

NATION 5
PM PRAISES EFFORTS OF CENTRE,
DELHI GOVT IN CONTAINING COVID

MONEY 6
PETROL, DIESEL FUTURES TRADING
TO START SOON ON EXCHANGES

SPECIAL 7
ROAD LESS
TRAVELLED

HYDERABAD, SUNDAY JULY 12, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



sunday pioneer



LYRICS
IN HIS
VEINS
12

www.dailypioneer.com

AMITABH TESTED POSITIVE FOR
CORONAVIRUS, ADMITTED IN HOSPITAL

Hollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan has tested positive for coronavirus. He has been admitted to Mumbai's Nanavati hospital. Amitabh took to Twitter to share the news. He tweeted, "I have tested Covid positive... shifted to Hospital... hospital informing authorities... family and staff undergone tests... results awaited... All that have been in close proximity to me in the last 10 days are requested to please get themselves tested!"



15-FOOT-LONG KING COBRA RESCUED
FROM TAMIL NADU VILLAGE

A 15-foot long King Cobra was rescued today by forest officials from a village near Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. The snake was spotted in Narasipuram village in Thondamuthur, a suburb of Coimbatore city. The Village is located in the foothills of Velliangiri mountain in the Western Ghats mountain chain. Western Ghats, a biodiversity hub, is home to the world's longest venomous snake, King Cobra. The snake was later taken to the Siruvani forest area and was released in the wild by the officials. Recently, a Russell's viper, one of the most venomous snakes, was spotted in a house in a village near Coimbatore. A resident of the village noticed the snake in his bathroom and sought the help of a snake-catcher.



BIOCON DRUG RECEIVES DCGI NOD FOR USE
IN MODERATE TO SEVERE COVID-19 PATIENTS

Biotechnology major Biocon on Saturday announced that its breakthrough drug, Itolizumab has received Drugs Controller General of India's (DCGI) approval for its use in moderate to severe COVID-19 patients. DCGI has approved to market Itolizumab (ALZUMAB) injection 25mg and 5mL solution for emergency use in India for the treatment of cytokine release syndrome (CRS) in moderate to severe ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) patients due to COVID-19. Biocon said in a release. It said Itolizumab is the first novel biologic therapy to be approved anywhere in the world for treating patients with moderate to severe COVID-19 complications.



SINGAPORE PM LEE RETURNS TO
POWER WITH CLEAR MANDATE

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's People's Action Party has retained power with a "clear mandate" in the general election held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, but the opposition staged its best performance ever by securing a record 10 seats in Parliament. The People's Action Party (PAP), in power since 1965, won 83 of 93 parliamentary seats or 61.2 per cent of the vote - down from nearly 70 per cent it had in the 2015 general election. In 2015, the PAP secured 83 seats out of 89 seats in 29 constituencies. The surprise this time was that the opposition Workers' Party secured 10 seats - its best result.



'ALL AND
SUNDRY'
New Secretariat
must be modern,
not an exercise
in vanity
2

Farmers' thumbs up
presages victory for TS

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao on Saturday instructed officials concerned to ensure that the benefits of Rythu Bandhu scheme reach every single farmer in the State. Describing it as a 'good augury' that farmers have accepted the regulatory farming policy as a whole, KCR said that this would be a new foundation for a greater victory in future. He announced an ultra-modern cold storage to be constructed at a cost of Rs 25 crore to store the seeds produced by the State Seed development Corporation. The CM also instructed officials to ensure construction of Rythu Vedikas at all the clusters by Dasara. KCR was addressing a high-level review meeting at Pragati Bhavan here on Saturday on Rythu Bandhu Scheme help, and other agriculture related issues. Ministers S Niranjana Reddy, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Rythu

Though the state's economy is not in good shape due to the coronavirus, the State Government, with a view to stand by farmers, has released the Rythu Bandhu scheme benefits to farmers. - K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO, Chief Minister

Bandhu State president Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Chief Advisor to the Government Rajiv Sharma, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Principal Secretaries B Janardhan Reddy, Ramakrishna Rao, Narsing Rao, Seed Corporation MD Keshavulu, Agriculture Joint Director Vijay Kumar, DDA Shailaja, CMP Secretary Smita Sabharwal and others participated. "Though the state's economy is not in good shape due to the coronavirus, the State Government, with a view to stand by farmers, has released the Rythu Bandhu scheme benefits to farmers. Officers with their coordinated efforts have ensured that the benefits reach the farmers. Information is that as on date, 99.9 per cent of the farmers have received the help," KCR said. He said that it must be ensured that each and every eligible farmer gets the benefit.



KCR silences
detractors

Chief minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, by choosing to make an appearance at Pragati Bhavan on Saturday, regardless of the rumours surrounding his 'disappearance' from his official residence in the wake of 20-odd staffers testing positive, has silenced his detractors. Health officials had evacuated Pragati Bhavan and sanitised the premises after the staffers tested positive. Amidst wild guessing on social media platforms, KCR has been functioning largely from his farmhouse at Erravelli for nearly the past two weeks.

Depressed over daughter's
murder, father kills self

Deceased was cuckolded by wife who allegedly was having extra-marital affair

In a tragic turn of events, the father of Aadhya -- the five-year-old girl whose throat was fatally slit in a fit of anger by one of her mother's paramours two weeks ago in Ghatkesar - allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train near the Bhongir Railway Station on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Suraneni Kalyan Rao (37), village secretary in Athmakur Mandal of Yadadri district. Police suspect that he took the extreme step as he was depressed over the death of his daughter. The kid was previously done to death due to sexual jealousy



Aadhya was killed by one of her mother's paramours, Karunakar, on July 2. Anusha had befriended Karunakar three months ago and developed a relation with him.

among two men who had developed illicit relations with Anusha, after she, citing her delicate health, had allowed them to stay with them as 'caregiver' during her husband's absence. The circumstances under

BJP uses electricity
bills, Kejriwal's
strength against
him
5

CBSE students to
get digital
marksheets

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) may declare the results of Class X and Class XII board examinations 2020 by Wednesday, July 15. This time, in order to minimise human contact, the board has decided to upload the marksheets on digital platforms, including UMANG and DigiLocker apps. The CBSE said that it would provide digitally-signed copies of the marksheets so that students can use them for submission during the admission process in colleges and universities.

TS spends Rs 6,000 cr on
Hyd city road infrastructure

The Telangana government is spending Rs 6000 crore towards road infrastructure in the city under the Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP), Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development K T Rama Rao said on Saturday. Rao along with Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone for construction of elevated corridors, an official release said. He said under SRDP, construction of Skyways, flyovers, underpasses will be undertaken in order to ease traffic congestion. Also, to provide better facilities for the public, maintenance of 709 Kms of roadlength in the city was given to the private agencies. On Covid-19 management, the Minister said the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation is doing its best and lauded the service of Sanitation and Entomology wings of the civic body in controlling the spread of the virus.



AP misled Godavari
Board, alleges TS

The Government of Telangana on Saturday alleged that the AP Government has misled the Godavari River Management Board on diversion of 3 tmc ft of water through the proposed Godavari-Pennar interlinking project. In a latest letter addressed to the Godavari River Management Board secretary, the Telangana irrigation engineer-in-chief said that there was no correlation whatsoever between what was said by the AP Government on Godavari-Pennar interlinking, Chintalapudi and Pattiseema projects during a discussion on new projects at the recent board meetings and what was taking place on the ground. The Government of AP is increasing capacity of Polavaram right canal to meet the needs of farmers of Krishna Delta, Nagarjunasagar Right Canal ayacut, Rayalaseema region and Nellore district, he alleged. He noted that the Government of AP made a statement on the floor of the State Legislative Assembly during a discussion held on June 16. "The Government of AP has been misleading the board intentionally to deny Telangana its due share of river water diverted through Polavaram and Pattiseema project," the letter said, demanding the Board to seek details of all projects pertaining to diversion of Godavari water into Krishna river.

