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MONEY 8 MANUFACTURERS UPBEAT AS GOVT

IMPOSES CURBS ON IMPORTS OF TVS

she pioneer

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19 norms.

SPORTS 12 PLAYER LIKE STOKES IS EVERY CAPTAIN'S DREAM: SMITH

HYDERABAD, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA *LATE CITY VOL. 2 ISSUE 292 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

> **BUNNY TO BE** SEEN AS STUDENT LEADER IN KORATALA'S NEXT? Page 11

HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW

BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

BHUBANESWAR RANCHI

RNI No. TELENG/2018/76469 Established 1864

Published From

SAJAD GANI LONE RELEASED FROM YEAR-LONG DETENTION

ammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) chairman Sajad Gani JLone was on Friday released from nearly a year-long detention, officials said Lone was released days ahead of the first anniversary of the Centre's move to revoke Article 370 of the Constitution in August last year, the officials said Lone also confirmed his release by taking to Twitter "Finally five days short of a year I have been officially informed that I am a free man. So much has changed. So have I. Jail was not a new experience. Earlier ones were harsh with usual doses of physical torture. But this was psychologically draining. Much to share hopefully soon," he said in a tweet.

MONSOON LIKELY TO BE NORMAL IN SECOND HALF OF RAINFALL SEASON: IMD

onsoon is likely to be normal in the second half of the four-month Mrainfall season, the India Meteorological Department said on Friday. In its Long Range Forecast for the rainfall during second half (August-September) of the 2020 Southwest Monsoon, the IMD said August is likely to receive rainfall that is 97 per cent of the Long Period Average. "Quantitatively, the rainfall over the country as a whole during the second half of the season is likely to be 104 per cent of LPA with a model error of plus/minus 8 per cent," the IMD said. The Long Period Average (LPA) rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 88 centimetres.

OVER 292,000 CORONAVIRUS CASES IN ONE DAY ACROSS WORLD

The World Health Organization reported a record increase in global coronavirus cases on Friday, with the total rising by 292,527. The biggest increases were from the United States, Brazil, India and South Africa, according to a daily report. Deaths rose by 6,812. The four countries have dominated global

headlines with large outbreaks. The previous WHO record for new cases was 284,196 on July 24. Deaths rose by 9,753 on July 24, the second largest one-day increase ever. Deaths have been averaging 5,200 a day in July, up from an average of 4,600 a day in June.

BHOPAL HOSPITAL DEVISES "AIR BUBBLE TO KEEP CORONA WARRIORS SAFE

to help Madhya Pradesh in its fight against the coronavirus, a doctor with a private hospital here has come up with a simple yet ingenious way to keep doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers safe from COVID-19 -an air bubble. The fully sealed, transparent face covering - like a face suit - has an independent

supply of virus-free compressed air so state's Corona Warriors can breathe safely while treating patients. Cardiologist Dr Skand Trivedi said this concept was specifically introduced for healthcare workers who look after coronavirus patients and was aimed at saving lives of doctors, nurses and technicians.





Mukesh Ambani calls for urgent policy steps to do away with 2G





K'taka may bring in law banning sale of tobacco, paan masala: CM

NOW, AP CAPITAL DIVIDED INTO THREE

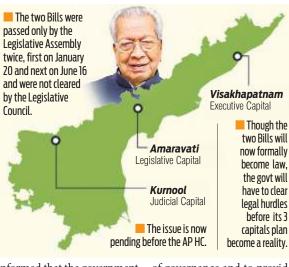
AP's three-capital bills get Guv's assent

C PRADEEP VIJAYAWADA

Moving at a rapid pace, the YSRCP government on Friday issued Gazette notifications publishing Act No. 27 of 2020 repealing the APCRDA and Act No. 20 of 2020 of the AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020, just hours after Governor Biswabhushan Harichandan gave his assent to the two Bills.

Though the two Bills will now formally become law following the Governor's assent, the YSRCP government will have to clear legal hurdles before it could finally make its three capitals plan a reality.

The issue is now pending before the AP High Court. In the Gazette, the Government informed that the Decentralisation Act will apply to the whole of the State of Andhra Pradesh. It



informed that the government zones.

enable a decentralised model

shall demarcate the entire area of the State into such number of zones as many be notified by defining the limits of such The Gazette stated that to

of governance and to provide an inclusive governance in the State there shall be three Seats of Governance in the State of Andhra Pradesh to called as Capitals. The Gazette defined three Capitals as:



At least 38 people have died

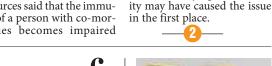
PNS HYDERABAD The number of cremations in city graveyards has doubled since the outbreak of Covid-19. Highly placed sources in the government pointed out that as a precautionary measure' even non-corona victims were being cremated as per Covid-Once a patient succumbs to coronavirus, the death audit report committee reviews the cause of the death and reports it to the government on a daily basis. Sources said, "In

and is infected with the virus, the audit committee registers it as Covid-19 death. This Covid-19 death is reported in the

health bulletin."

nity of a person with co-morbidities becomes impaired

Sources said that the immu-





In TS, if a patient is infected with coronavirus,

but has comorbidities, the

to co-morbid condition

In other states.

irrespective of co-

deaths are registered as due

morbidities, if the person is

infected with Covid-19, it is

reported as Covid-19 death

because of which they get

infected by Covid-19. The rea-

son for death in such cases can-

not be attributed to Covid-19

as the underlying co-morbid-

Gold worth Rs 1.66 cr seized from 11 air passengers in Hyd PNS HYDERABAD

Smuggled gold weighing 3.11 kg and valued at Rs 1.66 crore seized at the internat

people are unaware of being infected by coronavirus, without





GRAVE SITUATION

Cremations double in Hyd due to Covid

PEOPLE IN DISTRICTS DON'T WANT BODIES TO BE SENT BACK



Covid infection: Eatala NAVEENA GHANATE HYDERABAD

Telangana, even if a patient is

infected with coronavirus, but

has comorbidities, the deaths

are registered as co-morbid

condition. Only if the person

dies due to breathing problems

About 81% of people are bliss-fully unaware so to speak that they have Covid-19. Health Minister Eatala Rajender said that 81 per cent of





Creating the Local Software for **Covid-Control**



TODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Shravana & Shukla Paksha Panchangam Tithi : Trayodashi: 09:53 pm Nakshatram: Mula: 06:48 am Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work) **Rahukalam:** 09:10 am - 10:46 am **Yamagandam:** 01:58 pm – 03:33 pm Varjyam: 04:26 pm – 06:02 pm 05:59 am - 07:34 am Gulika: Good Time: (to start any important work) **Amritakalam:** 02:03 am – 03:39 am **Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:56 am - 12:47 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Drizzle

Temp: 31/24 Humidity: 82% Sunrise: 05.55 am Sunset: 06.49 pm **Current Weather Conditions** Updated July 31, 2020 5:00 PM

rude jolt to States Telangana govt set to lose

Centre's position

on GST payout

Rs 14,000 cr this fiscal year

L VENKAT RAM REDDY HYDERABAD

The opinion expressed by Attorney General of India KK Venugopal that there is no obligation on the part of the Centre to pay the GST compensation shortfall to states and that it is for the GST Council to decide on ways to make good any shortfall has come as a rude jolt to Telangana government, which has been reeling under severe financial crisis from the beginning FY 2020-21.

The TS government faced Rs 4,000 crore revenue shortfall due to lockdown in April and May, at the rate of Rs 2,000 crore per month, for which it had sought GST compensation from the Centre. Upon easing of lockdown restrictions, it lost Rs 2,000 crore in June and July additionally, at the rate of

Rs 1,000 crore per month. The Finance Department estimated that the state government would lose another Rs 8,000 crore in the next eight months,

Upon easing of lockdown restrictions, it lost Rs 2,000 crore in June and July additionally, at the rate of Rs 1,000

if the trend continues, taking the total losses to Rs 14,000 crore in the current fiscal year. The Centre too is facing severe financial crisis. So, it had sought the AG's legal opinion on its liability to pay compensation to States in view of the drastic shortfall this fiscal.

crore per month.

in several districts of Punjab allegedly after consuming toxic liquor, prompting Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to order a high-level probe. Eight accused have been arrested in the case.

A government statement said the deaths reportedly took place in Amritsar, Batala and Tarn Taran districts after Wednesday night.

Eatala said "I have been observing this coronavirus closely for over four months. Today, we are putting out numbers of lakhs of tests in each state, 81 per cent don't have symptoms and remain unaware. Once they realise, they are being cured under home isolation. Only 14% are showing symptoms. Only 5 per cent are serious who are neg-

symptoms, but are getting cured.

Speaking at



ligent towards or those whose their commitment to service

10 people die after consuming sanitiser in Andhra village

PNS VIJAYAWADA

At least ten alcohol addicts, including three beggars, died after allegedly consuming sanitiser as an alternative to liquor in a village under COVID-19 lockdown in Prakasam district Andhra of Pradesh, police said on Friday. The victims of

Kurichedu village had been drinking sanitiser for the past few days, mixing it with water and soft drinks, Prakasam district Superintendent of Police

Siddharth Kaushal told PTI over phone. Two people died on

Thursday night and the other eight since Friday morning, the SP, who visited the village where liquor outlets are also closed for the past few days due to

e x t e n d e d COVID-19 lockdown, said. "We are investi-

gating whether the sanitiser had any other toxic content. We have sent the stocks for chemical analysis, Kaushal said.

PNS HYDERABAD

on Friday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said several incidents of atrocities, violence and injustice against Dalits had surfaced in Telangana in the last two-three days. The 'horrifying' incidents had sent



are working for it.

during the corona times. He

praised government doctors

The Minister held a review

with district officials in

Khammam city on Friday.

Eatala said it was the respon-

sibility of the government to

instill courage in people. "We

orking in Khammam.

al airport here from 11 passengers, Customs officials said on Friday.

According to Customs officials, the passengers, who arrived here fromDammam (in Saudi Arabia) by a Vande Bharath Mission flight on Thursday had "concealed the gold" (bars) in the inner pocket of their trousers which they were wearing.

KCR Govt has unleashed terror against Dalits, alleges Uttam

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president & Nalgonda MP Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has alleged that the TRS Government, headed by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, has unleashed terror against Dalits across the State.

Addressing media persons



shockwaves among people not only belonging to Dalit communities, but also Girijans,

Backward Classes, minorities and other weaker sections.

Sonu Sood comes to rescue of 3 orphaned children

PNS BHONGIR

After having helped a dalit farmer in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh with a new tractor and Software Sarada of Warangal in Telangana with a new job, Sonu Sood, who chooses to be a Good Samaritan in real life, has now come forward to help orphaned children in Atmakuru mandal of Bhongir district.

A couple living in Atmakuru, Satyanarayana and Anuradha, left behind three children.



Satvanaravana died a year health, forcing the children to ago due to ill-health. After his fend for themselves. The eldest death, Anuradha used to do son in the family now takes small jobs to support the famcare of his younger brother and ily. As fate would have it, she sister. Moved at the plight of the died a week ago due to illSonu Sood, the reel-life villain who has outdone fictional heroes in real life with his altruistic initiatives at huge personal cost, has now offered to take three orphaned TS kids under his wings

children, Rajesh Karanam posted the matter on Twitter and tagged Sonu Sood. The actor acted immediately responded. saying that the three children would no longer be orphans. He offered to take the kids under his wings. Sonu Sood has

previously helped thousands of stranded migrant workers, hundreds of nurses reach their native places during the lockdown and thereafter. He was also instrumental in helping Indians stranded in other countries get back home

KCR not cooperating with Centre to solve water rows: Bandi

PNS HYDERABAD

MP Karimnagar Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar has alleged that state Chief Minister Κ Chandrasekhar Rao is not cooperating with the Centre when it comes to resolving water disputes between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states. Bandi Sanjay told the media here that Telanganga State had

water instead of 500 tmc from and the Krishna river due to the negligent attitude of KCR. He has no sincerity in protecting the peo-ple of Telanganga. KCR is filling his coffers in the name of redesign of projects with commis-sions. KCR and (AP CM) Jagan are looting the Telugu States with internal

been getting only 200 tmc of

agreement.





hyderabad 02

Creating the local software for Covid control here has been an inordinate focus, and rightly so, on acquiring the

hardware (e.g. PPEs, testing kits) required for Covid-control operations. Now, the focus has to shift to creating the software.

In vector control operations, the SIRA model Information, (Survey, Response, Appraisal) is widely used. Basically, the SIRA ensures that all breeding places are covered once every seven days to ensure that all mosquitos are killed at the larvae stage.

At the same time high mosquito density areas are identified and control measures undertaken.

All the localities are mapped and health workers

(e.g. Asha workers, pulse polio teams) conduct a daily household survey.

Only targeted information helpful in developing a response to Covid-19 is collected. The first level of information relates to identifying people with symptoms (e.g. body temperature, oxygen level using oximeters, cough) or morbidity (e.g. severe asth-ma, serious heart conditions, severe obesity, diabetes, kid-

ney disease). The best way to collect information is by using digi-tal tools (e.g. ANMOL tablets); however, keeping in

In vector control operations, the SIRA model (Survey, Information, Response, Appraisal) is widely used. Basically, the SIRA ensures that all breeding places are covered once every seven days to ensure that all mosquitos are killed at the larvae stage

view the differences in use of areas, or 200 villages in rural areas. The CCC would be digital tools in states, paper supervised by an officer not forms could also be used. Next, information is communicated to an interdepartmental command-and-con-

below the rank of a Deputy Collector. The CCC would ensure that daily surveys are trol centre (CCC). The CCC organised, information received and organised in would be established for a locality in urban/semi-urban usable form, action taken and



feedback obtained in order to modify the response, on-thefly. The third step is to use the

information to develop a set of actions to achieve set targets. Combining survey information with other sources of information (e.g. via Aarogya Setu, social media) the CCC would decide on individuals/households or

blocks of houses to be tested. On receiving the test results, the CCC would decide on the patients to be sent to hospitals or kept in home isolation. In case of widespread infection in a locality, either lockdown or lock-in of a block of hous-

es would be enforced. For these households door delivery of essentials would be

organised through e-commerce or other means. In Covid-free areas, the CCC would carry out an awareness campaign to make people wear face masks, wash hands and maintain social distancing measures. Multiple sources would

provide feedback to the CCC. Some of the well-known sources are: social media, volunteers, press, health and other government workers and local organisations. The feedback would primarily inform the CCC on the efficacy of their response and gaps in survey or information

would enable the CCC to modify its plans, real-time. This local software is likely to connect people with public service providers and provide incentive for citizen vigilance. People would take more interest in Covid-control operations as they recognise

flow. The constant feedback

the value of coherent and systematic action where their preferences and demands count. An army of Covid-19 warriors would be recruited, leading to greater efficiency and integrity of Covid-control operations. (Author has a PhD from the USA and a DLitt from

Kanchi University. The article is based on his research and practice and views are personal)

DISCOMS TOLD TO PREPARE REPORTS ON ARREARS

PNS HYDERABAD

As per the directions of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar held a meeting with the Discoms, Municipal and Panchayat Raj officials to resolve issues pertaining to the payment of electricity bills.

Chief Secretary directed that all the gram panchayats and municipalities should pay the current month power bills every month. Any deviations will be viewed seriously. Arrears will be separated and a decision on payment for the same will be taken up later.

He asked the Discoms to prepare a detailed report on arrears within seven days duly



Chief Secretary directed that all the gram panchayats and municipalities should pay the current month power bills every month. Any deviations will be viewed seriously

reconciling the figures with the take policy decision on arrears gram panchayats and municrelated to local bodies. ipalities. Detailed report and Joint teams of Discoms, options regarding arrears gram panchayats and municwould be presented shortly ipality officials should be conbefore the Chief Minister to stituted to resolve discrepan-

cies in bills such as those relating to borewells etc. Chief Secretary directed that 100 per cent bills shall be generated by Discoms based on meter readings only. Meters should be fixed where ever it has not been done within one month.

Principal Secretary Municipal Administration Arvind Kumar, Secretary Panchayat Raj Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Secretary Municipal Administration Sudershan Reddy, Commissioner Panchayat Raj Raghunandan Rao, Director Municipal Administration Satyanarayana CMD SPDCL Raghuma Reddy and other officials attended the meeting.

Finance Minister T Harish Rao has offered to provide training for youth from Gangireddula community to

start businesses. He was participating as chief guest at the inauguration of 36 double bedroom houses at Nancharupally village in the district on Friday. While 20 were allotted to families from poor Gangireddula community, the remaining 16 were allotted to SC families. He said the government will provide skill enhancement training to Gangireddula community youth with the help of NAC

Harish assures unemployed youth of all help

and will extend loans through



'Modi govt ensured gender

on which Muslim women were freed from the social evil of triple talaq and it has been recorded in the country's history as 'Muslim Women's **Rights Day** - MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI Minority Affairs Ministe

and fundamental rights," he

at the Congress, Naqvi said triple talaq or 'talaq-e-biddat' was "neither Islamic, nor legal", said. The Modi government but despite that, the social evil was given "political patronmade the law against triple talaq to make the Supreme Court's judgement effective, Naqvi said. "A year has gone by since the law against triple age" by "merchants of vote

bank". The law against triple talaq could have been passed in the talaq was passed and there is 1980s when the Supreme about 82 per cent decline in Court had given a historic triple talaq cases thereafter. If judgement in the Shah Bano case, he said. "The Congress had an absolute majority in Parliament with more than 400 out of 545 Lok Sabha members and more than 159 out of 245 members in the Rajya Sabha. But the Rajiv Gandhi government used its strength in Parliament to make

any such case was reported, action was taken under the law," Naqvi said. At the event, Law Minister Prasad and Women and Child Development Irani along with Naqvi addressed Muslim women from several cities including New Delhi, Greater Noida, Lucknow and Varanasi, Jaipur, Mumbai, Bhopal,

Hyderabad and Tamil Nadu's

Krishnagiri.

10 people die after consuming...

Continued from page 1 The SP said illicitly-disentre for FV

TS reports 1,986 new cases, 14 deaths double in Hyd...

PNS HYDERABAD

Continued from page 1

Cremations

About 53.87 per cent of the total deaths reported in state so far are said to be co-morbid, while 46.13 per cent are Covid-19 deaths. However, this is not the way it is reported in other states, where, irrespective of co-morbidities, if the person is infected with Covid-19, it is reported as Covid-19 death. Once the audit committee clears the cause of the death, the police and GHMC are informed to do the formalities.

Sources said that patient's

high number of cases, there has been a significant rise in the tendants are sc



Medchal-Malkajgiri, Sangareddy, Warangal Urban other districts which reported a substantial number of cases include Warangal Urban (123), Karimnagar (116) and Sangareddy (108). The case fatality rate in the state was 0.82 and Karimnagar. Out of the 1,986 fresh cases, 586 were from the GHMC, folwed by Medchal-Malkaigir

As many as 45,388 people have recovered from the infection so far, while 16,796 were

4,37,582 samples have been tested. Talking about age and gender wise COVID-19 posie details, it said 65.6 pe

under treatment.

