placed at the third spot behind Afghanistan's Mujeeb ur



Flashminton to kick start in Telangana

HYDERABAD

THE flashminton International Sports Association Ltd India is planning to popularise the sport flashminton in Telangana. Flashminton is now a popular game in Europe and south America, having equal status of badminton.

The flashminton association Telangana chapter president and operations manager J Shridevi said on Thursday that the association is planning to conduct flashminton coaching camps and amateur tournaments in various parts of Telangana.

The students from schools and colleges will be encouraged to play flashminton in the state. Being an international game young players from India will get better opportunities abroad, if they perform well in flashminton. Mas-

tering a new sport, recognised in Europe and south America will largely support youngsters, Sridevi added.

Flashminton is a sport innovated by Gujjula Sudhakar Reddy, an international Badminton Coach, after compiling the similar games like Badminton, Tennis, Squash, Quashminton, etc. The rules and regulations of Flashminton are made for ease of the game. Flashminton does not need a court or net in particular and can be played anywhere anytime.

Flashminton International Sports Association Ltd, India got registered in 2016 under section 8 of Indian Companies Act, on the lines of the Sports Authority of India, by a Guntur based businessman and sports lover Sri Vanama Srihari Rao as its chairman and Gujjula Sudhakar Reddy as its secretary.

Many tournaments and flashminton

coaching camps have been organised in various states across India and abroad. Nearly 200 students are now practicing flashminton at the Bishop Cotton High school, Shimla.

The association has built up strong ties with many flashminton associations world-wide such as ADAP Dubai, Lithuania Sports company, Cochabamba Badminton Club in Bolivia, South America and have registered flashminton associations in Armenia, Ukraine, and El Salvador in South America.

The unfortunate death of Gujjula Sudhakar Reddy on August 5, 2019, while playing badminton in Poland, created a vacuum in the activity. He was an able coach and leader in the association, who travelled world-wide to popularise flashminton.

Hyderabad face Mohun Bagan in battle of defences

MARGAO (GOA)



IT will be a battle between two solid defensive setups as ATK Mohun Bagan face Hyderabad FC at the Fatorda Stadium on Friday. While Hyderabad have conceded just one goal in the three matches they have

played thus far, Bagan have conceded twice, although both goals came in their previous match which was also their first defeat of the season.

Both sides also have depended on their strikers to provide goals -- Roy Krishna scoring four of the five goals that Bagan have scored thus far while both of Hyderabad's goals have been scored by Aridane Santana.

Bagan also remain the only team to not concede a goal from open play but their weakness in defending set pieces was exposed by Jamshedpur FC in their previous game. Coach Antonio Habas noted that it is an area that needs to be tightened up.

"Last season, we conceded one goal from set-pieces in all matches. Now in one match, we conceded two. I hope we improve on this. The opponents have good players for this situation. I have confidence in my

team and I hope this kind of situation will not be repeated," he said.

Hyderabad have a chance of using the good start they have had to the season to surge ahead on the points table. They are unbeaten in the league and yet are currently placed sixth with five points, seven points behind the top-ranked Mumbai City FC. At the same time, they are the only team apart from the struggling East Bengal to have played three matches.

They will, however, be looking to improve their attack having managed just two goals thus far.

"It's true that we have been doing well defensively. But we have to score more goals. ATKMB is always going to be tough for all the teams because they have depth and strength in every department but what's most important for us is to look at what we can do better," said Hyderabad FC assistant coach Thangboi Singto. (IANS)

Match starts 7.30pm

Match Results
SC East Bengal draw with Jamshedpur FC 0-0

HFC's Aridane Santana aims to continue his goal scoring form

Rossi, Italy's 1982 FIFA WC hero, dies at 64

ROME



PAOLO Rossi, Italy's top-scorer in the 1982 FIFA World Cup, has passed away at the age of 64.

Italian TV channel RAI Sport, for whom Rossi had been working as a pundit, announced the news of his demise on Thursday morning.

"A very sad news: Paolo Rossi left us," RAI Sport presenter Enrico Varriale tweeted. "Unforgettable Pablito, who made us all fall in love in that summer of '82 and who has been a precious and competent workmate at RAI in recent years. RIP dear Paolo."

Rossi's wife, Cappelletti Federica, posted a photo of herself and her husband to her Instagram account along with the words "per sempre" which means "forever" in English. She, however, did not disclose the cause of his death. Rossi is widely regarded as one of the best forwards of all time and is most famous for his heroics at the 1982 World Cup in Spain. He scored six goals to win the Golden Boot as top goal-scorer, and the Golden Ball for the player of the tournament.

The forward is one of only three players to have won all three awards at a World Cup, along with Garrincha in 1962, and Mario Kempes in 1978. Rossi was also awarded the 1982 Ballon d'Or as the Euro-



Italy's Paolo Rossi (left) celebrates after scoring the second goal for his team during their World Cup second round soccer match against Brazil, in Barcelona, Spain in July 5, 1982 (file photo)

pean Footballer of the Year for his performances. Along with Roberto Baggio and Christian Vieri, he is Italy's top scorer in World Cup history, with nine goals in total.

"We mourn the tragic demise of the legendary Italian footballing icon Paolo Rossi, winning member of the 1982 FIFA World Cup Team. He was one of the three footballers to win the Golden Boot and Golden Ball in a single edition of FIFA WC," the official handle of Indian football team tweeted.

In total, Rossi scored 20 goals in 48 appearances for Italy.

At club level, Rossi was also a prolific goal-scorer for Vicenza. In 1976, he was signed to Juventus from Vicenza in a co-

ownership deal for a world record transfer fee. Vicenza retained his services, and he was top goalscorer in Serie B in 1977, leading his team to promotion to Serie A.

The following season, Rossi scored 24 goals, to become the first player to top the scoring charts in Serie B and Serie A in consecutive seasons. In 1981, Rossi made his debut for Juventus, and went on to win two Serie A titles, the Coppa Italia, the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, the UEFA Super Cup, and the European Cup.

The news of Rossi's passing comes two weeks after the death of Argentina football legend Diego Maradona, winner of the 1986 World Cup. (IANS)

Ahmedabad to host 7 matches against England in Feb-Mar

NEW DELHI

ENGLAND will play 12 international matches -- four Tests, three One-day Internationals, and five Twenty20s -- on their tour of India in February-March, and Ahmedabad will host seven of those, including a pink ball day-night Test. All the matches will be played at only three venues -- Chennai and Pune are the others -- and in bio-secure en-

vironment due to Corona pandemic, it was announced on Thursday.

The tour will be take place between February 9 and March 28, according to the itinerary jointly released by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

India are scheduled to travel to England next year in August-September to play a five-Test series. (IANS)

ENG TOUR ITINERARY

Tests
1st - Feb 5-9, Chennai
2nd - Feb 13-17, Chennai
3rd - Feb 24-28, Ahmedabad (D/N)
4th - Mar 4-8, Ahmedabad
T20Is: All games in Ahmedabad
1st T20I - March 12
2nd T20I - March 14
3rd T20I - March 16
4th T20I - March 18
5th T20I - March 20
ODIs: All games at Pune
1st ODI - March 23
2nd ODI - March 26
3rd ODI - March 28

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