More tests, less
positives - 1178
cases reported

Having weathered criticism for 'low testing rate' in Telangana, the state government on Friday, for the first time, conducted more than 10,000 tests in a day -- highest ever in the state. Of the 10,354 samples tested, 1,278 proved positive. With this, the state currently has 32,224 positive cases. There are 12,680 active cases, while 19,205 people have been discharged till date. Only 39 per cent of the cases are active; 60 per cent of the patients have been discharged till date, and 1 per cent succumbed to the virus. On Friday, eight persons succumbed to the virus, taking the death toll to 339. Of the 12,680 active cases, 83 per cent are asymptomatic, 13 per cent have moderate symptoms, and 4 per cent have severe symptoms. In all, 461 persons in the state are exhibiting severe symptoms.

Indian economy
showing signs of
returning to normalcy: RBI
6

Owaisi wants new
head for waqf board

Prominent Muslim leaders of Telangana have demanded criminal action against those responsible for the demolition of two mosques in the old secretariat premises. Reacting to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's statement expressing regret over the incident, the leaders led by AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said expressing regret alone is not enough and those responsible for the demolition should be brought to book. The leaders in a joint statement said a First Information Report (FIR) should be registered against officials, departments and contractors responsible for demolition of the mosques. The leaders targeted State Waqf Board's silence over the demolition of the mosques and for not taking any legal action after the incident. Meanwhile, Waqf Board Chairman Mohammed Saleem welcomed the Chief



Minister's announcement. Saleem's statement came under sharp criticism from various Muslim groups, who held the Waqf Board responsible for demolition. Owaisi called for appointing a competent person as the Waqf Board chairman. "We have nothing against the current Chairperson, but the Board must be led by someone who can actually manage the many responsibilities & duties that come with the office of the Chairperson," the MP tweeted.

India's COVID-19 recoveries cross
5-lakh mark, recovery rate at 62.78 pc

The number of COVID-19 patients who have recovered in the country crossed the five-lakh mark on Saturday, the Union Health ministry said and attributed it to a number of measures taken by the Centre and the state governments, including implementation of containment zones and surveillance activities. India's COVID-19 tally surged to 8,20,916 on Saturday while the death toll climbed to 22,123 with 519 people succumbing to the disease in 24 hours, according to the health ministry's data updated at 8 am. A series of proactive, preemptive and coordinated measures have been taken by the Centre and the state governments for containment and prevention of COVID-19, it said.



MERIT-BASED IMMIGRATION
SYSTEM SOON, SAYS TRUMP

President Donald Trump is working on an executive order to establish a merit-based immigration system in the US, the White House has said. The White House statement came soon after Trump, in an interview with Spanish-language Telemundo News channel, said he is working on an executive order on immigration that will include a "road to citizenship" for recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programme.



Pets starve as animal centres struggle to stay afloat

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only confined most humans to their homes a la animals in zoos, but also adversely hit animal centres, rescuers, boarding kennels and others involved in caring for or rearing pets. Only stray cases of people going to the rescue of strays have been reported during and post lockdown. Says Priyanka Samyukta, para veterinary worker and animal rescuer, "It is getting a bit difficult for animal welfare centres in the city, as there are no takers for the dogs. Most of the people who work for animals are individuals who also have their own work/business.



The Covid-19 pandemic has not only confined most humans to their homes a la animals in zoos, but also adversely hit animal centres, rescuers, boarding kennels and others involved in caring for or rearing pets. They do this as they love animals. Now that people have stopped coming out of their homes, it's quite difficult for these centres to pay the salaries for staff that take care of the pets or even their food. We have been putting money out of our pockets, but that cannot go on for ever." Boarding kennels, for which March to July is the peak time for business, too have been struggling to stay open. Archana Bhairav, who runs a pet boarding kennel in Yapral, shares that she has already incurred Rs 3,00,000 loss.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksam:
Aashadha & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi : Sapthami: 03:47 pm
Nakshatram: Uttara Bhadrpadra:
08:18 am
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start
any important work)
Rahukalam: 05:13 pm - 06:50 pm
Yamagandam: 12:21 pm - 01:58 pm
Varjyam: 09:46 pm - 11:34 pm
Gulika: 03:36 pm - 05:13 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: NIL
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 am - 12:47 pm
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Cloudy
Temp: 30/24
Humidity: 78%
Sunrise: 05:49 am
Sunset: 06:54 pm
Current Weather Conditions
Updated July 11, 2020 5:00 PM

'ALL AND SUNDRY'

The Telangana Secretariat has been razed and all that remains is dust, rubble, some buildings awaiting demolition and nostalgia for many.

In place of the ten blocks that straddled the 25-acre space will rise a structure six storeys high but enormous in length and depth.

The design has drawn unfair comparisons with the Palace of Versailles, France, and a mosque though to some it appears closer to St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican with all its domes and tall pillars.

But, it is way more sober than the garish, gold-plated complex originally planned at the Bison Polo Grounds in 2017. Had the Ministry of Defence handed over the land in Secunderabad, we would have to live with that monstrosity.

New Secretariat must be modern, not an exercise in vanity

The Ministry did not relent and Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu decided to demolish the existing Secretariat.

The speed, the secrecy and the opacity that surrounded demolition of the 4.5 lakh sq.ft office space after the High Court's ruling in the government's favour is breathtaking. The media was not allowed within one km radius and even smartphones of staff and workers were prohibited inside to prevent photography.

The design of new Rs 500 crore Secretariat were instantly made public along with sketchy details stating that it would be an integrated complex. KCR zeroed on this design after vetting several blueprints submitted by Chennai-based architects Oscar and Ponnai Concessa.

Ever since he took over, KCR has been very keen to leave his imprint on the fledgling State not merely in terms of new programmes and mega-projects like Kaleswaram lift irrigation project, Mission Bhagiratha and Mission Kakatiya.

The design has drawn unfair comparisons with the Palace of Versailles, France, and a mosque though to some it appears closer to St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican with all its domes and tall pillars

Indeed, all Chief Ministers pursue efforts to make themselves immortal in history but KCR's ambition is a few notches higher. Never mind if his plans involve a bold step like redesigning the Pranahita-Chevella project, pulling down heritage structures like Osmania General Hospital and Errum Manzil or allowing others like the 132-year-old G block in the Secretariat to

become decrepit. A rough calculation shows that the buildings in the Secretariat have an average life of 30-35 years, keeping aside the G block and the stone structure used by the Electricity Department. Oldest among these is the K block built in 1954 while the newest was receiving finishing touches in 2015. To describe their demolition as a waste of money would be missing the point as Telangana is a rich State which earned Rs 672 crore from liquor alone out of a total Rs 5,962 crore revenue in June 2020. It exposes a medieval mind-



S NAGESH KUMAR
Former Resident Editor,
The Hindu

by the vanquished, built their own structures depicting their culture and architectural style. The Qutb Minar in Delhi was built as a tower of victory by the first Sultan of Delhi Qutbuddin Aibak over Jain temples whose pillars can be seen even today.

The Rs 20,000 crore Central Vista Project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Lutyens' Delhi and AP Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy's 3-capital plan scrapping Amaravati fall into this slot.

Modi's plan is to put his stamp by demolishing buildings housing various Ministries alongside the Rajpath, constructing a new integrated Secretariat, a new Parliament House and residences for the Vice-President and PM by 2025 to coincide with the RSS centenary.

KCR must be extra cautious to see that his pet project is not likened to the Central Vista Project which is being panned

for destruction of national heritage. The project has dismayed urbanists for its lack of transparency and absence of consultations with urban planners.

It would be a tall order to expect openness in the design and construction of the new Secretariat judging by the blanket of secrecy surrounding the demolition.

KCR himself was caught unawares when a temple and a mosque were wrecked, forcing him to apologise.

Here, the broader point is selection of the right design, its compatibility with the surroundings, particularly Hussainsagar, its harmony with Telangana's Kakatiya and Deccani culture and the wisdom of having 6-7 lakh sq.ft of office in one gigantic building just to give its facade an impressive appearance.

The reasons assigned for demolishing the Secretariat such as inadequate parking

space, old electrical wiring, non-compliance with fire safety norms were unconvincing. So did the excuses by the Centre for abandoning the Parliament house that tech upgradation and retrofitting could save. The Writers' Building in Kolkata, and Fort St. George in Chennai are very old structures but continue to serve as the Secretariats of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu respectively. Buildings are not given up due to their age alone.

The nub of the matter is KCR's strong belief in Vaastu shastra. Oscar and Ponnai have said the building was designed to meet his belief in Vaastu. We must hope that his grand Secretariat complex will sync with his successor's beliefs so that he does not venture into building a new one. A public building should be safe, functional, technologically modern and not an exercise in vanity.