The recovery rate was 72.3 per cent in the state, while it was 64 per cent in the country. The number of individuals in home/institutional isolation was 10,632. The number of asymptomatic cases (of those under home isolation) was 84 per cent, it said. The bulletin said 21,380 samples were tested on July 30, the highest in a single day so far. Cumulatively,

get them employment and loans that would help them

MBC Corporation to them.

equality among Muslims' PNS NEW DELHI Triple talaq was given 'politi-

cal patronage' by 'merchants of vote bank', and it was the Narendra Modi government that made it a criminal offence thus bolstering self-reliance and self-confidence among Muslim women, Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Friday. Addressing Muslim women

from across the country via a video link at an event marking the first anniversary of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, Naqvi said after the enactment of the law, triple talaq cases have come down drastically. The Modi government is com-mitted to political empowerment and not 'political exploitation', he said. Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani also addressed the Muslim women

on the occasion. Naqvi said August 1 is the day on which Muslim women were freed from the social evil of triple talaq and it has been recorded in the country's the Supreme Court judgement history as 'Muslim Women's ineffective and deprive Muslim Rights Day'. In an apparent dig women of their constitutional

Centre's position on GST payout rude...

The AG, as chief legal officer

crore and Andhra Pradesh Rs

Telangana is going to experi-

ence injustice. Why is KCR not

writing any letter to the Centre

when Jagan is inviting ten-

Urging the Centre to do jus-

tice to the state as per the

bifurcation act, he said: "We

will try to stop the tender

process in case the chief min-

isters fail to respond to the

Apex Council by August 5."

ders?" he asked.

3,028 crore. With this, the total compensation paid to all the

Continued from page 1 tates by the

might be infected with Covid or the attendants themselves may have to be quarantined. Some of them are not even turning up for identification of the body, let alone cremation.

This apart, dead bodies are piling up, especially among cases referred from districts. For, regardless of the cause of deaths, people from districts don't want the bodies to be sent back due to stigma. This has stretched the existing infrastructure in the city.

The state government has said that cremation of bodies at ESI crematorium was due to lack of transport from GHMC. Health Minister Eatala Rajender recently said that 250 of 1,000 deaths in Telangana Hyderabad. are in

HYDERABAD

CHICKEN

Without Skin

EGG

RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD

VIJAYAWADA

RETAIL PRICE

Broiler at Farm

RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin ₹151

VISAKHAPATNAM 367

BULLION RATES

₹ 55,610 (10 gm)

₹ 63,000 (1kg)

₹ 3,050 👅

₹172

₹104

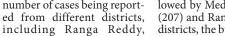
320

372

₹3.30

₹290

SILVER



(207) and Ranga Reddy (205) districts, the bulletin said. The

per cent, while it was 2.20 per cent at the national level, it said.

were male, while 34.4 per cent were female.

Now, AP Capital divided...

Continued from page 1

the state, continues to report a

the provisions of the Andhra (i) Amaravati Metropolitan Pradesh Metropolitan Region Region Development Area and Urban Development (hereinafter referred to as Authorities Act, 2016.

The Gazette further stated Amaravati) to be called as the 'Legislative Capital'. (ii) that the seat of Legislature shall be at the Legislative Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Capital of Amaravati. The Raj Region Development Area (hereinafter referred to as Bhawan, Secretariat and Offices of the Heads of the Visakhapatnam) to be called as the 'Executive Capital'. (iii) Departments of Government shall be located at the Kurnool Urban Development Area (hereinafter referred to as Executive Capital of Kurnool) to be called as the Visakhapatnam.

'Judicial Capital'. The three The Seat of all State Judicial Institutions established under regions would be construed by

ing the reasons for his extreme

the notifications issued under State legislations, under the Government shall initiate steps to seek relocation of the Principal Seat of High Court of Andhra Pradesh to the Judicial Capital of Kurnool and for the constitution of benches of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh in accordance with the procedure prescribed under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

> The two Bills were passed only by the Legislative Assembly twice, first on January 20 and next on June 16 and were not cleared by the Legislative Council.

generations of the family.

Another Dalit man, K.

in

Narasimhulu, was run over

Gold worth Rs 1.66 cr seized

Continued from page 1

Based on suspicion and profiling of the passengers, cases were booked against 11 passengers for allegedly smuggling" ofgold and they were being questioned.

In another case, Customs in coordination with CISF detected five passengers who were trying to smuggle out sandalwood and a total of 78.5 kg of sandalwood was seized from them at the airport on Thursday.

2019-20 touched Rs 1,65,302 made it clear that there is no obligation on the part of the crore. Now if the Centre sticks Centre to compensate States. to its position that it is not Now, the States are left with no obiged to compensate States, option but to go for additional the latter will be deprived of market borrowings. This nearly Rs 2 lakh crore in FY would mean further increase in 2020-21, considering that every their debt burden and widen-State has suffered huge revenue ing of the fiscal deficit. losses due to lockdown and that

The GST compensation paid too at a time when States are by the Centre this week for the more dependent than ever before on devolution of funds month of March 2020 came to the rescue of all the cashfrom the Centre. Though the starved States in the country. Centre announced Atma On July 27, the Centre released Nirbhar Scheme, it has nothing Rs 13,806 crore to all the States. to offer States in terms of finan-Of this, Telangana got Rs 3,054 cial aid, except for loans.

KCR not cooperating with...

Continued from page 1

There is no response from KCR even though Jagan is try-ing to open Pothireddypadu tenders in the first week of August," he alleged. According to Sanjay, KCR has sought postponement of the Apex Council meeting at the behest of Jagan. "KCR is behaving like a mute spectator when

38 dead in **Punjab from** toxic liquor

Continued from page 1

The first five deaths were reported from Mucchal and Tangra villages in Amritsar's Tarsikka on July 29, police said.

On Friday, five people died in Batala; four fatalities were reported from Tarn Taran.

tilled arrack was not involved in the "sad incident"

The deceased were highly addicted to alcohol and its non- availability due to extended Covid-19 lockdown in Kurichedu forced them to go for sanitiser that had alcoholic content, police said.

Apart from the beggars, the other deceased were poor rickshaw pullers and hamalis, who had a hand-to-mouth existence. Two beggars near a temple were the first to fall victim on Thursday night.

While one of them was found dead at the spot, another died in the government hospital in nearby Darsi town, police said. A third person was also taken to the Darsi hospital late on Thursday night after he fainted, but declared brought dead. Another seven seven, who fell ill after allegedly consuming sanitiser, succumbed on Friday.A couple of other persons, who also complained of some health problems after drinking sanitiser, were undergoing treatment and out of danger, the police added.



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KCR Govt has unleashed terror against... Continued from page 1

Uttam Kumar Reddy said said.

step. In that clip, he has named the local MRO, VRO, sarpanch that a party delegation would soon meet Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan on the issue. A petition would also be filed with the National Human Rights Commission. The Congress would explore all legal and democratic means to get justice for Dalits, Girijans and other oppressed classes, he

cide by one B. Narasimhulu in Gajwel constituency (represented by CM), Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Dalit farmer was forced to commit suicide as the TRS government had taken away 13 guntas of his land to construct Rythu Vedika building. Before ending his life, the Dalit farmer had

the suicide, he said and warned Referring to the recent suithat the Congress would not rest until a case was booked against the culprits. Uttam dismissed Harish Rao's statement that Narasimhulu's land was originally taken away by the previ-

ous Congress government for a sub-station. He said that the Dalit farmer was in possession of the entire land, which was recorded a selfie video explainunder cultivation by several

and TRS leaders. Instead of by a lorry belonging to the illeregistering a case against those sand mafia in Thirumalapur village of responsible for the suicide, TRS leaders were "shameless-Rajapur mandal ly trying to justify the famer's Mahabubnagar district. He death... The video should be was bumped off as he had contreated as dying declaration fronted the illegal sand mafia and a case booked against operators for exploiting the vil-MRO, VRO, sarpanch and lage's stream. Still, the local TRS leaders for abetment of police had registered a case of accidental death so as to pro-

tect the sand mafia backed by TRS leaders. Girijans and Dalits in Nerella, Sircilla were subjected to third-degree torture by the police when they raised voice against illegal sand mafia backed by TRS MP and KCR's nephew

Santosh Reddy. No action was taken against the guilty police officials, despite confirprits.

tortured local Dalits and Girijans, Uttam said. Citing other atrocities, he said a Dalit youth, Revuli Raja, was murdered at Mallaram village on July 6 allegedly by a local TRS leader and his goons. He said Congress leaders, including him, were arrested

when they tried to visit the village to meet Raja's family. Another Dalit, Seelam Rangaiah, died in a police lock-up in Ramgiri village of Manthani constituency. A Dalit woman, Teku Laxmi, was gang-raped and murdered in the forest area of Yellapatar in

Lingapur mandal, Kumarambheem Asifabad district in November last year. He demanded a high level and fair probe into all the incidents and stern action against the cul-

mation that they had brutally



hyderabad 03

N BRIEF

CM, Governor extend **Bakrid greetings**

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao On Friday conveyed greetings to the Muslim community on the eve of Bakrid (Id-UI-Zuha). In a message, the Chief Minister has stated that it's a festival of sacrifice and reminds everyone to follow the noble teachings of the prophet and imbibe the spirit of sacrifice. compassion and tolerance for fellow beings during these days of Covid-19.

Governor Tamilisai Soundararaian also extended her greetings to the people of Telangana on the eve of Bakrid. The Governor appealed to all to celebrate the festival safely by staying home and taking all necessary precautions against Covid-19.

Digital content for vocational Inter students ue to the Pandemic, many educational

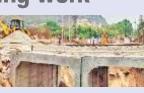


institutions have been looking at online/digital classes for the students as new medium of education. To ensure the education of vocational intermediate student goes on uninterrupted, the TSBIE is looking at producing digital content for the students. In a letter to the Commissioner of Intermediate Education, Syed Omer Jaleel, has requested the

District Intermediate Education Officers to nominate two subject experts, district wise, from each course before August 3. The step has been taken as the department desires to prepare digital content (video lessons) of 22 vocational which they are offering and want to constitute subject committee with subject experts from each course.

SCR completes bridge strengthening work

South Central Railway (SCR) has been implementing an extensive and well-planned strategy to efficiently utilise the current situation of reduced train movements to give long



term benefits to the rail passengers. It identified some long-pending bridge repair work which requires strengthening. As a result, work was carried out over a record number of 23 bridges during April-June 2020. The selection of bridges was also done meticulously so that the bridges falling in the key and congested sections were given prime importance. Some of the bridges that were repaired are the bridges over Kazipet-Vijayawada section, Kacheguda-Dhone section, Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section and Nadikudi-Macherla section. Gajanan Mallya, General Manager, SCR, has appreciated the efforts of the staff.

SCSC conducts virtual interactive meet



The Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) conducted a virtual Orientation-cum-Interactive meeting of Infra and Developers with Cyberabad Police Commissioner and SCSC Chairman VC Sajjanar on Friday. The content setting of the meeting was done by forum leader Srikanth Badiga followed

by the address of Sajjanar, who thanked

Auto-rickshaw drivers struggling to meet ends

PNS HYDERABAD

Two months after the Delhi government relaxed restrictions amid coronavirus outbreak, auto drivers in the city struggle to keep afloat as they face weak demand and financial pressure. They rue that very few people are stepping out and availing their services, while private financiers are forcing them to pay back the loans taken by them to buy the vehicles. With people still keeping indoors due to the coronavirus scare, autorickshaw drivers are finding passengers with much difficulty these days. Most of these drivers are finding it hard to survive.

With the alleged harassment of the financiers, who are not hesitating to seize their auto-rickshaws, many left for their villages and bounced back and landed in Hyderabad as they find no work there also. For want of business, they defaulted payment of EMIs to financiers. There are 1.4 lakh autorickshaws in GHMC limits. Daily, 8-10 lakh people use the three-wheeler services.

The public transport has come to a standstill and people are only using private trans-port. Autos, buses, MMTS and



train services are also affected

due to the virus. Because of the virus, people are hesitating to use autorickshaws and cab services. Schools and colleges and other educational institutions have remained closed, robbing the autowallahs of their business. While people are apprehen-

sive of contracting the virus if they board autorickshaws, the autowallahs are also apprehensive of contracting the virus from people. A driver who used to earn anywhere between Rs 800 and Rs 1000 per day is now currently earning Rs 200

a day is doubtful. Paying house rents and supporting families have become difficult. Besides, the harassment of financiers is unbearable, says an autorickshaw driver Sankar of Adikmet. Another driver Ramulu of ECIL says that he and other drivers are afraid of bringing out the three-wheeler onto the roads for fear of contracting the virus. But, it is inevitable. Otherwise, families of drivers would have to starve. He expressed concern over financiers seizing the autorick-shaw. Generally speaking,

They rue that very few people are stepping out and availing their services, while private financiers are forcing them to pay back the loans taken by them to buy the vehicles

when bandhs are observed buses will go off the road. Then people will patronise autorickshaws. Because of the Coronavirus, there are no city buses playing, but people are also hesitating to use autorickshaws. The increasing number of cases of virus is prohibiting the people to step out of their homes. Even if the government asked the private financiers to stop recovery of loans, they are behaving high-handedly with autorickshaw drivers and seizing the vehicles, A Satti Reddy, Telangana auto-rickshaw drivers' association said

Coal mafia gang busted; 8 arrested PNS HYDERABAD

Officials of the Special Operations Team (SOT), LB Nagar Zone along with the Ibrahimpatnam Police nabbed eight persons who were involved in the adulteration of coal by mixing the inferior quality coal with the high grade consignment being imported from South Africa and Australia, as well as with the coal from Singareni collieries. Officials seized valuables worth Rs 1.62 crore from them. The arrested were identified

as Gunde Raju (38), Katravath Soma (33), Challa Amarender Reddy (33), Kurathala Mallesh (27), Nizamuddin (25), Erukala Anjaiah (50), Sagarala Satyam (28) and Rizwan (20). Four other persons, Uttampalli (38), Laxman Ameer

The police seized valuables worth Rs 1.62 cr from their possession

Mohammad, Umakonda Purshotham Reddy (36), Karunakar Reddy and Ram Reddy are absconding, said the Police. During the early hours of Friday, officials raided both the coal yards and apprehended the arrested accused. Efforts are on to apprehend the absconding, the police said. Officials seized 1,050 tonnes of coal, 700 tonnes of coal ash, cash, land movers and ICBs and other evidence. all worth Rs 1.62 crore.

Sudanese nationals held with sandalwood

PNS HYDERABAD

Five Sudanese nationals were intercepted at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport on Friday while trying to smuggle sandalwood. According to officials, the men were part of a group that was travelling to Khartoum, Sudan, in a special relief flight.

The officers of the CISF seized 78.5 kg of sandalwood from them and handed the seized goods and the five persons to the Customs department for further investigation. The CISF officers noticed some suspicious items in their luggage during routine While the passengers denied that they were carrying anything illegal, the officers searched their baggage and found sandalwood. They had procured the sandalwood during their stay in the city and were planning to sell it in Sudan at a higher price.

the benefit of those stranded

destinations from

Mumbai,

GHMC cracks down on illegal structures

GHMC Town Planning wing demolished illegal structures in Serilingampally Zone. So far, the Town planning wing demolished 130 slabs of 30 buildings from the last four days. The special drive of demo-

litions of illegal structures was taken up from 27 July in Serilingampally Zone. Earlier, drive GHM

rised buildings in Ayyappa Society by deploying heavy machinery. To demolish the unauthorised buildings at present the GHMC is using gas cutters, compressors. GHMC is also demolishing the additional floor constructions, which are more than permitted. Further, GHMC appealed the citizens not to buy

illegal/unauthorised constructions and buy only those who got GHM struction per

Transport organisations unhappy with authorities

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA HYDERARAD

With very few people stepping out due to the pandemic, the transport industry has taken a huge hit. After reaching out to state authorities for help, various transport organisations plan to stage a protest in from of the RTĂ, Khairatabad, on August 4. The heads of various transport organisations held a meeting regarding the same.

"We have been trying to talk to the authorities concerned for a while now. But every time we reach out, the police blocks our way," says Shaik Salauddin, Chairman of Telangana State Taxi and Driver JAC, adding, "Most drivers haven't been earning anything for four months. No one from the gNvernment has even expressed

We have been trying to talk to the authorities concerned for a while now. But every time we reach out, the police blocks our way, said Shaik Salauddin, Chairman of Telangana State Taxi and Driver JAC

ernment keeps extending the deadline for fines, taxes, insurance and other things, however we need a waiver. We want to talk about our grievances to the Transport Commossioner, if not we will stage a protest."

Talking about the issues var-

vehicles haven't worked a day for the past four months. However, most of them were asked to for insurance, which ranges between Rs 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh. When they haven't earned anything, how can they pay such huge amount? Also, peoious drivers are facing, Manchireddy Rajender Reddy, ple who have already paid for the insurance have their vehicles the Working President of parked at home. We demand Telangana Lorry Owners' the government pays a mini-Association, says, "There are nearly 5 lakh 20,000 lorries in mum of Rs 7,500 to these drivers, so they can at least run Telangana. The owners of these their kitchen.





2 suspects

for burglary

The Central Crime Station, LB Nagar along with the Pahadishareef Police on

Friday, apprehended two per-sons at Tukkuguda, who were

involved in burglary offences.

Officials recovered valuables

worth Rs 5.60 lakh from

The arrested were identi-fied as Shaik Riyaz Pasha

(25), a resident of Musheerabad and Gamsari Nazari (29), a native of Assam residing at Barkas.

Their associates, Murjala Raju (32), a resident of

Borabanda and Md Azharuddin (23), a resident

of Musheerabad, were arrest-

ed on July 7, while Md Nazeer is absconding, said

The accused have con-

the Police.

their possession.

arrested

the Infra and Developers community for their support by donating groceries, safety kits, meals, etc., and the support extended during the Covid-19 pandemic. He said though SCSC started with the Information Technology industry initially, collaboration with other industries also needed to improve safety and security of the society. Later in the question and answer session, suggestions came in about promoting the public transportation, organising blood donation camps in residential communities, etc., to which the commissioner responded positively.

has demolished 29 unautho- sions and occupancy certificates. | about the matter. The state gov-

ADDED ATTRACTION

In an attempt at making the ride along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) a pleasurable experience, authorities concerned have taken-up series of measures including dense tree plantation, lightning and landscaping

Traffic cops advice against rash driving

PNS HYDERABAD

The traffic officials of Cyberabad issued an advisory against reckless driving, which includes driving without a helmet, insurance, or licencse, after two people lost their lives in road mishaps. Citing a case study, DCP of Traffic said that Hemalatha Rao died in an accident at the Moosapet Ccrossroads. She was on her way home from the flower market with her daughter Privanka who was driving the scooty. However, she lost her balance and rammed into a lorry. "While Priyanka was wear-

ing a helmet, her mother was not. When they fell on the road, a rear wheel of the lorry went over Hemalatha's head. She died on the spot due to a major head injury. Priyanka, who received minor injuries, is at a local hospital," the police said.

In another incident, a 14year-old boy lost his life in an accident in front of the Cvberabad Police Commissionerate on Friday. Citing these two incidents, the Cyberabad transport deputy commissioner said families should not allow minors or those without a licence to drive.

Covid worries spike demand for used vehicles

PNS HYDERABAD

The demand for second hand cars is on the rise across the country as the people are still not ready to take public transport. The demand for second hand cars, which was 19 per cent prior to lockdown, has almost doubled to 37 per cent in the post-lockdown situation, according to a sample survey conducted by Cars 24.

The organisation surveyed 100 dealers in metropolitan cities and over 10,000 customers and concluded that people are inclined to use of personal transport. People are not prepared to travel by buses, Metro Rail, shared cabs, car pooling, local trains and so on. On one hand the demand

for used cars has increased, but on the other the market for new cars slumped from 81 per cent to 63 per cent. The



growth in demand. Hyderabad

demand for used cars, of all figured at the other end of the metro cities, is more in spectrum with only 5 per cent Bengaluru. The second hand market in the garden city has increased by 81 per cent. Delhi demand.

