

ANALYSIS 7 IT'S NOT THAT ELEMENTARY

MONEY 8 INDIA'S TRADE DEFICIT WITH CHINA REDUCES TO \$ 48.66 BN IN FY20

SPORTS 12 HAMMERS BLOW

HYDERABAD, FRIDAY JULY 03, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



PAWAN TAKES TO CHATURMASYA VRATA DEEKSHA

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ALL MONUMENTS, INCLUDING TAJ MAHAL AND RED FORT, TO OPEN FROM JULY 6

All monuments, including the world-renowned Taj Mahal and Delhi's Red Fort, will be reopened to the public from Monday for the first time since the country went into lockdown in March to fight the spread of coronavirus. Over 3,400 monuments were shut down by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on March 17, days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the lockdown. Some 820 religious places under the ASI were reopened when the government announced a graded exit from the total shutdown under "Unlock-1". The rest of the monuments can reopen, the government has said, but states are free to decide whether to keep them closed based on the coronavirus situation.



CLASSIFY ONLY INDIANS-OWNED ENTERPRISES AS MSMEs: RSS-AFFILIATE

RSS-affiliate Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) on Thursday opposed the criteria for classification of enterprises as micro, small and medium, saying it will promote trading of imported goods rather than promoting manufacturing in the country and demanded that only enterprises owned by Indians should be classified under this category. Opposing the notification on classification of enterprises issued by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ministry on June 26, the LUB said it "defeats" the purpose of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "To become completely self-reliant, only those enterprises should be registered under the micro, small and medium enterprises category which are owned by Indians," LUB general secretary Govind Lele told.



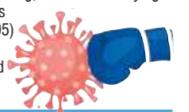
TAMIL NADU REPORTS 4,343 NEW COVID-19 CASES, 57 DEATHS

Coronavirus cases in Tamil Nadu touched a new high on Thursday as 4,343 people tested Covid-19 positive, said the State Health Department, here. The total number of cases in the state is 98,392. In the past 24 hours, 57 Covid-19 patients died, taking the toll to 1,321. On the positive side, 3,095 Covid-19 patients were discharged from various hospitals in the state. The number of cured persons has gone up to 56,021. The number of active cases stands at 41,047. The number of infected children in the state in the age group 0-12 went up to 4,836. The state capital Chennai continued to head the Covid-19 table with 2,027 people testing positive taking the tally to 62,598.



TWO NONAGENARIANS BEAT CORONAVIRUS IN BENGAL

98-year-old Sripathi Nayaben in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas and a 95-year-old man from Howrah were discharged after they emerged recovered from coronavirus and returned to normal life. Nayaban(98) is probably the oldest man in the country to have recovered from the deadly disease. He returned home on Wednesday evening, with doctors saying that the "man had been able to pull through as he had no comorbidities". Gobindo Halder, (95) a resident of Salkia area in Howrah district, was discharged from the hospital as he tested negative twice for the disease.



GVK chairman, son booked in graft case by CBI

Siphoning off Rs 705 cr from Mumbai Airport Raids multiple group firms in Mumbai, Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against industrialist Gunupati Venkata Krishna Reddy, popularly known as GVK Reddy, the chairman of the GVK Group of Companies, and his son GV Sanjay Reddy, Managing Director of Mumbai International Airport Ltd., among others, for allegedly committing irregularities and siphoning off Rs 705 crore from the airport.



The action comes in the wake of the FIR lodged by the CBI on June 27 against GVK Reddy, his son Sanjay Reddy, among others, for the irregularities.

Wednesday night in connection with the probe. The source, however, said that the searches were not carried at the residential premises of the Reddys, but only at the premises of the companies named in the FIR.

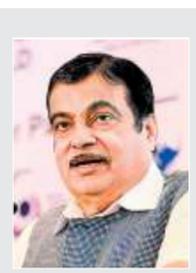
India put up for sale by Modi government

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Banning Chinese apps a 'digital strike': Prasad

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'Need Rs 50-60 lakh cr for foreign investments to bolster economy'

8

Drug and vaccine for Covid likely from City

Hyderabad Pharma City will provide cure for future pandemics and diseases : KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister K T Rama Rao has declared that the Pharma City coming up at Mucherla would put Hyderabad on the international map, given its endowments and potential. The city has already gained prominence as a pharmacy hub in the wake of the current coronavirus crisis and the Pharma City, considering the rapid developments in vaccines and medicines for Covid-19, would provide answers to many such problems and diseases in the future.

Telangana has already received many approvals from USFDA. "Hyderabad Pharma City, the largest pharma cluster in the world, will be a project of national and international importance", KTR said at a review at Pragathi Bhavan here on Thursday. Legislator Laxma Reddy, IAS officers Ajay Misra, Jayesh Ranjan, TSIC MD Narasimha Reddy and Life Sciences director Shakti Nagappan were among the officials present.

The Pharma City, for which the State government had obtained the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) approval as well as environmental clearance from the Centre, is all set to launch its first phase in the next few months, officials told KTR. KTR said that the department was working on the directions of Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu to create a Pharma City that is in line with international standards. In this context, the Minister asked officials to look into roads and other infrastructure that are required for the Pharma City.

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NPCI to set up Rs 500-crore Smart Data Center in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems across the country, is building its smart data centre in Hyderabad. Recognised as the first Tier-IV data centre, it will be built as per international data centre standards. IT Minister K T Rama Rao laid the foundation stone for the centre, which is located in Narsingi village, RR District. Being built with an estimated investment of Rs 500 crore, the smart data centre will house the national critical set-up with highly secured infrastructure. It will host major services under the Digital India initiatives. Once this centre is established, Hyderabad will be one of the major hubs for processing payments with a value of almost Rs 15 lakh crore per month and about 4,000 million transactions per month.



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Courts giving directions in policy matters: AP Speaker

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram on Thursday alleged courts were giving directions to the government in policy matters. The outburst, in Tirupati, came in the backdrop of the YS Jaganmohan Reddy government suffering setbacks with the State High Court annulling several of its decisions in recent verdicts. "If courts are dictating orders that you do this, you do that, you stop this, you go there..."



Testing in pvt labs halted for 'flouting' norms

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Testing for Covid-19 has been suspended in private labs here for four days, starting Thursday, due to "lack of veracity in testing and loopholes identified by the government".



Health Department, during its recent inspection, exposed certain flaws and came down heavily on private labs for flouting norms.

According to sources, over the past one week Telangana has reported high positivity rate. Although private labs had been giving many positive reports, tests conducted by an official team on inspection in government labs using the same samples showed many negative reports. So, the private labs need to train their staff and disinfect their premises, as per ICMR norms.

ICMR has given permission to 18 private labs in Telangana to conduct Covid-19 tests. However, the Health Department, during its recent inspection, exposed certain flaws and came down heavily on private labs for flouting norms.

All the private labs need to sort out everything in 48 hours. Private labs must rectify the loopholes and train their staff in collecting samples and disinfect the labs during these four days.

Another TS doctor succumbs to Covid

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a second incident, a senior doctor Kovelamudi Venkata Ramana Prasad in Hyderabad succumbed to Coronavirus on Thursday.

The senior doctor from Seethapalmandi, Secunderabad running a famous private nursing home in Warsiguda.

1,213 cases in TS, Hyd reports 998 in one day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Amid the commencement of four-day suspension period of testing in private labs, Telangana reported 1,213 fresh cases as well as eight deaths on Thursday. Hyderabad reported 998 cases on Thursday -- biggest ever single-day spike.

In a first, the state conducted 5,356 cases on Thursday, of which 4,143 tested negative. The death toll in the state is 275. The state has so far conducted 98,153 tests. On 27th June, 1,087 cases were reported. The state has added more than 2,300 cases in just two days.

'Will release Rs 10 cr for Cantonment'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Thursday agreed to release Rs 10 crore every month to solve the problems of people of Cantonment Board to resolve people's problems in the region. Earlier, a delegation of Cantonment Board CEO and members, led by Animal Husbandry minister Talasani Sarinivas Yadav, called on the minister at his residential quarters here. The board CEO and members explained the poor financial position of the board to the minister and urged him to release Rs 80 crore receivable by the board from the government.



Harish Rao said that the Centre has jurisdiction over the Cantonment Board. Since the Centre left them to the lurch. The state government is coming to the rescue of the people of living in the area, which is unprecedented in the country. He assured the delegation that the State Government would extend benefits of its schemes to the people living in the area.

People get confirmed ticket with pvt trains: Chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Indian Railways made a major privatisation push by inviting request for qualifications from private entities for participation in passenger train operations on 109 pairs of routes through 151 modern trains, Railway Board Chairman V.K. Yadav said it would help in providing confirmed tickets to passengers on the high-demand routes. Addressing a virtual press conference on Thursday, Yadav said, "The idea of private trains is that we should be able to offer a confirmed seat to all passengers on all major high-demand routes. The additional trains, over and above what Indian Railways is running, will help cater to the unmet demand." The railways aimed to achieve that by introducing private trains on key railway routes, he added.



Addressing a virtual press conference on Thursday, Yadav said, "The idea of private trains is that we should be able to offer a confirmed seat to all passengers on all major high-demand routes. The additional trains, over and above what Indian Railways is running, will help cater to the unmet demand." The railways aimed to achieve that by introducing private trains on key railway routes, he added.

AP government moves SC against HC order on ABV

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday moved a special leave petition in the Supreme Court challenging the state High Court's recent order revoking the suspension of senior IPS officer and former intelligence chief A B Venkateshwar Rao. The AP government requested that the Supreme Court stay the High Court order and continue the suspension of Venkateshwar Rao. The petition is expected to come up for hearing after July 6.

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Extension of sale time for liquor shops during Corona crisis!

Mallu Ravi finds fault with Govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC vice-president Mallu Ravi on Thursday criticised the further extension of business hours of liquor shops to 9.30 pm, and wondered how the state government could do this at a time Covid-19 has been spreading rapidly in the city limits. In a statement, the Congress leader found fault with Excise Minister V Srinivas Goud for defending the increase in business hours of liquor shops and said it would also encourage illicit distillation of arrack. He termed the government's move as "ridiculous and devoid of any logic". He demanded the government to minimize the business hours of liquor shops.



Earlier, the business hours of liquor shops were extended from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Now, the business hours have been extended to 9:30 pm. People forming queues near liquor shops would surely contract the virus. The government was acting irresponsibly, he said.

Dhanvantri theme planned for 'Khairatabad Ganesh'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The organisers of the Ganesh Chaturthi festivities at Khairatabad here, famous for erecting towering idols every year, have proposed to scale down the height to 27 feet and will do away with gathering of devotees in view of the coronavirus pandemic. The idol would be made on the theme of Dhanvantari, the God of medicine, as the organisers want to see that the threat of COVID-19 goes away, chief architect of the idol Chinnaswamy Rajendran told media on Thursday.

The Khairatabad Ganesh, as the idol is popularly known, is famous for its height and attracts thousands of devotees every day during the 11-day Vinayaka Chaviti festivities.

The height of the idol last year was a massive 63-feet and is usually carried on special equipment in a procession for immersion in the nearby Hussain Sagar lake. However, this year, it was proposed to install a 27-feet tall idol and the height can be reduced further.



However, this year, it was proposed to install a 27-feet tall idol and the height can be reduced further, Rajendran said. In the past, our prayers to Lord Ganesh, including rains (when there was a shortage), and separate Telangana state, were realised. This year, our prayer is that we get rid of the coronavirus, he said. In a break from the past, a clay idol would be installed for the first time and organic colours would be used, he said. The nimajanam (immersion) is planned to be carried out at the spot where it is installed and the public would not be allowed for worship like every year, he said.

TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Ashadha & Shukla Paksha Panchangam
Tithi: Trayodashi: 01:16 pm
Nakshatram: Jyeshtha: 12:08 am (Next Day)
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 10:42 am - 12:20 pm
Yamagandam: 03:35 pm - 05:13 pm
Variyam: 06:34 am - 08:06 am, 10:36 pm - 12:08 am
Gulika: 07:27 am - 09:05 am
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritkalam: 03:44 pm - 05:15 pm
Ahijit Muhurtham: 11:54 am - 12:46 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Haze
Temp: 31/24
Humidity: 84%
Sunrise: 05:46 am
Sunset: 06:54 pm
Current Weather Conditions: Updated July 02, 2020 5:00 PM

The decision of the TRS affiliated TBGKS as well as several other unions of coal mine workers to go on strike against Government of India's decision to auction 41 coal blocks could be seen as a curtain-raiser to nationwide protests against a series of economic failures by Modi 2.0. The second term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi can be derived with one single line that he has put "India for Sale". The latest being coal mines more so over during a pandemic has shocked the nation particularly the workers who not only strongly condemn this unilateral decision but also vow to fight till those in the Lutyns realise it's a mistake and roll back their decision.

The country, which is facing acute financial crisis has been looking with hope towards the Government of India for relief than reforms. This crisis is not just due to the lockdown

India put up for sale by Modi government

Congress remained a mute spectator when Air India, SAIL, BEML, Railways were kept for sale but with Singareni Collieries coal mine workers protesting, it is a direct confrontation between Telangana and Modi ji's economic fallacies.



M KRISHANK
TRS spokesperson

because of the pandemic but began right from the economic slowdown which the Government has been systematically ignoring and has done nothing to mitigate the impact. Several sectors including automobile and MSMEs have been affected by the slowdown; the aam janata got a jolt with the lockdowns and expected a direct support system through a relief announced in the Aatma Nirbhar Package but the 'Rs 20 lakh-crore package' just opened the doors of business with ISRO while the common man continues to suffer of poverty and hunger.

The disastrous decisions and plummeting of the economy is nothing new, but was only kept under wraps by an orchestrated display of management

skills. It came to light when Food Corporation of India which procured grain from states failed to pay the state governments on time which in turn affected the state governments paying the farmers. Nevertheless, Governments of several States, including Telangana, managed to pay farmers raising through other sources.

FCI could pay the amount to States only after it borrowed from National Small Savings Fund.

NSSF was initiated in 1999 to create economic safeguard for aiding institutions that face a worse situation by providing a large interest of repayment. It reveals that Modi government decisions created the worst economic conditions as this was not the only time Government put it hands into the NSSF. To control the fiscal deficit NSSF loans were used and Public Sector Units including Air India, Power Finance Corporation too have been funded. It is for this reason that

Air India has been put up for sale and now even with the Power Amendment Bill, corporates are being handed over the electricity in the country. Poor Air India staff may have not been strong enough to raise their voice against the

Modi Sarkar, but the workers of the coal mines are a tough nut to crack, it can also be a repeat of 1974 strike of workers which led to series of movements and then the Emergency in 1975 which remains a blot forever and ever on the Congress.

It comes as a shocking that Railways have not been spared by the Pakodanomics of Modi 2.0.

Inviting private participation in operation of passenger trains was least expected from this government.

The complete mismanagement and failures of the government has led to bankruptcy of many institutions and henceforth begs the corporates to take over these reputed public sector services.

At the other end, the state

governments are fuming at this unilateral decision which was not discussed with stakeholders in the august House of Parliament or institutions like Niti Aayog which have been constituted to build the dialogue of Team India.

But there has been only a monologue disappointing the expectations of Cooperative Federalism which remains only a namesake verbal ritual but nowhere in practise.

Telangana's coal mine workers, precisely those from the Singareni belt, are experienced revolutionaries. Their active participation in Telangana Statehood struggle cannot be overlooked, and they will not bow down or succumb to any pressure.

TBGKS's involvement reflects the ruling party TRS's

support which indicates that the Telangana land will fight back to protect its resources. TRS's birth has been to protect the resources of this land, TBGKS along with other Unions revolting the auctioning will catch the eye of the Prime Minister of India.

It will be interesting to see how far will Modi go ahead with his plans of sale because till now the prime opposition Congress remained a mute spectator when Air India, SAIL, BEML, Railways were kept for sale but with Singareni collieries coal mine workers protesting, it is a direct confrontation between Telangana and Modi ji's economic fallacies. When it comes to agitations, the world knows the mettle and 'no compromise' spirit of people of Telangana who would fight it out till the last to protect the invaluable resources of the land.

Miners' strike hits coal production

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Coal production in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) came to a halt on Thursday as miners began a three-day strike called by various unions to protest against the Centre's decision to privatise the mines. Nearly 50,000 employees struck the work in all the mines spread across six districts of Telangana. While the national trade unions have called for a three-day strike from Thursday, the Telangana Boggu Ghani Karmika Sangham (TBGKS), the biggest and recognised union in Singareni, supported the strike for only one day.



Telangana Boggu Ghani Karmika Sangham members staging a protest on Thursday

The unions demanded that the government immediately withdraw its decision to permit commercial mining in the Coal India Ltd (CIL) and SCCL blocks

The CIL and SCCL. They sought the withdrawal of proposals for e-auction of 50 coal blocks, bid to delink Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) from the CIL, and the proposed amendments to labour laws. The day-long protest by the TBGKS affiliated to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) was held across the state, with workers demanding the Union government roll-back its decision. TBGKS honorary President and former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha demanded the Central govern-

ment to roll back its decision to privatise coal mines.

"Today across the nation, thousands of coal mine workers are on strike demanding the Central government to roll back the decision to auction coal blocks to private companies. The TRS party-affiliated TBGKS is also on strike today. We demand that this privatisation move be rolled back," tweeted Kavitha, who is daughter of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

The main fear among workers with regard to the privatisation of coal mines is about their future and as to how private companies will function, as against a public undertaking. The privatisation move, according to TBGKS leaders, will also adversely impact Singareni coal mines in Telangana, which is a government-run public undertaking.

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they wondered how this move is "an act of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat". SCCL is the largest public sector company in Telangana. It is owned by the state government and the Centre on a 51:49 equity basis.

(AITUC), SCMLU (INTUC), SCE&W (HMS), SCE Union (CITU), SCMK (BMS) and GLBKS Union (IFTU) joined the strike. The unions demanded that the government immediately withdraw its decision to permit commercial mining in the Coal India Ltd (CIL) and SCCL blocks. The Centre has

put up for auction 41 coal blocks belonged to the CIL. The unions now fear that the government may auction the coal blocks of SCCL too in the future.

They have demanded the management stop weakening the coal industry by permitting discriminative outsourcing in

The production in all underground mines in Bhadradi Kothagudem district came to a halt while operations in open cast mines were also affected. Production was also hit in almost all the mines in Ramagundam, Bhupalapally, Mancherla and other areas. The strike might result in production loss of nearly two lakh tonnes. The company is estimated to suffer a loss of over Rs 50 crore.

Employees' union, SCW

'Skill building need of the hour'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An interactive meeting was held on Thursday at the National Academy of Construction in the city. Telangana State Planning Board Vice Chairman B Vinod Kumar chaired the meeting which was attended by K Bikshapathi, Director General, NAC and Prof V Venkata Ramana, Vice-Chairman, Telangana State Council of Higher Education and Co-convenor, Education & Skills Panel CII Telangana along with senior officials of NAC and consultants of different branches of NAC.



Education & Skills Panel CII Telangana made a presentation about the best practices in skilled manpower development in different states and also internationally. He explained to the participants the need for an integrated approach to meet the gaps and requirements of the market. He assured the unstinted cooperation to NAC so that a proper planning of the activities to be taken up in Telangana and prevent unforeseen shortages in the

market.

Vinod Kumar, expressed his happiness about the performance of National Academy of Construction in addition to the various other sectors to which the economy is facing shortages. He opined that, since Telangana is emerging as the industrial and economic hub of the Country there is huge demand for skilled manpower which needs to be identified and steps to be taken to bridge the gap.

AP government moves SC ...

Continued from Page 1

However, Venkateshwar Rao had already filed a caveat petition in the Supreme Court to pre-empt the letter from taking up the state government's SLP. He has prayed the court to see that his job is restored and he be posted in a suitable position. On May 22, the state High Court has set aside the suspension of Venkateshwar Rao and directed the state government to reinstate him to regular service.

The court also directed the government to pay his salary for the period of his suspension setting aside the directions given by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) to file a case against the senior IPS officer. The AP government suspended Venkateshwar Rao on February 8, following a report that he had allegedly involved in irregularities during the purchase of surveillance equipment from Israeli firm RT Inflatable. However, Venkateshwar Rao knocked the doors of CAT challenging the state government's suspension, but the CAT dismissed his petition and told the government to go ahead with the investigation by filing cases against the latter. He later moved the High Court challenging the CAT order.