AGRI VARSITY FINDINGS

Huge demand for coarse rice

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University research centre recommended increase in the area under coarse variety of paddy cultivation in next Yasangi season due to its high demand in the market. The coarse variety of rice is useful in production of value-added products like idli rava, rice flour and rice flakes whose trade runs into several thousands of crores. Traders at the national-level have been demanding coarse rice, while the fine variety of rice enjoys demand in Telugu states alone.

To achieve 2.10 crore paddy output, the Agriculture Department suggested raising paddy in 40 lakh acres, including cultivation of fine variety of rice in 25 lakh acres. Therefore, the university research centre suggests increasing the area under coarse variety of paddy in rabi since the area of cultivation under this variety has come down during current Yasangi.

Annually, the Centre declares the MSP for paddy for A grade and ordinary variety. The MSP for grade-A variety of paddy (Coarse variety) declared during 2020-21 was Rs 1,888 a quintal, while the support of the fine variety was declared as Rs 1,868. The MSP for coarse variety is higher by Rs 20 a quintal. According to



Traders at the national-level have been demanding coarse rice, while the fine variety of rice enjoys demand in Telugu states alone

a conservative estimate, the loss to farmers who cultivate fine variety of paddy would sustain a loss of at least Rs 100 crore as the area under the fine variety of paddy during Yasangi is put at 25 lakh acres.

Agriculture university scientists say that milling of coarse variety of paddy would yield one kg more compared to milling of the fine variety of the paddy. The fine variety of paddy enjoys higher price in

retail market, but neither the government nor the traders are willing to pay more for this variety of paddy. In fact, coarse variety of rice constitutes 50 per cent of the Rs 50.36 lakh tonnes of ordinary variety of rice exported to other countries last year. The state government has asked the agriculture university scientists to undertake research on the varieties of rice whose grain length is 6.2 mm and more.

Dr Jagadishwar, head of the Research Department of the university, said that the traders are willing to buy coarse varieties like Tella Hamsa, Surekha, Kunaram 118 as the grain length is more than 6.2mm. He said that three varieties of rice are under research and their grain length is 6.97mm. If the seeds of these under research grains are cultivated the demand for paddy grown in Telangana multiplies, he added.

India's COVID-19 recoveries...

Continued from Page 1

Coupled with effective implementation of containment zones, surveillance activities, timely diagnosis and effective clinical management of COVID-19 cases, the cumulative total number of recovered cases among COVID-19 patients has crossed the 5-lakh mark on Saturday, the ministry said.

A total of 5,15,385 COVID-19 patients have recovered so far with 19,870 patients having been cured and discharged in the last 24 hours till 8 am.

There are 2,83,407 active cases and all are under medical supervision, with severe cases being admitted in hospitals and pre-symptomatic patients and those showing moderate symptoms in home isolation, the ministry said.

Pets starve as animal centres struggle to...

Continued from Page 1

"We rent spaces to people for their pets when they go out on vacation, and with the same money help put up rescued pets for free. Right now, due to the pandemic, we have no business. I have a few rescue dogs with me and also a couple of dogs whose parents are stuck abroad. With zero income, I have to put in money from my pocket to maintain the dogs, feed them, and also pay the salaries for my staff, which includes trained caretakers for animals. Such is the situation that I will have to raise money for

the dogs' food." Vasanthi Vadi, founder of PFA, shares, "Soon after the lockdown, we started facing issues since people didn't step out of their homes at all. Looks like the pandemic became all about humans, and people didn't care much about animals. We couldn't organise fundraisers, had no donation." In what seems like a silver lining, Vasanthi, shares, "While there is lesser donation, after few days of lockdown we did see people feeding local stray dogs. In fact, a gentleman also helped us with his vehicle as he wasn't using it during the lockdown."

More tests, less positives - 1178...

Continued from Page 1

Of the 1,278 fresh cases - lowest in July - 762 were from GHMC. However, cases in Rangareddy are increasing with 171 cases being reported on Friday. In all, 85 cases were reported in Medchal, 36 in Sangareddy, and 32 in Nalgonda. In all, 27 of the 33 districts in the state have reported cases.

With the TS government taking up rapid tests, such massive number of tests could be conducted. The state has so far conducted 1,51,109 tests, of which 1,18,885 proved negative. As on Friday, the bed occupancy is 9.5%.

Last batch of Indians stranded in South Africa to return home

■ JOHANNESBURG

The last batch of Indians, who were stranded in South Africa due to the global travel restrictions, will return home on Sunday. More than 50 of the 183 passengers are IT employees from Bengaluru who were stuck in the country after their contracts were ended prematurely due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Fourteen South Africans, who could not return to their workplace in India, will also travel. This is the second private repatriation flight arranged by India Club, an ethnic, socio-cultural

group. The first one was to Hyderabad on June 21. The flight has not been filled to capacity, suggesting that there are no more stranded Indians seeking urgent repatriation.

This is the second private repatriation flight arranged by India Club, an ethnic, socio-cultural



■ This is the second private repatriation flight arranged by India Club, an ethnic, socio-cultural group

repatriation assignment has given us a different opportunity and satisfaction. Despite having normal day jobs, we did not mind the late night work one bit and it is a different feeling when we are of help to someone, especially in such unprecedented times, said John Francis, Vice President of India Club.

As the passengers prepared ahead of the boarding on Sunday, a visibly overcome woman, who asked not to be identified, shared her story of a double misfortune during her first visit to South Africa. This is the most horrific period of my life. As I was preparing for a surgery, I got a call that my father has

passed away.

It was devastating. The fact that I could not meet him one last time will pain me for the rest of my life, she said. Francis said that the test is mandatory for all the passengers as a filter mechanism to assist in identifying the Covid-19 cases. The passengers, who will continue to destinations across India, will be subject to the quarantine rules prescribed by the Government of India and state governments after they reach Bengaluru on Monday. The Indian government has so far operated three Vande Bharat mission flights from South Africa, repatriating over a thousand people.

CBSE students to get digital marksheet...

Continued from Page 1

The board has advised students to access the marksheet by downloading DigiLocker app on their phones. Students can use their registered mobile numbers as password for the accounts that the board has already created for them. This will generate an OTP. Once they enter the OTP, the system would prompt the students to create a security pin. Students have to use the last six digits of their CBSE Roll Number as the security pin.

Upon logging in, students can check and download their CBSE Digital Marksheet from list of documents on the dashboard itself.

Alternatively, students may also register normally using their Aadhaar card number and following the instructions.

AP misled Godavari Board, alleges TS

Continued from Page 1

Till such time, the Board was urged to rein in AP from going ahead with interlinking of Godavari with Pennar river. In another letter sent earlier to the Krishna River Management Board chairman, irrigation principal secretary Rajat Kumar asked the Board to give a transparent and detailed project report on the projects proposed to be carried out by AP. Rajat Kumar's letter made it clear that the irrigation projects in Telangana are not new but conceived before bifurcation of the state.

These include Kalwakurti, Nettempadu and the project conceived to increase capacity of the Srisailem Left Bank canal. "If the KRMB needs DPRs on these projects, the matter would be taken to the notice of the Government of Telangana for suitable action," Rajat Kumar said in his letter

to the KRMB chairman.

The letter asked the KRMB to make suitable changes in its 12th Board Meeting held on June 4. The Government of Telangana urged the Krishna River Management Board to amend its minutes to the extent that the Srisailem Left Bank Canal project capacity has been increased from 30 tmc ft to 40 tmc ft within the purview of the allocations made to Telangana.

"Moreover, this is not a new project just because its tunnel work is underway. Therefore, DPR is not needed for studying by the KRMB. The government of Telangana wants the minutes to be amended thus, Rajat Kumar's letter said. The Nettempadu project is almost ready, but distributory canal work is pending. The extent of the ayacut to be irrigated under the project has been increased in undivided AP, he wrote.

Owaisi wants new head for waqf board

Continued from Page 1

He said the ruling party TRS was free to appoint their own person but due attention should be paid to their ability and skills. "Had a competent person been at the helm this issue wouldn't have arisen. I am sure that it'll not be difficult for the government to find a more capable person to appoint."