Many people are opting to buy used cars, rather than ranked second with 35 per cent used two wheelers, as the cars are safer to travel on highways. ranked number three with 10 The survey identified that per cent hike in demand. Pune many prefer to buy cars in the Tapping into the accelerated demand for used cars, major automakers are now doubling down on organising this market

price range between Rs 2 and 5 lakh. The car brands popu-lar with second hand car buy-ers are Maruti Swift, WagonR, Volko Wagon Lun daii 10 and Volks Wagon, Hundai i 10 and I 20 cars. Those who are using public transport hitherto on account of pollution and traffic congestion are preferring to

use private transport. The used cars business is picking up both online and offline. Services like contactless sales, door-step test drives, online documentation and digital payments, free ownership transfer, testing the car condition, easy finance at low interest rate are being offered to woo intending buyers.

Meanwhile, automakers indeed are making the most of the opportunity. Tapping into the accelerated demand for used cars, major automakers are now doubling down on organising this market and are procuring vehicles not just of their won brand, but others as well. Volkswagen, for instance, said it is already selling as many used cars as new ones amid the pandemic -- a first for them in the country -- and the compa-ny hopes to double its used car sales this fiscal.

Rising Covid cases impact train occupancy

PNS HYDERABAD

As the Corona cases are on the rise in Telugu states, people have stopped using public transport including trains. As such, the occupancy ratio of 23 special trains introduced by the Centre in May this year has come down to hardly 20,000

fessed to their involvement in 15 burglary cases across various police station limits of the tri-commissionerate area since December 2019. Pasha was previously involved in 18 property offences while Gamsari Nazari was involved in 16 cases. Police said that Nazeer used to recee the target area, a day before committing offences. On the day of the plan, the gang used to meet at Aramghar cross roads where they consume liquor and then proceed to burgle houses.

in places like Vijayawada, Hyderabad, Tirupati and Visakhapatnam and so on.

As the Centre declared Unlock 3.0, the people are not prepared to undertake travel. The lockdowns clamped in some cities for about week or fifteen has impacted the train travel. The Secunderabad-Kolkata Howrah Express is being run up to Bhubaneshwar. Recently, some more train services have been cancelled. Two trains have been first introduced between Bengaluru and Delhi and crore. Currently, it earns only Secunderabad and Delhi for Rs 1 to Rs 1.5 crore.

travellers a day as against the previous 25,000-30,000 per day.

Later, special trains have been run to places like Bengaluru, Delhi, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and other areas. As such, 23 train services have been introduced. Reservation system has been introduced even for general bogies. Initially, there used to be a waiting list up to

100. As Covid cases are on the rise in Telugu states since July, the people have stopped undertaking travel. In SCR, over 10.50-lakh commute daily on 750-odd train services. About 220 train services are operated to various Secunderabad alone. The SCR daily income is put at Rs 12

hyderabad 04



Many towns take tough steps to contain spread of Covid-19

K VENKATESHWARLU HYDERABAD

Since the past few days, the state has been registering rise in Corona positive cases. Following this, many towns across the state have opted self-imposed lockdown. While the business community is voluntarily closing their establishments to check the spread of coronavirus, residents of a village have decided to impose a self-lockdown.

Towns like Wyra in hammam district, Khammam Miryalaguda in Nalgonda district announced self-lockdown. In Wyra, owners of business establishments have decided to close their shops till August 9. Taking cue, residents of Miryalaguda, including Parboiled and steam mills have opted for self-imposed lockdown. The decision was taken after some police personnel and local MLA N Bhaskar Rao tested positive for Coronavirus.

Few days ago, towns like Tandur, Vikarabad, Pargi, Shadnagar in erstwhile Ranga Reddy opted self lockdown.



However, Chevelle and few other mandal head quarters are observing half day lockdown. It may be recalled that Ranga Reddy has been recording rise in positive cases after GHMC.

From just about 100 cases in June, the rate at which Rangareddy district is adding Covid-19 cases is alarming. Officials attribute the rising number of cases to the increase

in movement of people. In areas like Shankarpally, people have undertaken voluntary lockdown. Even people of Mokila have resorted to volun-

While the business community is voluntarily closing their establishments to check the spread of corona, residents of a village have decided to impose a self-lockdown

are also urging people not to come out of their residences till the self lockdown ends. They also advised people to take necessary precautions if they step out of their residences. It may be recalled that Hyderabad has witnessed an exodus of sorts, with many choosing to leave for their home districts to avoid being stranded if a lockdown is imposed. Among those that packed their bags and left were several self-employed technicians working as plumbers, electricians, carpenters, and painters in city.

Cong holds state-wide protest against demolition of mosques

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress party on Friday held protests across Telangana State against the demolition of two mosques and a temple in the Secretariat. Led by Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Minorities Department chairman Shaik Abdullah Sohail, the Congress leaders held

demonstrations after Friday prayers. "Chief Minister K

Chandrashekhar Rao has committed a heinous crime by ordering the demolition of places of worship in the Secretariat just to satisfy his superstitious beliefs. He has shown utter disrespect to the feelings of not only Muslims and Hindus, but everyone who believes in the religion. He is acting as a ruthless ruler and not as a democratically elected leader," Abdullah Sohail said while speaking to media persons at Masjid-e-Qutub

Shahi, in Hyderabad where he led the protest today. Abdullah Sohail said that there was no question of accepting the Chief Minister's offer for having a mosque at a different place in the new Secretariat. "It is part of our



"KCR came to power by

religious belief that once a ship due to the demolition of mosque is constructed, then it other structures in the Secretariat. He said that CM remains a mosque till has got habituated of cheating the Muslims. Qayamah and no one is authorised or empowered to change its status although it cheating the Muslims on the can be expanded to improve facilities or increase capacity. promise of giving 12 per cent But there is no question of reservation in jobs and educapermanently shifting the tion. He secretly allied with mosque to any other place," he the BJP and supported all said.

decisions of Prime Minister The Congress leader said Narender Modi including that KCR's apology for the Triple Talaq Bill, National demolition of places of wor-Register of Citizenship (NRC) and CAA. He is now trying to ship was fake and misleading as the State Government has cheat the Muslims on the razed the entire Secretariat to demolition of two mosques in the ground without leaving the Secretariat. He is underestimating the anger of the any signs of two mosques Muslim community. Our

and one temple. The Chief Minister tried to give the three generations have fought impression that some damage for Babri Masjid for over was caused to places of worseven decades,"he said.

Youngster stabs friend

PNS HYDERABAD

A youngster was stabbed multiple times by his friend with a sharp blunt weapon at Ghouse Nagar area of Chandrayangutta in the old city during the wee hours of Friday. According to the police, the suspect Shoukath, a resident of Ghouse Nagar and the victim Mohammed recently had a fight over some issue and Shoukath bore a grudge against Mohammed, to the extent that he wanted to eliminate Mohammed.

Both were addicted to substance and alcohol, police said, adding that they had frequent arguments over the last few days. Officials said Shoukath met Mohammed to discuss about the matter and ended up arguing on Friday morning as well. In a fit of rage, Shoukath stabbed Mohammed multiple times.

Mohammed was immediately rushed to the Osmania General Hospital, where his condition is said to be stable. Chandrayangutta Inspector Rudra Bhaskar said a case was registered and investigation was on.

KRMB urged to release 37 TMC for TS

PNS HYDERABAD

The Engineer-in-Chief of Water Resources Department of the Government of Telangana has addressed a letter to the Krishna River Management Board asking it to facilitate release of 37 TMC Srisailam and from Nagarjunasagar projects to meet water needs of Kalwakurti LI Scheme, Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal Project, AMRP, Mission Bhagiratha and drinking water needs of residents of Hyderabad.

The official was reported to have urged the board to release the water along with 27 TMC allotted last year, which the government of Telangana could not use. A few days ago, the Government of AP also urged the board for release of 17 TMC from Handri-Neeva



and Potireddypadu project. The Board is likely to take a decision on the issue in two or there days. Meanwhile, the Government of AP urged the board to get the release of water through Srisailam Left Canal power house stalled. It alleged that the power utilities of Telangana are getting the

water released through hydel power generation without permission from the board and informing the Srisailam project authorities.

The government termed the release of water was against the GO No.69 on release of water from Srisailam project.

PV CENTENARY FETE Govt launches dedicated website PNS HYDERABAD 8 Telangana Government on

Friday launched a dedicated website https://pvnr.telangana.gov.in as the platform to showcase birth centenary celebrations of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. MP and chairman of the PV

tary lockdown in view of

realty, parts of Rangareddy fall

under GHMC limits. The areas

which are close to Hyderabad

Manikonda, Sivarampally,

Mansoorabad are adding more

cases. Coronavirus cases have

been increasing in non-GHMC

also flagged an alarm over the

rapid increase in cases in erst-

while districts of Telangana. The

local authorities in these towns

The Health Department has

parts of the district as well.

Serilingampally,

Known for Industries and

increasing cases.

like

Narasimha Rao Centenary Celebrations Committee K. Keshava Rao launched the website at Ravindra Bharathi. The website will serve as the one stop resource for all the information related to birth centenary celebrations of the former Prime Minister being organised by Telangana Government.

Apart from the life journey of the stalwart in Indian politics and public administration, all the events, schedules, registration forms, photos, videos, official handles of social media, news, articles and GOs/ circulars related to the son and daughter of PV



centenary celebrations will be made available on the website. It may be recalled that the Telangana government has decided to hold year-long celebrations marking the birth centenary of PV Narasimha Rao starting 28 June, 2020 till 28 June, 2021. The government has also constituted "Sri PV Narasimha Rao Centenary Celebrations Committee" under the chairmanship of K Keshava Rao. MA&UD KT Rama Rao, sent

Narasimha Rao PVPrabhakar Rao and Surabhi Vani Devi respectively, Chief Advisor to government Dr Rajiv Sharma, Advisor to government Dr. KV Ramanachary, chairman, Telangana Official Language Commission Devulapalli Prabhakar Rao, Tourism & Culture Dept. Secretary Sreenivasa Raju, Director of Language & Culture Mamidi Harikrishna and Director, Digital Media Konatham Dileep were pre-

Komatireddy holds govt responsible for Dalit farmer's suicide PNS HYDERABAD

Congress MP from Bhongir Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Friday blamed the state government for the death of Dalit farmer, Byagari Narsimhulu, who committed sui-cide by consuming pesticide. "The state government deceived Dalits. The govern-ment promiad that each landless Dalit ment promised that each landless Dalit family would be given 3 acres of land," he alleged.

The MP demanded the government to initiate action against the officials concerned for the death of Narsimhulu. Komatireddy demanded the Chief Minister to tender apologies to Dalits owning responsibility for the attacks on them. He demanded the Chief Minster to give three acre land and Rs 50 lakh ex-gratia to the bereaved family. On the other hand, Komatireddy extended Rs 1 lakh assistance through local Congress leaders. Meanwhile, BJP senior leader

Mothkupally Narsimhulu also blamed the state government for the death of the Dalit farmer. He made it clear that BJP will fight till the bereaved family gets justice.

Many in race for BJP state committee posts PNS HYDERABAD

There are many contenders in the BJP for the state committee posts. Therefore, the BJP state unit president Bandi Sanjay asked the national committee to take steps to fill the posts. Bandi Sanjay called on national president JP Nadda twice on Wednesday and Thursday and furnished him names of contenders in the state BJP for various posts.

He urged the national committee to appoint leaders on the committee without giving any room for controversies and discontentment among the party leaders. JP Nadda was reported to have remarked, "Let us see." The BJP has reduced the number of office-bearers to 8 from the previous 11 in the state committee.

The number of general secretary posts has been reduced to three from the previous four. The number of posts has come down, but the number of aspirants increased, putting pressure on the state leadership of the party. The BJP leaders are of the view to accommodate the leaders, who could not find find a berth in the state committee, in other committees.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT FORM-VII PRELIMINARY DECLARATION (As per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparent Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Settlement Act of 2013 and Under Section 19 (1), Rule 25 and sub-rule (1) of the Central Act 30/2013)

Illegal sand mining goes unchecked

PNS TIRMALPUR

Illegal quarrying of sand from lake and river beds is going unchecked and the vested interests looting the sand are not even hesitating to assault anyone who tries to resist them. In Tirmalapur of Mahbubnagar district, death of a farmer reported on Thursday was due to rash driving by the sand-laden tractor.

The official machinery registers cases against those responsible now and then and usually turns a blind-eye to the goings on, it is alleged. As part of the new sand policy of the state government, Telangana State Mineral Development Corporaition is selling sand through online booking. The sand is being quarried from River Musi, River Godavari, River Krishna and their tributaries. Besides this, the District Collectors are implementing sand taxi system to sell sand



quarried from local streams. Sircilla district, illegal sand During the summer, the TSMDC used to sell 40,000 quarrying is going on. Local people's representatives and cubic meters of sand daily, but sand tractor owners formed into a ring and smuggling sand to the districts of the supply has come down between 8,000 and 12,000 cubic meters a day on account Rangareddy, Kamareddy and Siddipet districts. In Malyal village of Mulug

of the rainy season. The illegal sand quarrying in district, the revenue officials gave permission for sand quar-River Musi at Jajireddy Gudem in Suryapet district has been going on unchecked for over rying in lands of eight farmers two decades. In villages, in the because of sand casting. But the vicinity of Maneru stream in contractor, taking advantage of

fake way bills and bar codes, is smuggling the sand to other areas. The Ghatkesar Police unearthed the fake way bills case leading to the arrest of six persons.

In Godavari River of Mahadevpur mandal of Bhupalapalli district, sand is being smuggled out from 28 ghats as each lorry transporting sand fills one to two tonnes over and above its capacity causing a dent to the government's revenue.

Daily at least 2,000 lorries transport sand from Kaleswaram surrounding areas. Over speeding of the lorries caused the death of over 20 during the past four years. Tractor owners, indulging in quarrying of sand in Venkatapur of Yellareddypeta mandal of Sircilla district, on the suspicion of one person acting as a police informer assaulted him inflicting grievous injuries to him.

receives good inflows

Sri Ram Sagar Project

PNS HYDERABAD

Sri Ram Sagar Project flood inflows increased on Friday due to heavy rains in Maharashtra and local catchment area in Telangana. On Friday afternoon, the project received 19,283 cusecs inflows and project obtain 17.5 TMCft water in this rainy season.

Due to Balegaon, Amdura and Vishnupuri projects reaching full reservoir level and according to the Supreme Court orders, Maharashtra irrigation officials lifted the gates of Babli project and releasing total flood into river Godavari and these inflows directly arriving into the SRSP project.

On this rainy season, SRSP project till now has received nearly 17.5 TMCft water into the project, this year project already having 29.73 TMCft water in the project and releasing water to the vaanakalam crops along SRSP ayacut and Nizamsagar ayacut in Nizamabad district.



On Friday morning, the project having 8,464 cusecs inflows, but till afternoon it obtained 19,283 cusecs inflows. Now, the SRSP project having 39 TMC's of water storage and releasing 6,000 cusecs to Kakatiya canal, 800 cusecs to Saraswathi, 350 cusecs to Lakshmi canals, 360 cusecs to Alisagar lift, 405 cusecs to Gutpa lift irrigation scheme. Apart from that, 430 cusecs are evaporation losses and 142 cusecs of water releasing to the Mission Bhagiratha scheme.

Collector's File No. G3/1523/2016 Date:25-07-2020 Revenue Divisional Officer's file No H/2228/2019 Date:21-07-2020 Gazette No. 442/2020 Date: 24-07-2020

The Government of Telangana/District Collector, Siddipet has decided to acquire Ac2.02 Gts situated within limits of Komuravelli village and mandal for public purpose i.e. for formation of new BG railway line between Manoharabad and Kottapalli villages under Section 19 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparent Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Settlement Act of 2013.

The preliminary declaration has been issued to acquire Ac 2.02 Gts in Komuravelli village of Komuravelli mandal of Siddipet district from those whose names mentioned in the below schedule for the project.

		Komuravelli			Name & Address					ict: Siddip Construction
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The GO No.86 of the Transport, Roads and Buildings (Tr S & V)

Department dated 24-11-2017 in its Chapter-II and Chapter-III exempted basic issues pertaining to laying of the BG line from Manoharabad to Kottapalii. The project is not displacing any families.

Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land , except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dup or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer and Revenue Divisional Officer, Siddipet, during working hours on any working day.

Tahsildar,	Revenue	Additional	District
Komuravelli	Divisional Officer	Collector,	Collector,
Mandal	Siddipat	Siddipet	Siddipet
DIPR R.O. No.	: 443/LA/PP/Advt/Pi	ub/2020-21	

Eagle squad to be raised to neutralise drones

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Friday issued an order giving the Home Department permission to raise a squad of eagles for training them to neutralise drones during VIP/VVIP visits and official programmes. The order was issued by the Finance Department following a request by the Home Department on June 26 to be allowed to raise 'Garuda' squad at the Integrated Intelligence Training Academy of Police at Moinabad on Hyderabad outskirts.

The Finance Department also gave permission to engage the services of two resource persons as trainers 2016.

on contract basis. When the squad is raised, the police of

Telangana will become the second force in the world to use this method of tracking unauthorised drones. Earlier, police of the Netherlands trained eagles to take down drones amid concerns that they were increasingly being used to commit crimes.

Eagles were said to be a preferred lot to combat drones because of their sharp talons and equally sharp eyesight which enabled them to pinpoint and pluck a drone from the sky in a single and fast manoeuvre. The Dutch

police demonstrated the skills of eagles first in

NIT-Warangal comes up with chemical-free sterilistion system

es, cell phones, ornaments, shoes,

handbags, newspaper, parcels etc.

PNS HYDERABAD

Since the past few days, Telangana has been registering rise in Covid positive cases. Scientists' and researchers' across the world are struggling hard to find out ways and means to control the spread of the pandemic.

To address this issue, with the support and encouragement of Prof D Dinakar, Head, Department of Physics, Dr D Haranath, an Associate Professor in Physics along with his research scholar, P Chandar Rao have developed a multi-purpose, chemical-free and safe sterilization system and named it as "OzoNIT".

This system just resembles the household refrigerator in which one can easily disinfect vegetables, fruits, packed food, milk packets, masks, cloths, wallet, cash, watch-

This system just resembles the household refrigerator in which one can easily disinfect vegetables, fruits, packed food and others all in one go. With a click of a button, the device produces 500

mg of ozone gas in an hour from ambient air. Exposure of these articles under ozone gas for about 20-25 minutes will kill all types of viruses, fungi and bacteria up to 99.99 per cent without the use of any sterilizing chemicals. The design of the chamber is made such that no leakage of the ozone

gas takes place while it is being operated.

Prof N V Ramana Rao, Director, NIT Warangal told the media that OzoNIT is much powerful, effective and superior to all UV-C based contemporary units available in the market in making all the articles fully virus-free. After the ozone treatment, the vegetables and fruits could be cooked/consumed without any fear ensuing thorough cleaning under tap water. There is no change in their quality and taste, added the Director. Further, he emphasised that 'OzoNIT' should become a part of every family, office and educational institution for their daily requirement of disinfection and NIT Warangal is committed to launch this product into the market very soon through proper mechanism and investors.