NPCI to set up Rs 500 cr

Continued from Page 1

Considering that Telangana is one of the strategic and fastest-growing IT corridors, NPCI has chosen the State. TS also offers other advantages such as supportive geographical presence, availability of abundant human resources, best-in-class network & infrastructure as well as support from the government. This centre will add to Telangana's brand equity in attracting investments in the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

The centre is designed in line with Tier-IV standards which would ensure high availability upto 99.995 per cent and complies with infrastructure (N+N) even during natural calamities. It is going to be environment-friendly with the adoption of green building

features, rain water harvesting and solar panels. It is being built with an Internet of Things (IoT)-based building management system that will have eight layers of security. The building would have power usage effectiveness (PUE) of 1.59 with high availability of power directly from the 33kv grid. NPCI has engaged Larsen & Toubro (L&T) as its turnkey contractor for building the smart data centre. NPCI MD and CEO Dilip Asbe said on the occasion, "We would like to thank the IT Minister of Telangana for laying the foundation stone of our smart data centre. Our focus will always remain on enhancing acceptance infrastructure for digital payments so as to encourage customers towards digital transactions to achieve RBI and Government's less cash objective."

Asst Labour Officer in ACB net

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The officials of ACB arrested the Assistant Labour Officer of Mahbubnagar district for demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 6,000.

The accused was identified as Vadrevu Rama Koteswara Rao, was an official from Circle-II of Mahbubnagar district. He had accepted the bribe from Korra Ramulu to do official favour to process the applications of Thummala Narsimulu and Madugu Anjamma to sanction marriage benefits and maternity benefits to them respectively under NREGS scheme. "The trap amount of Rs. 6,000 was recovered from his possession at his instance. Fingers of his both hands and inner linings of his wallet yielded positive results in chemical test. The man performed his duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage" said the ACB officials.

People get confirmed ticket with...

Continued from Page 1

The railways on Wednesday planned to allow private entities to operate passenger trains and the project would entail private sector investment of about Rs 30,000 crore.

The Chairman said the 150 modern world-class trains would be introduced by the private firms under the 'Make in India' initiative.

"Most of these 150 trains, with at least 16 coaches each,

will be manufactured in India. The trains will aim to enhance passenger experience and reduce travel time. The trains will have the capability to achieve 160 kmph speed," Yadav said.

The first private train would hit tracks in April 2023, he added.

"The financial bids will be invited in the coming months and after a private entity is short-listed for a cluster, the

company will share designs for new trains. These designs will be as per the Indian Railways specifications. Once the designs are approved, the private company will manufacture the world-class train rakes and train sets. "Most of these modern trains will be manufactured in India. But to begin with, if the private entity is a foreign original equipment manufacturer, they can be imported," Yadav said.

Drug and vaccine for Covid likely...

Continued from Page 1

He asked officials to submit a report, with clear timelines, highlighting the initiatives that could be launched over the next five years to take forward the Pharma City. He wanted officials to ensure that the Pharma City would be a self-contained township, where everything essential, from products to start-ups to manufacturers to residential workers, would be readily available. Besides, it should have pharma research and development facilities, a university in the life sciences sector and as much green cover as possible, he said.

Another TS doctor ..

Continued from Page 1

The doctor breathed his last at a corporate hospital on Thursday. Earlier another senior doctor who ran a private clinic also succumbed to virus. A nurse from Chest hospital died after being infected with Covid19.

Courts giving directions in...

Continued from Page 1

what for are people, elections, votes, MLAs, MPs? Why do we need a Legislative Assembly? Why elect a Chief Minister or a Speaker? Why all this?" Sitaram asked, addressing mediapersons.

He said intellectuals should debate over this.

"We are going ahead with all respect to the Constitution. If our (governments) decisions are wrong, people will defeat us in the elections," he added.

The Speaker lashed out at the opposition Telugu Desam

Party for not passing the Appropriation Bill in the Legislative Council.

"Will you stall a Money Bill? You have nothing to do, so you are doing such nasty things," he charged.

The government could not pay salaries to its staff for June due to non-passage of the Appropriation Bill that clears the states annual budget, but has said the process would be completed this week.

"You have a responsibility to the people," the Speaker reminded the TDP.

1,213 cases in...

Continued from Page 1

The state has so far reported 18,570 coronavirus cases. Of the total cases, 9,226 are active. In all, 9,069 persons have been discharged. On Thursday, 987 patients were discharged. Rangareddy reported 48 cases and Medchal reported 54 cases. Twenty six districts in the state reported cases on Thursday. Meanwhile, the state government, as part of its efforts to increase beds with oxygen facility, has added 350 beds in King Koti Hospital.

GVK chairman, son booked in graft case...

Continued from Page 1

The action comes in the wake of the FIR lodged by the CBI on June 27 against GVK Reddy, his son Sanjay Reddy, among others, for the irregularities. According to CBI, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had formed a joint venture with GVK Airports Holdings Limited, promoted by the GVK group under public-private partnership firm Mumbai International Airport Ltd., for upgradation and maintenance of Mumbai Airport.

The FIR said that on April 4, 2006 the AAI entered into an agreement with MIAL for mod-

ernisation, upkeep, operation and maintenance of Mumbai airport. "It is alleged that the promoters of the GVK group in MIAL, in connivance with their executives and unidentified officials of the AAI, resorted to siphoning off of funds using different ways," the FIR said. MIAL is a joint venture of the GVK Group, Airports Authority of India and a few foreign entities. CBI's investigation found that around 200 acres of underdeveloped land parcels in Mumbai, located around the airport were given to MIAL by AAI for development and revenue generation. The MIAL entered into a bogus work contract during 2017-18

with Aishwaryagiri Construction Private Limited, Kotia Enterprises Limited, SBK Trade & Infrastructure Project (India) Limited, M/s Richa Industries Limited, M/s Nice Project Limited and Aditi Infrabuild and Services Limited. The contract was allocated on the pretext of real estate development.

MIAL transferred the funds to them, but these contracts have never been executed on the ground. "Using bogus operandi Rs 310 crore have raised fraudulently siphoned off. The nine companies have avoided fake input tax credit (ITC)". A case has been filed against the nine. The CBI is also

investigating several other fake invoices raised by MIAL.

Sources informed the CBI that from 2012 onwards, the GVK group with criminal intent caused loss to AAI. It used surplus funds of MIAL to the tune of Rs 395 crore to finance their own group of companies. GVK created forged board meeting resolution with MIAL authorizing to keep the reserve as Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDRs) with Public Sector

Undertaking banks in Hyderabad. Further, the group raised loans against these FDRs and used these funds for the benefit of their Hyderabad-based GVK group companies at the expense of MIAL.

Will release Rs 10 cr for ...

Continued from Page 1

Principal Secretary Finance Ramakrishna Rao, Cantonment Board CEO Chandrasekhar, members Maheswar Reddy, Pandu Yadav, Sada Kesava Reddy, Shyam, Prabhakar, Rajasekhar Reddy and others were present.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD
₹ 50,490 (10 gm)
₹ 10
SILVER
₹ 48,560 (1kg)
₹ 10

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg

Dressed/With Skin ₹165
Without Skin ₹188
Broiler at Farm ₹114

EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD 346
VIJAYAWADA 364
VISHAKHAPATNAM 349
RETAIL PRICE ₹3.60

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

e-Procurement Notice

"e" NIT No. 02/E-in-C(R&B), SR & CRN/CRN/2019-20 Dt:01.07.2020.

Online tender for 5th call is invited under e-procurement platform for one Road work under Non Plan, in Rangareddy district. Vide E-in-C(R&B), State Roads & CRN. Tenderers can download the tender schedules and have further details from e-market place i.e. www.tender.telangana.gov.in. The last date of receipt of tenders is 13.07.2020 up to 3.30 pm.

DPR No.791-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) State Roads & CRN

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Division 14, GHMC,

NIT No. 14E.E. 14 / GHMC / 2020-21. Dated: 02-07-2020

Name of work: Various works under Division 14, GHMC. Estimate Amount ECV (Rs. in lakhs): 6.633. Start Date / Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids: 03-07-2020 / 11.00 AM, 04-07-2020/11.00 AM. Name & Address Officer: Executive Engineer 14, GHMC, 5th floor Abids Parking Complex, Abids, Hyderabad, 9989930428 For further details can be seen at e-procurement website www.tender.telangana.gov.in EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DIVISION 14, GHMC

R.O. No. : 2817-PPCL-ADVT/1/2020-21

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Block "A" HMDA Complex, Tarnaka, Hyderabad-500 007

Public Notification Uis 15(1) of HMDA Act 2009

(Government Memo.No.16135/Pig.1 (11)/2017 Dt:01.05.2020)

In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section(1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2009 (Act. No.9 of 2009), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the land use envisaged in the notified MDP-2021 vide G.O.Ms.No.288, MA&UD dt.03.04.2008. The site in Sy.No. 799/P of Bowrampet (V), Dundigudi / Gandimaisamma (M) Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist., to an extent of 4046.05 Sq.Mtrs. which is presently earmarked for conservation use zone is now proposed to be designated as Residential Use Zone. The details of the above are available in Web sites http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/ and http://hmda.gov.in/ Objections / Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C. HMDA or to Principal Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) Days from the date of publication of this Notice.

DPR No. 799-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- For Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

CRIME CORNER

Tiktok partner cheats nurse

HYDERABAD: A 25-year-old woman was allegedly cheated by her live-in partner, who she met through a social media platform, at Banjara Hills on Wednesday. According to the police, the victim, a nurse was an avid Tiktok user. Vinay, another user texted her and soon became friends. Later, they started living together in a rented flat at Yousufguda. A couple of months later, the victim gave Rs 1.50 lakh to Vinay as he demanded for emergency needs. However, since recently he started suspecting her of having another affair and began harassing her. In her complaint to the police, the victim told that a week ago, when she returned home from work, Vinay was nowhere to be found. His mobile phone was switched off and after repeatedly trying to contact him and searching for him, she realised that she was cheated and approached the police. The police registered a case.

2 arrested for man's murder

HYDERABAD: The Saroonagar Police on Thursday, arrested two persons who were involved in the killing of a 30-year-old man in Saroonagar a week ago. Two other suspects are absconding. The arrested persons were identified as Boju Sandeep Kumar, 32, and Katharu Sai Srinivas Prasad, 27. Two other persons who were involved in the murder identified as Santosh and Qudus, are absconding. The victim Sandasari Vinay Kumar, is a photographer by profession. According to the police, Vinay had an argument with a person identified as Sai Kiran. Vinay allegedly threatened Sai Kiran who approached Sandeep. Sandeep asked Vinay to come to P&T Colony, where he stabbed Vinay to death. The arrested persons were produced before the court.

Woman duped of Rs 11 lakh

HYDERABAD: A woman was duped of Rs 11 lakh by cyber fraudsters using an old modus operandi. The common cheated the victim on the pretext of sending a parcel containing cash and gifts. According to the police, the woman and her son reside at Mehdiapatnam. Ten days ago, she received a friend request on Facebook from a man and she accepted. The fraudster introduced himself as Chris and told he was from the UK and intended to help the Christian community in Hyderabad. Believing the conman, the victim shared her contact number. A few days ago a woman called the victim over the phone and introduced herself as customs official from Delhi airport. The caller told the victim that a parcel had come for her and some payment needed to be done for customs duty. The victim transferred around Rs 11 lakh in the bank accounts. When the woman did not receive any parcel she approached the Cyber Crime Police who registered a case and began investigation.

Hyd tops list in violation of lockdown restrictions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad tops in the state in cases of violation of lockdown rules being enforced to contain the spread of dreaded Coronavirus.

Infamously, Hyderabad is at the forefront of violating section 51 (b) of the Disaster Management Act, which is being implemented by the Central and state governments to contain the spread of Coronavirus. This act has been enforced since March 22.

As on July 1, Telangana state police have registered 67,557 cases against offenders who did not adhere to the lockdown norms such as wearing face masks, physical distancing and venturing out without a valid reason.

Hyderabad has topped in the list with 14,346 cases, followed by Khammam with 6,372 cases.

This act has been enforced since March 22, but from May 9, the government started imposing fine of Rs 1,000 on people roaming in public places without wearing masks. The police have imposed challan to 3,288 persons till date.

These violators have been identified by Artificial Intelligence, which is linked to CCTV cameras installed across the city. Of the total challans imposed for not wearing face masks, Wanaparthy district



stood first with 846 followed by Hyderabad with 585.

Meanwhile, with the possibility of another lockdown, this time perhaps a much more stricter one, the state police is gearing up to be back on roads on enforcement duty.

According to officials, the department is looking at ways of utilising technology to the maximum extent possible to keep a tab on those violating restrictions and to book cases under Section 51(b) of the Disaster Management Act along with other provisions of the Indian Penal Code, if

required.

"We will be more cautious this time while enforcing the lockdown. We will ask our staff to strictly adhere to personal safety norms while discharging duty," an official said adding that efforts would be made to rely more on surveillance cameras to enforce restrictions.

A day after the Central government issued fresh guidelines on Covid-19 management, the state government has announced extension of existing restrictions in the state till July 31.

The state government said

movement of people other than for accessing emergency medical care would remain prohibited from 10 pm to 5 am.

However, movement of persons for operation of industrial units in multiple shifts, movement of persons on national and State highways, loading and unloading of cargo and travel of people disembarking from flights to their destinations would be permitted. No shops and establishments, except hospitals and pharmacies, would remain open after 9.30 pm, the latest order said.

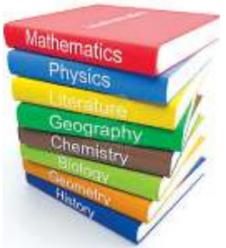
Textbooks ready for next year

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Though the academic year has been upset in Telangana due to Covid-19 pandemic, yet the School Education Department has made available textbooks for students. The textbooks are going to hit markets within a week.

The School Education Department has dispatched 1.17 crore textbooks to the districts. The rest of the 23 lakh books would be sent to the districts in one week or 10 days.

Of the total textbooks, 83



per cent of the free books are dispatched to the districts.

The government prints in all 240 titles from Class I to X.

The government has last year's spill over of 11 lakh books. In fact, 1.51 crore text books are necessary in the state. Since 11 lakh books are already available with the government, 1.40 lakh books were published.

In all, 1.20 crore books are necessary for private school students. Publishing of text books has been completed. The books will soon hit markets. However, there is no hike in the price of text books this time, it is learnt.

CI suspended on charge of corruption

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bhuvanagiri Rural CI, Surender Reddy has been suspended by Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, Mahesh Bhagwat.

Surender Reddy has been charged with corruption and has been suspended. He was replaced by V Janaiah, Inspector. The Commissioner issued orders to this effect on Thursday and ordered that Janaiah report immediately.

It is not end of the road for elderly, says Covid warrior

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

With the entire family infected with Covid-19, Gaurav Girjesh, an AEE working in Telangana Irrigation and CAD Department of Telangana says, "More than physically you have to fight Coronavirus infection mentally because you have to be isolated, away from people".

Gaurav, 31, along with his father and mother contracted infection at a hospital in Hyderabad while his father was undergoing a cancer surgery.

"We had to shift my father from the hospital for cancer treatment to Care Hospital and my father was in ICU due to his surgery. My mother was suffering from fever after my father's admission and the hospital decided to admit her as well. Later, I informed the hospital authorities that my temperature was also high. Later, we were tested positive for Coronavirus."

Fever and diarrhea was the main indicator for Gaurav, but it can vary from others with some being asymptomatic.



Fever and diarrhea were indicators for Gaurav, but it can vary from person to person with some being asymptomatic



During the initial days, Gaurav points that fever was consistently high and was feeling very weak. But consistent communication with relatives and friends was giving him strength.

He says it's not end of the road for patients with co-morbidities especially. Gaurav says, "My father, 68, was diagnosed with Cancer recently and underwent a 9 hour surgery for it days before getting infected by Covid-19. He is also taking BP and sugar medication and when he was admitted in hospital, was already having pneumonia in his lungs and breathing problem

requiring oxygen support. Now, he came back home and is recovering. My mother, 62, facing similar health problems has been discharged."

Asking people to get rid of this thought that senior citizens getting infected is an end of road for them, Gaurav said "If my father with all possible co-morbidities can fight, everyone can."

He said, "There is a stigma that people will run away from you if you are Covid-19 patient, but doctors and nurses were taking very good care of patients. Just being mentally strong is important, physically the infection can be fought by taking medicine."

5-year-old girl killed by her mother's FB friend

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man murdered a five-year-old girl by slitting her throat and then attempted suicide at Pocharam on Thursday.

The accused person has been identified as Karunakar, a resident of Secunderabad.

According to the police, Anusha's husband, Suraneni Kalyan Rao used to go to work, Karunakar and Rajashekar, her friends, used to keep her company. On Thursday, while Kalyan Rao was at work, the incident occurred. According to sources, Karunakar and Anusha became friends through FB.

However, Anusha was close with Rajashekar. On Thursday, Karunakar visited Anusha's house. Seeing Karunakar,

Anusha asked Rajashekar to hide. Learning that Rajashekar was there inside, he asked Rajashekar to come outside. Karunakar then threatened that he would kill Anusha's daughter. As Rajashekar still did not come out, Karunakar slit Aadhya's throat killing her on the spot.

Later Karunakar injured Rajashekar and fled. Moments later, he attempted to kill himself.

As his attempt to commit suicide was unsuccessful, he began bleeding profusely. Locals informed the police.

The Ghatkesar police shifted Karunakar to hospital, where his condition is said to be out of danger. The police registered a case and are investigating.

EFLU announces end-sem results

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) on Thursday announced results of end-semester examinations for various courses.

The exams were conducted for Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Teacher Education Courses, Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching of English, Postgraduate Diploma in the Teaching of Arabic through the online mode from May 22 to June 2.

In a press release the university said, amidst the ongoing Coronavirus situation in the country, the English and Foreign Languages University is probably the first to conduct the end-semester examinations online.

#SaveTSEducation trends on twitter

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Although Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao had instructed the schools and other educational institutions to collect only monthly tuition fees from the students, seems like many educational institutions aren't following it.

Opposing the same, many netizens took to Twitter to raise their voice. The hashtags #SaveTSEducation and #NoFeeinPandemic have been making a buzz online.

Sujith Kesari, wrote, "There are no issued orders by the TS government to start the academics. Still every ducking school started online classes. What the hell are they're teaching (sic)."

Gayathri Reddy wrote, "Ma'am, @SabithaindraTRS In this pandemic there many students who are not able to access to virtual classes. In this kind of despair hiking fees for mere purpose of reforming economy makes the students situation even worse (sic)."

Set up plasma banks, Corona survivors tell TS government

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA ■ HYDERABAD

Plasma therapy is proving to be an efficient treatment for those suffering from the Coronavirus. While the therapy doesn't guarantee the elimination of the virus from the patients' system, it does give a fighting chance to those who have lesser immunity levels.

With many reports of plasma therapy saving lives, there is now an online petition gaining momentum asking the central government to ensure setup of plasma banks in all states.

Talking about the petition, Akhil Ennamsetty, an advocate, who is a Corona survivor said, "I am the first Coronavirus survivor from Telangana to donate the plasma willingly. The issue that I see here is that there is no awareness about the therapy. The government along with setting up plasma banks, need to ensure that hospitals, patients and survivors know about this therapy."



Plasma treatment is done by taking blood plasma from a cured Covid-19 patient to treat positive cases to effectively strengthen the immune system. The Delhi government recently inaugurated a plasma bank, where Covid-19 patients can donate their plasma 14 days after recovery. He expressed hope that plasma therapy will help in reducing Covid-19 casualties.

Akhil has also started an online platform for plasma donation. "Right now people know very little about the

therapy. The doctors need to talk to eligible donors and explain them that plasma is just a body fluid and the donation process is much easier than donating blood."

He further adds, "Telangana is seeing a surge in Covid-19 cases each day. I think the state should have at least a task force which is looking into the matter. However, apart from Apollo and Yashoda, no other hospital is using plasma therapy to treat patients, as there are no clear guidelines given to the hospital authorities."

School teachers hold demo seeking wages

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Teachers working in private schools are facing hardship due to the non-functioning of the schools and non-payment of salaries since the Coronavirus-induced lockdown began, the Telangana Private Teachers' Forum (TPTF) said on Thursday.

TPTF president Sheik Shabbir Ali said his outfit organised demonstrations outside offices of district Collectors in the state on Wednesday, urging the state government to come to their rescue.

Ali said memoranda were submitted to the officials who assured to take their problem to the notice of the government.

Claiming that about three lakh private school teachers and their families are facing hardships, he said the teachers, who are educated, are now forced to take up other works, including the work of casual labourers, to feed their families.