The MP suggested the names of retired IPS officer AK. Khan Aor Malik Motasim Khan for the post. He said AIMIM would be submitting a draft amendment empowering Waqf Board with summary eviction powers similar to Hindu Endowment Boards.

Owaisi said after seeking appropriate legal opinion, the Chief Minister must consider superseding Telangana Waqf Board in the interest of protecting Waqf properties.

Merit-based immigration...

Continued from Page 1

The DACA programme provides for work permits and other protections for people brought to the US as children by undocumented parents. It affects an estimated 700,000 young people, many of whom are Indian or South Asian descent.

Trump said his action on the DACA is going to be part of a much bigger bill on immigration.

"It's going to be a very big bill, a very good bill, and a merit-based bill and it will include DACA, and I think people are going to be very happy," said the president.

"One of the aspects of the bill is going to be DACA. We're going to have a road to citizenship," Trump said.

President Trump had tried to cancel the Obama-era programme, but the Supreme Court last month said it could stay in place.

Farmers' thumbs up presages...

Continued from Page 1

"Ministers and MLAs should find out whether the Rythu Bandhu benefits reached the farmers in their constituencies and any one left behind and accordingly take action. Some farmers though they are cultivating the lands, due to ownership rights they may face problem to receive the Rythu Bandhu scheme benefit. District Collectors should identify such farmers and resolve their problems. They should conduct spot inquiry to establish the ownership rights," the Chief Minister said. He asked officials to enquire with the neighbouring farmers and transfer the rights. "Solve problems of everyone. Take help of the local Rythu Samiti and representatives of local bodies. Once the problem is solved there will not be any issue later," the CM made it clear.

KCR cited the example of Laxmapur village in Medchal district that has no land

KCR silences detractors

Continued from Page 1

Some netizens raised questions about his whereabouts in view of the spike in corona positive cases in the state. In fact, two youths were apprehended after they staged a flash protest at the exit gate of Pragati Bhavan carrying placards on which were written in English "Where is KCR? He is our CM... It is our right to know where he is". The Punjagutta police have since filed cases against the youths identified as Youth Congress activists.

records. "Due to the initiative taken by Minister from the district Malla Reddy, the government conducted survey in the entire village. The land ownership is established. This should happen in other places too," he said. "To extend Rythu Bandhu

benefits to farmers, the government will not bother about the expenditure. There is no time lit to extend the Rythu Bandhu help. Don't rest till the last beneficiary farmers get the help. The government's aim is that each and every farmer should get the benefit. No farmer in

the state should complain that he or she did not get the Rythu Bandhu benefit," the CM said. "Submit a report on how many received the Rythu Bandhu benefit? Are there any one who did not get the benefit. Get reports cluster-wise from MEOs. Get reports from Rythu Bandhu Samitis. If anyone did not receive the benefit help them immediately. Register sale and purchase of land details," the CM instructed.

He said that the government has suggested regulatory farming policy only to help farmers get a good price for their produce. All farmers in the state are cultivating this Monsoon season under the policy. When the government said there should not be any cultivation of maize in this season, the farmers followed it. "This is a great change. It is also a great development that farmers went for cultivation following the regulatory farming method cent percent.

Depressed over...

Continued from Page 1

Three years ago the couple migrated to Ismailkhanga, near Ghatkesar, for their daughter's studies.

Aadhya was killed by one of her mother's paramours, Karunakar, on July 2. Anusha had befriended Karunakar three months ago and developed a relation with him. She had made a cuckold of Rao after requesting her husband to allow Karunakar to stay with them as her 'caretaker' in his absence, considering she was prone to dizziness due to her low BP and brain tumour problems.

In due course, while Karunakar and Anusha were having an affair, the former introduced his close friend, Raja Shekhar, to Anusha. Subsequently, both Karunakar and Raja Shekhar began frequenting her house together. After a few days, once when Raja Shekhar went to her house alone, Anusha requested him to stay with her as her

'caretaker' when her husband is at work.

Anusha then learnt that Karunakar had come into contact with a girl named Lalli. Upset over this, Anusha allegedly stopped calling Karunakar and blocked his number. Karunakar then suspected that Anusha and Rajashekhar were having an affair. He decided to kill Rajashekhar.

After the incident, Karunakar attempted to kill himself with the blade by slitting his throat. Upon intimation by neighbours, the police arrived at the spot and shifted Karunakar to Osmania General Hospital for treatment. As Karunakar was not able to speak due to his throat injuries, the police arrested him after he was discharged on Monday. He was taken into custody and brought to the police station for further investigation. On Saturday, police retrieved Kalyan Rao's body from the tracks near the Bhongir Railway station.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

CRIME CORNER

Two arrested for stealing bikes

HYDERABAD: The Kalapathar Police arrested two persons involved in nine cases of bike lifting on Saturday. The police recovered all the stolen vehicles from them. The arrested persons have been identified as 37-year-old Mohd Irfan and 20-year-old Mohd Adil, both residents of Basharthnagar under Kalapathar police station limits. According to the police, the duo moved around in different areas of the city and identified vehicles kept outside the houses and in cellars of apartments. Using a duplicate key, they would open the lock of the vehicle and speed away. Following a case of vehicle theft on July 2 at Mochi colony in Kalapathar police station limits, the police started a hunt to nab the offenders. Using the help of CCTV cameras and technical inputs, the duo were caught by the police on Friday night. Upon interrogation, they confessed to the theft of vehicles in Kalapathar, Shahalibanda, Kamatipura, Mailaredevally, Saifabad, Asifnagar, Mangalhat and Falaknuma police station limits. The duo were produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody.

21-yr-old man electrocuted

HYDERABAD: A 21-year-old man was electrocuted to death at Medchal early on Saturday morning. According to the police, the victim identified as Gaikwad Sunil, 21, was a native of Nanded who was working as a cleaner with a tipper lorry. He was ferrying concrete from a company at Kucharam in Medchal to different construction sites. "In the early hours of Saturday, Sunil, after unloading the concrete, was closing the door of the vehicle when he got electrocuted. He died on the spot. Apparently the body of the vehicle came in contact with an overhead power cable," the police said. A case was booked against the driver of the tipper for negligence and investigation is on.

Newspaper editor held for fake news

HYDERABAD: The Mailaredevally police on Saturday, arrested Venkateshwar Rao, the editor of Aadab Hyderabad, a vernacular daily, on charges of publishing a false report on the health status of CM K Chandrashekar Rao. Venkateshwar Rao, was arrested for the second time by the police. He was earlier arrested by the Jubilee Hills police after a case was registered on the same charges in the Jubilee Hills police station. The police arrested him on Saturday. The case is being investigated.

Constable killed in road mishap

HYDERABAD: A constable working with the Uppal police died on Saturday after he was hit by a speeding car driven by a student on Friday. The deceased official was identified as 42-year-old Ajay Kumar, a resident of Shadnagar working with the Uppal police of Rachakonda, as a constable. Kumar, a former military man, had joined the police force after leaving the army. He is survived by his wife and two children. According to the police, on Friday evening, while Kumar and another constable were attending duty on a blue coits bike, a speeding car being driven rashly, which was proceeding from Uppal towards LB Nagar, rammed into their two wheeler from behind at Uppal. Kumar fell on the road and received critical injuries. He was rushed to a private hospital where he succumbed to his injuries early on Saturday.

Survivors beat Covid-19, but stigma haunts them

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

With weddings leading to funerals amidst Covid-19 pandemic, several youngsters are wary of disclosing if they are infected by Coronavirus. Some of the Covid-19 survivors didn't want to reveal their identities fearing that they cannot find a suitable match for their marriage.

A resident doctor from Hyderabad on condition of anonymity said, "It's all become too scary, especially for parents. I informed my parents about being infected with virus, but they gave me clear instruction not to disclose it to anyone, especially when they are actively searching for potential brides. Moreover, recently several marriages have led to deaths as the infection spread at weddings. Despite speaking about stigma, my parents are just not ready to tell it to anyone."

Stigmatising of Covid-19 patients and their families is affecting future plans. Another female doctor who got engaged earlier in January said, "I informed my would-be husband about being infected with Coronavirus at



A medical worker in PPE takes a nap at hospital after long working hours

hostel. He being a doctor understood my situation. However, since parents might panic, we did not inform about it to our parents. Even though I am cured, we just don't want it to become a talk, as I am the first one in both the households to be infected. We aren't sure if relatives and neighbors would support or end up stigmatising our family."