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SHORT READS



Nitish Kumar's rally postponed in view of **COVID-19** outbreak

PATNA: A much-anticipated virtual rally of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar next week, where he was expected to sound the bugle for assembly polls, has been put off for the time being, a top office-bearer of the ruling Janata Dal (United) said here on Friday. In a statement, the party's state unit president Vashishtha Narayan Singh said the rally, scheduled for August 7, has been postponed "in view of the coronavirus pandemic and floods. Nearly four million people in north Bihar have been affected by the floods caused by a rise in water levels of rivers originating in Nepal. A fresh date for the virtual rally will be decided in due course, the statement added. Senior leaders of the party, of which the chief minister is the national president, had been busy holding orientation workshops for grassroots-level workers over video conferences for the past two weeks.

Bengal Guv invokes Satyajit Ray in latest salvo on Mamata govt

KOLKATA: Alleging that violence and corruption have become a part of the governance in West Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar hit out at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's dispensation with a reference to Satyajit Ray's political satire 'Hirak Rajar Deshe' as he completed a year in office. Dhankhar, whose first year in office has been marked by frequent face-offs between Raj Bhavan and state secretariat 'Nabanna', said Ray would never have imagined that similar state of affairs would prevail in his own state West Bengal as is evident now. "Violence, corruption and hegemony goondaism under police protection have become a part of the governance; what do we call it, Hirak Rajar Deshe?" Dhankhar said. 'Hirak Rajar Deshe' (In The Land of Diamond King), which is a part of the popular 'Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne' trilogy, is a 1980 Ray classic on the decaying

SC refuses to stay final year exams, asks for MHA stand

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday refused to pass any interim order on a batch of petitions seeking cancellation of final year/semester examinations in September amid the COVID-19 pandemic and asked the Centre to clear the stand of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on the issue.

The UGC told the top court that nobody should remain under the impression that since the Supreme Court is examining this issue, the final year /semester examination will be

stayed. A bench head by Justice Ashok Bhushan, which conducted the hearing through video conferencing, said that it is not passing any orders on the issue and posted the matters for further hearing on August 10.

The bench, also comprising Justices R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah, was informed by Solicitor General Tushar



Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the UGC, that he would apprise the court about

MHA's stand on the issue. Mehta said they are only concerned with final year exams and out of over 800 universities in the country, 209 have completed the examinations. He said that around 390 uni-

versities are in the process of conducting the examinations. "Let nobody remain under the impression that since this

court is examining this, it will be stayed. Let students continue with their studies," Mehta said.

To this, the bench said, "We are not passing any such order." The bench also asked counsel for Maharashtra to place before it the June 19 order of the state disaster management committee passed in this regard.

Let the decision (of state disaster management commit-

A bench head by Justice Ashok Bhushan, which conducted the hearing through video conferencing, said that it is not passing any orders on the issue and posted the matters for further hearing on August 10

tee of Maharashtra) be brought on record," the bench said.

and Bihar.

Delhi.

The top court said all the

affidavits be filed by August 7. At the fag end of the hearing, advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, appearing for some of the petitioners, raised the issue of plight of students in the flood affected areas of Assam

'This is not a case for interim order today," the bench said. "On August 10, we will hear it".

Delhi govt's five-day sero-survey to begin today

PNS NEW DELHI

The next round of sero-prevalence survey in the national capital is slated to begin on Saturday, with authorities gearing up for the five-day exercise to comprehensively analyse the COVID-19 situation in

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on July 22 had announced that after analysing the results of the last survey, it was decided that more such exercises would be done every month to formulate better policies for tackling the COVID-19 situation in the national capital.

The next sero-prevalence survey is scheduled to take place from August 1-5.

The health department has prepared a detailed plan under which every district medical officer has been asked to conduct the survey in their respective jurisdictions, officials said.

Delhi recorded 1093 fresh coronavirus cases on Thursday, taking the tally in the city to



over 1.34 lakh, while the death toll from the disease climbed

to 3,936, authorities said. The active cases tally on Thursday was 10,743, down from 10,770 the previous day. The last sero-prevalence

study was done by the Delhi government in association with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) from June 27 to July 10.

The study had found that around 23 per cent of the people surveyed in Delhi had an exposure to the novel coro-

navirus, the central government had said.

'The results of the serosurvey conducted from June 27-July 10 came out yesterday, and it shows that nearly onefourth of people had developed antibodies, meaning they had got infected and recovered. Most of these people who were sampled did not know that they were infected earlier," Jain had told reporters, a day after the results were announced by the Health

Truth shall prevail: Rhea on allegations

PNS MUMBAI

Actor Rhea Chakraborty, who has been accused by Sushant Singh Rajput's family of abetting the actor's suicide, has broken her silence in the case, claiming "the truth shall prevail'

Rajput, who was dating Chakraborty, was found dead at his Bandra residence on June 14.

Over a month after the 34vear-old actor's death, his father lodged a police complaint in Patna on Tuesday against Chakraborty.

In a video statement released through her lawyers, Chakraborty said she had faith in the judiciary.

"I have immense faith in god and the judiciary. I said.



believe that I will get justice. Even though a lot of horrible things are being said about me on the electronic media, I refrain from commenting on the advice of my lawyers as the matter is subjudice. Satyamev Jayate, the truth shall prevail," the actor

'Rajput's family pressured me to

give statement against Rhea'

K'taka may bring in law banning sale of tobacco, paan masala: CM

PNS BENGALURU

Karnataka may bring an ordinance to ban the sale of tobac-co, gutkha and paan masala in the state over fears of drugs being sold in paan masala pouches, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa told Governor Vajubhai Vala on Friday. Yediyurappa along with Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai had called on the Governor to discuss a host of issues with him including drugs, crime and coronavirus cases in the state.

During the discussion, the Governor suggested to the Chief Minister to ban the sale and distribution of tobacco, Gutkha, Paan Masala and all types of pouches in which in the name of gutkha, drugs were sold in the state, a statement from the



four persons from Kerala with a major drug haul of Rs 1.25

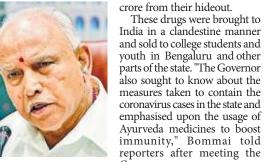
Raj political crisis:

54 Gehlot camp

MLAs on way to

Jaisalmer

PNS JAIPUR



coronavirus cases in the state and emphasised upon the usage of Ayurveda medicines to boost immunity," Bommai told reporters after meeting the Governor. Sources in the Home

Department said the Governor also discussed with Yediyurappa and Bommai about the steps taken by the government to check terrorist activities in the state following the United Nations' recent report pointing towards substantial presence of IS supporters in Karnataka.

Invite dalit spiritual leader for Ram temple ceremony: Mayawati PNS LUCKNOW

Ministry.

BSP president Mayawati on Friday favoured that an invitation be extended to Dalit Mahamandelshwar Kanhaiya Prabhunandan Giri for the 'bhoomi pujan' ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, saying it would have some impact on the Constitutional intention of setting a casteless

society. This comes after reports in the media that Giri was unhappy over not being invited to the event. The groundbreaking ceremony for the temple is slated for August 5. In a tweet, the BSP supremo said, "In view of the complaint of Dalit Mahamandelshwar

Swami Kanhaiya Prabhunanadan Giri, it would have been better if he was also invited to the bhoomi pujan ceremony in Ayodhya on August 5 along with 200 other saints. This could have had some impact on the Constitutional intention of establishing a casteless society in





the country.

Ram temple to be grander than

PNS MUMBAI

he said.

Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's

ED should file

Governor's office said. 'The Chief Minister said that the issue will be discussed and action will be taken. If necessary an ordinance will be brought about this," the statement read. Recently, the Bengaluru police busted a racket with the arrest of

state of the administration and re that is releva even in the present times.

71 booked in triple talag cases in UP's Shamli in last one year

MUZAFFARNAGAR: Seventvone people have been booked and 62 arrested in triple talag cases in Shamli district in the last one year, police said on Friday. Shamli SP Vinit Jaiswal said 19 cases of triple talag were registered against 71 people and charge sheets were filed in 16 cases against 62 people in courts. During investigation, nine out of 71 people were found innocent the SP added. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act prohibits the practice of instant divorce by Muslim men. Any violation of the law is punishable by jail term of up to three years.

friend has sent an e-mail to Mumbai Police, alleging that the family members of the late Bollywood star pressurised him to give a statement against actress Rhea Chakraborty, an official said. The purported mail was sent by Rajput's friend Siddharth Pithani on the official e-mail address of the Bandra Police on July 28, the official said.

the official added. ⁱIn the mail, Siddharth said

that he received conference calls from the family members of Rajput and an unknown number on July 22, in which they asked him questions regarding Rhea Chakraborty and her expenses during her stay at Mont Blanc apartment (in Bandra) with the late actor,"

"He said that on July 27, he again received a phone call, in which a family member of Rajput asked him to give a statement against Rhea of, he said.



Chakraborty to Bihar Police,

'Siddharth said that the family member told him that he would get a phone call soon. Accordingly, he received a call from an unknown WhatsApp number, which ended within 40 seconds and hence he could not give any statement," the official said. Pithani, who was a flatmate of the late actor, alleged in the mail that he was being pres-

surised to record a statement against Chakraborty about the things which he was not aware

case: Fadnavis The Enforcement Directorate (ED) should register an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in connection with the money laundering

angle in the Sushant Singh Raiput death case, former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Friday. There is a "huge public sentiment" about handing over the case to the CBI, but the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state has been reluctant to do so. "There is a huge sentiment among the people in the Sushant Singh Rajput case. They feel something is being hidden, new revelations are being made. Hence, people are demanding a CBI probe into it," he said.

Over 50 MLAs of the Ashok Gehlot camp, who were lodged in a hotel on the Jaipur- Delhi Highway amid the ongoing political crisis in Rajasthan, were being shifted to Jaisalmer on Friday, Congress sources said. Three chartered flights carrying 54 MLAs to Jaisalmer took off from here in the first round. The remaining legislators will go in the second round, the sources said. "We are going to Jaisalmer for a change," Congress MLA Prashant Bairwa said. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is also expected to go to Jaisalmer, they said. The decision to shift the MLAs come a day after Gehlot indicated that he will seek a confidence vote when the assembly convenes next fortnight and claimed that the money offered to the MLAs to switch sides had increased sharply ahead of the session.

The proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya will be almost double the size of what was originally planned as its design was modified following the Supreme Court verdict last year, its architect said on Friday.

PNS AHMEDABAD

The temple, to be constructed in Nagara style of architecture, will have five domes instead of two as envisaged earlier to accommodate more number of devotees, the architect said.

According to him, the project is likely to be completed in the next three years once the work commences.

The 'bhoomi pujan' (groundbreaking) ceremony of the temple in Ayodhya is scheduled to be held on August 5, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attend, as told by the members of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra, a trust formed to oversee its



construction. "The design of the temple was modified after the Supreme Court verdict. Now it will be almost double the size of what was originally planned," architect Chandrakant Sompura, who has designed it, told PTI. "It will now have a shikhara

(tower) over the sanctum sanctorum and five domes instead of the earlier plan of two domes. The height of the temple will

also be more than what was in the previous plan," he said.

In November last year, the Supreme Court had paved the way for the construction of Ram temple by at the disputed site at Ayodhya, and directed the Centre to allot an alternative five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a new mosque at a "prominent" place in the holy town in Uttar Pradesh.

'Ram temple 'bhoomi puja'

not required

PNS MUMBAI

amid pandemic'

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena

(MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on

Friday said that the 'bhoomi

pujan' ceremony of the pro-

Prez gifts racing bicycle to school boy who dreams of excelling as cyclist

The boy has been taking

PNS NEW DELHI

Riyaz, a budding cyclist and student of class 9 in the national capital, got his 'Eidi' on Friday when President Ram Nath Kovind gifted him a racing bicycle to help him achieve his dream of becoming a worldclass cyclist.

A student of Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya at Anand Vihar in Delhi, Riyaz originally belongs to Madhubani district in Bihar.

His family, comprising parents, two sisters and a brother, lives in Madhubani, while Riyaz stavs in a rented accommodation in Maharajpur, Ghaziabad, according to a statement issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan.

To supplement his father's paltry income as a cook, the boy in his free time works in an eatery in Ghaziabad as a dishwasher, it said.

Riyaz's passion is cycling, and he practises hard after



studies and work. In 2017, he won a bronze medal in the professional training from coach Cycling Delhi Pramod Sharma, who regular-State Championship. He went on to ly trains him at the Indira participate in a school games Gandhi Indoor Stadium in event in Guwahati, according to Delhi. Unfortunately, Riyaz the District Magistrate, had to depend on a borrowed Ghaziabad, and achieved fourth sports cycle for his practice, and rank at the national level. The all that the budding champion president came to know of wanted was a cycle of his own. His wish was finally granted on Riyaz's story of struggle through reports in the media. the occasion of Eid

ITBP inks deal with KVIC to procure 'swadeshi', 'khadi' items for CAPF staff Khadi & Village Industries Commission

for the

4

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (I)

of Mustard Ol

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PNS NEW DELHI

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Friday inked a deal with the KVIC to procure a variety of 'swadeshi' and 'khadi' goods for around 10 lakh personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces. The force will procure 1,200 quintals of mustard oil from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIČ) with "a total financial implication of over Rs 1.73 crore", an ITBP spokesperson said.

Memorandum of 'Α Understanding was signed between the two sides on Friday. The aim is to increasingly procure 'swadeshi' or indigenously

made products," he said. The MoU was signed by KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena and officials of the ITBP procurement wing in Delhi.

The ITBP, a mountain-warfare trained force for guarding the 3,488-km-longs Line of Actual procuring durries (mats), towels

Control (LAC) with China, is the first among the paramilitary or CAPFs to ink such a deal. The other Central Armed Police Forces are the CRPF, CISF, BSF and the SSB.

Home Minister Amit Shah had declared few months ago that the CAPF canteens will only sell 'swadeshi' or indigenous products from June. Apart from mustard oil, the ITBP is also

and blankets from the suppliers empanelled with the KVIC.

Approximately 2.5 lakh durries will be procured by ITBP at a cost of Rs 17 crore. The force is the nodal agency for procure-ment of durries for all CAPFs,"

the spokesperson said. The ITBP has also suggested that yoga kits, hospital bed sheets, 'khadi' uniform, pickels of these forces tasked with a variand some other items can be purchased for the CAPF jawans

"A Memorandum of **Understanding was** signed between the two sides on Friday. The aim is to increasingly procure 'swadeshi' or indigenously made products," he said

through KVIC, a senior official said. These items will also be sold to the personnel and their families through the CAPF canteens. These canteens, with a network of 1,700 stores, do an estimated business worth Rs 2,800 crore annually by selling their products to 50 lakh family mem-

bers of about 10 lakh personnel

ety of internal security work apart

from border guarding duties.

posed Ram temple in Ayodhya, scheduled to be held on August 5, is not required amid the COVID-19 pandemic and could be organised later when things normalised. He also rejected Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's suggestion for "ebhoomi pujan" and said the ground-breaking ceremony should be held with great fervour. Speaking to a Marathi news channel, the MNS chief said, "The bhoomi pujan is not required at this time as people are in a different mindset right now. It could have been held after two months when things normalise. People would have enjoyed the ceremony then.'



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Rajasthan mess

As Gehlot herds MLAs at Jaisalmer and the BJP plays behind the scene, topple games dilute the people's mandate



he Ashok Gehlot-Sachin Pilot standoff in Rajasthan shows no signs of abating with a new point of friction emerging as soon as an existing issue gets sorted. And it seems that the inter-generational war in the Congress is all set to worsen even if Gehlot aces the numbers game for now. It is not a matter of saving the Government but scoring points in an ego war that will ultimately not help the party. For even if Gehlot sails through, there will be no end to the discontent of the younger breed led by Pilot, who had staked their efforts to

craft the party's return and relevance in the State as elders had failed, but were denied their right to rewards. If Pilot, no doubt a prize potential for the BJP, which makes no bones about a Congress-free heartland, does manage to get more MLAs to his side, he will still be a deliverer of power but not the Chief Minister. He will be just a pawn and not the embodiment of the cause he represents. No matter how flexible it becomes, the BJP can at best still keep him as a deputy that he was. In the end, the Congress would be the loser as it would be seen as dishonouring the people's verdict with its personality clashes instead of consolidating governance and insuring its house. So now that Governor Kalraj Mishra has agreed to call a House session on August 14, expecting the Chief Minister to seek the trust vote, which the rebels led by his ex-deputy Chief Minister will attend, Gehlot is again upping the perception game with a measure of bluster. Having cornered Pilot with sedition charges, saying he was colluding with the BJP to topple his Government, and sacking him, he was hoping the rebels led by his younger adversary would be disqualified for anti-party activities. The courts didn't allow it, so Gehlot decided to withdraw the legal case and mount a political campaign, claiming that the BJP had bought over Pilot. While he has been screaming "horse trading" since the Rajya Sabha polls, which incidentally the Congress won, he's now claiming that the Governor's 21-day window before the Assembly session will "increase horse-trading" and that the rates had been upped for crossing over. He has even accused Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati of siding with the BJP and questioning last year's merger of the six BSP MLAs into the Congress while overlooking the BJP's absorption of four TDP MPs (in Rajya Sabha) into it overnight. He has launched a direct missile against the Modi-Shah duo by calling out the Government for "misusing" the Income Tax Department, ED, CBI to "scare and threaten everyone." Will this pay off?

There's no doubt that the BJP, in no small part aided by its central leadership, is trying all methods, from inducement to intimidation, to wrest Rajasthan. Or that Gehlot is equally masterful, herding his MLAs with resort quarantine, and now taking them to Jaisalmer. But the political discourse is getting murkier with a return of money bags and power-broking, making a mockery of the mandate and diluting focus besides diverting limited resources in pandemic times. Gehlot's desperation stems from the fact that he has a narrow lead, one over the majority mark of 101 in the 200-member Assembly. Officially, the Pilot camp has 19 MLAs and now that they can vote, could destabilise Gehlot, And if the court case against the six BSP MLAs, who merged into the Congress, is pursued, then things could get uncomfortable. His desperation is symptomatic of the larger churning in the Congress, which was evident at a virtual meeting of the party presided over by Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh. Rahul Gandhi loyalist Rajiv Satav openly blamed UPA-II as the reason for the party's erosion in public life, claiming that "the stint of that Government ruined the Congress and so the accountability for the party's crisis must be fixed from that time." Yet the elders persisted with their line that "lightweight, inexperienced youngsters" were trying to "undeservingly thrive" by creating a generational divide. The old guards forget that some of them were given prime responsibility in their younger years, upsetting many seniors of their time. And in their advanced years, they have settled into inertia, continuing with what they have built for themselves rather than rebuilding the party. Yet there are younger leaders, who are driven by the desire to leave their mark and are ready to even work at the grassroots as Pilot has shown. For all its talk of devolution of power, the older lot in the Congress still relies on centralised thinking rather than empowering the grassroots functionaries or at least giving them a listen. Pilot had not been so persistent about the top post initially but wanted his stake in governance. Yet he was left out of every decision-making process. Gehlot allowed that rift to widen instead of closing it and strategically keeping him busy. He is a mature politician enough to be told what was needed to be done. But he let his ego and a chieftain's territoriality come in the way, one that has cost the Congress its Governments in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Arunachal. Madhva Pradesh and Karnataka.

opinion Hasty proposition

The timing, motive and the very structure of the five-member committee formed to make changes to criminal laws are questionable. Greater transparency is needed



AJOY KUMAR

here is a famous parable that is believed to have originated in the Indian sub-continent and finds a mention in ancient Buddhist, Hindu and Jain texts. The story is of a group of blind men, who encounter an elephant for the first time when the animal is brought to their village. Having no idea about its shape or size, the blind men decided that they must inspect the animal by touching it in order to paint a picture in their minds. One blind man put his hand on the trunk of the elephant and said that the animal was a thick snake. Another touched the elephant's ear and said that it seemed like a type of fan. A third blind man, who touched the leg of the elephant, said that it resembled a tree trunk while another felt its tusk and thought the animal was like a spear. The parable deals with how our subjective experiences, while they may be true and honest, have an inherent limitation. They fail to account for the truths and experiences of other people. The parable is an appropriate metaphor for the law-making process adopted by the BJP Government at the helm.