The teachers of private schools are facing difficulties as the educational institutions have still not been re-opened, he said.

"Though the state government had issued orders that salaries be paid to the private teachers during the lockdown, it is not being implemented, he claimed.

He urged the government to provide financial assistance to the private teachers either as unemployment dole or as Covid-19 assistance.

The school managements should pay full salaries during the lockdown as per the epidemic diseases Act, he said.



GHMC demolishes 9 illegal structures in Gurukul lands

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Lokesh Kumar said, in continuance of special drive on demolitions of unauthorised structures, today the Town Planning Section of Chanda Nagar circle has taken up demolitions in Gurukul trust lands and demolished 9 structures on Thursday.

The GHMC has taken up demolitions with three teams

by deploying eleven compressors and demolished nine structures.

Special drive of unauthorised demolitions will continue further in order to protect government lands, he added. Further the Commissioner appealed the public to be cautious about the unauthorised constructions on government lands.

Meanwhile, in another statement, the GHMC Commissioner said that a four

lane RuB is undertaken along with construction of box drain to avoid inundation near MMTS Railway Station and to reduce the heavy load on fly over between Hitec City to Kukatpally.

To take up these works, government has sanctioned 59.09 crore under SRDP projects. As per the government instructions these type of works undertaken to reduce the traffic burden on busy routes, he added.

Hyd has highest warehousing potential in India

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's warehousing market witnessed 3.4 mn sq ft leasing activity in FY2020. The city showed the highest warehousing development potential (by 2.19 times) amongst the top eight cities in India. The warehousing asset class in the city has seen a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 41 per cent for the period FY 2017-2020.

The city has the potential to more than double its existing stock from 13 mn sq ft to 29 mn sq ft. This comes on the back of a land pool of approximately 1,291 acres committed to warehousing, according to the latest report 'India

Warehousing Market Report - 2020' by Knight Frank India.

GST led to a transformative shift to efficiency-based location and size strategy rather than the erstwhile tax saving focused objective. The major drivers of the warehousing sector in Hyderabad are e-commerce, retail and the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) / Fast Moving Consumer Durables (FMCD) industries, which together contributed to 50 per cent of the total transacted space in FY 2020.

Warehousing activity in Hyderabad is largely concentrated in three major clusters of Medchal, Patancheru and Shamsabad. Of the three, a



significant 87 per cent of the FY2020 transaction activity was concentrated in the Medchal cluster. Rent appreciations have been reported

across locations in the three warehousing clusters.

According to Samson Arthur, branch director said, "The Hyderabad warehousing

market is a consumption centre driven by e-commerce, retail and FMCG. With large e-commerce and FMCG players preferring to outsource their logistics and warehousing needs, the share of third-party logistics in the transactions pie has gone up to 31 per cent in FY 2020. While warehousing market demand has been affected in 2020 due to the economic slowdown and disruption caused by the pandemic, the market's strength is evident in the 41 per cent annual growth it has commanded over the past three years. Investment interest continues to remain strong in this property type and should fuel its momentum over the longer term."

DECISION ON LOCKDOWN

People keep fingers crossed

K VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD

Since the last few days, thousands of people have left the city for their homes following the Telangana government's indication that it could re-enforce a complete lockdown amid growing Covid-19 cases. Now the people are eagerly waiting for the Cabinet meeting and are hoping the government takes a decision in this regard as soon as possible. It may be recalled that Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu announced the State Cabinet would meet to discuss a suggestion from the Health Department and medical experts to re-impose lockdown in the limits of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation for at least 15 days.

The rising number of cases in the state, especially in GHMC limits, is sending shivers down the spine of people. They are clueless as when and how they will come in contact with Corona. Amidst



this situation, the people are awaiting for the decision of the government on lockdown. Sandhya from Lalapet hoped that re-imposing lockdown may tackle the spread of Corona for some extent. "We are going outside only for essentials and if there are any emergency situations such as for medicines and hospitals. I am taking all precautionary measures like sanitisation, wearing masks etc. However, still I am afraid of Corona. I think re-imposing lockdown would be a good decision," she

said. The government has hinted couple of days ago that it will take a decision on imposing lockdown. However, the government changed its decision, it seems as some Ministers hinted that there may not be another lockdown. Some are expecting that the government may impose lockdown in containment areas by taking strict measures.

Venu Reddy from LB Nagar said that for the first time he is waiting for the Cabinet meeting as it is going to take a deci-

sion on lockdown in GHMC limits. He said that people are not following guidelines. "People must be in disciplined manner or else things would turn even worse. Self discipline is must," he said. The Corona is taking a toll on the people across the state. Doctors, sanitation workers, police, journalists, secretariat, GHMC employees also fell victim of coronavirus.

A Professor from Osmania University, who is also eagerly waiting for Cabinet decision on lockdown, on condition of anonymity said, "the government has to take decision on imposing lockdown based on professional advice from medical experts and public health experts. The government has to take a decision to adopt best practice that yielded results across the nation and world instead mere lockdown". However, uncertainty is continuing on the day of conducting Cabinet meeting and also unconfirmed official sources say that there won't be another lockdown.

PV's vision helped reboot India's economic ties: Kishan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy described former Prime Minister Late PV Narsimha Rao as a man of many graces. "PV is an erudite scholar, a veteran from India's independence movement, a prudent politician, a skilled polyglot and father of India's economic reform story," Kishan Reddy said.

"Remembering him on his 100th Birth anniversary is a reminder that to be a great leader you must be a great human being too. Marked statesmanship and political acumen displayed by him during turbulent times has always inspired policy makers and leaders through years. His foresight and vision helped reboot India's strategic and economic ties with South East Asia. With his quiet and calm disposition, he left an indelible mark as a great son of India and unleashed many such reforms and initiatives," the Union Minister said.



"As the nation remembers late PV Narsimha Rao on his 100th birth anniversary, I made a request to the Minister for Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad to consider issuing of postage stamps in his honour. The said request was considered and accepted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to issue a postage stamp to commemorate the veteran leader," he further said. Kishan Reddy thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad for their gesture in accepting his request to release the postage stamp in commemoration of 100th Birth Anniversary of the leader.

Fully recovered from Corona: VH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao on Thursday said that he recovered from Corona with the blessings of the god. He said that his wife also successfully recovered from Corona. It may be recalled that the Congress leader was admitted

to a private hospital in Hyderabad. Speaking to the media for the first time after coming from the hospital, VH said that he will spend his entire life for the sake of poor. He said that several people prayed for my health. He said that he will strive to hoist the Congress flag in every village.

'Allocate Rs 3,000 cr for Gandhi'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MLA from Sangareddy Jagga Reddy on Thursday demanded the state government to allocate Rs 3,000 crore for Gandhi Hospital besides allocating Rs 3,000 crore to district hospitals to improve the facilities.

He said that the government has to set up special fund for Gandhi Hospital. While staging a protest at Gandhi statue in Assembly premises on Thursday, Jagga Reddy asked the government to provide good food for Covid patients. Immunity power will be



improved if they are provided with eggs, chicken and mutton, he suggested. Finding fault with Chief Minister for discussing on Kaleswaram, Jagga Reddy asked KCR to reveal whether

Oppn lost mind over breach: Jeevan Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Public Undertakings Committee chairman A Jeevan Reddy on Thursday charged the Opposition with treating Kondapochamma Sagar canal recently developing breach as the eighth wonder in world and giving the colour as though Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu himself breached the canal bund.

Termining the canal development breach as painful, he said that irrigation development works are under progress in the state to fulfil the Chief



Minister's promise to bring 1.25 crore acres in 33 districts across the state under the plough. The Kaleswaram Project of the state government is the largest in world. The credit of executing the project

in the least possible time goes to the Chief Minister, he said. Opposition leaders are competing with one another to visit the canal site where it developed the breach, he said reminding the Congress of how the SRSP project developed breach in the past in Khammam district and how the pipelines laid for Devadula LI scheme were blown away.

He also criticized BJP for its double standards. "The Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat has experienced breaches for 207 times. A part of Manoharabad rail line was washed out recent-

ly. Does it mean that we demand resignation of the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister," Jeevan Reddy said. "In fact BJP is the address for benami transactions and Congress is for commissions," Jeevan Reddy said.

It is better for the Congress regime to recall the ghastly accident that had taken place on the Panjagutta flyover, he said charging the Congress with keeping mum when these incidents had taken place. In fact, the care of address for receiving kickbacks is Congress party, he alleged.

Turn old Secretariat into Covid-19 hospital: Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy on Thursday demanded that the state government to use old Secretariat building as Covid-19 hospital or a quarantine Centre instead of demolishing the present structure.

Narayana Reddy, in a statement, said that the demolition of present structures and construction of a new secretariat at a cost of nearly Rs 1,000 crore would be a criminal waste of public money, especially in the present circumstances. "The end of pandemic does not look near. Therefore, it is high time that Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu shift his entire focus on combating Covid-19 situation. Our focus should be on upgradation of health infrastructure and appointment of medical professionals at all levels. Access to free and quality medicare

in present situations," he said.

The Congress leader said that the Secretariat was strategically located and many blocks were in extremely good condition. He said usable space in many blocks could be utilised as dedicated Covid-19 hospital or quarantine facility. He said that the KCR government should change its adamant attitude and open up for new ideas and suggestions. "KCR's stature will not go down if he accepts the suggestions made by leaders of opposition parties. The Chief Minister should apply his wisdom and not just heart in taking decisions which can benefit the common people," he said.

Meanwhile, Telangana Youth Congress activists led by Telangana Youth Congress chief Anil Kumar Yadav have staged a flash dharna at the old Secretariat.

Bandi asks govt to bring back stranded migrants

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State BJP president and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar in a letter to Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu on Thursday urged him to arrange for those expatriates of Gulf countries wishing to return to Telangana. He said that the government shall arrange for bringing back at least 1,500 per day and arrange for

their quarantine as per the stipulations of the central government. He said that there are 13 lakh workers in Gulf on any given day and out of that 25 per cent would like to return home as they are either cheated by the travel agents or lost jobs due to Covid-19. "Those who lost their jobs because of lockdown are in

dire straits, they are living in miserable conditions," he said adding that they are calling home pleading for help. He further said that the Centre is also ready to bring the stranded workers home. However the State government must formally write to the Centre and request them to arrange flights under "Vande Bharat Mission," he said.

TJS ups the ante against govt over Covid crisis

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TJS president Prof Kodandaram on Thursday warned the state government that their party will intensify movement against the government in the name of 'Covid Eradication Movement'. He demanded the government to clarify on the Central funds received by the state besides clarifying on the funds received for Chief Minister Relief Fund.



Kodandaram deeksha, CPI state secretary Chada Venkat Reddy alleged that the Centre has failed in extending help to the poor. "The government turned deaf ear towards opposition parties demand of more Corona tests in the state. Help lines set up for Corona is not working at all. The government is not appointing medical staff though the people are suffering from Corona," he said.

Secretary Somes Kumar though the opposition leaders demanded the government to convene an all party meeting to discuss on several issues. He even found fault with Chief Minister for stating that there is no opposition in the state. T-TDP would extend its full support to the deeksha of Kodandaram on Covid issues. TTDP demanded the government to enhance the facilities in hospitals.

TJS chief staged deeksha at his office protesting against the alleged negligence of the state government in regard to Corona pandemic and demanded the government to increase Corona tests. TPCC working president Ponnabrahbar said that the State is conducting very few tests against the High Courts' directions.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
DECLARATION BY DISTRICT COLLECTOR, MAHABUBABAD
MAHABUBABAD DISTRICT GAZETTE No. 84 /Mahabubabad/2019, DATED: 24-06-2020 (Collector, Mahabubabad Prods.No.G1/ 1288/2019, Dated: 4-06-2020)

FORM VII (SEE SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE-25 AND SECTION -19(1) OF THE ACT-30/2013)
Rc.No.A/1705/2019 Date:22-06-2020

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of Ac.1.08 1/2 Gts land is required at Thallokal Village of Maripeda Mandal of Mahabubabad District for public purpose, namely for excavation canal under SRSP-DBM-60.

Therefore Declaration is made that a piece of land admeasuring, more or less Ac.1.08 1/2 Gts. of standard measurement under Acquisition for the above said project in the Thallokal Village Maripeda Mandal of Mahabubabad District, whose detail description is as following, under acquisition:

| Village - Thallokal | | Mandal: Maripeda | | District: MAHABUBABAD | | Boundaries | | |
|---------------------|---------|------------------|---|-----------------------|----|------------|----|----|
| Sl. No. | Sy. No. | Type of Title | Name of the Interested Person | Extent (in AC.Gts) | E | W | N | S |
| 1 | 425 | Patna Dry | Gaddam Padma (S/o Ramiah) Vs Smta. Bala | 0.13 | 44 | 18 | 16 | 48 |
| | | | Gaddam Venkatesh S/o Ramiah Vs Smta. Bala | 0.18 | 44 | 18 | 16 | 48 |
| 2 | 425 | Patna Dry | Gaddam Venkatesh S/o Ramiah Vs Smta. Bala | 0.02 | 42 | 16 | 14 | 46 |
| | | | Gaddam Anandiah S/o Ramiah | 0.15 | 42 | 16 | 14 | 46 |
| TOTAL | | | | 1.08 | | | | |

STRUCTURES / TRESS / WELLS

| S.No. | Sy.No. | Structures | Trees |
|-------|--------|------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | |

The Declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided U/s 15 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

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 dug 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 District Collector, Mahabubabad & Land Acquisition Officer/Revenue Divisional Officer, Thamar on any day (All-Eng) the working hours.

Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer/Thamar
Additional Collector/Mahabubabad
District Collector/Mahabubabad
R.No. No. 294/LA/PP/Advt/2020-21

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
DECLARATION BY DISTRICT COLLECTOR, MAHABUBABAD
MAHABUBABAD DISTRICT GAZETTE No. 82 /Mahabubabad/2019, DATED:24-06-2020 (Collector, Mahabubabad Prods.No.G1/ 989 /2019, Dated: 04-06-2020)

FORM VII (SEE SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE-25 AND SECTION -19(1) OF THE ACT-30/2013)
Rc.No.A/1262/2019 Date:22-06-2020

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of Ac. 1.01 Gts. land is required at Yellampeta Village of Maripeda Mandal of Mahabubabad District for public purpose, namely for excavation canal under SRSP - DBM-60.

Therefore Declaration is made that a piece of land admeasuring, more or less Ac.1.01 Gts. of standard measurement under Acquisition for the above said project in the Yellampeta Village Maripeda Mandal of Mahabubabad District, whose detail description is as following, under acquisition:

| Village - Yellampeta | | Mandal: Maripeda | | District: MAHABUBABAD | | Boundaries | | |
|----------------------|---------|------------------|---|-----------------------|---|------------|----|----|
| Sl. No. | Sy. No. | Type of Title | Name of the Interested Person | Extent (in AC.Gts) | E | W | N | S |
| 1 | 105 | Patna Dry | Bhujaya Venkati S/o Parthalu Vs Smta. Bhujaya Ghori (W/o Sakya) Vs Smta. Vijender S/o Veeru | 0.29 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| | | | Bhujaya Ghori (W/o Sakya) Vs Smta. Vijender S/o Veeru | 0.09 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| | | | Vijender S/o Veeru | 0.03 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| TOTAL | | | | 1.01 | | | | |

STRUCTURES / TRESS / WELLS

| S.No. | Sy.No. | Structures | Trees |
|-------|--------|------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | |

The Declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided U/s 15 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

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 dug 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 District Collector, Mahabubabad & Land Acquisition Officer/Revenue Divisional Officer, Thamar on any day (All-Eng) the working hours.

Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer/Thamar
Additional Collector/Mahabubabad
District Collector/Mahabubabad
R.No. No. 305/LA/PP/Advt/2020-21

FORM - VII (See Sub Rule (1) of Rule-25 and Section -19(1) of the Act-30/2013)
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT
Collector/Joint Collector/ Special Collector (LA)/SDC(LA)
Gazette No. RRD 99 Dated : 30-06-2020
No. C/104/ROB/2019 Dated :29.06.2020

DECLARATION

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Special Collector (LA) & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad that a Total of **3790.33 Sq.Yds** of land is required in Mailardevpally Village, Rajendranagar Mandal of Ranga Reddy District for public purpose, namely for proposed for road widening from Mailardevpally to Mahmooda Hotel for construction of road over bridge.

Therefore, Declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less 3790.33 Sq.Yds, standard measurement, under acquisition for the above said project in Mailardevpally village, Rajendranagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District whose detail description is as following.

Left Side Properties

| S.No. | Sy.No. | Type of Title | Area under Acquisition (Sq. Yds) | Name & Address of Person Interested | Boundaries | | | | Trees | Structures |
|-------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|-------|----------------|
| | | | | | North | South | East | West | | |
| 1 | 115/4 | Govt. Land | 44.25 | T. Srisalam Reddy | Oppns. Property | Road | Road | Road | | C+ 4P + 1 Z |
| 2 | 115/5 | Govt. Land | 57.99 | Srisalam Reddy | B-2, 137/2 | Road | Road | Road | | C+ 6P |
| 3 | 115/6 | Govt. Land | 173.75 | Malla Reddy | B-1,136 | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 4 | 115/7 | Govt. Land | 4.98 | P. Rageswari | B-1, 137 | Road | Road | Road | | Open place |
| 5 | 115/8 | Govt. Land | 31.68 | Akbar Khan | B-1, 138P | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 6 | 115/9 | Govt. Land | 47.44 | Akbar Khan | B-1, 138P | Road | Road | Road | | 2P |
| 7 | 115 /10 | Govt. Land | 71.28 | Srinivas Goud | B-1-137-2 | Road | Road | Road | | 2P |
| 8 | 115 /11 | Govt. Land | 73.14 | Malla Reddy | B-1,138 (B-1,138P) | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 9 | 115 /12 | Govt. Land | 58.24 | Srinivas Goud | B-1,138 (B-1,138P) | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z Open Place |
| 10 | 115 /13 | Govt. Land | 124.31 | T. Satish Goud | B-1-145 /1 | Road | Road | Road | | 2P |
| 11 | 115 /14 | Govt. Land | 150.39 | T. Pandu | B-1-140 | Road | Road | Road | | 1P |
| 12 | 115 /15 | Govt. Land | 152.75 | T. Laxma Goud | B-1,141 | Road | Road | Road | | 3P |
| 13 | 115 /16 | Govt. Land | 130.78 | Laxamma | B-1-142 | Road | Road | Road | | 1 Z Open Place |
| 14 | 115 /17 | Govt. Land | 146.85 | Laxma Reddy | B-1,141 | Road | Road | Road | | 3P |
| 15 | 115 /18 | Govt. Land | 198.91 | Mohd. Kasimuddin | B-1-144 | Road | Road | Road | | 1 Kucha House |
| 16 | 115 /19 | Govt. Land | 203.18 | Mohd. Tajuddin | B-1-143 | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 17 | 115 /20 | Govt. Land | 37.20 | S. Narasing Rao | B-1-144 (B-1-144) | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 18 | 115 /21 | Govt. Land | 118.92 | S. Narasing Rao | B-1-144 (B-1-144) | Road | Road | Road | | 1P |
| 19 | Grama Kantam -2 | Govt. Land | 96.79 | Raghava Reddy | Chaitanya School | B-1,146 (B-1,147) | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 20 | 115 /22 | Govt. Land | 141.77 | S. Devi Prasad | B-1-147 | Road | Road | Road | | 2P |
| 21 | Grama Kantam -3 | Govt. Land | 146.13 | Sheetal Prasad | B-1-148 (B-1-148) | Road | Road | Road | | 1P |
| 22 | Grama Kantam -4 | Govt. Land | 137.47 | Podamma | B-1-147 (B-1-147) | Road | Road | Road | | 1K |
| 23 | Grama Kantam -5 | Govt. Land | 135.67 | S. Ponna Reddy | B-1-150 (B-1-150) | Road | Road | Road | | RCC-Open Place |
| 24 | Grama Kantam -6 | Govt. Land | 90.36 | Sahadev | B-2-7 (B-2-7) | Road | Road | Road | | 3P |
| 25 | Grama Kantam -7 | Govt. Land | 188.55 | K. Raju Goud | B-2-5 (B-2-5) | Road | Road | Road | | 1P / U / C |
| 26 | Grama Kantam -8 | Govt. Land | 78.03 | K. Naveen & Others | B-2-4(1) | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 27 | Grama Kantam -9 | Govt. Land | 7.13 | K. Ravi Kalpana | B-2-8 | Road | Road | Road | | Open Place |
| 28 | Grama Kantam -10 | Govt. Land | 22.78 | Kurshheed Begum | B-2-9 | Passage | Road | Road | | 1P |
| 29 | Grama Kantam -11 | Govt. Land | 14.37 | Sadananda Chary | B-2-8 | Passage | Road | Road | | 2P |
| 30 | Grama Kantam -12 | Govt. Land | 170.63 | Shaik Imaid | B-2-7 (B-2-7) | Road | Road | Road | | 1P |
| 31 | Grama Kantam -13 | Govt. Land | 79.97 | Mohd. Iqbal | B-2-6(3) | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 32 | Grama Kantam -14 | Govt. Land | 236.93 | Shaik Fahmeem | B-2-6(4) | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 33 | Grama Kantam -15 | Govt. Land | 262.66 | Qayyum Khan | B-2-6(5) | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 34 | Grama Kantam -16 | Govt. Land | 35.63 | Dhanam | B-2-6(4) | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 35 | Grama Kantam -17 | Govt. Land | 22.09 | Shaik Mahmood | Neigh bours | Road | Road | Road | | 1Z |
| 36 | Grama Kantam -18 | Govt. Land | 97.11 | Shaik Osman | B-2-7(1A) | Road | Road | Road | | 2P |
| TOTAL | | | 3790.33 | | | | | | | |

This declaration is made, after disposing of objections received with reference to 15(1) Notice issued by this office vide Special Collector (LA) and Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad No. C/104/ROB/2019 Dated: 1-6-2020. The number of families likely to be resettled due to Land Acquisition is NIL.