Several Covid-19 survivors, despite defeating the virus are hiding the details fearing social ostracism. People are more afraid of the social consequences of getting the virus than they were of the poten-

tial health risks. A doctor posted in Gandhi Hospital said, "I didn't inform my parents that I am infected even after I was cured. They are in village and I am not sure how they will react and the surrounding environment will behave with them. I just don't want to scare them, that too when I am not at home to give them affirmations."

Survivors have lots of reasons for wanting to remain anonymous - one of the main reasons being ruckus caused by neighbours and the other is stigma and discrimination among other reasons. A senior professor working

in a government hospital who didn't inform to his neighbours that he was infected with Coronavirus said, "If I disclose the details, there will be a huge scene in my apartment. I wanted to spend these 14 days in peace, not being harassed by security guards and other occupants of the apartment. I completed my home isolation and I am back to work and nobody even knows that I was infected. My wife and kids were given prophylaxis and even they didn't want me to disclose anything. Until a vaccine comes out, I don't intend to disclose."

There is an increased sense of emotional isolation, feeling guilty and anxiety among those stigmatised. According to MOHFW, "Due to stigma and discrimination, people are concealing symptoms, hesitating to take medical care. In some cases, it is worsening pre-existing psychiatric illness like depression. In the situation of distress, the patient and family need support and co-operation."

The guide by MOHFW suggests people to be a well-wisher to those in isolation. It also urges people to celebrate if people in their surroundings recover from Covid-19.

Be strong and boost your immunity: Covid survivor

NAVEEN KUMAR ■ HYDERABAD

The Sub-Inspector of Banjara Hills Police Station K Rami Reddy, who joined the department back after fighting Covid had shifted his family to native place back in May as a precautionary measure to keep them safe.

Speaking to this newspaper, the 37-year-old official said, "Since cases were piling up in the police department, I asked my family members to move out and let me live alone as it was risky for them to be around. I was tested positive for Coronavirus on June 17 and went for a 17 day isolation," said Reddy, adding that he was in a private hospital till June 26 after which he went



for home isolation. "I don't not have any health conditions and didn't show any symptoms before I was tested positive. However, once I got my medical report

back, I went for isolation at Nature Care Hospital. As prescribed, I was taking vitamin C tablets, warm water steam and other necessary procedures during my isolation," said the official.

As a message to the public fearing the infection, the official said, "There is absolutely no need to panic. Be mentally strong and make sure you get a good dose of fruits, dry fruits and protein to keep your immunity high. Maintain social distancing and use face masks to avoid infection," said the official, who joined back for duty at Banjara Hills police station on July 4.



'Ethical values always prevail'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Alumni Association of University of Hyderabad (UoH) organised an online interactive session with a distinguished alumnus of University of Hyderabad, Syed Akbaruddin on July 11. The session was attended by faculty and students.

Taking a walk down the memory lane, Akbaruddin shared his memories of being a part of the university as a student of Political Science. He said, "My passion for learning and understanding International Relations ignited here in HCU. For someone like me who always wanted to study about state issues and my professors made me realise that one doesn't need to feel alienated from their roots when they learn more about international relations.

IT firms hooked on WFH, give up costly office lease

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT employees working from home brought perceptible change in the attitude of the IT units who are cancelling lease agreements for office spaces unlike the earlier.

Earlier, office spaces in Madhapur area were sold like hot cakes. The situation is more or less the same in Kondapur as well.

While those who are in the process to acquire office space are cancelling the lease agreements, those who already have the office space are finding sprawling office space as redundant and vacating them.

There are many IT majors like Microsoft, Google, Amazon and other companies that have set up their units in Hyderabad. In all, 6.5 lakh work force is employed in 1,550 companies. In fact, 90 per cent of the employees are working in major units. Huge demand for office space has been created as existing IT units are expanding their units and new companies are evincing interest to set up shop in Hyderabad.



Sanitation workers sanitise office space

In 2019, Hyderabad ranked number one with IT companies acquiring 12.8 million square feet in the city. This year the demand for office is going to be increased further. In fact, 90 per cent of the IT employees are working from home for over three-and-a-half months ever since the pandemic.

Google, Deloitte and other prominent companies have extended the work from home

facility for their employees from December.

The companies are either reducing the area of office space leased or deciding to look for alternative office space with less plinth area.

In fact, 30 per cent of the revenue of the IT companies is being spent for maintenance of the office space.

Now the expenditure comes down, the IT companies contemplate.



AP pays more to nurses than TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Outsourcing nurses working at Gandhi Hospital staged protest for the second consecutive day on Saturday, demanding regularisation of their jobs as well as a salary hike.

More than 220 nurses boycotted their duties at the hospital on Saturday. A Nurse Dhanalakshmi said, "I am working on outsourcing basis in Gandhi Hospital over the past 14 years. We are striking since Friday. We are paid 15,000 and it is getting difficult to meet the ends. If our families are suffering, how will we serve Covid-19 patients?" Nurses added that they

worked during the times of swine flu, ebola and now in Covid-19 duties and it is bare minimum that government can do for them. Nurses in TS said that Andhra Pradesh government is paying its nurses more than what Telangana is paying to the outsourced staff. Nurses in Andhra are getting around Rs 20,000 and some even get Rs 35,000.

Megha Bellapur, the president of outsourcing nursing staff association at Gandhi hospital said that 80 nurses have been detained by the police on Friday and later released when they went to give representation of their demands to the DME.

Wine shops to be closed for Bonalu fete

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad City Police, on Saturday, issued orders for the closure of wine and toddy shops located under certain police stations of Central and North Zone of the police commissionerate for the Bonalu festival.

According to the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad city, Anjani Kumar, wine and toddy shops under Gopalapuram, Chilkalguda, Lalaguda, Tukaramgata, Mahankali, Market, Marredpally, Karkhana, Begumpet, Tirumulgerry, Ramgopalpet and Gandhinagar Police station limits are to be closed from 6 AM on Sunday to 6 AM on Monday morning, in lieu of the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Jathara, also known as Bonalu festival.

The official said that the order was passed in the interest of public peace and tranquility under Section 20 of the Excise Act.

SFI raises voice against decision to hold exams

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After various protests on Twitter and messages sent to authorities, Student Federation of India (SFI), Telangana State Committee, has written a letter to Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Minister of Human Resource Development, urging the authorities to withdraw recent UGC Guidelines released on July 6.

"With the growing cases of Covid-19 all over the country, the feasibility of conducting examination stands oblivious," stated the letter, adding, "The advisory also contradicts the very federal structure on education, where several states have already stated their concerns and inability to conduct the end-semester examination. This not only ignores the actual ground condition of the pandemic in different

states but also creates uncertainty regarding the probability of conducting examination."

"It provides an undoubted leverage to the students who have infrastructure and facilities to take part in an online mode of assessment. The worst affected section of the society in the pandemic is the marginalised and vulnerable population. This method of evaluation will again discriminate and exclude the students belonging to these sections, who are already prevented from access higher education due to different socio-economic hurdles and barriers."

Concluding the letter, SFI demanded that aforesaid students should be promoted without conducting examination and alternative method of evaluation should be adopted.

SCR strengthens medical team at Central Hospital

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the present pandemic situation of Covid-19, to combat with virus the medical department of South Central Railway with 5 major hospitals and 44 health units spread over the Zone is putting forth continuous efforts to render medical assistance in the hour of need.

Accordingly, Central Hospital at Lallaguda has provided isolation cum Covid wards duly imparting necessary training to the doctors and para medical staff about the protocol procedure for treating the Covid-19 related patients. In addition, all the required medical infrastructure and equipment is being supplied for the safety of medical staff to facilitate necessary treatment to the patients. Further, based on the approval from the state government, Central Hospital at Lallaguda has started treating the Covid-19



patients showing mild and very mild symptoms.

Further, South Central Railway has taken initiative to engage additional medical staff at Central Hospital, Lallaguda to further strengthen the medical team at this hospital. Accordingly, a notification has been issued for hiring 9 specialist doctors, 16 general duty medical officers, 31 nursing

superintendents, 4 lab assistants and 50 attendants to work at Central Hospital on temporary basis.