A recent example of this myopic approach to law-making is the constitution of a five-member Committee for Reforms in Criminal Law, which has been set up by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs at the National Law University, Delhi. The panel includes the Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the university as well as the Vice Chancellor of Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur, renowned criminal lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani and a former district and sessions judge from New Delhi. The committee's primary role is to recommend changes and reforms to the criminal laws of the country by examining the procedural, evidentiary and substantive rules.

Let me be clear, no one can deny the fact that there's an urgent need to reform our criminal laws. However, the manner in which the committee has been formed, the way it is expected to operate and the limited perspective that it will offer leave a lot to be desired. With regard to the formation of the committee, it has been established under the directions of the Union Home Ministry, which essentially has under its purview the very organs that have violated a number of criminal laws while carrying out their functions.

surpris

constituted. While the need to reform criminal laws has been felt time and again, it is unclear why such a necessity arose at the time of a global pandemic, when every fifth case of COVID-19 is reportedly an Indian. The committee has commenced online consultations barring a few people who may not be able to participate through this mode. Thereby, it has automatically excluded the very people who are most affected by the abuse of criminal laws and the due process. Not only is the commencement of the consultation suspectible but the time given to the committee to prepare its report — six months — is reflective of a cruel sense of humour where unfortunately, the joke will be on everyday citizens, who are subjected to outdated criminal laws on a regular basis. The thir d matter rel the constitution of the committee itself. It is shocking how north India-centric and more specifically Delhi-centric the committee is. What is even more appalling is that the committee lacks diversity as there is no woman or any member from the minority or the marginalised sections of society on the panel. These are the very

UNFORTUNATELY THE COMMITTEE IS A REFLECTION OF THE BJP'S APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE WHERE IT IS ASSUMED THAT INDIA IS NOT A DIVERSE, VIVID POPULACE BUT A HOMOGENOUS BLOCK; WHERE DISCUSSION AND DEBATE ARE AN UNNECESSARY TIME LAG people who disproportionateare the victims of criminal

For example, it is staggering that the committee will be debating on things like whether marital rape should be excluded from the domain of rape laws. However, women practitioners of criminal law have not been included in its panel. It is precisely for this reason that a number of retired judges, senior advocates and women lawyers from all across the country have written to the committee, expressing concern about its blinkered nature.

Unfortunately, the com-mittee is a reflection of the BJP's approach to governance where it is assumed that India is not a diverse, vivid populace but a homogenous block; where distion. cussion and debate are an unnecessary time lag. It is precisely this approac visible when a monumental disaster called demonetisation was inflicted upon us. While the well-to-do and the upper middle class managed just fine with easy access to funds, it was the poor and the unorganised sector that bore the brunt (and is still bearing) of perhaps the most ignorant policy decision in recent memory.

The fact that cash in the economy today is higher than it was even during pre-demonetisation levels is an embarrassing reminder of the Government's high-handed, rushed and negligent approach.

However, the Government does not appear to have learnt from its mistakes and looks to be sticking to its dogged approach. In some cases, however, there are institutions like the High Court of Karnataka, which, while examining a challenge to the draft Environment Impact Assessment notification, expressed displeasure on the Central Government's stand that it will not publish the draft EIA notification in regional languages and will consider staying the notifica-

Ultimately, we can only hope and pray that the avs heed to these ernment concerns raised by civil society and institutions, who wish to ensure representative law-making. If the Government fails to do so, you and I will be left holding the tail of the elephant while the Government calls it a rope (The writer is a former IPS officer, a former MP and currently a member of the AAP)

Payment problems

Digital payments are more popular than ever before but a Government audit has found glaring holes in the system



ndividuals and companies may not like audits because they might expose some of their deliberate wrongdoings. But very often, audits are useful because they can help plug loopholes and gaps that many folks never knew existed. In some cases, an audit might bring up obvious flaws that in hindsight should have been noticed and be the result of an innocuous mistake. But as we all know, innocuous mistakes can have devastating results. And this is what a hitherto unknown audit of the national digital payments processor, the National Payments Corporation of India (NCPI), has

revealed, including an encrypted file that stored names and card details of millions of individuals.

While the NCPI claims to have rectified the errors that were revealed in the audit, this highlights why it is important to have such technology audits for all major Government services. Huge swathes of our personal information reside with Governments — from the many panchayats and municipalities, districts, States to the Centre. Then there are medical, tax and payment records. It is important, more so among private companies, that information stays secure at all points. The new data privacy norms mooted by the Government have been described as a "nationalisation of data" by some commentators. While that is an extreme description, the norms on data protection are thin and punishment for violations as well. What will happen when Government data is breached? At the same time, it is important to realise that a majority of the frauds on the internet surround digital payments. Mechanisms have to be developed around them. Financial fraud has existed since the beginning of time and will continue to bother us. Mistakes will be made but we have to ensure that the digital payment ecosystem, vitally important in today's contactless day and age, stays as clean as possible.

law reform is typically the domain of the Ministry of Law and Justice. This Ministry forms commissions, which consist of lawyers, bureaucrats and other relevant stakeholders. In fact, in the past, several law commissions have recommended changes to the criminal laws in their reports. So, it is not clear why this role was suddenly usurped by the Union Home Ministry.

The second issue relates to the manner in which this newly-formed panel was





LETTERS тне EDITOR 0

Merits and demerits

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "New curriculum" (July 31). The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, proposes many structural changes and is aimed at fixing the mess in India's education system. However, it fails to address some of the ills plaguing this sector.

One of the main drawbacks of our present education system is that students, who pass out of educational institutions, do not possess the skills required to be employable. Second, the content of the subject remains irrelevant and is not in sync with present times. Third, our education system is too exam-centric. Four, students get typecast for life based on the subjects they study. The NEP 2020 does attempt to address this issue by allowing the students to choose from the subjects they like. Five, commercialisation and corruption still plague the education system. The NEP, 2020, does promise to treat education as a "not for profit" however, not be forgotten. It proentity. However, this will lead to vides for the extension of the more corruption because institu-Right to Education to cover all tions are not meant for charity. children between three and 18 Merits of the NEP must, years of age. The plan to intro-

Omar strikes a chord

his refers to the editorial, "Omar's message" (July 29). The abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A last year in August was a decisive step towards mainstreaming Jammu & Kashmir into India. Such incremental steps have been happening since 1947 when Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession (IoA). National Conference (NC) founder Sheikh Abdullah became Jammu & Kashmir's first head to be elected in 1948. His refusal to have the IoA ratified by the Constituent Assembly as also his espousal of independent Kashmir, called "Kashmir conspiracy", resulted in his dismissal, arrest and replacement by Bakhshi Ghulam Mohammad in 1953. The new incumbent, also from NC, had the IoA ratified by the Assembly in 1954, thus expanding the Union Government's role in the former State. The next milestone came in the form of the Indira-Sheikh Accord of 1975 under which the latter discarded the "selfdetermination" demand in exchange for his political rehabilitation. Jammu & Kashmir's new status since last August is the culmination of efforts of successive Governments since independence. Winning the Valley's hearts and minds, on abrogation, remains elusive as security forces remain stationed there in abundance. Militancy, too, is on the rise as people are ripped away from the mainstream like never before. While digital curfew is jeopardising the career of Kashmiri youths, job-

is welcome.



lessness is rising by the day. Let alone new opportunities, even traditional jobs have disappeared.

NC leader Omar Abdullah offers a window that the Government can still use to reach out to the Kashmiris. NC, being the oldest party, has a deep connection with the former State. It is the NC that helped the Government in 1954 and 1975. It may still be helpful today. The Government must leverage Omar's logical stand and revive the political process. Omar's on-boarding and conclusion of delimitation exercise need to be expedited or we will lose the narrative

> SK Prabhakar Gurugram

duce three-year and four-year Implementation hurdle undergraduate programmes, too,

> Venu GS Sir — This refers to the editorial, "New curriculum" (July 31). Kollam

Laying stress on scientific temper and mathematical abilities, the new NEP will help develop the objective and analytical faculties of the students. Taking three-year-old children under the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme, too, is a laudable aspect of the NEP. But it is imperative that the necessary staff, who have the vision to implement the policy mandate, be made available

Ayush Via email

Defence boost

Sir — The arrival of the Rafale jets and the exuberance it generated are understandable. Known for its greater offensive capabilities and advanced weaponry system, the Rafales will significantly enhance India's strategic capabilities.

But while taking concrete steps to augment our defence capabilities, we cannot be oblivious to the need of boosting our domestic defence manufacturing capacities.

Shrutika Via emai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | AUGUST 1, 2020



F I R S T C O L U M N Corona bug bites careers

It is vital that mothers who desire to have a career post-childbirth feel supported rather than judged and exhausted, with or without the pandemic



RUCHI SAINI

ow I understand why working mothers leave their jobs", said my friend, who has a son, over a phone call from India. She **I N** was one of my closest friends growing up and I was talking to her after more than half a decade. She used to be a very ambitious girl and naturally, I was rather taken aback by her statement. "What happened? How did your views change?", I asked, to which she replied, "Well, isn't it obvious, a baby happened followed by the pandemic." Due to the pandemic, Aakriti (name changed) had been working from home for the last three months, while home-schooling her four-year-old son and performing additional domestic chores. Her husband, on the other hand, is both ill-equipped for and disinterested in performing domestic chores.

Even before the outbreak, women in India constituted an immensely small portion of the labour force and the pandemic is all set to widen this gap. A 2019 World Bank report revealed that only 21 per cent of the female population in India is a part of the labour force, compared to 83 per cent in Nepal, 60 per cent in China and 36 per cent in Bangladesh. And while many reasons exist for the abysmal representation of Indian women within the workforce, scholars have talked at length about how motherhood pushes scores of women unwillingly out of the workforce. Growing up in India, I came across various instances during social gatherings and even scholarly meetings where both men and women deemed this as a "natural" and "an unfortunate but inescapable" consequence of the choice to have a child.

However, it is not motherhood but rather the unequal division of labour inside the home after becoming a mother that pushes women out of the workforce. Post-childbirth, men can perform all the acts linked with child-rearing (cooking, cleaning, washing and so on) except breastfeeding, but are typically not conditioned to do so. According to a report released by OECD (Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development) in 2018, Indian women spend an average of five hours and 51 minutes daily on "unpaid" domestic work, the second-highest among the 31 countries surveyed. Indian men, on the other hand, spend an average of a measly 45 minutes daily and ranked among the bottom three countries in the table. Given the average Indian male's distaste towards performing domestic duties, women are shouldering the majority of household responsibilities during the pandemic. An online petition started by Subarna Ghosh (a working mother from Mumbai) urges Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "talk to Indian men about doing an equal share of care work within the household" in his next speech. The petition, which draws attention towards how the nationwide lockdown has forced families to confront the issue of unpaid care work done by women, has already gained 71,000 signatures. A 2018 report by Ashoka University, titled Predicament of Returning Mothers, revealed that after becoming mothers, 50 per cent of women in the corporate, media and development sectors leave their jobs before the age of 30 and only 16 per cent of senior leadership roles in these sectors are held by women. The report goes on to state that the pressure to play multiple roles of the "homemaker, mother and employee" post-childbirth often pushes even the most resolute of women out of the workforce.

The exodus of talented and intelligent women out of the workforce is catastrophic for both the individual and society and ought to be stopped. And the first step towards this direction is challenging the "gendered" division of household labour across Indian households. The real reason men do not perform household chores is that it is "unpaid" work. The fact that most of the famous Indian chefs are men proves that when paid for the same work, men do it just as well or even better than women. As a result, when raising young boys, parents should ensure that they, too, perform domestic chores instead of considering it a "woman's job." Second, India's inability to introduce an effective system of day care within the workplace. when coupled with the harsh judgment meted out to women (not men) who put their children in day care centres, has disastrous consequences for working mothers. And while the Indian Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 makes the creche facility mandatory in an establishment with at least 50 employees, it is rarely implemented. In the few cases where it is implemented, there is little to no quality assurance which dissuades parents from making use of it. As the Indian economy is gradually reopening and the threat of the virus continues to loom large, the lack of good-quality day care centres is being felt even more acutely by working mothers. It is important that mothers who desire to have a career post-childbirth feel supported and encouraged rather than judged and exhausted, with or without the pandemic. Challenging the gendered division of household labour and providing good quality day care services within the workplace are two of the most effective ways to do that. And while the task is challenging, it is not impossible. Little steps taken by parents while raising their children and financial investment by organisations in setting up effective day care centres can go a long way in ensuring that society is not deprived of the contributions by half of its population.

analysis

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

MUMBAI POLICE IS OBSTRUCTING A FAIR INVESTIGATION BY BIHAR POLICE INTO SUSHANT'S DEATH. THE BJP FEELS THAT THE CBI SHOULD TAKE OVER THIS CASE. -BIHAR DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER SUSHIL KUMAR MODI



THERE IS NO NEED FOR A CBI PROBE. MUMBAI POLICE IS INVESTIGATING THE MATTER ON THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE. WE EXPECT THE PROBE TO BE OVER SOON. **JAYANT PATIL**

Stop vaccine nationalism

Nations must learn from the experiences of past pandemics where hoarding has hardly delivered any advantage and has rather resulted in surplus stocks and their wastage



⊣he race for the vaccine for COVID-19 is in full swing across the world as more and more people fall victim to the pandemic and the number of cases globally reaches 17,505,564 and casualties touch the 6,77,465 mark. India, too, is one of the contenders in the race for the vaccine and desperately needs it to come out as soon as possible, given the fact that the community spread has begun in the country and the number of cases has touched 16,43,543 and that of casualties is 35,817. In fact, India reported a new record surge on July 31 with more than 55,000 fresh infec-

tions registered in 24 hours. In the midst of the outbreak, the one big ques-In the midst of the outbreak, the one big ques-tion uppermost on everyone's mind is, whoever wins the vaccine race, will the benefits permeate globally to the neediest or will they be restricted nationally? It is widely predicted that restricting the precious vaccine nationally is going to devas-tate public health and the world economy in equal measure.

Vaccine nationalism occurs when a country manages to secure doses of vaccine for its own people before they are made available to other nations. This is done through pre-purchase agreements between a Government and the vaccine manufacturer. The US has been attempting to secure priority access to doses of the Coronavirus vaccine. Other countries, including India and Russia, have taken similar stances recently.

A nationalist view for a vaccine may not just be for confining it to one's own people. There may be multiple angles to it. The concept exists since 2009, when, during the early stages of the H1N1 flu pandemic, some of the wealthiest countries entered into pre-purchase agreements with several pharmaceutical companies working on the vaccines. As a result, the distribution of the doses was based on high-income countries' purchasing power and lacked an epidemiological basis. However, the distribution dynamics took a different turn when the initial production was slow and the supply was inadequate for the target groups for whom the US Health Agency had recommended vaccination.

Moreover, the Live-Attenuated Influenza ccine (LAIV) for H1N1 was contraindicated for

DURING THE H1N1 PANDEMIC, OUT OF THE 162 MILLION DOSES OF THE VACCINE PRODUCED FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ONLY 90 MILLION DOSES WERE USED. THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATOR OF

POOF SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION PLANNING AND COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ADDRESSED WITH A SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT-BASED APPROACH RATHER

THAN A HOARDING-BASED



through a pre-purchase order would be the most optimum vaccine for its population.

Most vaccine development projects involve several parties from multiple countries and there are very few instances in which a single country can claim to be the sole developer of a vac-cine. Moreover, in a global economy, infection does not respect internation-al borders and inequitable access to vaccines during a pandemic is likely to defeat the purpose of vaccination altogether.

Vaccine nationalism is not only posing a challenge to vulnerable populations with inequitable access but is also resulting in scientists opting for riskier es to the va ONF арри process. The urgency for the development of a preventive has given rise to a global tendency to take risks and cut corners. It has led to disparate efforts like a Chinese vaccine company engaging the People's Liberation Army (PLA) epidemiologist, Major-General Chen Wei, to oversee its vaccine hunt. Chen Wei herself took one of the first shots of the experimental vaccine to display nationalistic fervour. Similarly, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), along with the National Institute of Virology (NIV), is trying for an early COVID-19 vaccine release in the market with Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL). There are instances wherein the countries are moving away from a collective and equitable global strategy for combatting the pandemic. European nations, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust committed over \$8 billion to finance the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT), dedicated to rapid deployment of new Coronavirus-related health technologies Yet the US, Russia and India have

tive. The Serum Institute of India, the world's largest producer of vaccine doses, declared that most of its doses "would have to go to our countrymen before they go abroad."

AstraZeneca reported that due to the UK's \$79 million investment, the first 30 million doses of the vaccine it is developing with the University of Oxford, would be allocated to the UK. Then, on May 21, the US pledged \$1.2 billion to the company in order to obtain at least 300 million doses, with the first to be

delivered as early as October. It would be prudent for nations to learn from the experience of past pandemics where vaccine nationalism has hardly delivered any advantage and has that later esulted in su olus stoc go waste. A more efficient vaccine supply chain is required rather than securing first doses of the vaccine. During the H1N1 pandemic, out of the 162 million doses of the vaccine produced for the general public, only 90 million doses were used. This is a clear indicator of poor supply and distribution planning and could have been better addressed with a supply chain management-based approach rather than a hoarding-based one that is termed as vaccine nationalism Having a vaccine scarcity in the initial phases was a result of overly-optimistic projections of supply. And later, the situation of having surplus stocks resulted due to certain groups being hesitant to take vaccines due to the fear of adverse reactions. This was not taken into account during the distribution planning. It is, therefore, clear that securing the first supply of vaccines created by developed nations and the bargaining power may result in surplus stocks that can deprive vulnerable populations. This will defeat the purpose of developing the vac-cine in a globally-mobile world.

There are better ways in which national interests can be safeguarded without compromising on equitable global access to vaccines. One such initiative is the 70:30 approach at the time of launch, wherein 70 per cent of the produced vaccine doses are reserved for captive consumption of a producing/sponsoring nation and 30 per cent of the doses can be allocated to global health organisations like the World Health Organisation (WHO) for equitable access to vulnerable populations of the world.

Customised strategies for using the available vaccine may be deployed in different countries when the vaccine first becomes available in limited quantities. These strategies may dene on the prevalence of the virus, the degree to which testing can identify all infected people and how the infected patients are geographically distributed. Public health leaders can integrate key lessons on allocation and distribution from previous experiences with H1N1 flu, polio and smallpox vaccination efforts. For such strategies to be implemented, a global coordination mechanism may be devised with global health governance bodies like the WHO, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Global Fund, Gavi, representatives of the respective health ministries and the private sector. This will not only result in effective and equitable distribution of vaccines globally but will also result in optimising the return on investments on vaccine development, which till now, remains uncertain. The strategy may also rest on where the dire need is. This will keep the humane angle alive with the trust of a global approach while satisfying local needs

(The writer is an educator and PhD scholar in Gender and Education from the University of Maryland)

the very young, for those with asthma and for pregnant women — among the target groups considered to be the highest priority. Further, many healthcare workers were reluctant to receive LAIV because of unfounded concerns about transmission to patients in healthcare settings and vaccine efficacy. On the other side, paediatricians and other healthcare providers were inundated by calls from large numbers of patients and anxious parents demanding the vaccine or asking where to go for a shot.