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 dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector, Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad.
Sd/- Special Collector (LA) & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad.
DIPR No.301/LA/PP-Advt/Agency/2020-21

SHORT READS



Enough funds given to Pune based SARTHI: Maha minister

PUNE: Maharashtra Minister for Disaster Management Vijay Wadetiwar on Thursday said enough funds have been given to Pune-based training institute SARTHI and it will not be closed down. The Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research Training and Human Development Institute (SARTHI) is a non-profit government body for research, policy advocacy and training for socio-economic and education development of Maratha and Kunbi-Maratha communities. Speaking to reporters, the minister said some social organisations had claimed that the institute did not have enough funds to function and these claims were baseless. "Although the state government's revenue has been hit due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown, we have given required funds to SARTHI and the institute will continue to function in the future," he said.

Maha dept's land to be given to construct govt medical college

MUMBAI: A decision was taken on Thursday to hand over 64-acre land of the Maharashtra Water Resources Department for the construction of a government medical college in Satara, an official statement said. The decision was taken during a meeting attended by state Legislative Council chairman Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil, Satara Guardian Minister Balasaheb Patil and others. Pawar assured that there will be no shortage of funds for the construction of the college, which he added, should be operational from the next academic year. According to the statement, Pawar insisted that the construction of the college should be of good quality and it be built keeping in mind the requirements in the next 100 years.

U'khand govt to send Ganga water to states

DEHRADUN: The Uttarakhand government will send the holy Ganga water in brass urns from Har ki Pauri in Haridwar to all states and Union territories for Shiva devotees as the annual Kanwar yatra is not being held this year in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief ministers of all states have expressed their inability to conduct Kanwar yatra in the traditional way owing to coronavirus. So it has been decided to dispatch brass urns filled with the holy Ganga water from Haridwar to these states, Uttarakhand Cabinet Minister and state government's spokesman Madan Kaushik told reporters. Large brass urns filled with the holy Ganga water at Har ki Pauri will be loaded into trucks and sent to the chief ministers, Lt governors and ministers of the states and Union territories for distribution among Shiva devotees, he said. "CMs of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have agreed that traditional Kanwar yatra is not possible this year.

Banning Chinese apps a 'digital strike': Prasad

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Calling the ban on Chinese apps a "digital strike", Union Communication and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Thursday said India wants peace but if someone casts an evil eye the country is capable of giving a befitting reply.

Hailing the "strong" leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he asserted, if India lost 20 soldiers in the Galwan Valley border clash, the toll is double on the Chinese side. "Now you can hear about only two 'Cs' Coronavirus and China. We believe in peace and solve problems through discussion, but if somebody casts an evil eye on India, we will give a befitting reply. When people from China tried to create pressure on LAC, our soldiers gave them a befitting reply...if our 20 jawans have sacrificed their lives, the toll is double on the Chinese side.

"You all must have noticed that they have not come out with any figure," Prasad, also the Union law and justice minister, told a virtual rally for the



"When our PM is saying that the sacrifice of our jawans won't go in vain, it has a meaning in terms of national security. Our government has the will to deliver. All of us are aware of the courage of our PM."

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
Information Technology Minister

people of West Bengal.

He said people will remember the retaliatory assault mounted by India after terrorist strikes in Uri and Pulwama.

"When our PM is saying that the sacrifice of our jawans won't go in vain, it has a meaning in terms of national security. Our government has

the will to deliver. All of us are aware of the courage of our PM."

Prasad said the India of 2020 will neither "stop nor bow its head" before anyone. "It's not the India of 1962," he said, referring to the India-China war in which the country was defeated because of the supe-

59 banned apps go off Google Play, Apple App Store

NEW DELHI: The 59 Chinese apps banned by the government have been taken down from Google Play Store and Apple App Store in India, blocking their access to mobile phone users in the country. The government had on Monday banned 59 Chinese applications saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity, and security of the country. A day later popular short video app TikTok was taken down from Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The other 58 Chinese apps have now been removed. Google said that it has temporarily blocked access to the banned apps on its India Play Store. "While we continue to review the interim orders from the Government of India, we have notified the affected developers and have temporarily blocked access to the apps that remained available on the Play Store in India," a Google spokesperson said.

Bribery case: Rana Kapoor gets interim relief

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A special court here on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest till July 11 to Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor in a case registered against him by the CBI for allegedly obtaining illegal gratification from a realty firm. He was booked by the central investigating agency in March this year for allegedly obtaining Rs 307 crore bribe in the purchase of a Lutyen's zone bungalow in New Delhi from Avantha Group to go easy on around Rs 1,900 crore bank loans to the seller's group companies. Kapoor had moved an anticipatory bail application before a special CBI court here.

CB-CID arrests three more cops in father-son duo death case

PNS ■ TUTICORIN

The Crime Branch CID sleuths on Thursday arrested three more police personnel including an inspector in a case of alleged torture by police leading to the deaths of a father-son duo at Sathankulam in southern Tamil Nadu.

With this, four police personnel have been arrested in the case. Following preliminary investigations, inspector Sridhar, head constable Murugan, and sub-inspector Balakrishnan have been arrested, senior police officials said. The fresh arrests come following the arrest of sub-inspector Raghu Ganesh last night. "All important police personnel involved in the incident



have been arrested... the investigation continues," a senior CB-CID official said.

Inspector General of Police (South Zone), S Murugan confirmed the four arrests and asserted that "custodial deaths" must not be allowed to happen and all arrests should be carried out in accordance with law

and as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

Within hours of taking over the probe on the directions of the Madras High Court, the CB-CID on Wednesday altered the FIR to include offences that led to the death of the father-son duo following alleged police torture.

5 die, 12 injured in thunderbolt strike

PNS ■ BALLIA (UP)

Five people, including two women, were killed and 12 others injured in incidents of lightning strikes in the district, police said on Thursday.

The incidents of fatal thunderbolt strikes occurred in Dokati, Sikandarpur and Bimpura areas of the district, they said.

The dead included a 70-year-old retired Army man, Babul Singh, and villager Nirmal Verma, 43, who were struck by lightning on Thursday while working in their fields in Babu Ka Shivpur village of Dokati area, police said.

Ten others were injured in thunderbolt strike on Wednesday while working in a field in Mahthapar village of the district.

Shivakumar officially takes charge as Karnataka Cong chief

PNS ■ BENGALURU

D K Shivakumar on Thursday officially took charge as president of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee after over three months since he was appointed to the post.

Called "Pratijna Dina", the function to mark the official take-over of Shivakumar as president, along with Eshwar Khandre, Salim Ahmed and Satish Jarkiholi as working presidents of KPCC, is said to have been digitally witnessed by lakhs of people from over 15,000 places.

Following the restrictions in place to control the spread of coronavirus, the ceremony was organised at the party's new office building.

Aimed at mobilising the party leaders and cadre, arrangements were made at panchayat and ward-level across the state to see to that they are part of the function



through live telecast on TV channels, Zoom, YouTube and social media. The official take-over saw immediate past president Dinesh Gundu Rao handing over the Congress flag to Shivakumar, and this was followed by party workers across locations, who were digitally watching the function, taking oath and reading the preamble of the Constitution.

The ceremony was held on Thursday after it was postponed thrice due to COVID-19 related restrictions in place. The Congress high command had on March 11 appointed Shivakumar, a six-time MLA, known to be the Congress's chief troubleshooter in crisis situations, replacing Dinesh Gundu Rao as the KPCC chief. Rao had quit the post in December after the party's dismal show of winning only two of the 15 seats in the bypolls.

CM Kejriwal inaugurates plasma bank, asks people to donate plasma

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A plasma bank to treat novel coronavirus started functioning in Delhi on Thursday, with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying that COVID-19 patients can donate their plasma 14 days after recovery.

Addressing an online media briefing, Kejriwal said the eligibility for being a plasma donor is "very strict", and hoped that with this bank the number of COVID-19 deaths will decrease in the national capital. Later, he inaugurated the 'plasma bank' and urged those who have recovered from the disease to donate plasma to other patients.

The government has set up the plasma bank at the state-run Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS).

"Today, we have started the



'plasma bank' and some people have also donated. As we all know there is no vaccine for novel coronavirus yet, but plasma therapy seems to be quite helpful for COVID patients," he told reporters after visiting the plasma bank at ILBS.

It (plasma donation) has

happening in a scattered way, so the idea was to bring it at one place in an organised manner, he said.

"There are strict guidelines for eligible donors. I would urge those people who have recovered from COVID-19 to come forward and donate plasma to other patients," he said.

Bodies of suspected cases be handed over to kin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has asked all states and UTs to hand over bodies of suspected COVID-19 cases to their relatives without waiting for laboratory confirmation of the infection but said the mortal remains should be disposed of as per government guidelines. A letter on the matter was sent to all states and UTs on Wednesday in the wake of issues raised regarding death of suspected COVID-19 patients and bodies not being handed over to relatives pending confirmation of test report by hospitals.

"I would like to clarify that the dead bodies of such suspected COVID cases should be handed over to their relatives immediately and laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 should not be awaited," the letter written by Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Health Ministry, Dr Rajiv Garg said.

These bodies can as a matter of abundant precaution be disposed as per the 'Guidelines on 'Dead Body Management' available on the website of Union Health Ministry which directs that handlers in PPE accompany the body for final rites, the letter stated.



The leaders took note of the effective measures undertaken by the two countries to address the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed on the importance of closer India-Russia ties for jointly addressing the challenges of the post-COVID world, an official statement said.

During their telephonic conversation, they agreed to maintain the momentum of bilateral contacts and consultations, leading to the annual bilateral summit to be held in India later this year.

Modi, Putin discuss bilateral ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday discussed various bilateral issues and the post-COVID world.

The leaders took note of the effective measures undertaken by the two countries to address the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed on the importance of closer India-Russia ties for jointly addressing the challenges of the post-COVID world, an official statement said.

During their telephonic conversation, they agreed to maintain the momentum of bilateral contacts and consultations, leading to the annual bilateral summit to be held in India later this year.

India crosses nine million COVID-19 tests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has crossed the nine-million mark in conducting COVID-19 tests, with 90,56,173 samples having been examined till July 1, officials said on Thursday.

The officials of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) also said there are now 1,065 testing labs in the country -- 768 in the public sector and 297 in private.

The daily testing capacity is



also growing fast, they said, adding it was around 1.5 lakh per day on May 25 and is more than three lakh per day now.

As many as 2,29,588 samples were tested on Wednesday, which took the cumulative

number to 90,56,173, the country's apex health research body said.

Starting with just one laboratory, the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, and having 100 in the beginning of the lockdown, the ICMR on June 23 validated 1000th testing lab, it said.

The Union Health Ministry, meanwhile, said the total number of people being tested for COVID-19 in the country will soon touch one crore.

US H-1B visa suspension should be revoked: Rahul Gandhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has demanded that suspension of the H-1B visas should be revoked as it will impact millions of Indians. He also said that America has benefited from India's talent. Rahul Gandhi in a tweet said, "America has benefited enormously by embracing India's vast talent pool through its H-1B program." "Its suspension will impact millions of Indians and US firms. It should be revoked," added Rahul. The former Congress president was



reacting to US Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden, who said that he will lift the temporary suspension of the H-1B visas if he wins in the November Presidential elections. The Trump administration suspended the H-1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election year. "He (Donald Trump) just ended H-1B visas the rest of this year. That will not be in my administration," said Joe Biden, who was responding to a question in a town hall meet.

Pvt buses resume in Kolkata, suburbs

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Transportation woes of commuters in West Bengal were mitigated to a considerable extent on Thursday with large fleets of both government and private buses hitting the streets in the city and its adjoining areas, state Transport Minister Suwendu Adhikary said here.

Around 1,800 government buses and 3,800 private buses are plying the Kolkata Metropolitan Area (KMA), comprising the city and its neighbouring districts, he said.

"Bus availability is absolutely normal today," the minister asserted.

Several commuters heaved a sigh of relief after normal services resumed on Thursday, with buses found waiting for passengers at many places, a departure from what has been the norm since early June as scores of people ran helter-skelter to find a vehicle to reach their destinations.

'CORONIL' CONTROVERSY: Plea seeks FIR against Ramdev for false claims

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after yoga guru Ramdev launched 'Coronil', claiming that it can cure coronavirus, a plea has been filed in a Delhi court seeking direction to the police to register an FIR against him, Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, Acharya Balkrishna and others for making money by taking advantage of people's miseries.

A plea, moved by advocate Tushar Anand, stated that the accused hatched a conspiracy to cause wrongful loss to the public by making misrepresentations with an intention to cause wrongful gain to themselves. The matter will come up for

hearing on Friday.

"The accused have shown their mala fide intentions which is likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life by misrepresenting and alluring innocent consumers to buy the medicine with a belief of getting cured from the deadly Covid-19," it stated. The applicant sought a direction from the court to the Station House Officer (SHO) of Vasant Vihar Police Station to register FIR against Ramdev and the others under the Indian Penal Code for offences such as cheating, malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life and criminal conspiracy.

Migrant workers' crisis: 'Need for Central registry, templates for coordination'

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The exodus of migrant workers across the country, triggered by COVID-19 induced lockdown, has brought into focus the need for a central registry and templates for coordination among states and the Centre.

Also required are measures to protect adolescent girls and pregnant women from exploitation.

At a recent webinar on "Stakeholder Consultation on Inter-State Migration Policy", various speakers called for effective communication between source and destination



states to ensure timely and safe movement of migrants.

As part of an effort to mitigate the problems of migrant

workers, states should enter into Memorandum of Understanding with each other to facilitate migration, said

Ravi Srivastava, Director Center for Employment Studies, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi.

As per Seventh Schedule of Indian Constitution (Article 246), under entry 81 of the Union List, inter-State migration and inter-State quarantine are subjects to be governed by the Union Government.

"There is a need for advocacy with central government to play an instrumental role in implementing this policy without Centre's coordination, we will not be able to set up a central registry nor be able to have effective templates for coordination," he said. The informal

economy contributed to 52.4 percent of the Gross Value Added (GVA) in India in 2017-18. However, informal migrant workers were one of the hardest hit groups in the biggest reverse migration India has seen in recent times. Most of them were not paid their wages during the lockdown.

They had no access to ration shops or social welfare schemes because food was being given only to those having ration cards of the destination states.

Many did not have bank accounts and also faced discrimination from locals because they spoke a different language.

Now, a telecom war

There are alternative vendors but costs would go up. We must encourage equipment manufacture with innovation and now



Yes, the economic realities of China dominating much of our product supply chains, from electronics to drugs, weigh heavy on us. Yes, we are deeply aware of sudden disruptions, litigation and fair trade violations if we take a dramatic step of boycotting China overnight. And while building self-sufficiencies is a long-term and sustained effort, there is no reason why we cannot begin taking *atma nirbharta* seriously while we can. For the latest Chinese ambush at Ladakh has cost us 20 soldiers and over-tested our patience and our strategic responsibility in the region. China

continues to eat into our territory as it always has. It won't settle as long as it doesn't get what it wants and this presumed supremacy has finally got the Government thinking about reducing our dependencies on it. For the summit diplomacy, which has yielded nothing on the ground except encouraging more hostilities, has been a colossal waste of time that smartly sidestepped contentious border issues and helped China deepen its market access as part of trade deals. So Union Minister for Road Transport and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari has said that no Chinese company will be allowed to participate in any highway or MSME project either directly or indirectly, the latter implying outsourcing consultancies by the bidder company. He even suggested alternative technologies that would help us compete on cost effectiveness and gave the example of PPEs, something which we thought would have to come in bulk from Chinese factories and something which we are exporting now. The shrinkage of trade volume to India won't impact China much, which can only be upset about being denied entry to a future vibrant market, and it is not that current commitments are not being honoured. It is just that manufacturing our own is a sovereign decision and COVID-19 and the Galwan attack have just been accelerators. Similarly, the Department of Telecommunications cancelled the much anticipated 4G upgradation tender of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to avoid participation by Chinese companies like Huawei and ZTE. Local operators such as Airtel, Vodafone and Jio have been asked to reduce dependence on Chinese companies. Meanwhile, the Indian Railways has already cancelled a ₹471 crore contract with the Beijing National Railway for a project on the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor. Of course, the US, too, has been red flagging concerns about Huawei and ZTE being a "national security risk" because of their data mining and surveillance operations while working their telecom grids. It is even exerting pressure on its allies, India now getting top billing, to comply by banning them.

But that's not the reason why India is going for a drastic decision on telecom. It is choosing sectors where either an alternative supply chain exists or where it is possible to magnify home-grown capacities. Compared to the mobile handset industry, where replacing Chinese supply chain and products is almost impossible, in the telecom equipment market that is very much possible. There are European nations, too, in the business though supplies from here would come at a cost. The size of the telecom equipment market in India is around Rs 12,000 crore and the share of Chinese products is currently around 25 per cent, simply because their prices are attractive to operators. That's why the 4G network of big players like Airtel and Vodafone have been built by Huawei and ZTE. Huawei alone has aggressively made inroads into nearly 25 per cent of the total telecom equipment market in India. While Bharti Airtel uses up to 30 per cent Chinese telecom equipment, including Huawei, for its networks, Vodafone Idea uses as much as 40 per cent. Reliance Jio is the only operator functioning without a Chinese vendor as its network is fuelled by South Korea's Samsung. But replacement, be it from South Korea, Taiwan or any other Southeast Asian nation, can only work in the short-term if self sufficiency is our ultimate goal. Remember that despite the "Make in India" launch in 2015, there has been no impetus for localised equipment production. The ban comes at a time when India is seeking to raise \$84 billion from a sale of airwaves, particularly for new technology, which would revolutionise connectivity. So we need to immediately ramp up existing electronic manufacturing facilities and divert them towards 5G equipment manufacturing if we are to exclude Chinese firms from 5G trials. Indian innovation has always risen to the top during crisis and we could leverage our home-grown talent to re-engineer receivers and emitters in discarded mobile devices to make 5G equipment in a cost-effective manner. We should be as enthusiastic about announcing innovations and encouraging R&D than just announcing a ban that spooks markets.