The last date for submission of applications is July 15 and interviews will be conducted through online mechanism. The eligible candidates should apply online through the web links provided separately for each post.

Cops crack down on sale of illegal oxygen cylinders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The West Zone task force police on Saturday busted a racket of illegal sale of oxygen cylinders and seized 34 cylinders from two gangs. With their arrest, some startling revelations also surfaced as they were found to be selling each oxygen cylinder for a whopping Rs 1 lakh, exploiting the shortage caused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The seized cylinders have been handed over to the Medical and Health Department.

Based on a tip-off, the task force police raided the bases of two gangs selling oxygen cylinders illegally and seized 34 cylinders from their possession. Police found that they were selling oxygen cylinders to several clinics, hospitals and individuals.

"The person was conducting the business without a valid license issued by the

Drug Control Authorities and the Controller of Explosives," said P Radha Kishan Rao, DCP of Commissioner's Task Force, adding that a case was booked against the person at the Golconda police station.

Three days ago, the police caught one person at Gowliguda and seized three oxygen cylinders from him. "Our teams are gathering information about persons who are illegally dealing in the sale of oxygen cylinders," the DCP said.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar reviewed the supply of oxygen to hospitals in the state on Friday. The government constituted joint teams of officers from Drug Control Administration, Task Force of Hyderabad City Police, Director of Public Health and Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives to conduct inspections.

TRSMA approaches CM seeking funds to schools

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Recognised School Managements Association (TRSMA) has approached Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, to help them with financial aid to run the school.



The officials addressed a letter to the Chief Minister, which highlights the financial problems being faced by 9,000 budget schools, across the state. "The crisis of Covid-19 has stricken financial condition of the private schools. Now the man-

agements are unable to pay salaries to their teaching and non-teaching staff," the letter said, adding, "We humbly request your kind self to look deeply into this serious matter and take a favorable decision by allotting funds to private schools to enable them to pay salaries."

Talking about the issue, SN Reddy, General Secretary of TRSMA, shares, "We are struggling financially. Most schools have monthly expenses including building rent, maintenance, bank loan installments, vehicle EMIs,

electricity and water bills, taxes and in addition to these expenses we also have salaries."

He adds, "Over 9,000 schools that come under TRSMA started budget schools, where we charge minimum fees to the students' parents, for classes. Our thought was to impart education even at the time of pandemic, without it being a burden on the middle class. Initially, we were able to manage our expenses with the little saving there were. However, now it's getting difficult. Hence we have approach the Chief Minister seeking funds for our schools."

Excessive stress can unknowingly delay fatherhood

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Male infertility refers to a condition where a man is unable to cause pregnancy in a fertile woman. 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 decrease in the fertility level in men.

There is a staggering lack of awareness about the problem. Women 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 per cent are due to 'male factor' infertility. Both men and women can experience infertility and have equal chances of

facing conception issue due to infertility.

Speaking about the issue Dr Chandana Lakireddi, Fertility Consultant in Hyderabad said "Unfortunately, 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"

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 'Azospermia' 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.

Corona casts shadow on Government offices

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Covid-19 has cast its shadow on government offices. 'Praja Vaani', a public grievances redressal programme has been cancelled in all districts and the people are urged to drop their representation in boxes. The officials are attending to the most urgent of the representations.



municipal office in Sangareddy was closed for 10 days. The employees say they have no alternative except proceeding on leave.

The most-affected offices are the office of the Tahsildar, municipal offices, MPDO offices. In spite of the Covid-19, people continue to visit Tahsildar offices to get their land problems resolved. Tahsildars are asking the people to solve their problems with the help of the VROs. They are asking the VROs to stay put in villages. Revenue officials are hesitating to survey the lands. In case anyone is tested positive in an office, all employees are being subjected to Coronavirus test. Offices are being closed temporarily. They are being opened only after sanitising them, affecting public services. For example, the

A Tahsildar in Karimnagar district said that the people are visiting his office even after advising them not to come to the office unless it is most urgent. Employees are working under severe anxiety and worry. If forced to work, they are applying for leave, the official said. A crucial official in Peddapalli district tested positive for the virus. Since then, the revenue officials are hesitating to meet public. The main door of the Tahsildar office at Peddapalli has been closed. The people visiting the office were asked to drop their representations in special boxes. Most of the revenue and municipal authorities give priority to online redressal of problems.

Govt failed to contain spread of virus: Bhatti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

CLP Leader Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday slammed the state government over spread of Covid-19 in the state, especially in Hyderabad. He alleged that private hospitals are not admitting Corona infected patients and are looting the common man by asking them to deposit lakhs of rupees for treating them. Instead of containing the spread of virus, TRS government is focusing on other issues, he said and added that Telangana state has registered 31,000 Corona cases so far whereas Andhra Pradesh reported 25,000 cases.



number of positive cases are reported. And the people who have Corona symptoms should be tested and isolated immediately. Those who tested positive and have other health issues should be admitted to hospital and the rest with mild symptoms should be treated at home. "Corporate Hospitals have become money grabbing machines. The government should take 50 per cent of beds in all the private hospitals under its purview for at least four months. The allocation of those beds should be provided in a separate new online platform with utmost transparency. There should be an app exclusively dedicated to the real-time updated information about the vacancy of beds in various hospitals, so that people may easily find and visit the hospital," he said. "The expenditure of the patients from the general ward should be borne by the government itself," he said.

"For each 10 lakh population, Andhra Pradesh state is doing 20,498 tests whereas Telangana is conducting 3,430 tests," he claimed. As far as Corona positivity rate is concerned, it is 2.88 per cent in Andhra Pradesh whereas in Telangana, it is 22 per cent. The national average is 7.14 per cent. These numbers show that Telangana government has failed in containing the spread of Corona," he said. In the case of private hospitals, they are looting the common people in the name of Corona treatment, he alleged. We demand the government to identify the areas with greater

Save TS, Komatireddy urges Sonia

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MP from Bhongir Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday urged AICC president Sonia Gandhi to save Telangana from Covid crisis. The MP requested Sonia Gandhi to address a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on behalf of the people of Telangana. The TRS government is maintaining silence in regard to Corona, he alleged.

He was speaking during a video conference of Congress MPs organised by Sonia Gandhi. On the occasion, Komatireddy said that Sonia Gandhi realised the dream of 4 crore people by according statehood. "You (Sonia Gandhi) accorded Telangana state reacting to the sacrifices of students. However, KCR pushed the state into debt trap even though the state was a surplus," he alleged.

KCR has pushed the state into Rs 3 lakh crore debts with his anarchic rule, he said and added that the TRS government is not conducting Corona tests properly resulting in spike in Corona positive cases. He urged her to save Telangana from Corona while addressing a letter to the Prime Minister on behalf of Telangana people.

Covid scare continues to dent RTC revenue

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) is caught in a severe financial crisis. The corporation is unable to pay salaries to the employees on time, defaulting payments to cooperative credit society and not able to clear PF dues of employees.

As per the Payment of Wages Act of 1936, the RTC is supposed to pay wages to employees on first of every month. But the employees complain that they did not receive salaries even till July 9. Hitherto, the RTC used to pay salaries on 6th or 7th of every month, let alone paying wages on the first of every month. Now it was dragged further, the employees said.

The RTC management is forced to spend from Rs 600 crore loan availed from Andhra Bank to make any payments. The RTC salary bill runs up to Rs 120 crore every month. For the last one year, the RTC was not able to pay salaries on the first of every



Also, the recent spike of diesel price has also dealt a lethal blow to TSRTC, which is already in the losses

month. The occupancy ratio in 4,000 odd buses being run in the state now is not more than 40 per cent, curtailing its daily revenue from Rs 4-5 crore to mere Rs 3 crore.

The amount is sufficient to meet payments of diesel expenses and payment of MV Tax. The RTC is yet to credit Rs 635 crore in the employees cooperative credit society. It may be recalled that the High Court at the time of the strike asked the management to credit at least Rs 200 crore in the society accounts. The RTC

availed a loan of Rs 600 crore from Andhra Bank to credit into the society account. The RTC paid salaries of employees in March, April and May from this fund only. The RTC wants to adjust the salaries for June also from this loan amount. If the salaries are adjusted from the amount, it would leave the RTC with only Rs 280 crore. The RTC still has to pay Rs 880 crore towards its share of PF of employees, pay Rs 635 crore to the cooperative society. The RTC has to clear dues of

Rs 71 crore towards hire charges payable to owners of over 3,140 buses hired by the RTC. The RTC has to pay Rs 31 crore in March, Rs 10 crore in May and Rs 30 crore in June. The hire bus owners association president Prabhakar said that they are not able to pay salaries to drivers and cleaners because of the delay in clearing bills.