As dose supply started to increase, the incidence of 2009 H1N1 disease declined and the media frenzy quietened. By January 2010, patient demand for the vaccine had decreased to the point where many providers were left with the vaccine on the shelf. It is, therefore, evident from the H1N1 experience that vaccine nationalism hardly served any purpose and the approach resulted in surplus doses of vaccines on one side and deprived a large population that needed the vaccine on the other side.

The case for the COVID-19 vaccine is yet to unfold. How emerging vaccines will be distributed to those who need them is as yet unclear. Moreover, each vaccine candidate is likely to have a different safety and efficacy profile and it would be premature to say that the vaccine candidate for which a nation would have secured supply

chosen not to participate in this initia-

(Bhaskar is Registrar and Suri is CEO-Office of Connectivity, Regional *Centre for Biotechnology*)

Why ignore an old friend for a new one?

The relationship between India and Israel should be sustained but not at the expense of our traditional loyalty to the Palestinian cause



EDUARDO FALEIRO

efence Minister Rajnath Singh recently spoke to his Israeli counterpart over telephone and strengthening bilateral defence ties was the focus of the conversation. Both Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress of strategic cooperation between the two countries and discussed possibilities of further strengthening defence engagements.

Narendra Modi had visited Israel in July 2017 and was the first-ever Indian Prime Minister to do so. Indo-Israeli relations have witnessed a sharp upswing since the present the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the

Government came to power and there has been an unprecedented level of bilateral visits by senior Ministers from India to Israel and viceversa. India is now the largest purchaslowed. er of Israeli military equipment.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is an unresolved one, dating from the end of World War-I. Palestine was a part of the Ottoman Empire and during World War-I, the Ottoman Empire sided with Germany and was defeated. It was then dissolved. Its successor, the Republic of Turkey, transferred Palestine to the British Empire. In 1917, British Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour issued what is known as the Balfour Declaration for the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people. In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved a plan to partition Palestinian land and proposed a Jewish State and an Arab State on it. The Arab State of Palestine included

Gaza Strip and some other territories. The Jewish State of Israel was established in 1948 and several wars between the Israelis and the Arabs fol-

Mahatma Gandhi wrote then, 'The cry for a national home for the Jews does not make much appeal to me. Why should they not, like other peoples on Earth, make that country their home where they are born and where they earn their livelihood? Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French. It is wrong and inhuman to impose the Jews on the Arabs. What is going on in Palestine today cannot be justified by any moral code of conduct. Surely it would be a crime against humanity to reduce the proud Arabs so that Palestine can be delivered to the Jews partly or wholly as their national home. The nobler course would be to insist on a just treatment of the Jews wherever they are born and bred. The

Jews born in France are French in precisely the same sense that Christians and Hindus born in France are French."

It has been more than 50 years since Israel annexed the Palestinian territories of West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip following the six-day Arab-Israel war of June 1967. Thereafter, Israel tightened its hold over these territories, crushed Palestinian resistance and created hundreds of thousands of refugees.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has condemned repeatedly Israeli depredations in the occupied territories. Last year, a UNSC resolution directed Israel to immediately and completely cease all settlements in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. Amnesty International has held Israel guilty of war crimes and demolition of homes.

India was the first non-Arab country to recognise the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the

set up in New Delhi in 1975 and full diplomatic relations were established in 1980. In 1991, during my tenure in the Ministry of External Affairs, I was asked by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to ensure the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel so that India could assist the Palestinian cause in a more efficient manner.

I met with the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at his headquarters in Tunis. Arafat told me that he was confident that India would not vacillate on its commitment to the legitimate demand for an independent Palestine and that he had no objection if we established diplomatic relations with Israel. I then held a meeting with the Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the UN in New York and diplomatic relations with Israel followed. India continued its unstinted support to the Palestinian people in their quest for a strong and viable State and provided

sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. A PLO office was to the Palestinian Government in their Force MiG-27s. efforts at nation-building.

At present, most countries of the world recognise the State of Palestine with the exception of the US and some of its Western allies. Even in the West, support for the Palestinian cause is increasing. It is ironical that while the West, the architect of the Palestinian plight, is finally trying to reach out to the Palestinians, India, the old supporter, has almost vanished from the scene.

The international community has been closely observing the growing defence and strategic cooperation between India and Israel, since the present Government assumed office. Israel has in the last couple of years provided the Indian armed forces with radar and border monitoring systems. Israeli companies have been making millions of dollars upgrading MiG-21s and other Soviet-era aircraft. They have recently bagged a contract to pro-

For the first time, in 2015, India abstained on a United Nations Human Rights Council resolution calling for a probe by the International Criminal Court into war crimes by Israel. It continued to abstain on this resolution in 2016 and thereafter. Israel ought to comply with international law and the UN resolutions and vacate the occupied Palestinian territories. All future agreements between India and Israel should explicitly exclude Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The relationship between India and Israel should be sustained but not at the expense of our traditional lovalty to the Palestinian cause. India should not dither on its long-standing and unequivocal support to the struggle of the Palestinian people for national liberation and for an indepen dent State.

(The writer is a former Union Minister)





money 08

CAPSULE



JSW Energy net profit down 12.7 pc at Rs 213 cr in Jun

NEW DELHI: JSW Energy on Friday reported 12.7 per cent dip in its consolidated net profit to Rs 213 crore in June quarter, mainly due to lower revenues. "The company's (consolidated) net profit stood at Rs 213 crore vis-a-vis Rs 244 crore in the corresponding quarter of previous year," the company said in a BSE filing. According to the statement, total revenue decreased by 23 per cent on year-on-year basis to Rs 1,887 crore in June guarter, from Rs 2,464 crore in the corresponding quarter previous fiscal, on account of lower long-term and shortterm sales.



Taxes, levies in telecom sector high:Sunil Mittal

NEW DELHI: Telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal on Friday made a renewed pitch for lowering the high levies on telecom industry, saying the government should not view the sector as a source for the exchequer, but instead as a "force multiplier" for ensuring economic momentum. Mittal, who is the chairman of Bharti Airtel, also said that the Prime

Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat has given a clarion call to the industry to ensure that more value addition is done in India for telecom networks, mobile



devices, and software.

Sun Pharma Q1 net loss at Rs 1,655.60 cr

NEW DELHI: Drug major Sun Pharmaceutical Industries on

Manufacturers upbeat as govt imposes curbs on imports of TVs

PNS NEW DELHI

The government's move to impose restrictions on imports of TV sets will boost domestic manufacturing and assembling activities in India, according to leading industry players.

Brands such as Sony, LG, Panasonic, Thomson and contract manufacturers like Dixon Technologies say the ban would create a momentum for local manufacturing and create opportunities for the industry.

[†]India can emerge as the next hub for manufacturing TV not only for the Indian markets but also for the global market. This step is definitely in the right direction and will help in creating a global hub, which we want to be and it also helps to create a strong ecosystem for manufacturing of the products," Dixon Technologies Chairman Sunil Vachani told PTI

This will also help control the "flood of import" of TV sets in the short term and the industry will be self-reliant with required scale and will compete with global markets,



he added

According to Vachani, the Indian TV market is expected to be around 16 to 17 million units per year and around 30 per cent of this was mostly imported from countries like China, Thailand and Vietnam. "It (import) is worth Rs 7,000 crore of the local production," he added.

Dixon Technologies is a leading contract manufacturer in home appliances and

consumer electronics segment and has manufacturing units in Noida and Tirupati. Panasonic India President

and CEO Manish Sharma said that consumers are going

Contract manufacturers like Dixon Tech say the ban would create a momentum for local manufacturing units

to get high quality TV sets assembled in India now.

"It will definitely have a positive impact on domestic assembling which happens here. Leading brands already have manufacturing and assembling units in the country. So, it is not going to impact us," he said.

However, Sharma said that price-wise consumers will not benefit and the price would remain the same in the mar-

Industry body Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) said the move to license import of fully built TV

by putting them on the restricted list would support domestic manufacturing.

'This will encourage and support domestic manufacturing of all size TV, more investment in the sector and hence more job creation," said CEAMA President Kamal Nandi.

The government has imposed restrictions on imports of colour television, a move aimed at promoting domestic manufacturing and cut inbound shipments of non-essential items from countries like China.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in a notification has put imports of TV under a restricted category from free, which means importer of that commodity will have to seek licence from the commerce ministry's DGFT for the imports.

The curbs are imposed on TV sets of screen size ranging from up to 36 cm to over 105 cm. Liquid crystal display (LCD) television sets of screen size below 63 cm are also covered under the restrictions.

'Focussed on digitising MSMEs in India, on-boarding more sellers'

PNS NEW DELHI

E-commerce giant Amazon is focused on digitising micro, small and medium-sized businesses in India and is working on getting more sellers on board and hiring more people, a top company executive said. "We've talked about India

many times, but a lot of focus on building that out... what's great about a place – all geo-graphies with a place like India is we're really focused on digitising the Indian sellers. A lot of micro, small and medium-sized businesses there," Amazon Director Investor Relations David Fildes said during an investor call.

He further said, launched new features there to help support the digitisation efforts with some of those brands and just a lot of work, great work being done by that team. They have some



Accoring to a report, India's e-commerce biz is expected to grow at a ČAGR of 27 per cent

is expected to grow at a com-pound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27 per cent to reach USD 99 billion by 2024, goals there around getting more sellers on board and hiring many more people as well. So a lot of focus there." with grocery and fashion/apparel likely to be The comments come at a time when the US-based company is locked in a batthe key drivers. tle for market leadership in India with Walmart-owned Recently, Amazon had infused fresh capital to the

"we

Flipkart. The competition in tune of Rs 2,310 crore into the e-commerce space is set one of its India units, Amazon Seller Services, as to intensify further with the entry of billionaire Mukesh per regulatory documents. Ambani's JioMart. According to a recent report by Goldman Sachs, India's e-commerce business year.

Amazon Seller Services had received another tranche of Rs 2,208 crore earlier in the **Sensex drops**

Domestic equity bench-mark Sensex dropped 129

points on Friday, tracking losses in index heavy-

weights Reliance Industries

and HDFC twins amid

weak cues from global mar-

129 pts

PNS MUMBAI

kets.

IOC Q1 net profit falls 47 pc to Rs 1,910.84 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, on Friday reported a 47 per cent drop in its June quarter net profit as pandemic outbreak pummelled fuel demand and shrank refining margins.

Standalone net profit in April-June quarter at Rs 1,910.84 crore, or Rs 2.08 per share, was 46.8 per cent lower than Rs 3,596.11 crore, or Rs 3.92 a share, net profit in the same period of the last financial year, the company said in

a regulatory filing. With a good part of the quarter being spent under lockdown where the vehicular movement was sparse, IOC fuel sales fell 29 per cent to



15.25 million tonnes. Its refineries processed 25 per cent less crude oil at 12.9 million tonnes in the first quarter of 2020-21 fiscal. IOC said it lost USD 1.98 on

turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel in the April-June period. This compared to a gross refining margin of USD 4.69 a barrel in Q1 of 2019-20.



Kia Motors crosses 1-lakh car sales milestone in India

PNS NEW DELHI

South Korean auto major Kia Motors on Friday said it has crossed the 1-lakh cumulative sales milestone in India within 11 months since it started



achieve in such a short time," Kia Motors India said in a statement.

from refining, petchem and

retail segments.

Kia Motors India MD and CEO Kookhyun Shim said, "2019 marked an important year for Kia as we introduced ir first car for the Indian market with an aim to become a household name in the country. We are overwhelmed with the response and acceptance that Indian customers have shown towards us.

Sebi relaxes upfront margin framework PNS NEW DELHI In a relief to brokers and

traders, markets regulator Sebi on Friday said penalty for short-collection will not be applicable if trading members collect at least 20 per cent upfront margin from the client.

The decision has been taken after receiving representations from investors, trading members (TMs) or clearing members (CMs) and stock broker associations.

"If TM/ CM collects minimum 20 per cent upfront margin in lieu of VaR (value at risk) and ELM (extreme loss margin) from the client, then penalty for short-collection/ non-collection of margin shall not be applicable," Sebi said in

a circular. Samco Group founder and CEO Jimeet Modi said the inclusion of this rule shall



mean that no penalty shall be applicable in cases where margin was actually collected and more than 20 per cent. "Genuine cases will get exempted from margin penalty." However, the regulator

reiterated that clearing corporation will continue to collect the upfront margin from the TM/CM based on VaR and ELM.

The regulator said penalty provision for short-collection or non-collection of upfront margin in the cash segment will be implemented with effect from September 1, 2020.

The decision has been taken after receiving representations from investors, TMs and stock broker associations

Earlier this month, stock brokers' association Anmi wrote to Sebi expressing concern on the margin collection framework in the cash segment saying it will cause hardship to brokers and their clients.

It had expressed concerns on the methodology of levy of margins on the sale positions resulting in deliveries, margins on square up of open positions and margins on securities intended to be delivered on T+2 day.

Dr Lal PathLabs Q1 net profit PNS NEW DELHI

Diagnostic services provider Dr Lal PathLabs on Friday reported a 51.94 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 28.4 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2020. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 59.1 crore for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, Dr Lal PathLabs said in a filing to BSE. Consolidated revenue from operations of the company stood at Rs 266 crore, as against Rs 335.2 crore in the year-ago period, it said adding that underlying patient volume decline was 28.4 per cent during the quarter. "This was a difficult quarter, not just for Dr Lal Pathlabs, but for the entire nation and the economy.

Friday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 1,655.60 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2020. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 1,387.48 crore for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, Sun Pharma said in a BSE filing. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 7,585.25 crore for the quarter under consideration as against Rs 8,374.36 crore for the same period year ago, it added. Shares of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries

closed at Rs 531.75 per scrip on the BSE, up 4.27 per cent over previous close

SBI Q1 profit surges by 81 pc to Rs 4,189 cr

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

The country's largest bank SBI on Friday posted 81 per cent jump in standalone net profit to Rs 4,189.34 crore for the first quarter, aided by decline in bad loan and sale of minority stake in its subsidiary SBI Life Insurance.

The bank had reported a net profit of Rs 2,312.02 crore in the April-June quarter of 2019-

The June quarter profit reflects Rs 1,539.73 crore earned out of sale of 2.1 per cent stake in SBI Life Insurance



Company, the bank said while announcing its first quarter numbers.

> Consequently, holding of the public sector bank in SBI Life has come down to 55.60 per cent from 57.70 per cent. Standalone total income increased to Rs 74,457.86 crore

Company in the first quarter of 2020-21, from Rs 70,653.23 crore in the same period a year ago, SBI said in a regulatory filing. Operating profit of the bank increased by 36 per cent to Rs

18,061 crore, against Rs 13,246 crores in the April-June quarter previous fiscal.

Business was impacted

adversely, with volumes get-

ting hit.

Interest income of the bank rose to Rs 62,638 crore, compared to Rs 66,500 crore at the end of June 2019, registering a growth of 6 per cent.

However, net interest margin of the bank declined to 3.01 per cent as against 3.24 per cent at the end of first quarter of last year.

Its gross non-performing assets (NPA) declined to 5.44 per cent as of June-end, over 7.53 per cent at June-end last year

of its now-popular SUV Seltos in August 2019 and later on launched multipurpose vehicle Carnival.

"The company becomes the The company entered the fastest automaker in India to Indian market with the launch reach this landmark in just 11 months since the launch of its debut car last year, a record number for any new entrant to

NOKIA

COVID-19 crisis hurt its net

sales by about 300 million

euros in the second quarter

and about 500 million euros in the first half of the year.

ity of sales missed in the (second) quarter due to COVID-

19 will shift to future periods,"

Suri said. Suri said that Nokia

has now concluded 83 com-

mercial deals for 5G, the new

network technology that allows

ultra-fast downloading speeds

among other things. Along

with China's Huawei and

Sweden's Ericsson, Nokia is

one of the three main providers

"We expect that the major-

Nokia profit up despite

Covid-19 pandemic



ABB India opens new robotics facility

PNS BENGALURU

ABB India on Friday announced opening of a new facility here that would enable it to deliver robotic applications and digital solutions for a variety of industries, including automotive, food & beverage, electronics and other upcoming sectors.

Spread over 3,600 sq.m at the ABB Nelamangala factory premises in Bengaluru, the robotics solutions facility houses a state-of-the-art shop floor that can run proof of concepts and factory acceptance tests for 1,000 ABB robots every year, which doubles the company's capacity, according to a company statement.

"This enables rapid innovation, adaption, optimisation and agile delivery of made-to-order robotics applications for Indian customers," it said.

"The new facility harnesses the powers of ABB's deep global expertise and knowl-edge of the Indian industrial landscape to support our customer base," said Sanjeev Sharma, Managing Director of ABB India



Eurozone economy suffers record drop

PNS PARIS

The economy of the 19-country eurozone shrank by a devastating 12.1 per cent during the second quarter from the quarter before as coronavirus lockdowns froze business and consumer activity. It was the largest drop on record.

Špain, which suffered a severe virus outbreak that devastated its tourism industry, was the hardest hit with a 18.5% drop. Italy and Portugal also suffered steep declines, but no country escaped the impact of the pandemic.

For the currency union as a whole it was the biggest decline since the records started in 1995. For the broader 27-

country European Union, not all of whose members use the

euro, output sagged 11.9%.

European governments are countering the recession with massive stimulus measures. EU leaders have agreed on a 750 billion-euro recovery fund backed by common borrowing to support the economy from National govern-2021. ments have stepped in with loans to keep businesses afloat

and wage support programs that pay workers' salaries while they are furloughed. The European Central Bank is pumping 1.35 trillion euros in newly printed money into the economy, a step which

low

helps keep borrowing costs

Mukesh Ambani calls for urgent policy steps to do away with 2G

PNS NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani on Friday called for urgent policy measures to move away from 2G services, which started 25 years ago, and make it a "part of his-

Ón the silver jubilee of the 1st mobile phone call made in India, Ambani said that 2G era feature phones have kept around 30 crore subscribers



away from basic internet services when both India and other countries are venturing into 5G era.

"I specifically refer to the

ny. I think necessary policy steps should be taken with utmost urgency to make 2G a part of history," Ambani

trapped in the 2G era, their feature phones keep them excluded even from the basic usage of the internet at a time when both India and the rest of the world are standing at the doorsteps of 5G telepho-

up 22 per cent at 316 million euros (USD 376 million). Sales were down 11 per cent at 5.1 billion euros. statement that the majority of the drop in revenue was "the result of COVID-19 as well as

a sharp decline in China based on the prudent approach we have taken in that market."

PNS HELSINKI

Nokia has reported better than

Nokia estimated that the of 5G networks

Bengaluru is one of the world's fastest growing cities, with a 47 per cent surge in pop-

years, the report said. Home to a third of India's science and technology talent, the city has the highest employability rate in the country, with a large proportion of tech-savvy early adopters. This gives Bengaluru a strong appetite to build a city that symbolises the world-leading services it delivers across the globe, it added. Cities in India can compete globally on parameters such as

optimal use of resources, how people get around, as well as ways to improve productivity ulation density over the last 10 and wellbeing, the report said.

"Many cities in India have a huge potential to improve the quality of life and ease of doing business. While each city has its own unique challenges, the Atlas of Digitalization and its study of Bengaluru gives a good reference for other cities to further improve on their sustainability, mobility and opportunity parameters," Siemens Ltd MD and CEO Sunil Mathur said.