Size does matter

In the Indian car market, the smaller you are, the better your sales. Last month has been much better for the auto sector



The past quarter has been traumatic for the Indian car and bike industry. However, after April, when companies registered zero sales, things have improved much. On the whole, for most automobile manufacturers, sales in June were around half of what they were last year, same month. While we must remember that 2019, too, had seen a decline in automobile sales, the one positive this year has been that firms have been able to recover. Sales for almost every manufacturer doubled from May to June as unlocking began. In the two-wheeler market, the largest manufacturer, Hero Motocorp, sold 450,744 units in the past month, almost three-quarters of the number it sold in June. Bajaj Auto, too, saw an increase in sales, although the manufacturer had a tough time controlling the unfortunate spread of the Chinese virus at its Waluj plant. This came just a few weeks after its boss, Rajiv Bajaj, attacked the Government for the lockdown. Most manufacturers, dealers and workshops across the country are mostly open now, other than those inside a containment zone. Yet, there are some interesting trends that are emerging from last month's sales. The first is that rural demand has contributed much towards a sharp recovery. This is evident due to the fact that Mahindra Tractors, the largest player in the agricultural vehicle market, has seen a rapid climb in its sales figures. This is indicative of a positive monsoon so far. Similarly, for two-wheeler companies, there is a seeming rural bias, evident in greater sales of commuter motorcycles and a decline in urban-focused scooters and 150cc plus motorcycles. For cars as well, firms such as Maruti, Hyundai and Tata, who have a larger small car portfolio, are seeing sales for small cars pick up. Larger and higher specification vehicles are seeing a commensurate decline in their aggregate demand. However, manufacturers were quick to warn against picking up too many future trends based on last month's sales as the process of unlocking continues with a bit of confusion still reigning in major cities, such as Chennai and Mumbai, the former being a major automobile production hub.

At the same time, manufacturing remains impacted. Larger-scale manufacturers have not been able to move to three-shift operations and smaller suppliers are dealing with not only a smaller labour pool but also the current Sino-India brouhaha. Several intermediate components, as well as manufacturing tools and dyes, come from across the border. Manufacturing might not stabilise before 2021 and not every manufacturer, component supplier, transporter or dealer might be able to deal with the crisis that far. Some Government support will be of great help though.

The enemies within

For the sake of better governance, police reforms are a must. But more than anything else, our forces need an attitudinal change. The police-public relationship needs an overhaul



AJOY KUMAR

Sir Robert Mark, a legendary police officer in the UK, who cleaned the Metropolitan police of corruption and who was subsequently knighted for his efforts, narrated an episode that stayed with him throughout his career as an officer. As part of his job, he was required to serve an internment order on an Italian waiter, who had lived in Manchester for over 30 years. Sir Robert Mark met the waiter and reported that he was harmless. The waiter was nonetheless deported as an "enemy alien." Eventually, he died on a transport ship that was torpedoed by a U-boat. "That experience taught me there was neglect, carelessness and worse in the police system," he wrote later. "It was a lesson I never forgot."

Coming to the Indian police system, the one thing that I can say with some certainty is that there is no shortage of such experiences that can serve as a wakeup call for its officers. To Mark's words, I would like to add that there is not only "neglect" and "carelessness" in the Indian police system but a heavy dose of "malice," too. A recent horrific and brutal crime in Tamil Nadu brought this aspect to the fore. As per reports, on June 19, a trader, Jayaraj and his son, Bennix, who ran a mobile show-room, were at their shop when the Sattankulam police picked up the former and started assaulting him. When Bennix intervened, the police beat both of them mercilessly after taking them to the police station. The officers brutalised Bennix by allegedly inserting a baton into his anus. This triggered uncontrolled bleeding, which led to his death. His 60-year-old father was not spared either and was declared dead 10 hours later. The story is a brutal one but hardly unique in its brutality or display of violence by the police. A report published by the National Campaign Against Torture (NCAT) noted that a total of 1,731 people died in custody in 2019. This works out to roughly five people a day.

This is indeed a shocking number only if one is unfamiliar with the long, painful history of police brutality in India. But for anyone, who pays even little attention to the news, given the trend of police brutalities, hardly a day passes without a report of atrocity or impropriety. They may not always be as brutal as the Tamil Nadu incident but there are thousands of instances of police malice that are not even registered or those that do not show up on our radar until it culminates into a brutal killing and perversity. Take the example of an incident in Uttar Pradesh, where a station house officer (SHO) of Bhatnoli police station was suspended for masturbating in front of a woman who sought to register a complaint. Thankfully, the Uttar Pradesh police registered an FIR in this case.



However, there are innumerable such cases where perpetrators of horrific crimes are policemen themselves and no FIRs are registered. In terms of action, the numbers back up the view that the police do not take crimes committed by themselves seriously. According to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), 3,146 people died in police and judicial custody in 2017-18. There have hardly been any convictions for these deaths though. This isn't surprising and even in the case of Bennix and Jayaraj, reports state that police officers have shown reluctance in coming forward to the station where the horrific incident occurred. This kind of behaviour must change.

So how do we bring about behavioural change? How do we stem the rot that seems to be entrenched among our officers? How do we fix the system, where powerful officials abuse their position and take the form of the very criminals they are supposed to apprehend?

The role of the judiciary in ensuring that justice is done and that investigation into custodial deaths is not compromised in such cases is crucial. One would also welcome anti-torture legislation. To this extent, the legislature can also contribute. However, in my humble opinion, the lack of a specific law is not the reason for an unabated rise in crime and criminals in an institution that I was proud to serve for many years. The Supreme Court's string of judgments

between 1986 and 2015 in *DK Basu vs State of West Bengal*, "created a valuable and seamless web of legal principles and techniques to reduce custodial death and torture," as was explained by distinguished lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who was *amicus curiae* in the matter.

The judgments *inter alia* detail procedural safeguards that must be followed, including the carrying of name tags by police officers, the preparation of an arrest memo which is to be attested by a family member or a respectable member of the locality among others. There are also directions to set up State Human Rights Commissions where there were none; to fill up vacancies that may already exist; and to set up human rights courts under the NHRC Act. I have merely tried to sum up the position and there are a lot more guidelines and directions in the judgments mentioned above. Therefore, the lack of a law on the subject is not the issue at hand. In fact, our immediate response to heinous crimes is often straight to an amendment of an old law or induction of a new one. This has happened with reactions calling for the death penalty in cases of rape as well. While I support the sternest action against rapists, we tend to ignore the fact that more than 90 per cent of the cases involving sexual abuse is perpetrated by the family members themselves or people known to the victim. By imposing strict penalties, rarely has the benefactor been the victim or society but the per-

petrator himself since victims are more hesitant to report crimes with such strict penalties.

In the case of custodial deaths, too, our immediate reaction should be proper implementation of the current law rather than implementing a new one and then forgetting about it. We would make a heavy dent in arresting criminal behaviour if we: (i) Manage to ensure that FIRs are registered by the police against their own personnel. This is a Herculean task because getting an FIR registered against a criminal outside the police force is hard enough. (ii) Place CCTV cameras in police stations. (iii) Reward police personnel, like the DGP of Orissa who dismissed and initiated a Crime Branch inquiry against an inspector who was accused of raping a 13-year-old girl.

This accountability, however, is not limited to the police. Often, the reason why police officers are allowed to get away with murder is because custodial deaths are categorised as deaths due to suicide or due to natural causes by the doctors who conduct the autopsy. This is an abject failure on the part of the medical professionals who conduct the autopsy of victims and issue such reports, presumably under duress or for bribes. Such doctors allow these crimes to go unacknowledged and unregistered. The strictest possible action must be taken against such people who should be treated as accomplices to these crimes. There is a certain segment

in the force who will argue that the Indian police suffers because of the lack of attention. With all of these safeguards, catching criminals will be near impossible. This suggestion can only be scoffed at. On the first point of providing support to the police, I have written in the past as well, that the police suffers from a lack of funding, a lack of training, non-implementation of reforms etc. But here, too, police officers need to demand change from their political masters instead of cushy or powerful posts. Furthermore, political parties should be questioned why they have not implemented police reforms if indeed they are serious about tackling police violence and corruption.

On the second point of how the above-detailed safeguards prevent the police from doing their job, the fact is that these checks and balances only prevent actions that are violently criminal in nature. They are in place precisely so that actual criminals are apprehended on the basis of evidence and good police work, rather than due to a signed confession by a suspect beaten to a pulp. We must remember that in order to truly tackle the problem, we need to change the mindset and confront the criminals within and, therefore, harbour the same ambition that Sir Robert Mark had for the Metropolitan police. "To arrest more criminals than we employ."

(The writer is a former IPS officer, a former MP and currently a member of the AAP)

SOUNDBITE

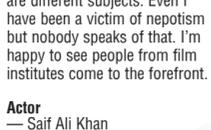
Shashank/j must be having mixed feelings from what could have been done for the promotion of cricket at the international level and what was done to the game during his tenure.

Former BCCI secretary
—Niranjan Shah



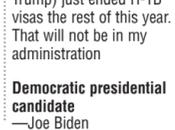
Nepotism, favoritism and camps are different subjects. Even I have been a victim of nepotism but nobody speaks of that. I'm happy to see people from film institutes come to the forefront.

Actor
—Saif Ali Khan



He (US President Donald Trump) just ended H-1B visas the rest of this year. That will not be in my administration

Democratic presidential candidate
—Joe Biden



Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Bengaluru have reached their saturation. You (companies) can go to tier-II/tier-III cities where skilled manpower is already available.

Union Minister
—Nitin Gadkari



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Damp squib

Sir — Given the kind of hype that was created by some television news channels, it seemed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was about to make some big announcements during his television address to the nation but it all ended as a damp squib. His decision to extend the free food grain scheme until November is a welcome step though. The move will help reassure the poor, who are unable to earn a livelihood as a result of the COVID-induced lockdown and the economic crisis that ensued. What is unfortunate is that the Prime Minister related this move to Hindu festivals. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi was quick to react, reminding him about Bakrid this month.

By mentioning only Hindu festivals, the Prime Minister seems to have sent a message that only poor Hindus go hungry. Hunger has no religion. For the poor, god can only appear in the form of bread. Such announcements should not be treated as election pitches for the Bihar and West Bengal polls.

N Nagarajan
Secunderabad

Changing the rules of engagement

This refers to the editorial, "Ban on China apps" (July 1). By banning 59 video and file sharing Chinese apps, the Government has fired a warning shot to China that if there is no peace on the borders, there can be none in the cyberspace either. That the Government is using the internet as a retaliatory tool is a decisive break from the past, signifying that engagement rules with China are being rewritten once for all. The banning eroded these companies' valuations overnight. China's border aggressions and violation of privacy and security concerns by various agencies forced the Government's hand on this issue. Since all Chinese technology companies are the totalitarian state's extension, their apps and equipment are globally suspected to be breaching the host countries' data. More countries shall follow India's footsteps. Just a day after India's action, the US declared telecom gear from Huawei and ZTE as "national security threats." India has already asked BSNL not to use them to upgrade its network. Keeping in view prevalent sentiments, private operators, too, are likely to boycott them.

However, a ban on apps may not be enough as it only signals the Government's intent to retaliate. More needs to be done both in the short and long term.

SK Prabhakar
Gurugram



Multidimensional retaliatory strategies — involving diplomacy and manufacturing reforms — are needed. According to a recent study, Chinese imports can be immediately reduced by up to 25 per cent by leveraging on the existing manufacturing base. Therefore, India must rationalise existing imports to not only bridge the trade deficit but also to warn the Middle Kingdom of the consequences and costs that shall follow its rampant expansionism.

Further action needed

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Ban on China apps" (July 1). The axing of Chinese apps by the Indian Government has undoubtedly hurt the dragon's ego because, within hours of the

action, it showed displeasure. Taking a jibe, the editor of *Global Times*, the Chinese Communist Party's mouthpiece, said, "Even if Chinese people want to boycott Indian products, they can't really find many Indian goods." This reveals their imperialistic trade mentality and an arrogant

assumption that without China, there is no global business or trade. As China gives first priority to trade, it has to be assumed that anything against its products and business will hurt it emotionally and economically.

Now, the Modi Government will have to execute the aat-

manirbhar Bharat scheme on a war footing. With the support of our huge population, it will have to make the dream of self-reliant India come true. With a large market, skilled labour pool and abundant resources — a big percentage of which is yet untapped — we can achieve that goal.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Mumbai sets example

Sir — I welcome the timely decision of Mumbai's Lalbaughcha Raja Ganeshotsav Mandal to cancel the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in view of the Corona pandemic. A huge crowd of devotees gathers at Lalbagh and King circle to witness the unveiling of the most popular Sarvajanik Ganapati idol every year. However, this time, Mumbai being a COVID-19 hotspot, could witness a massive scaling down of celebrations. All Ganesh mandals must desist from keeping idols this year.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

An eco-friendly innovation

Bhoovastra serves the purpose of retaining the Earth's moisture, protecting plant roots and preventing soil erosion during a heavy downpour



KOTA SRIRAJ

As the monsoon season slowly envelopes Kerala, the myriad canals in the State are undergoing a quiet but innovative makeover, with an eco-friendly cloth draped over their banks that is designed to stop erosion during the rains. This eco-friendly cloth called coir Bhoovastra is a natural cover made from coconut fibre that can be spread over the walls of canals, streams, farms and ponds. Bhoovastra serves the amazing purpose of retaining the Earth's moisture, protecting the roots of the plants while at the same time preventing the soil from eroding during a heavy downpour. The fabric has a life of five-six years, post which it automatically disintegrates and biodegrades, thereby providing rich compost to the soil, which in turn promotes lush vegetation growth. Kerala is one of the foremost States that has introduced Bhoovastra in a major way on scores of its canals and streams. God's own country, replete with its backwaters, idyllic ponds and other water-bodies is benefitting immensely from this innovative coir product. It has not only provided a fillip to the coir industry in the State, it has given employment to nearly two lakh families who are dependent on coir-making for their livelihood. Hence, Bhoovastra is an ideal combination of an eco-friendly initiative that protects the environment and also provides the benefit of a stable employment.

Bhoovastra is a geotextile product that has immense potential given its wide-ranging customisable applications and numerous benefits. The high tensile strength of the coir fabric is perfectly suitable for consolidating topsoil in steep embankments where heavy water flows and debris movement are common. Besides this, coir has excellent water absorbency capacity which helps in it acting as mulch on the surface and as a wick in the soil mantle.

With benefits such as these, it is quite surprising that the embankments and slopes adjoining water-bodies across the country are yet to see Bhoovastra as a common feature, despite the fact that we are battling with the problem of soil degradation. Soil erosion is a major problem for the farmers of the country as it reduces soil fertility, which in turn negatively hits crop yields and forces growers to use more fertilisers, further harming the environment. Erosion of soil also sends soil-laden water downstream, which can create heavy layers of sediments that prevent streams and rivers from flowing smoothly and can eventually lead to flooding.

As soil erosion degrades land, it supports fewer plants that absorb climate-warming carbon dioxide. According to experts, soil could insulate enough greenhouse gases in a year to equal about five per cent of all yearly emissions. Better land management through the use of innovative products like the Bhoovastra can help keep soil intact so that it can grow more carbon-absorbing vegetation.

So, this lack of interest in using Bhoovastra to save precious soil, despite the fact that the green movement and demand for natural products is rising by the day across the world and in India, is puzzling. How come, when we have such a simple and eco-friendly solution to the huge problem of soil erosion, we are not talking about it or embracing it the way we should?

Given an opportunity, geotextiles such as Bhoovastra can play a stellar role in turning the clock back on degraded and eroded lands and help restore riparian and terrestrial habitats. The relatively high monetary and ecological cost of gravel, cement and other non-environment friendly building materials makes geotextiles the obvious choice for public work projects, especially when they involve rivers and other water bodies. Developed nations have already been leveraging the benefits of geotextiles, especially coir nets such as Bhoovastra for the last three decades. India, in fact, has been one of the largest exporters of coir geotextile products, with nearly 60 per cent of its coir production being exported to about 80 countries through a network of nearly 200 exporters.

Sadly, the domestic utilisation of geotextiles stays uninspiring. India produces a whopping 12,500 million coconuts and coir production is about 3,69,400 metric tonnes. However, husk utilisation is dismal at only 36 per cent, with the rest being used as polluting fuel or just being wasted. It is a mystery as to why the Government has not extracted the full potential of the coir industry in India. As it is, State-run entities such as the Coir Board are not able to hit a high gear either in marketing, sales or product branding and innovation due to bureaucratic hurdles or lethargy. On top of this, the handloom nature of the sector intuitively inhibits mass production, which in turn stunts growth possibilities. Given the brilliant product potential and abundance of raw material, it is time for the coir industry to become one of the most profitable industries of the country. For this to happen, the Government must work on mindsets and create awareness as well. For instance, the civil engineering profession currently focusses less on eco-friendly approaches for construction and more on the usage of brick and mortar. This needs to change. The use of organic and eco-friendly products like the Bhoovastra must be comprehensively implemented. This initiative can not only change the manner in which we conserve our water bodies and surrounding soil but more importantly can alter the way we perceive coir while providing jobs in a difficult economy.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IF ANYONE DREAMS OF UNSEATING THE PRIME MINISTER (OF NEPAL) FOR PUBLISHING THE MAP AND INCLUDING IT IN THE CONSTITUTION, DON'T EVEN THINK OF IT.
 —NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER
 KP SHARMA OLI



NOT INDIA, IT IS ME WHO IS DEMANDING YOUR RESIGNATION. YOU MUST FURNISH PROOF OF SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE REMARKS.
 —CHAIRMAN OF THE NEPAL COMMUNIST PARTY
 PUSHPA KAMAL DAHAL 'PRACHANDA'

It's not that elementary

Not being able to establish the source of a disease is not surprising, especially in a country where people are divided by gender norms and socio-economic classes



INDRANIL DE

The recent revelation made through a research paper published by William Joe in the *Journal of Global Health Science* raises alerts about the deficiencies of tracing Coronavirus victims in a divided society. The paper states that as of May, COVID-19 cases in men were at 66 per cent in India as compared to 34 per cent in women. However, the COVID-19 Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is 2.9 per cent for men and 3.9 per cent for women in the country. Interestingly, this is completely different from the worldwide scenario. According to UK Research and Innovation, a quasi-autonomous NGO, data from 18 countries evince that both men and women have an equal share of COVID-19 cases, except for Pakistan. Furthermore, men diagnosed with COVID-19 are more likely to die than women. These comparisons raise questions whether we are tracing and testing all social groups adequately. Women generally have a stronger immune system than men. However, there could be different social factors which impact women both favourably and adversely. Since, in a patriarchal social system women don't venture out of the home as much as men, they are also less likely to get infected. This may be the reason why in India and Pakistan more men are found to be infected than women. On the other hand, as patriarchal norms consider the male as the primary agent for productive activity, women are often ignored at home and society at large. This deprivation may reduce their access to healthcare as compared to men. They would not be given medical care unless seriously ill. This could increase their fatality rate as compared to men in India. Nevertheless, there could be another reason for the higher CFR in women. Maybe the actual number of women infected is much higher than what is being reported. If the number of infected women would have been higher, then the death rate of women due to COVID-19 would have decreased because they would have been treated. There is a major possibility that identification of infected women may not be happening due to inefficient functioning of the contact tracing mechanism.

Contact tracing is the process in public health through which the people who may have come into contact with an infected person are identified. Through the contact tracing process, the first set of people that the patient came into contact with are identified as the primary contact. Similarly, the first set of people that the primary contacts come into contact with are identified as secondary contacts. Through tracing of the primary and secondary contacts of suspected and confirmed cases, it is possible to track the spread and source of infection. According to the US-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the symptoms of Coronavirus infection may be as simple as fatigue, diarrhoea and nausea. It is important to start contact tracing without waiting for the test results.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins found that the chances of getting false negative results are higher in the early stages of the infection. Hence, a negative test does not guarantee that the person is not infected. And they are still able to spread the virus. Improper contact tracing may be the reason that in India there were many cases where it was not possible to find the source of the infection.

The Health Ministry is emphasising on the need for aggressive contact testing. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there is a wide variation among the States with regard to the number of contacts traced. It ranges from less than 25 to more than 75 per infected COVID-19 case. The infected patients are in gen-

“ ONLY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CONTACTS TRACED PER INFECTED OR SUSPECTED INDIVIDUAL IS NOT THE SOLUTION. IT MUST BE DONE OVER A FEW WAVES AND MUST ADEQUATELY COVER ALL CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE. IF NOT DONE PROPERLY, THE OUTBREAK OF THE DISEASE WOULD BE LURKING IN SOME OTHER CORNER OF SOCIETY, ONLY TO TAKE US BY SURPRISE LATER ”



eral reluctant to reveal their contacts or the authorities are not nudging them enough to provide their contacts. Even a State like Karnataka, which has been canvassed as a successful State for contact tracing, is increasingly finding infections from unknown sources. This is increasing the spread of the infection due to delayed detection.