Also, the recent spike of diesel price has also dealt a lethal blow to TSRTC, which is already in the losses. With the price rise, the corporation has to shell out an additional Rs 172 crore per annum. The corporation consumes about six lakh litres of diesel per day. Normally, it operates 10,000 buses daily. The only solace to TSRTC management is that it is not operating all its 10,000-bus fleet. Bus services have not been resumed in Greater Hyderabad. Even diesel consumption is only three lakh litres per day. So, the corporation is spending Rs 25 lakh more per day towards enhanced fuel prices.

Provide free treatment to poor: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday alleged that the state government failed to contain the spread of Coronavirus in the state. "As compared to other states, the state government is conducting fewer Corona tests. The poor are facing severe troubles with non availability of treatment. The people have lost hopes on treatment in government hospitals. Private hospitals on one hand are collecting huge sums in the name of Corona treatment. But the state government is not bothered about that," he alleged. The TPCC chief demanded the government to provide free treatment to poor and charge nominal fees for middle class people. Uttam also demanded the government to include journalists and police under insurance cover on par with the government staff working as frontline warriors.

DEMOLITION OF TEMPLE, MOSQUES

Congress to up the ante against govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress has decided to organise state-wide protest against the demolition of places of worship in the Secretariat complex. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday.

The meeting, convened by Hyderabad City Congress Committee Minorities Department chairman Sameer Waliullah was attended by senior leaders including TPCC vice president Zafar Jawed, TPCC spokesperson Syed Nizamuddin, TPCC general secretary SK Afzaluddin, Nampally Incharge Feroz Khan and others.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Shabbir Ali informed that the Congress would organise state-wide protest against the demolition of two mosques and a temple in the Secretariat complex. He said that the demolition was totally illegal and aimed at hurting the sentiments of all communities. He said that the Chief Minister was treating the entire Telangana as his personal 'jagir' and he needs to be taught a lesson. He alleged that CM was destroying the heritage of Telangana without giving any



Shabbir said protests would be organised at a massive scale and people of all communities would be involved

respect to the sentiments of other people.

In the first phase of protest, Shabbir Ali announced that the Congress would appeal its cadre and other common people to hoist black flags at their residences. They will also wear black masks and badges. He said this would be organised at a massive scale and people of all communities would be involved in the protest.

He said that the mode of protest in the second phase would be decided after consulting the party High Command. He said since AICC President Sonia Gandhi had a video-conference with the party MPs and other senior leaders today, PCC President Uttam Kumar Reddy and other senior leaders could not be consulted on the issue. He said a meeting would be

held soon to finalise the agitation schedule in the second phase.

Shabbir Ali rejected the apology tendered by the Chief Minister over demolition of places of worship in the Secretariat and described it as fake and deceptive. He said that KCR's claim that he was ignorant about the demolition was a joke and the biggest lie. He also rejected KCR's offer for construction of a new mosque and said that both the mosques 'Masjid-e-Hashmi' and 'Masjid-e-Moatamadi' in the Secretariat complex should be reconstructed immediately. He said there was no question of shifting the mosques to any other places. He said that the Muslim community would never agree to shift any mosque even if the Chief Minister offers to build it 100 times bigger with gold and diamonds.

Memos issued to mortuary staff

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After uproar over relatives of a deceased Coronavirus-infected patient allegedly carried his body in their own autorickshaw for burial, Nizamabad hospital superintendent said a committee appointed to investigate the incident has submitted its interim report.

On Saturday, a picture of Covid-19 victim, wrapped in PPE went viral on social media. According to the interim report of the inquiry committee, three Covid-19 deaths and one casualty was reported at Nizamabad Government General Hospital on Friday. According to preliminary inquiries, two corpses were first sent in ambulances.

But the relatives of the Bhingal resident pressurised the mortuary staff to let them take the body in the autorickshaw they own and performed final rites in graveyard at Nizamabad. The hospital superintendent said that memo has been issued to the mortuary

staff and strict action will be taken against those involved after receiving the full report. He said strict security measures will be taken to prevent such mistakes from happening again. DME Dr Ramesh Reddy ordered for a detail inquiry as to how a Covid positive body was handed over to relatives instead of following standard protocol of Covid dead body disposal. "The superintendent is instructed to file criminal cases on those staff who were involved in handing over the body. All the Hospital superintendents are instructed to strictly follow the guidelines and such incidents should not be repeated in public interest," he said.

Owaisi urges people to undergo Covid test

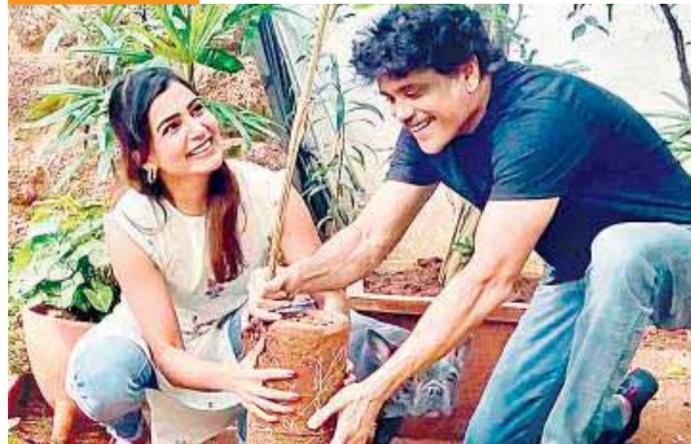
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday urged COVID-19 test to create public awareness in his constituency about the need to undergo the test. He visited the Government Nizamia General Hospital near the historic Charminar to give his samples for testing.



"Got my antigen & RT PCR tests done for COVID-19 today. My antigen test results were negative, Alhamdulillah. There are 30 odd centres in the South of Hyderabad where antigen testing is being conducted. I encourage all of you to not hesitate & get tested," he later tweeted. He also visited King Kothi and Sarojini Devi Eye Hospitals where COVID-19 tests are being done. Owaisi also spoke to Health Minister Eatala Rajender and urged him to increase RT PCR testing in each centre to at least 1000 a day. He appealed to the government to make Charminar Unani a first referral hospital to ensure that COVID-19 patients have better access to healthcare.

GREEN DRIVE



Actress Akkineni Samantha accepted the 'Green India Challenge' and planted a sapling on Saturday. The actress was nominated for the challenge by her father-in-law and actor Akkineni Nagarjuna. The actress congratulated and thanked TRS Rajya Sabha member Santosh Kumar for taking forward the initiative

Why no oximeter in Home Quarantine Kit, asks Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee Treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy demanded the State Government to improve facilities for the Covid-19 patients who are undergoing treatment at their homes under quarantine.



He alleged that over 15,000 Coronavirus patients and thousands of others who have been quarantined under suspicion were not being provided proper healthcare. He said that the Covid-19

Home Quarantine Kit was inadequate as it does not have mandatory Oximeter and other life saving medicines. He asked Oximeter was essential not only for confirmed patients, but also for the suspects to check oxygen saturation levels at regular intervals. In the absence of an Oximeter, it would be difficult for the patients or suspect to know whether or not they need oxygen support. However, he said that the State Government has completely neglected this essential element from the Home Quarantine Kit.

Remand prisoners may be shifted to Sangareddy jail

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Prisons Department of Government of Telangana has proposed to shift remand prisoners to District jail at Sangareddy instead of sending them to Chanchalguda and Charlapalli jail. The move comes in the backdrop of rising number of Corona positive cases in the Hyderabad limits.

A senior official in the Prisons Department, who wished to remain anonymous, said that the proposal would be implemented soon if the state government gives its nod



to it. The officials proposed to use Sangareddy District Jail as the quaran-

she would be sent to judicial remand for 14 days. If they get bail in the meantime, they would be released from the remand.