Bengaluru a model of digitalisation in India

PNS NEW DELHI

India's IT capital Bengaluru is ideally placed to be a model of digitalisation in the country, based on parameters like sustainability, mobility and opportunity, according to a report. Siemens AG on Friday unveiled its report 'Atlas of Digitalization' which analyses and compares the transformation of cities globally.

The report includes nine cities in the world -- Bengaluru, Berlin, Buenos Aires, London, Singapore, Dubai,

Siemens AG on **Friday unveiled its** report 'Atlas of **Digitalization'** which analyses and compares the transformation of cities globally

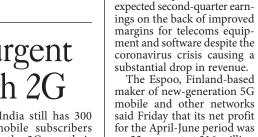
Johannesburg, Los Angeles and Taipei, the company said in a statement. Each city's unique challenges -- including



traffic congestion, water availability and air quality -- have been given scores based on digitalisation readiness and potent. The report stated that digi-

talisation is a key to make Indian cities globally competitive. It said Bengaluru is ideally placed to be a model of digitalisation in the country.

CEO Rajeev Suri said in a



fact that India still has 300 million mobile subscribers

the pioneer lyderabad **'HYD, GREAT CITY TO NURTUR YOUR TALENTS'**

General Sector Secto @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/ dailypioneer

> Satruday August 1, 2020

People moving here have apprehensions driven by stereoty<u>pes of South India. Although</u> Hyderabad resides in the heart of Southern India, I think it nullifies most stereotypes of it. As a Hindi speaking household, my family todate has never faced any hate or issues for not knowing Telugu or not being fluent in it. Hyderabad is also filled with genuinely caring.

Uber, etc.

ONE THING THAT COMES TO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF **HYDERABAD AND WHY?**

While the obvious answer to this question is the biryani. It's the most storied food of our city and Paradise is one restaurant that is known for celebrated biryanis. Every minute 95 birvanis are ordered via food apps, that's the love for it. It's no more a delight for just the elites!

Apart from that, we have an iconic and an extravagant monument built right in the heart of the Old City which is always a pleasure to visit. Visiting Charminar needs to be always done in a true Hyderabadi style. The streets around the four-pillared legend are always bustling with people and glis-tening with shiny bangles. I kid you not, you will take home the most beautiful bangles along with a ton of memories from these narrow streets.

HOW IS THE CITY HELP-ING YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

I'm a very career-oriented independent woman. I believe this was truly possible only because of my parents and how supportive Hyderabad is. I went from switching careers wanting to be a chartered accountant and then following up on my passion for dance. Today, I am a known zumba instructor and a fitness trainer. This was only possible because of all the opportunities this city gave me. Not to forget, switching career paths was almost a breeze for me because I was presented with the best facilities and zero judgment! Hyderabad is filled with energy and enthusiasm which allowed me to take on 10,000+ students and about 1,700 sessions. The

ness world and the academic side of me, have also transformed me into a budding entrepreneur. I've also further expanded into founding startups — Youek and Coded Coffee — and this city is the one that keeps me going! My career's transparent shifts, highs and lows along with its growth have all been in the arms of Hyderabad.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND **DISLIKE THE MOST ABOUT HYDERABAD?**

I'd like to reiterate my love for Hyderabadis, I will forever call this place my home. Every person is so diverse and accepting in their own way. In many ways, I feel like this city is a reflection of our country! The one thing I don't particularly like about my city is the traffic, because I'm someone who lives a very fastpaced life. I jump from session to session and absolutely hate driving. So the Hyderabad traf-fic is a little taxing but accep-tance is what Hyderabad has taught me and I swore to accept to this hindrance too.

WHAT'S HYDERABAD TO YOU?

When lockdown began, I assumed my career would be done and dusted in dance and fitness, because personal interactions are it's a nessacity. I then launched a 14-day FITWOM-ENCHALLENGÉ, to increase awareness about fitness and clean eating amongst women. I had 130 women join in this challenge, and 119 were from Hyderabad. Soon after this successful programme, I converted it into "24 Day Challenge by DMK" (concentrating on fat loss and muscle toning) programme to online sessions. My fellow brothers and sisters of Hyderabad showered me with massive support! I am about to kick-start my season 3 now and due credit given to Hyderabad. Hyderabad is everything to me

AN YOU SHARE YOUR ASSOCI-ATION WITH HYDERABAD?

Belonging to a marwadi

Khandelwal established

herself in the Zumba

in the city! She's also

founder of Youek.in &

takes active part in social

work around Hyderabad.

Disha spoke exclusively

to The Pioneer revealing

Hyderabad helped her

progress in her career

been an ace event

choreographer, co-

how the city of

community and is now

one of the top instructors

community, Disha Methi

With Hyderabad being such a culturally diverse city, my parents & I never truly felt out of place despite belong-ing to a Rajasthani community. ing to a Rajasthani community. Hyderabad is a very welcoming city, accepting everyone with open arms. Besides being a happy and welcoming city, it is also a very safe place. This encouraged my parents to build a family in bars which build a family in here, which ultimately led to me calling Hyderabad my home now.

HOW HAS THE CITY BEEN TREATING YOU?

Strongly believing in the city of adherent champions, whether it was my career as a fitness trainer or a zumba instructor or a choreographer, the city and its people have always been kind and supportive to me. It is a great city to nurture your talents and let's you grow both personally and career-wise. It carries a cosmopolitan culture having friendly neti-

zens.

Whenever travelling with your friends or family to Hyderabad, it's a surity that you will be carrying tonne loads of memories back home. I met some really cool people here.

FOR EVERYONE WHO IS FOR EVERYONE WHO IS MIGRATING FROM OTHER CITIES, HAVE APPREHENSIONS OR PRE CONCEIVED NOTIONS ABOUT THE CITY THEY ARE GOING TO LIVE, WHAT KIND OF THOUGHTS YOU HAD ABOUT HYD BEFORE **ABOUT HYD BEFORE** MOVING HERE AND HOW DO YOU FIND IT NOW? WERE YOUR APPREHEN-SIONS WERE RIGHT?

According to my experi-ences, I have witnessed people who are moving to Hyderabad having apprehensions driven by stereotypes of South India. Although Hyderabad very much resides in the heart of Southern India, I think it nullifies most stereotypes of it. It's one of the few cities in the country which is lingual as diverse as it is. So as a Hindi speaking household, my family to-date has never faced any hate or issues for not knowing Telugu or not being fluent in it. Hyderabad is also filled with genuinely caring people who will often sympathise with you before passing any judgements. In a way, I comply by the fact

OTHER CITIES IN THE ENT FROM OTHERS?

I have travelled to a lot more om Pune. Mumb:

that this city is the one that helps break stereotypes of all kinds. HAVE YOU LIVED IN **COUNTRY? IF SO, HOW** IS HYDERABAD DIFFER-

city's growing IT sector, busi-

Kolkata, Delhi, Jaipur, Lucknow, Bengaluru, Kerala to Vizag, yet my heart lies here. The people of Hyderabad are what makes my home complete here. Having such a lovingly diverse population is what makes Hyderabad so unique. Also, Hyderabad is emerging as the new hub of IT attracting big names like acebook. Am Microsot

'Benefits of breastfeeding outweigh risk of COVID transmission'

The rapid transmission of COVID-19 has instilled fear in everyone, but more for breastfeeding mothers. And to those who test positive for the virus, they're more questions than solutions. Dr. Anita Rego, a Perinatal Counsellor talks to The Pioneer's SHIKHA DUGGAL on the benefits and importance of breastfeeding infants amidst the pandemic



reastfeeding is the cornerstone of an infant. However, concerns have been raised about whether mothers with COVID-19 can transmit the virus to their infant through breastfeeding. Responding to this, Dr Anita Rego, Perinatal Counsellor and a psychiatric social worker says the fear of infecting a child amidst a pandemic is bewildering for a mother, it induces guilt pangs in her eventually leaving her trau-matised. She also adds that in many circumstances, there have been cases where the cultural context prevents a mother from revealing her COVID status, even after WHO recommended that mothers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be encouraged to initiate or continue to breastfeed.

'The excessive focus of clinical on prevention and treat-

ments is demotivating mothers from breastfeeding. There is a lack of understanding about policy documents and the underlying conceptualisation around lactation. Most of the clinicians are aware that there are substitutes for infant feeding that can lower their immunity vet they continue to advertise them. Breastfeeding must be based on not just potential risks of contracting the infection but also on morbidity risks and mortality associated with it," appends Dr Anita.

The benefits of breastfeeding outweigh the potential risk of transmission. According to reports, the transmission of COVID-19 would need replicative and infectious virus being able to reach target sites in the infant and also to overcome infant defense systems. The implications of transmission risk need to be framed in terms of COVID-19 prevalence in

breastfeeding mothers. "The mother and her infant should be enabled to remain together while rooming-in including that the mother should wear a surgical mask and wash her hands regularly for preventive measures. She can also feed the baby with a sterilised bottle. Come to think of the positive phase of breastfeeding, a lactating moth-er's milk produces antibodies that can ultimately enhance her child's immunisation. Not feeding can lead to risks of allergies and asthma in infants," informs Dr. Apoorva Rawul, M.D. Anaesthesiology, and a critical care physician.

At present, data is not sufficient to conclude the transmission of COVID-19 through breastfeeding. In infants, the risk of COVID-19 infection is low, the infection is typically mild or asymptomatic while the consequences of not breastfeeding and separation between mother and child can be significant leading to stress for which the perinatal counsellor sug-

"The importance of therapy in the perinatal space is fairly a new specialisation and it needs to be further strengthened. The perinatal mental health professionals will be able to guide the mother on how to deal with stress and also educate her about the need to continue breastfeeding. They may also provide psycho-educa-tion using the knowledge base that is available from various researchers, practitioners, and guidance documents. Most

importantly, the mother needs to relax in such distressing times ahead and practice meditation or participate in mindful programs. Coming to the government regulations, the state government must amend the regulation of the production, supply, and distribution act for infant milk substitutes and feeding bottles ensuring more effectiveness," voices the counsellor.

A community of lactation support empowering and educating women on breastfeeding across India-Breastfeeding Pumping India run by Hannah Grace who is a certified lactation expert shares her final thoughts on breastfeeding amidst pandemic. "Women are often prevented from breastfeeding in public, this topic never interested media. The concern lies in the lack of public support for normalisation of feeding the baby in open spaces rather than conducive ones apart from other generic prob-lems already persisting like restricted milk flow, inverted nipples, increased stress levels, lack of access to information on lactation, etc."

Her personal experiences of having feeding problems led to her creating the support group for mothers on breastfeeding to uplift mothers in achieving their optimum levels of breastfeeding through natural means.

Let's all come together to push the need to make decent baby feeding spots where mothers have comfort and privacy.

The mother and her infant should be enabled to remain together while roomingin including that the mother should wear a surgical mask and wash her hands regularly for preventive measures. She can also feed the baby with a sterilised bottle. Come to think of the positive phase of breastfeeding, a lactating mother's milk produces antibodies that can ultimately enhance her child's immunisation. Not feeding can lead to risks of allergies and asthma in infants

> DR. APOORVA RAWUL, M.D. ANAESTHESIOLOG





what's brewing?

Sushant was not a depressed guy, he had passion for life: ANKITA



girlfriend, TV actor Ankita Lokhande says the actor had an admirable zest for life and she can never believe that he committed suicide because of depression. Ankita and Sushant met on

the sets of popular TV serial *Pavitra Rishtra* and dated for over six years till 2016.

In her first interview post Sushant's demise on June 14, Anikta said the actor was a happy guy who never let success or failure affect him to the extent of getting depressed. "When the news came and

it was everywhere that he committed suicide, it took me a lot of time to accept it. I want to tell everyone that Sushant was not the kind of guy who will get into depression. He was not somebody who will commit suicide because he is sad. He was a happy guy. Sushant and I have been through worse situations. I don't know what position he was in and what was he doing, but as time passed I started trying to understand how somebody's death is labeled as suicide. But as much as I know Sushant he was not a depressed guy," the actor told Republic TV.

Anikta said it is heartbreaking when people call Sushant a depressed man because he was

somebody who knew how to dream big and work towards making them into a reality.

"I have not seen a person like Sushant, a guy who used to write his own dreams. He had a diary... He had his five-year plan — what he wants to do, how he will look, etc. And exactly after five years, he had fulfilled them. And when things like 'depression' are used after his name... it is heartbreaking. He could be upset about a few things. We all get anxious, he could be anxious. But depression is a big word. Calling someone 'bipolar' is a big thing," she said.

Anikta said it is hard for her to accept the narrative that he was not happy because of a few box office failures as Sushant had a lot of patience and always believed in bouncing back. "He used to say if anything

doesn't happen I will make a short film. I have seen him working so hard for himself. He was doing theatre and chose Pavitra Rishta. He was one of the biggest stars on TV. He left the show when he was at his peak because he wanted to do something else."

"He did films. He was someone who knew what he wanted to do. To get into films, he waited for three years. He was sitting at home and waiting for that one break. Everybody doesn't have so

much patience," she said. Asked about claims of financial instability leading him into depression, Anikta said money was never on Sushant's agenda .

"Money was a small thing for Sushant, his passion was way bigger than anything else. He always used to say, If everything ends I will build my empire again. Money was never an agenda for him. His passion for life was bigger than anything. Success and failure never affected him. He believed in bouncing back. He used to find happiness in smaller things. He cannot die for this," she said.

"I'm saying he was not depressed and if somebody is saying it's suicide, I want to know why. If somebody is saying he was murdered, I want to know who did it? I am standing with Sushant's family. I also want to know what happened. One thing I am sure is that depression, is impossible for me to believe that it happened," she said.

The actor said while she is unaware about Sushant's relationship with Rhea, she shares a good equation with his fami-

"I can't comment on Sushant and Rhea's relationship. I was not there. As for Sushant's family, I want to take a stand for them. They must have something to prove and show people," she concluded.

ANYTHING ELSE. HE ALWAYS **USED TO SAY, 'IF EVERYTHING ENDS I WILL BUILD MY EMPIRE AGAIN'. MONEY WAS NEVER AN AGENDA FOR HIM. SUCCESS AND FAILURE NEVER** AFFECTED HIM. HE BELIEVED **IN BOUNCING BACK. HE USED TO FIND HAPPINESS IN**



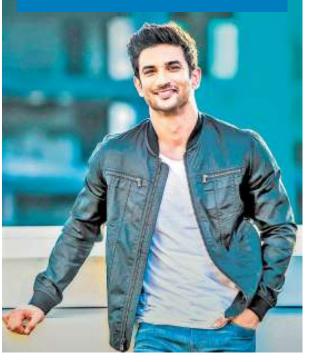
MONEY WAS A SMALL THING FOR SUSHANT, HIS PASSION WAS WAY BIGGER THAN **SMALLER THINGS.**



Directorate (ED) has filed a case of money laundering over transactions worth Rs 15 crore related to the alleged suicide of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput. A top ED source said that it has registered a criminal case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The development comes amid the complaint of K.K. Singh, father of Sushant Singh Rajput to Bihar Police against actress Rhea Chakraborty. The ED on Thursday sought details of the FIR registered against Rhea by the Bihar Police and the details of two companies owned by Sushant Singh Rajput and Rhea's family from the banks. The ED has also sought details of the financial transactions of the Vividrage Rhealityx, in which she is a director, and Front India For World, in which her brother Showik is a director, the source added.

Sushant's father lodged an FIR against Rhea in Patna, accusing her of cheating and threatening his son. Sushant and Rhea were in a relationship before the actor's death. Sushant's father has levelled various allegations against Rhea, including taking money from his son and also threatening to disclose his medical reports to the media. Sushant's family has also accused her of keeping him away from his family.



Bryan reveals recovery from Covid, donates plasma

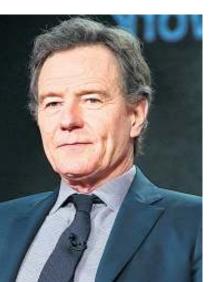
mmy-winning actor Bryan Cranston has revealed his recovery from mild symptoms of Ćovid-19, and said he donated his plasma with a hope that his anti-bodies would help others fight the disease

The Breaking Bad star opened up about his diagnosis via Instagram with a two-minute video. in which he takes his followers through the

plasma donation process, reports variety.com.

"I wanted to announce that I had COVID-19 a little while ago. Very lucky, very mild symptoms," Cranston said, adding: "So I thought maybe there's something I can do, so I started a program (at UCLA Blood and Platelet Center) so hopefully the plasma donation can help some other people." Along with the video, he wrote:

ing the damn mask, keep washing "Hi. About now you're probably feeling a little tied down, restricting your your hands, and stay socially distant. mobility and like me, you're tired of We can prevail - but ONLY if we folthis!! Well, I just want to encourage low the rules together. Be well - Stay you to have a little more patience. I well." Cranston was able to donate 840 millilitres of plasma to coronwas pretty strict in adhering to the protocols and still... I contracted the avirus research, and said that he plans virus. Yep. it sounds daunting now to return soon to make another that over 150,000 Americans are dead donation. The actor encouraged his because of it. I was one of the lucky followers to donate plasma if they have had Covid-19, saying that the ones. Mild symptoms. I count my blessings and urge you to keep wearprocess takes only an hour.



FUN

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES



ALL DALL F

CAN'T TELL WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT'S

CGI ANVMORE.

GARFIELD





NANCY

Sometimes I feel times Imebeel just Bent



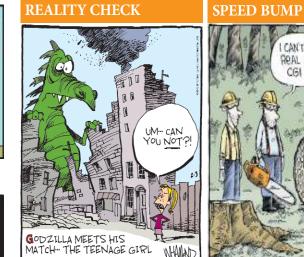


GINGER MEGGS









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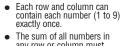
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tollywood

BUNNY TO BE SEEN AS STUDENT LEADER IN KORATALA'S NEXT?



Allu Arjun and Koratala Siva have been waiting to team up for a long time and it seems they finally decided it's time. The untitled film will mark Koratala's close buddy of years, Mikkilineni Sudhakar, debuting as a producer under his production house Yuvasudha Arts, finds NAGARAJ GOUD

fter Allu Arjun's confidant Bunny Vas confirmed that the actor's slate for the next couple of years includes a film with hit machine Koratala Siva during an interview with a web channel more than six months ago, the combination was officially announced on Friday. Both the actor and the director have been waiting to team up for a long time and it seems they finally decided it's time. The untitled film will mark Koratala's

close buddy of years, Mikkilineni Sudhakar, debuting as a producer under his production house Yuvasudha

The film is tipped to be a signature social Koratala entertainer, with Allu Arjun loosely attached to essay the role of a student leader. The



actor was full of the joys of spring declaring the project with the director. "Very much elated to announce my next film #AA21 with Koratala Shiva garu. Been looking forward to this for quite a while. My best wishes to Sudakar Garú for his 1st venture. Sandy, Swathi & Nutty this is my way of show-ing my love for you guys," he



tweeted along with a poster where two men (presumably him and Koratala) can be seen standing near a shore and gazing at a village. Sandy, Swathi and Nutty are his friends who will act as coproducers for the project, representing his in-house production house GA2 Pictures.

The film will flag-off after

Arjun and Koratala wrap up their respective projects *Pushpa* and *Acharya*. The release date though has been indicated as early 2022 making one deduce that the makers are targeting a Pongal theatrical roll out. Arjun-starrer Ala Vaikunthapuramlo - released during Pongal earlier this year — set the box-office on fire, emerging as his biggest grosser till date. Earlier in the day,

Arjun paid a tribute to his grandfather Padmashri Allu

Ramalingaiah on the latter's death anniversary. "I remember this day when he left us. I know more about him now

than on that day. The more I experience many things in life the more I connect to his efforts, struggles, and jour-

nev. We all are here today in this position because of this poor farmer's passion for cinema," the actor wrote.