To be honest, not being able to establish the source of a disease is not surprising, especially in a country where people are divided by gender norms and socio-economic classes. These deficiencies are akin to the problems of the respondent-driven sampling (RDS) method of data collection. RDS is applied when the population is "hidden." A hidden population may include people at the risk of contracting HIV or a group of injected drug users. The population may remain hidden due to privacy concerns and is rarely found among the general population. This is very similar to suspected Coronavirus infected persons. People may not be willing to get identified in public due to privacy concerns and the fear of adverse social repercussions. The number of COVID-19 infected until now is minuscule as compared to the population of the country. RDS assumes that the best way to access the hidden population is through their own peers. The initial sample individual is asked about the contact of their peers and thus contact tracing leads to revelation of the hidden population.

Three major deficiencies in this method of sampling are pertinent in the context of detection of Coronavirus infected persons. They are the problems of non-cooperative referrals, masking and inbreeding. The infected individual may not get the exact contacts of the people they have interacted with. The infected individual may attempt to mask the contacts as there are privacy concerns. They may avoid mentioning their close relative or loved ones with whom they have come in close contact. Furthermore, in a society divided by gender norms and

socio-economic classes, people may select contacts primarily from the same gender and socio-economic class. A street vendor or bus conductor, if infected, may not be able to provide contacts of customers as they would refuse to share their contacts. A security guard would not be able to provide contacts of the people s/he interacted with. Moreover, all of them would be extremely uncomfortable in sharing contacts of people they are dependent on for their livelihood. They may only share contacts of people belonging to a similar socio-economic class as theirs and that, too, of the same gender. The men would hesitate to share the contacts of female family members or co-workers and vice versa.

In the RDS system of data collection the problem of masking is resolved through providing incentives to divulge the contacts of peers. In the fight against the Coronavirus, offering incentives to unmask the hidden population may be financially challenging. There could be two mechanisms through which it can be tackled. People should be made aware of the benefits of disclosing their contacts through public campaigns. As a result, those infected would be comfortable in revealing their contacts and the contacted individuals themselves would not be upset over being identified. It would rather come out as an incentive for those infected to get their near and dear ones examined and also an incentive for the contacts to get tested on time. Thus, the problem of non-cooperation of the referrals may also be resolved to a large extent. Maintaining the contact details of people in close contact may be made mandatory by local authorities in shopping complexes and other public spaces. Contact verification may become necessary if individuals provide wrong information. Deliberate sharing of wrong contacts may be penalised as well.

The problem of inbreeding may be resolved through conducting the contact tracing exercise over several rounds. For example, if an infected woman provides

the contact of one man along with five women contacts, then to overcome the inbreeding problem, the man's contacts may be traced further assiduously. This is very similar to tracing the secondary and tertiary contacts but with an emphasis on tracing the odd ones in the whole contact list. Similarly, tracing people from a different socio-economic background as compared to the majority of the contact list should be given adequate attention. At present, the disaggregated data on primary and secondary contact tracing is not available in most of the States. Douglas Heckathorn, a social scientist from Cornell University who perfected the RDS methodology, suggested three to five waves of contact tracing to get rid of the problem of inbreeding.

Contact tracing is a more efficient methodology than random testing given the rarity of the infection in the population till date. Contact tracing, on the one hand, economises testing facilities and on the other hand, identifies the hidden population infected with the virus. The more the delay in reaching suspected individuals, the higher is the future burden of economic and social cost. Hence, non-cooperation of referrals should be dealt with through public campaigns. The danger of the contact tracing mechanism is that if masking and inbreeding are not dealt with adequately, then we would end up tracing and testing only one kind of a population. The initial sample would determine the prospective samples, unless infected ones are sensitised about the importance of unmasking the contacts and contact tracing is done for few rounds down the line of contact trail.

Only increasing the number of contacts traced per infected or suspected individual is not the solution. It must be done over a few waves and must adequately cover all categories of people. If not done properly, the outbreak of the disease would be lurking in some other corner of society, only to take us by surprise later.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Institute of Rural Management, Anand)

Put the migrant workers front and centre

Since the workers are the foundation of our economy which cannot grow without their toil, there is a need to implement the existing laws seriously to protect their rights



ONKAR NATH

While announcing the nationwide lockdown on March 24, the Prime Minister (PM) had exhorted all Indians to fight against the spread of the Coronavirus. Various State Governments had also come forward in support of the PM's appeal and people were assured that their needs would be taken care of during the pandemic. The Centre and many States repeatedly touted how the lockdown would help in containing the spread of COVID-19 and how it was good for all the citizens.

However, amid all this clamour, the nation forgot the migrant workers who had laid the foundation of the

Indian economy with their toil, blood and sweat. While tall claims about the good work being done by the Government were being made on various television channels, these workers started marching to their native places. The heart-wrenching images of migrant workers along with their women and children walking on foot, some hundreds of kilometres away, began to surface in the media.

Some of them lost their lives due to hunger and thirst on the way, while some became victims of road accidents and a few were overrun by trains. All these incidents have exposed not only the hollowness of our system but our societal values which, quite often, are trumpeted in great measure.

The sequence of events indicated that cogent planning was not in place from the word go. The migrant labourers did not start their journeys back home suddenly. Thrown out of work by unscrupulous business and factory owners, they patiently waited for help and stood for long hours in queues to

get some food. They waited for things to get better but that did not happen. They were harassed by landlords for rent, despite the fact that they did not have adequate money even for their day-to-day survival.

The Government brought back well-heeled Indians for free from foreign countries under the Vande Bharat Mission. It brought back stranded students from Kota in Rajasthan, including people from various parts of the country in special buses. Similarly, the Centre helped many Indians to fly to countries like England, US, Canada and Australia. All this was not possible without proper prioritisation, efforts and coordination with State Governments. But there was no such planning and urgency to help the poor migrant workers. Since there is no dearth of trains at the disposal of the Centre, free services should have been provided to take migrant workers to their home States without wasting much time. The tug of war between the Railway Ministry and State

Governments for many days over the issue of payment of 15 per cent of the fare by the latter was avoidable. While most of the State Governments were found fighting among themselves over the issue of migrant workers, the Centre remained a mute spectator, confined to issuing paper guidelines rather than handling the crisis decisively by ensuring camaraderie among them.

As it is India is fighting a two-front battle. One against the virus and the other against poverty, which we could not eradicate even after 70 years of Independence. India's fight on these two fronts contradicts its claims of being a world leader (*vishava guru*) thinking of the welfare of the world (*vishav kalyan*) as also its recent rhetoric of making India a \$5 trillion economy. Often, such rhetoric does not reflect ground realities. In this backdrop, asking for donations for the PM CARES Fund during COVID-19 is certainly a matter of contradiction in terms.

The Centre's decision to impose a

lockdown was not based on sudden developments. Actually, India had received clear signals about COVID-19 during January-February from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and from other countries, especially China. But much like the decision to announce demonetisation in 2016 with just a four-hour notice, the nationwide lockdown was also announced just as suddenly. Instead of a four-hour notice, at least four days were needed to enable all stakeholders viz; the Centre, State Governments, all establishments, the industry, supply chains and the common people to make appropriate arrangements to avoid panic, major inconvenience and save precious lives.

It is imperative here to ponder over the role of the Supreme Court, which can issue directions to the Government to take appropriate action on an urgent basis in any serious matter of public concern. The apex court, however, did not show any such concern on the issue of migrant workers for the first two

months despite Public Interest Litigations being filed. But after a few persons approached the court citing the deteriorating condition of migrants, the Supreme Court swung into action by directing the Centre and State Governments to provide food, shelter and transportation free of cost to the migrants. Timely, proactive action by the apex court could have helped in addressing the problem before it reached such massive proportions.

Most of the States for whose development the migrant workers had made huge contributions did not come to their rescue at the time of need. Their home States, too, were hesitant to accept them as they feared the spread of the virus. This is despite the fact that they, too, had benefited from the remittances sent home by the workers. Clearly, there were no takers for the hapless migrants, though no State is capable of running its economic activities without them.

The Parliament has passed many Acts such as the Inter-State Migrant

Workers Act and Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, to take care of the welfare of these workers. Had these legislations been implemented seriously, there would not have been much difficulty in taking care of the migrant workers.

Moreover, money available under the Workers' Welfare Fund and PM CARES Fund could have been utilised to send these workers home in a dignified manner without putting them through such hardship and exposing them further to the pandemic.

Since the workers are the foundation of our economy and it cannot grow without their toil and sweat, there is a need to implement the existing laws seriously to protect their rights and address their problems. This will enable them to lead a better life with a sense of dignity. It is the least we can do for them.

(The writer is a former Additional Deputy CAG)

CAPSULE



Sensex rallies 429 pts; Nifty tops 10,550 level

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark BSE Sensex rallied 429 points on Thursday on widespread buying amid a broad upmove in global markets following encouraging COVID-19 vaccine trials. After soaring 600 points during the session, the 30-share index settled 429.25 points, or 1.21 per cent, higher at 35,843.70. The NSE Nifty surged 121.65 points, or 1.17 per cent, to close at 10,551.70. M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping around 6 per cent, followed by Titan, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Infosys and TCS. On the other hand, Axis Bank, HUL, Kotak Bank and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards. Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended with significant gains.



Sonalika Tractors sales grow 47.8% to 15,200 units

NEW DELHI: Sonalika Tractors on Thursday reported 47.8 per cent increase in its total tractor sales at 15,200 units in June. The company had sold 10,286 units in the same month last year, Sonalika Tractors said in a statement. Domestic sales were at 13,691 units as against 8,827 units in June last year, a growth of 55.1 per cent, it said. Exports during the month stood at 1,509 units as compared to 1,459 units, up 3.4 per cent, the company said. Commenting on the sales performance, Sonalika Group Executive Director Raman Mittal said the company's investment in the vertical integrated manufacturing unit helped it to ramp up production within a very short span of lockdown relaxation. "We had already reached 80 per cent utilisation in May itself and in June we continued to operate at optimum level," he said.



JSPL steel output grows 4 pc to 2 MT in Q1

NEW DELHI: Jindal Steel and Power Ltd on Thursday said its consolidated crude steel output rose 4 per cent to 2.03 MT during the quarter ended on June 30, 2020. The company had produced 1.96 MT of crude steel in the year-ago quarter, JSPL said. Sales for the quarter under consideration stood at 2.07 MT, up 8 per cent from 1.92 MT in the same quarter a year ago. "In the last 100 days JSPL exported more than one million tonnes, this was possible with the consistent support of Indian Railways, port authorities and a slew of pro-industry measures taken by the Ministry of Steel to reboot the economy" JSPL MD VR Sharma said.

'Need Rs 50-60 lakh cr foreign investments to bolster economy'

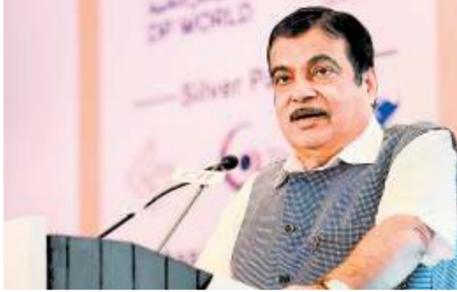
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India needs foreign direct investments worth Rs 50 to 60 lakh crore and the money can be tapped mainly through infrastructure projects as well as MSME sector to accelerate the wheels of coronavirus-hit economy, according to Union minister Nitin Gadkari.

Emphasising that at this juncture Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is the need of the hour, the senior minister said such funds would benefit the country as there is a need for pumping in liquidity into the market.

Economic activities have been significantly disrupted in the wake of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns that were in place to curb spreading of infections.

"Country at this juncture needs liquidity. Without liquidity our economy's wheel will not accelerate... Rs 50-60 lakh crore foreign investment is needed in the country under present circumstances to boost the economy," the Road Transport, Highways and



MSME Minister said.

Infrastructure sector including highways, airports, inland waterways, railways, logistic parks, broad gauge and metro, apart from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) can attract large scale foreign investment, he noted.

"FDI in MSME, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and banks are needed... in the highways sector, we are trying to bring foreign investment," he said. Gadkari further said that talks are on with investors from Dubai and

the US for various sectors, including MSMEs.

"Some MSMEs are already listed on the BSE. I have talked to investors in Dubai and the US to come and invest in such MSMEs based on their three-year turnover, GST track record, IT record and good rating. Investing in these can result in rich dividends as these do exports also," he said.

"We need to boost our technology for increasing growth and need to focus on enhancing exports. The Prime Minister's thrust is also on

reducing dependence on imports and boosting exports. In this infrastructure can play a crucial role," he said.

While noting that the present situation is very serious as the entire world is facing problems, Gadkari stressed on the need to work on a war-footing basis on infrastructure front.

Further, the minister noted that public private partnerships can help harness huge funds and would have a cascading impact by generating more employment and boosting the economy.

Besides, the minister said that 22 green highways were being built, including the Rs 1 lakh crore Delhi-Mumbai Expressway on a new alignment. Citing the example of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, he said talks were on with the Maharashtra government to shift about 1.5 lakh leather workers to Thane in a proposed leather cluster along the highway which will have the most modern facilities including schools and hospitals besides affordable housing under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

India's trade deficit with China reduces to \$ 48.66 bn in FY20

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit with China fell to USD 48.66 billion in 2019-20 on account of decline in imports from the neighbouring country, according to government data.

Exports to China in the last financial year stood at USD 65.26 billion, while imports aggregated at USD 16.6 billion, the data showed.

The trade deficit between the countries was at USD 53.56 billion in 2018-19 and USD 63 billion in 2017-18.

The main imports from China include clocks and watches, musical instruments, toys, sports goods, furniture, mattresses, plastics, electrical machinery, electronic equipment, chemicals, iron and steel items, fertilisers, mineral fuel and metals.

New Delhi has time and again raised concerns over widening trade deficit with China.

The government is taking steps such as framing technical regulations and quality norms for several products to cut dependence on China for



imports.

It has also imposed anti-dumping duties on several goods which are being dumped in the domestic market at below the average prices from China with a view to guard domestic players from cheap imports. As many as 371 products have been identified for technical regulations. Out of these, technical regulations have been formulated for 150 products worth about USD 47 billion of imports.

Over 50 quality control orders (QCOs) and other technical regulations have been

notified in the past one year including on electronic goods, toys, air conditioners, bicycle parts, chemicals, safety glass, pressure cooker, items of steel, electrical items such as cables.

China accounts for about 14 per cent of India's imports and is a major supplier for sectors like mobile phones, telecom, power, plastic toys, and critical pharma ingredients.

Similarly, foreign direct investment (FDI) from China into India too has dipped to USD 163.78 million in 2019-20 from USD 229 million in the previous fiscal.

Warehousing demand down; may further moderate in FY'21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Warehousing demand fell 11 per cent during the last fiscal year at 41.3 million sq ft across eight major cities due to economic slowdown, according to property consultant Knight Frank.

The demand for warehousing, which also includes industrial space for light manufacturing, stood at 46.4 million sq ft in 2018-19 fiscal across 8 cities -- National Capital Region, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad, the consultant said in its latest report 'India Warehousing Market Report - 2020'.

Despite fall in demand, the rentals increased by 4-7 per cent in Grade-A warehousing projects across these eight cities.

Post GST, the asset class has received institutional investment commitments of USD 6.5 billion.

Knight Frank India has pegged the existing warehousing stock across eight cities at 307 million sq ft.

The existing land committed to warehousing across the top eight cities of India has the



potential to add 193 million square feet of new warehousing supply, it added.

According to the data, warehousing demand fell 32 per cent in the national capital region (NCR) to 8.6 million sq ft last fiscal.

Mumbai saw 8 per cent growth in demand at 7.5 million sq ft, while Ahmedabad witnessed a 5 per cent rise in demand at 5.1 million sq ft.

Warehousing demand in Pune went up 42 per cent to 4.9 million sq ft but declined in Bengaluru 23 per cent to 4.3 million sq ft.

Kolkata witnessed 14 per cent fall to 3.9 million sq ft,

while Chennai saw a 19 per cent decline to 3.4 million sq ft.

The demand in Hyderabad dipped 14 per cent to 3.4 million sq ft. "The demand for warehousing has moderated last fiscal due to economic slowdown," Knight Frank India CMD Shishir Bajjal told reporters. He said the demand is expected to fall during the current fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Bajjal said the warehousing market has remained largely resilient recording growth of 44 per cent CAGR in the last three years.

Applications invited for chief economist post

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Government think tank Niti Aayog has invited application for the post of chief economist who will be responsible for examining all matters relating to the Ministry of Finance, and financial institutions, including the Reserve Bank of India. According to an advertisement posted on Niti Aayog's twitter handle, the post could be either filled through a contract or deputation and the chief economist will receive an affixed pay of Rs 3,30,000.

"NITI Aayog is looking for an experienced, talented, innovative, and dynamic professional who desires to be a part of the team that is scripting the exciting transformation story which is unfolding in India today," it said.

"He/she will also be responsible for examining all matters relating to Ministry of Finance (including all attached departments/divisions), RBI, IMF, WB, ADB and other multilateral financial institutions, SEBI, IRDA and PFRDA etc," it added.

Ban on Chinese apps provides opportunities to US, Indian starts-ups

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A US-India business advocacy group has welcomed India's ban on Chinese apps, including TikTok, saying the move will provide opportunities to American and Indian start-ups.

Amidst escalating tensions with China in eastern Ladakh, the Indian government on Monday banned 59 mobile phone applications, mostly having Chinese links, citing threats to national security.

Mukesh Agni, president of US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum, said on Wednesday that this is India's internal security matter.

"India felt that a lot of these apps were accessing and transferring data. We feel that the steps taken by India is to protect its own

internal security, and we support that. "It (banning of apps) does provide the opportunity for US companies. But I think it provides more opportunities for Indian companies to step up and build domestic apps. Because that's one area in India that has tremendous strength," he said. Noting that there are quite a few world class apps coming out of India, Agni said that there is a tremendous revolution taking place in India in this area itself. "The current geopolitical shift does provide India to get its legitimate right to be in the leadership arena," he said, adding that China's move to intrude into the Indian territory and try to humiliate India is the objective to deny that right role for India.



Tata Power to raise Rs 2,600 cr from promoter

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power on Thursday said its board has approved a proposal to raise Rs 2,600 crore through issuance of preference shares to its promoter Tata Sons.

"The board of directors of the company approved issuance of equity shares through a preferential issue to the promoter, Tata Sons, at a price of Rs 53 per equity share for an aggregate sum of Rs 2,600 crore, subject to shareholder approvals," a regulatory filing said.

The board also gave in-principle approval for setting up of InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust) for the company's renewable business on terms and conditions to be discussed with potential investors.

Tata Power will issue 49,05,66,037 equity shares on a preferential basis to Tata Sons Private Limited ("Tata Sons") for an aggregate consideration of Rs 2,600 crore.

Coal India trade unions begin 3-day strike

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coal India trade unions on Thursday began their three-day strike mainly to protest against the government's decision to allow commercial mining of coal, with a representative saying the strike could hit around 4 million tonnes of coal output.

On Wednesday, talks between Coal India trade unions and the government over the issue of commercial coal mining failed.

Nathul Pandey, President of HMS-affiliated Hind Khadan Mazdoor Federation, said the strike was started by the workers on the first shift, which begins at 6 am.

He claimed that in the Jhanjra area (West Bengal) of Eastern Coalfields, five leaders of the unions, three from HMS,



one each from AITUC and CITU were arrested but were released after few hours.

Workers employed in the BCCL, a Coal India arm, have not gone to work and as a result emergency services such as hospitals in the mines has been paralysed, he said.

According to Pandey, on an

average Coal India produces 1.3 MT of coal every day, so it is estimated that the production loss due to the three-days strike would be around 4 MT.

Besides, the general manager of the Sohagpur area (Madhya Pradesh) of SECL, a Coal India arm, has called outsiders to work in the mine

which is an "extraordinary situation" and this has never happened to Coal India, Pandey said.

Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.

The central trade unions operating in Coal India are HMS, BMS, AITUC, INTUC and CITU.

According to Pandey, in Jhanjra area - production and dispatch are totally closed.

Pandey further said that in South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL), Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCLL) and Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) the strike is successful.

A virtual meeting was held between Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi and representatives of trade unions on Wednesday.

In FY20, the country's economy grew at an estimated 4.2 per cent, almost a decade low. It, however, said the positive growth will come from only agriculture and the government sector

number of the central government which will be in the region of 8 per cent for FY21, it said.

In FY20, the country's economy grew at an estimated 4.2 per cent, almost a decade low.

It, however, said the positive growth will come from only agriculture and the government sector.

The agency's May estimate for a decline in GDP growth of 1.5-1.6 per cent was based on

the assumption that the lockdown would be ending by the month-end and that the recovery process will be gradual and be calibrated across sectors with the second half being closer to normal.

GDP forecasts for FY21 are unique as they would be varying depending on the evolving situation and the assumptions being made on the recovery process in the country, the report said. The agency said its

assumption now is that two-third of the economic sectors would broadly be operating at 50-70 per cent capacity by the end of third quarter and the balance may not even reach this state this year.

Services like hospitality, tourism, entertainment, travel would take a much longer time pan India to resume anywhere close to normal with interstate restrictions being the norm for the next quarter or so, the report said.

"The restriction on movement of people translates into fall in demand for goods and services and further exacerbates the low-consumption growth syndrome that pervaded for three years now," it said.

India's GDP may contract by 6.4% in FY21: Care Ratings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Care Ratings on Thursday revised India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year to (-) 6.4 per cent as economic activity continues to be under restriction due to the lockdown on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rating agency, in May, had projected a decline in GDP growth of 1.5-1.6 per cent in FY21.

It said given that the nation is into a lockdown for July too with several restrictions on resumption of services in particular as well as movement of people, the cutoff date for normalcy will spread into the latter part of the third quarter and more likely to the fourth quarter.



report. The sharper fall in real GDP also means that the nominal GDP for the year will also decline assuming inflation of 5 per cent which in turn will affect the projected fiscal deficit

'JSW to boycott \$ 400 mn imports from China'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

JSW Cement Managing Director Parth Jindal on Thursday said its family-owned group will bring down USD 400 million worth of imports from China to zero in the next 24 months. Referring to the recent clash between Indian and Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley, he said the "action" is a result of what the latter did on Indian soil.

The USD 14-billion JSW Group, owned by Parth's father Sajjan Jindal, has presence in

core sectors of steel, energy, cement and infrastructure.

The group will boycott goods worth USD 400 million, which it imports from China annually, Parth said in a tweet.

"The unprovoked attack by the Chinese on our brave jawaans has been a huge wake up call and a clarion call for action - we @TheJSWGroup have a net import of USD 400

mn from China annually and we pledge to bring this down to zero in the next 24 months #BoycottChina," he said.



In an unvarnished conversation with SHIKHA DUGGAL, actress Salony Luthra talks about her upcoming web film *Bhanumathi and Ramakrishna* with Naveen Chandra

‘Delight in, and valuing, relationships are

KEY TO HAPPINESS’



Your experience of filming the Telugu web movie *Bhanumathi Ramakrishna*

My web film is a very realistic approach to the life of unmarried women. We are usually on the radar of our shallow thinking society over, ‘Oh! She’s in her thirties and not married yet, I wonder why.’ So we are trying to touch a topic that people just don’t want to talk about openly with unbiased perspectives. Our aim is to show a light-hearted love story with a strong social message attached to it, to make the society believe that an unmarried woman can also be happy in her space. Bhanumathi has a bucket list to fulfil which leaves her with a void about the present times and then Ramakrishna (Naveen Chandra) enters her life to show that life is to be lived in the present. It’s a brew of sensitivity and embracing the imperfections of my character in the film, with wanting to break the prejudice devoted to the stigma that only married women deserve the best life!

Bhanumathi for which I was asked to put on some weight. Being a foodie especially in the town known for Biryani, I had to let go of my guilty pleasures and managed to gain approximately eight kilos of weight! My producer put



me on an amazing diet, it came out quite well on the screen too, so I was content with it.

Your reason to do this film

Yes, I had a handpicked reason to do this film purely for its subject. When I heard the story, it felt empowering and I was surprised to see how my director had deep nuance into female emotions hence it attracted me more towards the script. Also, I love breaking stereotypes, I am a public figure who holds the power to send a strong message of social happiness to my fandom so why not do it! I so wish that society judges the girls out there a

Your preparation for the movie

I got *Bhanumathi and Ramakrishna* when I was filming for another movie in New York City. My director and co-star Naveen had come to pick me up at the airport and they were quite amused to see me since I was looking “extremely thin”. When we began shooting for my current project, my director wanted me to look relatable to the character of

little less and families encourage them to break the norms of patriarchy. Don’t push them to do something which may not have the best outcome later on and then you regret doing that. To be honest, this film has also changed me as a person because my outlook towards life has changed completely. Delight in, and valuing, relationships are key to happiness.

Chemistry with your co-actor

I will symbolise my chemistry with Naveen as a pure and an honest professional relationship on the sets. We can never fake chemistry on screen, your audience tends to catch you immediately. You can just camouflage it to a certain extent, that’s about it. We have added true human emotions as a pair in this film and it was a success. I get along too well with Naveen and that’s what let me delivers honest chemistry on-screen with him. He’s a very dear friend to me, I come from a theatre background and Naveen was the one who showed immense confidence in me while teaching me the go-to tricks to render an outstanding performance in front of the camera! ‘Never let an actor cut your light’, that’s what he said to me being a co-actor, which was quite overwhelming for me. When I was in NYC, I got a call from him saying “Hey, I’m your Ramakrishna”, and it filled me with a sense of excitement that I’d be doing my next cinema with somebody who I get along with and it was going to be my home ground.

An interesting anecdote from the sets of Bhanumathi Ramakrishna

It was an office set up in FilmCity on a tight schedule, so we got a short break for a while. I have a tendency of not knowing how to keep hold of things, I dropped soup on my filming outfit. Everybody had a good laugh at that point because I was trying to be that pious and serious actress who knows it all and on the other hand, I had butterfingers! I made a complete blooper that day. Since then I was being handled like a young toddler, haha! My costume was washed immediately by my producer, it was he who ironed it too. He actually saved the day.

Cinema v/s OTT

I am going to choose OTT, the lockdown has changed my opinion towards it. It was a boon for me to get so much time to spend time with my family and we watched several web shows and movies on diverse streaming platforms. OTT brought us as a family together despite my parents being workaholics, we enjoyed watching it. It’s always buzzing with some activity, be it with family content or chick flicks. Make your own popcorn and relish this new normal!

Bhanumathi and Ramakrishna is going to take you back to old school romance time today, so hold your horses and be ready to witness an urban love story with a social message!



I had a handpicked reason to do this film purely for its subject. When I heard the story, it felt empowering and I was surprised to see how my director had deep nuance into female emotions hence it attracted me more towards the script. Also, I love breaking stereotypes, I am a public figure who holds the power to send a strong message of social happiness to my fandom so why not do it! I so wish that society judges the girls out there a little less and families encourage them to break the norms of patriarchy.

Male infertility as common as female infertility, but curable

IN CONTRAST TO THE OLD BELIEF THAT AGE AFFECTS ONLY FEMALES, RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT OLDER MEN ALSO HAVE A HIGH AMOUNT OF ABNORMAL SPERM. ACCORDING TO WHO, OF ALL INFERTILITY CASES IN INDIA, 50% IS DUE TO MALE FACTOR INFERTILITY



There is a staggering lack of awareness in India about male infertility. Male infertility refers to a condition where a man is unable to cause pregnancy in a fertile woman. Women in India often bear the blame for not bearing a child and male fertility issues are ignored. According to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, over 12-18 million couples in India are diagnosed with infertility every year. WHO in its report has stated that of all infertility cases in India, 50% is due to male factor infertility.

Both men and women can experience infertility and have equal chances of facing conception issues due to infertility. In all the couples experiencing infertility almost one third is due to male factors. Fertility issues are rampant in cities where people are leading stressful lives. Inadequate nutrition coupled with consumption of alcohol in excess,

smoking, low fitness can all lead to a decrease in the fertility level in men.

Speaking about the issue Dr. Chandana Lakkireddi, Fertility Consultant, Nova IVF Fertility Hyderabad, said “Unfortunately in India, there is a serious stigma associated with male infertility and this leads to men shying away from sharing these issues as there is lack of awareness and acceptance. So, when faced with the issues of infertility, people tend to think it must be the woman who is having a problem. But Male infertility is a major factor in most cases that we come across. We encourage couples who are trying to get pregnant but are facing issues to seek proper treatment. They should make every effort to find the right help for both the partners. We especially want to encourage the men to seek treatment and consult with an andrologist. Fertility issues can be draining, frustrating, and can take an emotional toll. But with proper guidance, we want

to help as many couples as we can to experience the happiness of parenthood.”

A couple was trying to conceive for the last six years. They were unable to conceive even after multiple treatments and tests for the wife, whereas the husband went through only regular semen analysis around three years back at a diagnostic centre, where test results were normal. However, post recent sperm analysis, the test results showed a high percentage of abnormality in the sperms. As per Dr Lakkireddi’s suggestions, the couple went through ICSI and successfully conceived through frozen embryo transfer in their first attempt. This shows that due to social stigma, people often end up considering women to be the centre of a problem for unable to conceive a baby, however, it is high time to understand that men are also at the similar front, which needs to be identified and corrected at the right time.

Male infertility cannot be attributed to a single factor. But around 15-20 per cent of male fertility issues are due to a condition called ‘Azoospermia’ i.e. the absence of viable sperms in the semen. Sperm quantity, quality, and motility are major factors that determine the ability to conceive a child. Low sperm count is a sign of infertility and does not help in conception for a couple. Male infertility can

also be caused due to diseases like mumps, TB, prostatitis, cancer, etc. As we all know lifestyle factors like age, nutrition, delayed marriages, smoking, work stress, obesity, exposure to pollutants can also play a role in causing the condition. In contrast to the old belief that age affects only females, research has shown that older men also have a high amount of abnormal sperm.

A thorough examination of medical and urologic history, plus a proper diagnosis is needed to determine the cause. Dr Lakkireddi further said that Male Infertility can be treated. Speaking about the treatments, she said, “It is mandatory to check both the partners. Male infertility tests start with a thorough evaluation of the medical history. Detailed semen analysis is conducted to check the count, motility, morphology of the sperm in an IVF Laboratory. If the results are abnormal, we conduct further processes like Hormone profile, DNA Fragmentation, and Scrotal Scan with Doppler. After getting the results, we put the patient on treatment. It is important to remember that male infertility can be treated with timely medical assistance. It is also beneficial to maintain a healthy lifestyle. With proper help from the appropriate fertility clinic, men will be able to experience the joys of fatherhood.”



Salim-Sulaiman launch their fashion merchandise

Music composer duo Salim Merchant and Sulaiman Merchant are launching their own fashion merchandise label, inspired by their iconic songs, hobbies and personal interests.

The musicians have collaborated with Styched — a production-on-demand fast fashion company — to produce their first collection that consists of a line of t-shirts based on the duo's iconic songs.

The collection aims at recapturing the nostalgia of

their musical brilliance. Chart-buster hits like *Kurbaan Hua*, *Shukranallah*, *Chak De India* and *Yeh Hausla Kaise Jhuke* are part of the first roll-out batch.

Speaking about his new venture, Salim said, "We are super excited! My style is not about big brands and labels hence it is important that our fans and followers relate to our fashion line and we feel proud to wear it ourselves and not just have it as a brand for sale. I am excited to wear each and every piece as I step out."

Sulaiman added, "Our

apparel line with Styched is an expression of ourselves and we want fans to be as comfortable as possible in these. Exciting times!"

"This is a significant partnership for us at Styched. We aim to translate celebrity's persona into relatable apparel and establish connect with fans and enthusiasts and Salim-Sulaiman would resonate so highly with the audience," Durga Dash, COO of Styched shared.

The collection is available for shipping worldwide, especially for fans in USA, Canada and the UK.

Relive the nostalgia of books

College Street in the heart of the City of Joy is ubiquitous to the city. Located in the bustling neighbourhood of Central Calcutta, it is a source of nostalgia to every one who has lived or worked in the city.

Famously known as Boipara (the book colony), College Street has been a cradle to the city's intelligentsia and has not lost its old-world charm even in the age of notebooks, Kindles and iPads.

To give a fresh lease of hope to slump in sales through the COVID-19 and Cyclone Amphan crisis, 93.5 RED FM has collaborated with College Street Union and *boiChoi.com* for an on-air and digital book exhibition called 'Book Kar'.

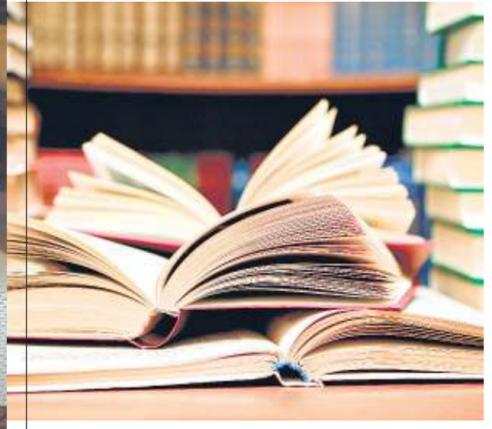
Recently, due to cyclone Amphan, Kolkata's iconic street or colony was severely affected with large scale inventories perishing.

To help the book sellers revive their lost business and bridge the gap between them and the readers and consumers, the two-week virtual book exhibition will

aim at digitally bring College Street to the people. The collaboration will provide remaining books on *BoiChoi.com*, a book delivery site with a dedicated section to promote these reads. The radio jockey's will be encouraging and requesting its listeners to support this cause through their on-air and digital shows.

Some of the renowned celebrities like music director-singer Anupam Roy and actress Ritabhari Chakraborty have pledged to support this campaign via digital book reading sessions and have shared their 'boipara' memories.

Speaking on the occasion, Nisha Narayanan, Director & COO, RED FM and Magic FM, said, "Due the recent cyclone Amphan, book sellers at Kolkata's Boipara were one of the worst impacted, affecting livelihoods of more than a lakh people. In an endeavor to help revive this heritage of the city, our team decided to take this issue through an on-air and digital book exhibition called 'Book Kar'. It is a step towards bringing some hope to these book sellers."



Trishala Dutt speaks about her mental health post boyfriend's death

Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt's daughter Trishala Dutt has penned an emotional note to mark one year of her boyfriend's death on Thursday.

She opened up about going for therapy and quitting her job post his demise.

Trishala took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of herself along with her late boyfriend.

"Today marks 1 year since the ground beneath me seemed to crumble and my life changed. I've done a lot of grief work — from talk therapy, to joining specific support groups and being more intentional with how and who I spend my time with."

"I've also been somewhat absent from social media over the past year. Losing my mom at the age of eight and working through that for over two decades, surprisingly, did not prepare me for losing this beautiful soul," she wrote.

"It's not just the passage of time, you don't get over it or move on just because a year or twenty go by. You have to face the darkest moments and ride out the rollercoaster of emotions for the rest of your life. I knew grief wasn't only sadness, howev-

er, I'd forgotten it creeps up in the sneakiest of ways."

Trishala shared that in the past year she cried to a point where she ran out of tears.

"I had to quit my job because how could I take care of someone's mental health if my own was a disaster?" she wrote.

She shared that she had several "public breakdowns where strangers have come up to me and asked if I needed any assistance."

Trishala added that she ate "everything in sight and gained 30 lbs (13 kilos)."

"But it's fine. It happens. Its the process, and it's nothing I can't fix once I'm in the right mind-set (and I'm happy to share my mental health and physique has gotten so much better!)"

"Also, I'm not ashamed to admit it's because of an amazing therapist, support groups, and 3 beautiful friends."

She shared that she still has things that reminds her of him.

"I have text messages and handwritten notes. I still have his toothbrush, listen to some of his favorite songs/artists, and have his T-shirt that smells just like him. I'm beyond grateful for the time we had together. He lived

his life boldly, out loud, and took advantage of each and every day authentically. He was the utmost gentleman who always made me feel safe."

"He made me laugh and loved to joke around. He was kind, gentle, thoughtful, and always chose to put me first. He was helpful, supportive, and a great listener. He trusted me, took good care of me, and took great care of my heart."

Trishala shared that her boyfriend respected her, never judged her and welcomed her into his family.

"He never left my side, never EVER let me go to bed upset, or left me wondering where I stood in his life. He made sure to let me and everyone else know that I was his entire heart every second of every day."

To Trishala he was magic.

"It was a joy to be a part of his life. He will always be apart of my journey, and my story. My memories are all I have left of him, and I will never ever forget him. I'm half a heart without him, but even with that, I still and will always be and feel like the luckiest girl in the entire world to have been his...as he was mine. October 07, 1986 - July 02, 2019."



FUN

ARCHIE

SVENSON, I'M GOING TO MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER! I GOT YOU A NEW AND IMPROVED SCRUBBER!

ALSO A NEW, IMPROVED WAXER!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WOULD REALLY MAKE MY JOB EASIER!

NEW AND IMPROVED STUDENTS!

oops!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

I READ THAT THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD WATCHES 7 1/2 HOURS OF TV EVERY DAY.

MOM SAYS SHE DOESN'T WATCH TV AT ALL WHILE I'M AT SCHOOL...

SO IF I GET HOME AT 3:00, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO WATCH IT STRAIGHT TILL 10:30, RIGHT?

WRONG. DO YOU WANT US TO BE SUB-AVERAGE?!

GARFIELD

THREE... TWO...

ONE...

FRIDAY FACE!

REALITY CHECK

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CONFISCATE THESE KNICK-KNACKS—OH, AND THESE MAGAZINES, TOO.

SINCE WHEN ARE THOSE ILLEGAL?

WARDER AGENT

SPEED BUMP

THAT'S THE BEST AND WORST POLE VAULT I'VE EVER SEEN.

CROSSWORD

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NANCY

I WAS LONELY IN HOLLYWOOD—I REALLY MISSED MY FRIENDS BACK HOME IN THE EAST.

NANCY—HAVE YOU BEEN MAKING A LOT OF LONG-DISTANCE CALLS?

OH—NO—ONLY ONE A DAY.

HOLLYWOOD TELEPHONE COMPANY BILL TO FRITZ RITZ LONG-DISTANCE CALL CHARGE \$127.70

OKAY, JANIE—WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?

SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- Pepper might make you do this
- Use needles and wool to make something
- Quick
- Spread this on bread
- Rich
- Injured
- Repaired
- Factual
- Utters
- A weight to stop a boat drifting

DOWN

- Not in danger
- Less difficult

SOLUTION

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| T | I | L | L | J | E | W | E | L |
| C | H | E | L | M | E | T | | |
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PAWAN TAKES TO CHATURMASYA VRATA DEEKSHA



For the well-being of the Indian people, especially Telugus, actor-leader Pawan Kalyan has taken to the sacred Chaturmasya vrata deeksha on the auspicious day of Toli Ekadashi on Wednesday. The vrata is the four-month auspicious period starting from Ashada Shukla Dashmi to Karthik Shukla Purnima (mid November). The actor has been committed to the deeksha, whose practice is believed to attain inexhaustible spiritual and health benefits for its followers, for the past two decades, adhering to its rules strictly with utmost devotion. His food intake in the evening will consist of milk and fruits. A tiny fraction of sattvic diet, which is based on foods in ayurvedic and yogic literature, also dots the menu. The food regulation, according to Hindu mythology, is aimed at getting control over the senses and thereby purifying body and soul. Pawan said that many small-time businessmen, teachers, weaving community, photogra-



New Zealand being mooted for *Rang De*

With *Avatar* sequels, James Cameron's sci-fi spectacle, getting the permission of Kiwi government to restart shooting last month, Sithara is hoping for a similar response, finds NAGARAJ GOUD

Production house Sithara Entertainments is toying with the idea of resuming work on *Rang De*, headlined by Nithiin and Keerthy Suresh, in New Zealand. The romantic drama, directed by Venky Atluri, needs a foreign shore for some portions.

With *Avatar* sequels, James Cameron's sci-fi spectacle, getting the permission of Kiwi government to restart shooting last month after the nation positioned itself as a Covid-free haven; Sithara is hoping for a similar response. "The makers are looking at the possibility of shooting in the South Pacific nation but nothing is finalized as of now," confirmed a source close to the unit. Initially, the makers considered shooting abroad portions in Spain, with the director even undertaking an extensive recon last year with his celebrated cinematographer PC Sreeram but with the whole of Europe getting affected with coronavirus and the countries too restricting air travel from other countries since the outbreak from February, the film's unit had to search for greener pastures. Rang De's shooting had to be put on pause mode since March.

If Sithara gets the nod, the cast and crew of the film needs to adhere to the 14-day government supervised self-isolation, before beginning to shoot.

In New Zealand, a seven-week nationwide lockdown smothered the outbreak and early last month, it lifted all restrictions except border controls. If Sithara indeed gets the nod from down under, the cast and crew of the film needs to adhere to the 14-day government supervised self-isolation, before beginning to shoot. The film, featuring Nareesh, Rohini, Kousalya, Brahmaji, Vennela Kishore, Satyam Rajesh, Abhinav Gomatam and Suhas in supporting roles, is nearly 70 per cent completed.