Quality matters



Jersey picked for screening at International Indian Toronto Film Festival

n a rare honour.

one of the best Telugu films of last year, Jersey, star-ring Nani and Shraddha Srinath, has been picked for screening at the prestigious International Indian Toronto Film Festival, 2020. The festival will begin from August 9th and conclude on August 15. Naturally, production house Sithara Entertainments is overjoyed with the honour. "It is great to celebrate Indian Independence Day in Canada

with a film that we are really proud of," read a statement from the production house on Friday.

Jersey, which won the appreciation of audiences and critics alike, told the story of a failed cricketer (played by Nani) who decides to revive his cricketing career in his late 30's despite everyone being skeptical of his ability to do so. It is being remade in Hindi with Shahid Kapoor stepping into the shoes of Nani. Gowtam Tinnanuri is directing the Hindi version as well

ven before their maiden production, SR Kalyanamandapam, is half-way through with its filming,

production house Elite Entertainments, last month, announced another venture, Sebastian P.C. 524, with Kiran Abbaravam playing the titular role. For its founders Pramod and Raju, it has always boiled down to quality — a factor which drove them to enter the construction sector first followed by the restaurant sec-tor. "We want to tell stories of diverse genres with emphasis on superior quality. În this journey I've met Kiran Abbavaram who comes from Rayachoti, Kadapa. In fact, I've known him for the past four yearsfrom his short film days. I noticed a spark in him back then itself and after he proved himself with his debut film Raja Vaaru Rani Gaaru last year, we decided to associate with him as producers. He will be the Vijay Sethupathi of the Telugu industry in the coming years," Raju, who comes from Anantapur, exults.

Pramod chimes in, "Kiran is not just good in front of the camera but has a deep understanding of other crafts of filmmaking as well?

After a pause, Raju is quick to mention that besides passion for cinema, another important objective of their banner is to promote and nurture new talent. "As much as we can, we want to introduce talent from 24 crafts of filmmaking with each of our productions," he notes, adding that as a duo, they've done their research before stepping foot into the industry. "We've already locked some theatres for SR

Kalyanamandapam. We have a plan 'A', 'B' and 'C' for the film. We have a team which is working on the

marketing side. We are extremely confident about the film and we are planning to kick-start promotions by releasing a song this month."

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Years of watching countless films growing up means that Raju understands that it is the script that is the king. "More than the actors, we believe in the script. Aspiring talents with a good story are welcomed to knock on our doors. If the script is good, we believe everything will work. We want our films to

With theatres continuing to remain shut, many small to medium-budgeted films are looking at OTT plat-forms to drop their films and recover their money

back. Is it the way for them as well with their debut production? "As SR Kalyanamandapam is our first venture, we are looking at a theatrical rollout. We don't have a problem if cinema halls take time to open;

we will wait. Plus, the film's content is best experienced on the big screen,"

the promotional materials,

Raju points out gleefully.

Pramod adds with an air of confidence. -NG

Life comes full circle for Harshvardhan Rane

elugu-Hindi actor Harshvardhan Rane recently realised how life comes full circle. The actor, a biking aficionado, was shooting for a commercial when he remembered how, a decade ago when he had shot for a commercial, his face was not shown. "This is how life comes full circle, I guess. I shot for an ad 10 years ago, where my face wasn't even visible. Now, I

shot an ad as a leading man for one of the biggest motorcycle brands in the country," Harshvardhan said.

"It's nothing less than surreal." The Avuna actor shot for the advertisement in Mumbai during a three-day schedule.

He said, "These are tough times and everyone is extra careful while venturing out of their homes. I'm glad that all the necessary precautions regarding sanitisation and social distancing were taken on the set. It was a smooth and refreshing experience."

Nikhil signs a film for Asian Cinemas

lready a part of Chandoo Mondeti's *Karthikeya 2* and Palnati Surya Pratap's 18 Pages-both of whose shoot had to be suspended due to the outbreak of COVID-19 — Nikhil Siddhartha has agreed to topline a new movie, the announcement of which was made on Friday. He is teaming up with producers Narayan Das K Narang and Puskur Rammohan Rao for the untitled film, which will be his 20th as an actor. Rainbow Reels will execute the project on the production front, while no director is attached to it to helm as of now. "Happy to sign with you Asian Movies... With your trust and backing we can make better and bigger films," Nikhil, who bounced back to winning ways with Arjun Suravaram, post ed on his Twitter page.



HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | AUGUST 1, 2020

Most

Read

First dog that tested +ve for Covid in US dies

A^{German} shepherd in New York that had the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in a dog in the US has died. Robert and Allison Mahoney of Staten Island told National Geographic that their 7year-old shepherd, Buddy, developed breathing problems in mid-April after Robert had been sick with the coronavirus for several weeks. A veterinarian tested Buddy in May and found him positive for the virus. The US Department of Agriculture reported in June that a German shepherd in New York state was the first dog in the country to test positive for COVID-19, but did not identify the owners. Buddy's health declined steadily after he developed breathing problems and thick nasal mucus in April. He was

euthanized on July 11 after he started vomiting clotted blood, the Mahoneys told National Geographic. It's unknown if the coronavirus played a role in his death. Blood tests indicated Buddy likely had lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system, veterinarians told the family. A spokesman for the New York City Department of Health said arrangements



were made to take the dog's body for a necropsy but when the instructions were shared with the veterinarian, the body had already been cremated.

12-year-old Giraffe declared world's tallest

 $A^{12\text{-}year\text{-}old}$ giraffe named 'Forest' at an Australian Zoo in Queensland has been honoured with the title of the world's tallest giraffe, standing at 5.7 m (18ft 8in) by the Guinness World Records. In a blog post on its official website, the authorities wrote that towering as tall as the "stack of four MINI cars from the ground" Forest is a statuesque specimen among the Australian male

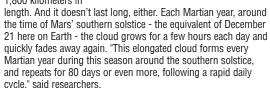
Giraffes or the 'Bulls' that can measure between 4.6 and 5.5 m (15-18 ft). Further, she urged the public to visit the Giraffe on their next trip to the zoo. Australia Zoo's Kat Hansen reportedly said that Forest was born in the Auckland Zoo as part of the regional breeding program. She added that there were nine such classified subspecies of giraffe which are vulnerable to extinction, and important for the genetic diversity as per local media reports. She was quoted as saying that Forest

arrived at Australia Zoo when he was two years old and a "lot smaller" in height than he is today. She added, the 12-year-old giraffe, father of 10 calves, was still growing up. According to the Guinness World Records' statement, the giraffes grew up to a height of 4.6 metres to 5.5 metres generally

Strange, giant clouds reappear on Mars

The European Space Agency's Mars Express, a camera-equipped Mars orbiter, is keeping close tabs on a mysterious "elongated cloud" appearing over the 20 kilometer tall Arsia Mons volcano near the Red Planet's equator. The spacecraft, and other ones like it, have been following the strange cloud's evolution since 2009. Now, new images revealed this week by the ESA show that the cloud has persisted. Scans suggest that the mystery cloud is not linked to volcanic activity in any way - the last time Arsia Mons was active was about 50 million years ago, according to NASA. Instead, scientists suspect it's a cloud made up of water ice

flowing down the sloping sides of the volcano. The cloud. as spotted in the latest images taken on July 17 and 19 by Mars Express's VMC appears to be up to 1.800 kilometers in



Pune Police's tweet a treat for Potterheads

f you identify yourself as a Potterhead, chances re you know what's special about today. For the uninitiated, read muggles, July 31 is considered a special day since it's Harry Potter's birthday. Pune Police's Twitter handle has not only acknowledged the day but also referenced it to share an important message in their latest tweet. In a bid to share a message about cyber security, Pune Police shared a deleted

scene from Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban in which Professor McGonagall expresses her shock over a student (Neville Longbottom) who wrote down all the passwords and left the note lying around. "The most magical way to keep cyber threat at bay - keep your passwords to yourself. Always," says the tweet posted along with the tiny clip. Mumbai Police also shared a similar Harry Potter themed tweet to remind people to stay home with a scene from Harry Potter and the



Chamber of Secrets in which Harry visits the Weasley's home for the first time. If you're a fan of the books and films of this magical universe, chances are these tweets have hit you right in the feels and may have even inspired you to binge watch the entire series all over again. What do you think about these Harry Potterthemed tweets with important messages?

PLAYER LIKE STOKES IS EVERY CAPTAIN'S DREAM: SMITH

PTI NEW DELHI

Ben Stokes' intent of wanti-ng to be in the midst of tough situations makes him a player that every captain wants in his team, said Rajasthan Royals skipper Steve Smith about his team's premier all-rounder.

While Smith is sincerely hoping that Stokes doesn't bring in his A game during Australia's white ball series in England, he wouldn't mind one bit if Stokes saves his best in the Royals jersey during upcoming IPL in the UAE.

"It will be great to be able to play some competitive cricket against a quality England side which has few of my Royals teammates (Jofra Archer, Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler).

"Hope they don't score too many runs or take too many wickets and can save that for the IPL," Smith told PTI during the screening three-part docu-series, Inside Story: A Season with Rajasthan Royals.

The series has been produced by Red Bull Media House and would be aired on Jio TV and Jio Cinemas.

Smith was all praise for Stokes who has been in dream form across formats in the past year

"I have seen Stokes go from strength to strength. He had an incredible World Cup and recently played in Test matches. He bowled beautifully and got some wickets as well," Smith said.

"He is a player who wants to

ther he is batting bowling or fielding. He wants to be in hotspots. You want these players in team as they want to deliver in tough situations." Australia will resume their international calendar with a white-



ball series against England and ent for everyone? Smith said that nothing better On a different note, Smith than getting to play some qualadmitted that staying in a bioity cricket after nearly seven secure environment away from

months. "It will be great being back make rel

cricketers to be away from wives and partners for more than two months.

"It will be difficult for any-'loved ones" for extended perione to be away from their loved ones for extended periods of ods is difficult but people try to time but you kind o oet used to

but on the other side, most of the players will be starting from zero.

"People haven't played any cricket or for that matter little cricket so from that perspective, it will be an even contest. Everyone going in with same sort of preparation," the former Australian skipper said.

Adapting to conditions in the UAE will be key but Smith believes that it will be pretty similar to India.

"I think part of being a pro-fessional cricket player is being able to adapt to conditions. Conditions in Dubai can be similar to India (in terms of heat and humidity).

"Couple of players have experienced playing before as the IPL was held (partially) in UAE (in 2014). Guys are going to be jumping out of skin to get back to playing some quality cricket." He sounded disappointed

that IPL is not happening in India but lauded the BCCI for being able to arrange a tournament of this magnitude in an overseas country. "Obviously we would have

loved to have playing in India. Amazing what's going behind the scenes to give everyone a chance to play," said the 31-year-old with nearly 12,000 international runs.

On the Red Bull produced docu-series. Smith said it was a different experience with cameras following the players everywhere

"First time I have been in

Emirates board plan to have some crowd for IPL

PTI NEW DELHI

The Emirates Cricket Board is eager to fill L up 30-50 per cent of the stadiums with spectators when the IPL is held in the UAE provided the government there approves, its secretary Mubashshir Usmani told PTI on Friday.

While announcing the dates of the ÍPL, its chairman Brijesh Patel had told PTI that the decision on letting in fans during the September 19-November 8 event will be taken by the UAE government.

Having announced the dates, the BCCI too is awaiting the final approval from the Indian government to host the IPL in the UAE.

Once we get the confirmation from the BCCI (on Indian government's approval), we will go to our government with the complete proposal and SOPs which will be prepared by us and the BCCI," said Usmani over phone.

"We will definitely want our people to experience this prestigious event but it is totally the government's decision. For most events here, the number ranges from thirty to 50 percent capacity, we are looking at a similar number.

"We are hopeful of getting our govern-ment's approval on that," he added.

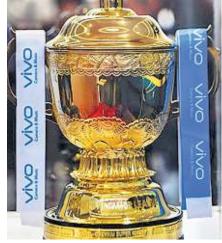
The UAE has little over 6000 active cases of COVID-19 and the overall situation around the pandemic is under control.

However, the 2020 Dubai Rugby Sevens event, scheduled in November, has been cancelled for the first time sine 1970 due to the coronavirus threat

Usmani allayed concerns over the safety of the IPL.

"The UAE government has been very efficient in bringing down the case numbers. We are almost living a normal life with certain rules and protocols to be followed.

And with the IPL still some time way, we will be in an even better place than what it is



soon", going by what Patel said at the time of announcing the tournament dates.

"We are still waiting to hear from the BCCI on the Indian government's approval. Having said that, we are ready," Usmani said.

"We have plug and play facilities here and have informed them (officials at Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah stadiums) to be ready and they are fully aware of it."

Teams will be arriving in the UAE threefour weeks in advance for training.

Most players have not had proper training in India since the lockdown was enforced in March.

Asked if managing the training schedules of eight teams will be a challenge, Usmani said: "UAE is blessed with the support of private infrastructure. We are able to deliver such events and have delivered before. Last year, we hosted the T20 World Cup qualifier which had 14

haven't played a game since February and like most of the world, our country was also shutdown, had to find way to get through this Covid experience which has been incredibly differ-

the way of life for elite cricketers. The IPL is expected to start from September 19 in the UAE and all teams will have to follow the protocols of a bio-secure

it playing international cricket, quite often staying apart for long times and trying to make it work," said Smith.

The biggest challenge for Smith is to get things in order

at the same time was different. People following us left right and centre with cameras which you are not used to. Meetings, film-

ing every little step on the way. It's done brilliantly," he said.

The IPL Governing Council will meet on Sunday to finalise the logistics and SOP for the world's biggest T20 league.

Usmani said the UAE is ready to host the event and is only awaiting the Indian govern-ment's approval, "which should come through

The UAE had partially hosted the IPL in 2014 due to the general elections in India.

"Last time also, it contributed significantly to the UAE economy. With the full tournament taking place this time, it will be a much bigger boost," added Usmani.



'Happy to have experience and young blood in our pace attack'

PTI 📕 KARACHI

Skipper Azhar Ali said he is lucky to have young pacers like Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah at his disposal and the right balance of experience and youth in their pace unit will hold Pakistan in good stead in the Test series against England.

The three-Test series begins in a bio-secure environment at Manchester with the opening Test on August 5.

The way Naseem and Shaheen have bowled in recent Test series, I as captain feel very lucky to have them in my squad," he said during a podcast organised by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The 35-year-old said that the young pace bowlers in the extended squad are benefitting immensely from the presence of experienced pros like Wahab Riaz, Sohail Khan, Muhammad Abbas and Imran Khan in the squad.

Experienced left-arm pacer Muhammad Aamir has also now joined the squad in Derbyshire with another young pacer Haris Rauf set to join the team after finally clearing his COVID-19 tests.

"I am happy we have experienced

and young blood in our pace attack and then there is Yasir Shah a proven

performer in tests," he said. "The good thing is that players like Muhammad Abbas, Sohail Khan, Wahab are also on this tour and they are also sharing their experience with the youngsters. I think our bowlers will get a lot of advantage."

Azhar said Yasir's presence was a source of comfort for him as the experienced leg-spinner has done well in English conditions on his past tours

The senior batsman said the players were a bit rusty at the start of their training but have been making steady strides towards regaining their form after coming out of quarantine in the first week of July.

"Because of coronavirus we have been in lockdown for quite some time and it was a challenging experience for all of us but it helped us get rid of our rustiness and now the bowlers are also doing well and are in rhythm. The workload for the fast-bowlers has port. been good," he said.

"Our players seem to be in good touch. The balance of the side is also very good and the good thing is in the past we have done well in England in Tests.

Eng cruise to victory against Ireland My best is still to come: Willey

AP SOUTHAMPTON

environment which might force

David Willey celebrated his return o the England team with a maiden one-day international five-wicket haul as the world champions drew first blood in the Royal London series against Ireland at the Ageas Bowl.

Willey was dropped from England's World Cup squad last year to make room for Jofra Archer, but with several regulars absent due to their test commitments the left-armer took centre stage on his international return

In England's first home ODI since winning their first 50-over World Cup, Willey's 5-30 restricted Ireland to 172 all out in 44.4 overs, a total the hosts overhauled with six wickets to spare

England had lurched to 78-4 but Sam Billings, included after Joe Denly's withdrawal due to a back injury, settled the team's nerves with a 67 not out off 54 deliveries in an unbroken 96-run stand with Eoin Morgan.

England got over the line with 22.1 overs still remaining at the start of a three-ODI series that marks the start of the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League, forming part of the qualification process for India 2023.

But, on a surface where timing proved troublesome for a number of batsmen, the day belonged to Willey, who was chiefly responsible for Ireland teetering on 28-5 after being invited to bat first under sunny skies.

After the players took a knee to support Black Lives Matter, Ireland were saved from free fall by international debutant Curtis Campher, a South African-born all-rounder who qualifies through his mother's pass-

The 21-year-old showed no lack of patience and fortitude in his 59 not out from 118 balls in front of the vast swathes of empty seats, before Willey returned to the attack and ended the innings.



Denly out of Ireland ODIs

IANS SOUTHAMPTON

 $E_{\rm been\ ruled\ out\ of\ the\ Royal}^{\rm ngland\ batsman\ Joe\ Denly\ has}$ London Series against Ireland after suffering back spasms in training on Wednesday, a statement on England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) website said.

The Kent batsman has been replaced in the 14-man England ODI squad by Lancashire's Liam Livingstone.

Livingstone has represented England in two IT20s and would make tory.

his ODI debut if selected in one of the final two matches against Ireland.

In the first match, David Willey's maiden five-for, followed by an unbeaten half-century from Sam Billings helped England beat Ireland by six wickets.

Earlier, Morgan won the toss and chose to bowl first in what was England's first ODI match since their dramatic tied match against New Zealand in the World Cup final on July 14, 2019 which led to them winning the title for the first time in their his-

PTI SOUTHAMPTON

David Willey had "fallen out of love for the game" following his last-minute ouster from England's World Cup squad but after announcing his comeback with a maiden fivewicket haul against Ireland, he said his best is still to come.

The 30-year-old pacer, who has taken 57 wickets in 47 ODIs, was ignored for the World Cup last year with England preferring Jofra Archer over him. He was also left out of the limited-overs tours of New Zealand and

South Africa last winter. Willey said he was at his owest during his stint at Abu Dhabi T10.

"I just didn't want to be there. I didn't want to go to the ground. When I was at the ground, I didn't want to be there, and I wanted to get back to the hotel. I'd fallen out of love with the game, I think," he was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.



avirus-forced break actually helped him as he made a successful return to guide England to a six-wicket win over Ireland in the first ODI on Thursday.

"It was just special to be out there playing for England again. I've gone away and worked quite hard to get back near my best. It's been a rollercoaster, but I was just out there enjoying my cricket today. I'm moving in the right direction and I feel like my best cricket is still to come," he said.

Willey said the coron-

NRAI postpones shooting camp for core group

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The national shooting feder-**I** ation has postponed the compulsory training camp for its Olympic core group planned here from Saturday after taking into the account the situation arising out of the COVID-19

pandemic.

On Thursday, a shooting coach at the camp's venue -- Dr. Karni Singh Range -- tested positive for COVID-19 but the development will not force a closure of the facility. Delhi's COVID-19 case count is over 1 lakh