Warangal Srinivas bags Nizam rights of biggies

With theatres reopening staring at an indefinite delay, Adepu Srinivas aka Warangal Srinivas surprised one and all on Thursday when he informed the media that he snatched the Nizam rights of anticipated films *Krack*, *Virata Parvam*, *Seeti Marr* and *Sreekaram* for the Nizam region. With business activity at an all-time low owing to the pandemic, Srinu's acquisitions have come as a bit of positive news from the industry which is otherwise reeling under losses since March.

All the four films that Srinu has acquired are in the final stages of production. If not for Coronavirus outbreak, except *Virata Parvam*, the remaining films would've hit the cinemas by now. The Karthikeya Exhibitors chief is also believed to be in talks with producers of some other star films for their Nizam rights.

Having distributed successful films like *Hushaaru*, *iSmart Shankar* and *Gaddalakonda Ganeshi* in the Nizam territory, Srinu is also turning producer with G Nageswara Reddy's next, which is half-way through with its filming. While casting details are under a tight lock and key, the makers are hoping to shoot the remaining half abroad. He is lining up a couple of other production ventures as well.



AN ADDITION TO THE TITLE

In a new development, we've learnt that Naveen Chandra and Salony Luthra-starrer *Bhanumathi Ramakrishna* will now be referred to as *Bhanumathi and Ramakrishna*. The change comes into effect after late legendary actor Bhanumathi Ramakrishna's son Bharani took an offence to the film's title and shot of a letter to aha management sometime back, alleging that the makers were cashing in the popularity of her mother's reputation and that they have used her name without his consent. While team aha initially planned to win the argument as the film has no connection to the yes-year actress, who was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2003 for her contribution in Indian cinema, whatsoever, they had to compromise as the film's premiere was planned for Tuesday. On Monday, legal staff representing Bharani and team aha met in Chennai and agreed to add 'and' between Bhanumathi Ramakrishna. Publicity material bearing the old title is being replaced across both the Telugu states. A slice-of-life drama, the film narrates the story of titular characters both of who are in their 30s yet single for different reasons. It marks the debut of Srikanth Nagothi as a director and Yashwanth Mulukutla as a producer. Kshanam fame Ravikanth Perepu has edited it.



I'm human, I get zits: ILEANA

Telugu-Hindi actress Ileana Dcruz replied to a social media user who commented on her pimple, saying she is human and does get zits. Ileana took to Instagram, where she treated her fans and followers to a question-answer session. A netizen wrote: "You have a pimple on your left cheek." The actress replied: "Yes, I'm human, I'm pmsing, I get zits. What else would you like to know?" Another user asked her about Ileana's reaction when *Barfi!* was named for the Oscars. She replied: "I thought it was a joke! I thought the team was playing a prank on me and I couldn't believe it. So, Googled it lol. Honestly it was one of the most surreal moments of my life," she wrote. On the work front, Ileana will next be seen alongside Abhishek Bachchan in Ajay Devgn's production *The Big Bull*, a film reportedly based on India's biggest securities scam of 1992.



Most Read NEWS

Jeff Bezos's wealth at record \$171.6 billion

Jeff Bezos's net worth has smashed through its previous peak. Even after he relinquished a quarter of his stake in Amazon.com Inc. as part of a divorce settlement last year. Shares of the Seattle-based retailer surged 4.4% to a record \$2,878.70 Wednesday, boosting the founder's world-leading fortune to \$171.6 billion. That tops his previous high of \$167.7 billion, set on Sept. 4, 2018, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. His gains -- \$56.7 billion this year alone -- underscore a widening wealth gap in the U.S. during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Initial public offerings and buoyant equity markets have bolstered mega-fortunes, even as tens of millions of people have lost their jobs. This week, after receiving complaints about ending pandemic hazard pay, Amazon said it would spend about \$500 million to give one-time \$500 bonuses to most front-line workers. The company declined to comment on its founder's wealth. Amazon has been on a tear, with the pandemic accelerating the consumer shift to e-commerce from brick-and-mortar retail. Bezos owns 11% of the stock, which comprises the bulk of his fortune.



Bridesmaid sacked for having 'huge' boobs

A bridesmaid was demoted from her role at her sister's wedding after being told she "looked too good in her dress". The 14-year-old explained that her sister asked her to be one of her bridesmaids at her wedding in a few months time. As she had never been to a wedding before she was thrilled to be a part of it. When it came to bridesmaid dress shopping, the bride picked out a gorgeous pinky red colour with ruffles on the top for her bridesmaid dress. After trying it on she couldn't wait to show her sister how pretty it looked. But when she stepped out of the changing room with the other bridesmaids she was horrified at her sister's reaction. The bridesmaid explained: "My sister looks at me and her face just freezes." And that's when it all went wrong. She added: "I asked her if she didn't like it, but she just didn't respond. She asked if she could talk to me in the other room and I say sure. 'We walk into her bathroom and she just kinda looks at me and sighs. Then goes 'your boobs look huge,' which stunned me for a moment." Apparently, the bride through her curves would take the attention off of her and her fiancé on their big day.



Sopore girl first to get J&K domicile certificate

Aliya Tariq, 10, from Sopore in North Kashmir became the first person to receive the domicile certificate on June 22 under the new law that has been introduced after the scrapping of Article 370 and splitting of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories. Tariq Ahmed Longoo, Aliya Tariq's father told IANS that he applied for the domicile for all his family members including Aliya because he felt that it is an important document just like the Aadhaar card. "Everybody has to apply for the domicile certificate eventually. I was helped by my friends in the revenue department to apply for the certificates, my children were asked by their school to get the domicile certificate," Langoo said. Three days after Aliya became the first person to receive the domicile, Navin K. Choudhary was granted a domicile certificate. Choudhary, an IAS officer of the J&K cadre, 1994 batch, belongs to Bihar. Official records reveal that the government has received 33,157 applications for domicile certificates in J&K and over 25,000 of them have been accepted. The government has received nearly 32,000 applications in 10 districts of Jammu Division while Kashmir has received only 720 applications.



Lamborghini unveils £2.7million luxury yacht

Italian car giant Lamborghini has unveiled a £2.7million yacht that looks like one of its supercars. The seafaring machine can hit a top speed of 69mph using two V12 engines strapped to the back. Inspired by the Lamborghini Sián FKP 37 hypercar, the boat is a joint project between Lamborghini and yacht company Tecnomar for Lamborghini 63. It's dubbed the Tecnomar for Lamborghini 63 and only a few dozen will be made, according to an official press release. "If I had to imagine a Lamborghini on water, this would be my vision," Lamborghini boss Stefano Domenicali said. Named after the car-maker's founding year, the Tecnomar for Lamborghini 63 boasts a carbon fibre shell. That design means it weighs just 24 tons. That's about 15 times more than a Lamborghini supercar, but it's very light for a yacht. The craft's twin-V12 engines generate 4,000 horsepower, according to Lamborghini, which can accelerate the craft to 60 knots, or roughly 69mph. That's pretty good for a 63ft boat, but it's a long way off the 200mph+ top speed of Lamborghini's fastest road vehicles. Tecnomar for Lamborghini 63 is a limited-edition boat that the Italian car-maker says will ship in 2021.



CORONAVIRUS AUTOPSIES

A story of 38 brains, 87 lungs and 42 hearts

When pathologist Amy Rapkiewicz began the grim process of opening up the coronavirus dead to learn how their bodies went awry, she found damage to the lungs, kidneys and liver consistent with what doctors had reported for months. But something was off. Rapkiewicz, who directs autopsies at NYU Langone Health, noticed that some organs had far too many of a special type of cell rarely found in those places. She had never seen that before, yet it seemed vaguely familiar. She raced to her history books and - in a eureka moment - found a reference to a 1960's report on a patient with dengue fever. In dengue, a mosquito-borne tropical disease, she learned, the virus appeared to destroy these cells, which produce platelets, leading to uncontrolled bleeding. The novel coronavirus seemed to amplify their effect, causing dangerous clotting. She was struck by the parallels: "Covid-19 and dengue sound really different, but the cells that are involved are similar." Autopsies have long been a source of breakthroughs in understanding new diseases, from HIV/AIDS and Ebola, to Lassa fever - and the medical community is counting on them to do the same for covid-19, the disease caused by coronavirus. With a vaccine likely many months away, autopsies are becoming a critical source of information for research into possible treatments. When the pandemic hit the United States in late March, many hospital systems were too overwhelmed trying to save lives to spend too much time delving into the secrets of the dead. But by late May and June, the first large batch of reports - from patients who died at a half-dozen different institutions - were published in quick succession. The investigations have confirmed some of our early hunches of the disease, refuted others - and opened up new mysteries about the novel pathogen that has killed more than 500,000 people worldwide.

Among the most important findings, consistent across several studies, is confirmation that the virus appears to attack the lungs the most frequently. They also found the pathogen in parts of the brain, kidneys, liver, gastrointestinal tract, spleen and in the endothelial cells that line blood vessels, as some had previously suspected. Researchers also found widespread clotting in many organs. But the brain and heart yielded surprises. "It's about what we are not seeing," said Mary Fowkes, an associate professor of pathology who is part of a team at Mount Sinai Health that has performed autopsies on 67 covid-19 patients. Given widespread reports about neurological symptoms related to the coronavirus, Fowkes said, she expected to find virus or inflammation - or both - in the brain. But there was very little. When it comes to the heart, many physicians warned for months about a cardiac complication they suspected was myocarditis, an inflammation or hardening of the heart muscle walls - but autopsy investigators were stunned that they could find no evidence of the condition. Another unexpected finding, pathologists said, is that oxygen deprivation of the brain and the formation of blood clots may start early in the disease process. That could have major implications for how people with covid-19 are treated at home, even if they never need to be hospitalized. The early findings come as new U.S. infections have overtaken even the catastrophic days of April, amid what some critics say is a premature easing of social dis-

tancing restrictions in some states mainly in the South and West. A new modeling study has estimated that about 22% of the population - or 1.7 billion people worldwide, including 72 million in the United States - may be vulnerable to severe illness if infected with covid-19. According to the analysis published this month in the Lancet Global Health, about 349 million, or 4% of those people would require hospitalization - underscoring the stakes as autopsy investigators continue their hunt for clues. At their best, autopsies can reconstruct the natural course of the disease but the process for a new and highly infectious-disease is tedious and requires meticulous work. To protect pathologists and avoid sending virus into the air, they must use special tools to harvest organs and then dunk them in a disinfecting solution for several weeks before they are studied. They must then section each organ and collect small bits of tissue for study under different types of microscopes. One of the first American investigations to be made public, on April 10, was out of New Orleans. The patient was a 44-year-old male who had been treated at LSU Health. Richard Vander Heide remembers cutting the lung and discovering what was likely hundreds of thousands of microclots. "I will never forget the day," recalled Vander Heide, who has been performing autopsies since 1994. "I said to the resident, 'This is very unusual.' I had never seen something like this." But as he moved onto the next patient and the next, Vander Heide saw the same pattern. He was so alarmed, he said, that he shared the paper online before submitting it to a journal so the information could be used immediately by doctors. The findings caused a stir at many hospitals and influenced some doctors to start giving blood thinners to all covid-19 patients. It is now common practice. The final, peer-reviewed version involving 10 patients was subsequently published in the Lancet in May. Other lung autopsies - including those described in papers from Italy of 38 patients, a Mount Sinai Health study on 25 patients, a collaboration between Harvard Medical School and German researchers on seven and an NYU Langone Health on seven - have reported similar findings of clotting. Most recently, a study out this month in the Lancet's

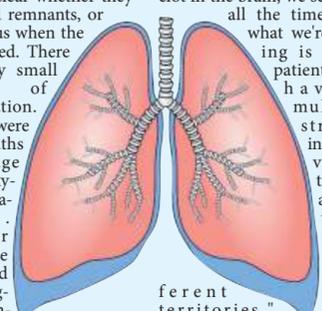
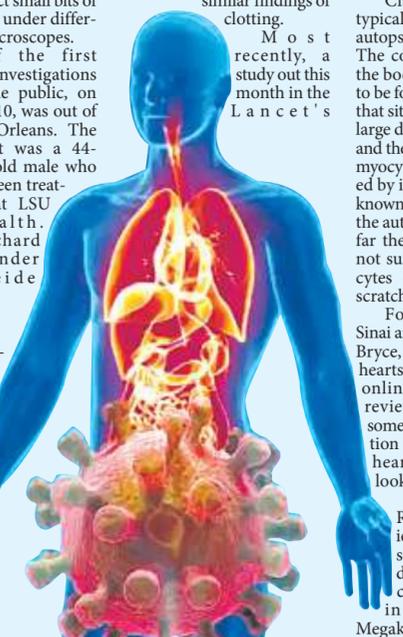
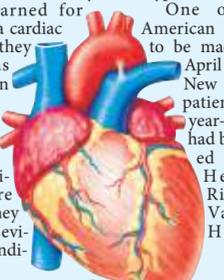
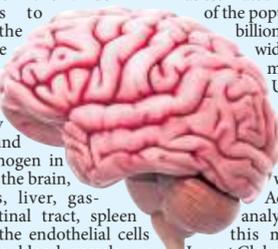
Classic myocarditis is typically easy to identify in autopsies, pathologists say. The condition occurs when the body perceives the tissue to be foreign and attacks it. In that situation, there would be large dead zones in the heart, and the muscle cells known as myocytes would be surrounded by infection-fighting cells known as lymphocytes. But in the autopsy samples taken so far the dead myocytes were not surrounded by lymphocytes - leaving researchers scratching their heads. Fowkes from Mount Sinai and her colleague, Clare Bryce, whose work on 25 hearts has been published online but not yet peer reviewed, said they saw some "very mild" inflammation of the surface of the heart but nothing that looked like myocarditis. NYU Langone's Rapkiewicz, who studied seven hearts, was struck by the abundance of a rare cell called megakaryocytes in the heart. Megakaryocytes, which produce platelets that control clotting, typically exist only in the bone marrow and lungs. When she went back to the lung samples from the coronavirus patients, she discovered those cells were too plentiful there, too. "I could not remember a case before where we saw that," she said. "It was remarkable they were in the heart." Vander Heide from LSU, who reported preliminary findings on 10 patients in April and has a more in-depth paper with more case studies on the topic under review at a journal, explained that "when you look at a covid heart, you don't see what you'd expect." He said a couple of patients he performed autopsies on had gone into cardiac arrest in the hospital, but when he examined them, the primary damage was in the lungs - not the heart. Of all the novel coronavirus's manifestations, its impact on the brain has been among the most vexing. Patients have reported a host of neurological impairments including reduced ability to smell or taste, altered mental status, stroke, seizures - even delirium. An early study from China, published in the BMJ, formerly the British Medical Journal, in March, found 22% of the 113 patients had experienced neurological issues ranging from excessive sleepiness to coma - conditions typically grouped together as disorders of consciousness. In June, researchers in France reported that 84% of patients in intensive care had neurological issues, and a third were confused or disoriented at discharge. Also this month, those in the United Kingdom found that 57 of 125 coron-



Another takeaway is that the findings underscore the importance of getting people on supplementary oxygen quickly to prevent irreversible damage. Solomon, whose work was published as a June 12 letter in the New England Journal of Medicine, said the findings suggest the damage had been happening over a longer period of time, which make him wonder about the virus's effect on people who are less ill. "The big lingering question is what happens to people who survive covid," he said. "Is there a lingering effect on the brain?" The team from Mount Sinai Health, which took tissue findings from 20 brains, was also perplexed not to find a lot of virus or inflammation. However, the group noted in a paper that the widespread presence of tiny clots was "striking." "If you have one blood clot in the brain, we see that all the time. But what we're seeing is some patients are having multiple strokes in blood vessels that are in two or even three different territories," Fowkes said. Rapkiewicz said it is too early to know whether the newest batch of autopsy findings can be translated into treatment changes, but the information has opened new avenues to explore. One of her first calls after noticing the unusual platelet-producing cells was to Jeffrey Berger, a cardiac specialist at NYU who runs a National Institutes of Health-funded lab that focuses on platelets. Berger said the autopsies suggest anti-platelet medications, in addition to blood thinners, may be helpful to stem the effects of covid-19. He has pivoted a major clinical trial looking at optimal doses of anticoagulants to look at that question as well.

He found snippets of virus in only some areas, and it was unclear whether they were dead remnants, or active virus when the patient died. There were only small pockets of inflammation. But there were large swaths of damage due to oxygen deprivation. Whether these were long-time intensive care patients, or people who died suddenly, Solomon said, the pattern was eerily similar. "We were very surprised," he said. When the brain does not get enough oxygen, individual neurons die and that death is permanent. To a certain extent, people's brains can compensate but at some point, the damage is so extensive that different functions start to degrade. On a practical level, Solomon said that if the virus is not getting into the brain in large amounts, that helps with drug development because treatment becomes trickier when it is pervasive, for instance, in some patients with West Nile or HIV.

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HAMMERS BLOW

West Ham rocked Chelsea's top-four hopes and boosted their survival bid with a dramatic 3-2 win, while Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang struck twice as Arsenal climbed back into European contention with a 4-0 thrashing of Norwich on Wednesday. Chelsea were hoping to take advantage of third-placed Leicester's 2-1 defeat at Everton earlier in the day, but instead the Blues were beaten for the first time since the Premier League restart. West Ham were denied the opening goal at the London Stadium when VAR ruled Michail Antonio was offside as he lay on the ground while



Andriy Yarmolenko, center celebrates with West Ham teammates after scoring his side's third goal. AP

ates before half-time after Issa Diop tripped Christian Pulisic. Soucek headed home in first-half stoppage time as West Ham finally scored their first goal since the restart. Antonio put West Ham in front in the 51st minute when he slid in to convert Jarrod Bowen's cross. William's superb 70th-minute free-kick drew Chelsea level, but it was West Ham who broke away to win it in the 89th minute when substitute Andriy Yarmolenko finished a brilliant counter attack. Chelsea are one point behind Leicester and only two ahead of Manchester United and Wolves as the race to qualify for the Champions League heats up with six games left. "It's the story of our season. It's been a good season but

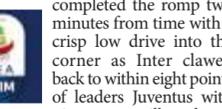
there have been so many of these moments," Chelsea boss Frank Lampard said. "I'm not happy with any of the goals. There were details in the game which we knew but we lost because we didn't get them right. It's why we are fighting for the top four and not first or second. We don't get things right as much as the big boys do." West Ham's crucial first win since the restart moved them three points clear of the relegation zone. **51% COUNTING** At the Emirates Stadium, Aubameyang moved alongside Jamie Vardy as the Premier League's top scorer on 19 goals on a night of contrasting fortunes for the Golden Boot contenders.

Villarreal maintain CL push

Gerard Moreno took his season's La Liga goal tally to 15 with a double strike as Villarreal stayed on course for the Champions League with a 2-0 win at Real Betis on Wednesday. Villarreal are in fifth place in the table, three points behind Sevilla who occupy the fourth and final qualifying spot for next season's Champions League. Moreno opened the scoring after just seven minutes from the penalty spot and added a fine individual goal on the half-hour mark. vMoreno's 15 goals are just two back from Real Madrid's Karim Benzema with Barcelona's Lionel Messi leading the way with 22.

Inter hits 6

Alexis Sanchez scored a penalty and set up two goals as Inter Milan thrashed relegation candidates Brescia 6-0 in Serie A on Wednesday, while city rivals AC Milan snatched a last-gasp draw away to lowly SPAL. Sanchez teed up Ashley Young to volley Inter ahead at San Siro after just five minutes and the Chile forward dispatched a spot-kick to double the lead following a foul on Victor Moses. Danilo D'Ambrosio powered in a third just before half-time from a looping cross by Young, with Roberto Gojanin rising to head home a Sanchez free-kick as Inter grabbed a fourth on 53 minutes.



Novak & wife test corona -ve

BELGRADE: Novak Djokovic and his wife have tested negative for the coronavirus, his media team said on Thursday, 10 days after announcing they had contracted the virus. The top-ranked player tested positive for the virus after playing in an exhibition series he organized in Serbia and Croatia amid the pandemic. "Novak Djokovic and his wife Jelena are negative for Covid-19. That was shown by the results of the PCR tests that both had in Belgrade," his media team said in a statement. Both Djokovic and his wife had no symptoms and were in self-isolation in the Serbian capital since testing positive. The news comes amid a new spike of cases in Serbia and the reintroduction of some restrictive measures, such as wearing of masks and social distancing. AP