The proposal suggests government to keep the remand prisoners for 28 days at Sangareddy district jail. If the remand prisoner did not get bail, they would be sent to the respective prisoners depending on the police station where the case has been registered. The proposal suggests to government to send remand prisoners in Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Rachakonda police commissionerates

to Sangareddy district jail. Currently, the proposal is with the State Home Department.

On account of precautions being taken by the Prisons Department, not a single prisoner contracted the virus. The proposal has been formulated to continue the good work further. In Sangareddy district jail, here are 180 inmates, including 13 women. There is facility to lodge 400 prisoners in the jail. It is regarded as one of the best jails in the entire country as far as its construction is concerned.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

NOTIFICATION BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR FORM-F

(SEE RULE 7(C))

District Collector prof. No G/704/2017 Date: 06.07.2020
Gazette No: JSK/BHPL/LA/10/2020 Date: 06.07.2020
RDO File No. J/B/325/2017

Where a Notification was issued vide letter No.G/704/2017, dated: 21.01.2019 and published in the District Gazette No. BHPL/LA/03/19, dtd: 21.01.2019 and published in News papers, New Indian Express English daily, dtd: 25.01.2019 and Namasthe Telangana Telugu daily, dtd: 25.01.2019 and also published in the village on 29.01.2019 for an extent of Ac. 7-35 gts of Kapuram and Ansanpally Villages of Malhar Rao Mandal, Jayashankar Bhupalpally District, for acquisition of the land for the project for the public purpose.

Where a Declaration was issued vide letter No.G/704/2017, dtd: 22.05.2020 and published in the District Gazette No. BHPL/LA/06/2020, dtd: 22.05.2020 and published in News papers, New Indian Express English daily, dtd: 01.06.2020 and Namasthe Telangana Telugu daily, dtd: 01.06.2020 and also published in the village on 28.05.2020 for an extent of Ac. 9-15 gts of Kapuram and Ansanpally Villages of Malhar Rao Mandal, Jayashankar Bhupalpally District, for acquisition of the land for the project for the public purpose.

In response to the said notification, the following affected persons (land owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through negotiation. The details of the willing affected persons for an extent of Ac. 8-07 1/2 gts are as follows.

SCHEDULE

(i) LAND OWNERS:

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Name of Enjoyer	Extent in Acres	Extent in GTS	Address of land owner
1	2	3	4	5	6
Kapuram Village					
1	92	Bhogiri Chandrabh S/o Lasurniah	0.12	12	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
2	92	Dotuka Shankarab S/o. Lasurniah	0.15 1/2	15.5	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
3	92	Gosula Sammaiah, S/o. Lachiah	0.20 1/2	20.5	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
4	92	Chennuri Bapu S/o. Chinniah	0.04 1/2	4.5	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
5	534	Chennuri Bapu S/o. Chinniah	1.03	43	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
6	574	Chinthala Yelluri S/o Mahalaksh	0.28	28	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
7	574	Gattu Satyanarayana S/o. Ramaiah	0.31	31	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
8	574	Chinthala Laxmi W/o. Narayana	0.09	9	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
9	574	Steelam Laxmi W/o. Narayana	0.07	7	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
Total			4.10 1/2	170.5	
(ii) OTHER THAN LAND OWNERS:					
Kapuram Village					
1	92	Bhogiri Ravi S/o. Lingiah	0.23	23	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
2	92	Dandu Bhadrithi, W/o. Ramesh	1.02	42	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
3	92	Bandi Swamy, S/o. Narsiah	0.06	6	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
4	92	Pandula Mogli, S/o. Ankaiah	0.06	6	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
5	92	Banala Devakka, W/o. Ramesh	0.06	6	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
6	92	Gosula Ramulu, S/o. Lasurniah	0.03	3	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
7	92	Gosula Chinnu, S/o. Lasurniah	0.03	3	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
8	92	Gosula Lasurniah, S/o. Lasurniah	0.03 1/2	3.5	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
9	535	Chennuri Bapu S/o. Chinniah	0.02	2	R/o. Kapuram (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
Total			2.20 1/2	100.5	
Ansanpally Village					
1	64	Kancham Sammaiah, S/o. Lachiah	0.00 1/2	0.75	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
2	64	Chiluvu Sammaiah S/o. Maliah	0.15 1/2	15.75	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
3	64	Kannam Sambamurthy S/o. Rajiah	0.06	6	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
4	64	Uttatha Sammaiah S/o. Pedda Yashiah	0.02	2	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
5	66	Kancham Sammaiah, S/o. Lachiah	0.02	2	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
6	66	Pragada Raju Sammaiah S/o. Odidi	0.10	10	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
7	66	Injeti Sampath, S/o. Sammaiah	0.04	4	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
8	66	Injeti Kumar, S/o. Sammaiah	0.04	4	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
9	66	Uttatha Sammaiah, S/o. Pedda Yashiah	0.02	2	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
10	66	Kancham Chandrakala W/o. Late Ravinder	0.10	10	R/o. Ansanpally (V), Malhar Rao Mandal
Total			1.18 1/2	56.5	

It is hereby notified for calling claims and objections 'kr any, to be filed before the District Collector/ Revenue Divisional Officer, within the seven days of publication of this notification.

Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Bhupalpally Joint Collector Jayashankar Bhupalpally District Collector, Jayashankar Bhupalpally

DIPR R.O. No.: 366/LA/PP/ADVT/PUB/2020-21

SHORT READS



Sonia chairs LS MPs' meet ahead of monsoon session

NEW DELHI: Congress interim chief Sonia Gandhi, here on Saturday, chaired a virtual meeting of party's Lok Sabha members to discuss the strategy for the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament, including India-China face-off, lockdown's fallout and economic situation. The meeting was attended by all 52 Congress MPs, including former party chief Rahul Gandhi. The meeting also comes in the wake of government tightening noose around foundations related to the party. The government has set up an inter-ministerial panel to probe into various alleged violations by the Gandhi family's Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust and Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

Tibetan group holds protests against China in Delhi

NEW DELHI: A small group of Tibetans held a protest against China here on Saturday, police said. The protest was held around 11 am, they said. "Three protestors came here to protest. They were detained from near the Chinese embassy at central Delhi when they were trying to move ahead," a senior police officer said. They were taken to Chanakyapuri police station and will be released soon, he said.



55-hour-long lockdown-like restrictions in UP

LUCKNOW: Shops and business establishments, other than those dealing with essential services, remained closed in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday after the government reimposed lockdown-like restrictions across the state to slow the spread of coronavirus. The government on Thursday had announced that restrictions will be reimposed in the state from 10 pm on Friday to 5 am on Monday in the state following the surge in coronavirus cases. However, it permitted the functioning of essential services and the opening of religious places during this period. "The curbs have been imposed in the state to check the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases," Chief Secretary R K Tiwari had said in an order communicated to all district authorities in the state. Roads wore a deserted look on Saturday, as tempos, taxis and government buses did not operate. Only vehicles carrying essential goods were seen plying on the roads. Police personnel were posted at all prominent crossings of the state capital, and they were seen maintaining a close watch on people moving on two-wheelers.

PM praises efforts of Centre, Delhi govt in containing Covid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday appreciated the efforts of the Centre, state and local authorities in containing the COVID-19 situation in Delhi and directed that similar approach be adopted with other state governments in checking the pandemic in the entire NCR area.

He made these remarks at a meeting to review the coronavirus situation in the country, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said.

The prime minister reiterated the need to observe personal hygiene and social discipline in public places. Modi said the awareness about the pandemic should be disseminated widely and a continuous emphasis on preventing the spread of the infection should be laid.

He said there is no room for any complacency in this



He said there is no room for any complacency in this regard, according to the statement. Modi also directed that real-time national level monitoring and guidance should be provided to all affected states and places with high test positivity rate

regard, according to the statement. Modi also directed that real-time national level monitoring and guidance should be provided to all affected states and places with high test positivity rate.

"The prime minister appreciated the concerted efforts of the Centre, state and local authorities in containing the

pandemic situation in Delhi," the statement said. "He further directed that a similar approach should be adopted with other state governments in containing the COVID-19 pandemic in the entire NCR area," it said.

The review meeting was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Health

Minister Harsh Vardhan and the cabinet secretary among others.

During the meet, the "successful example" of surveillance and home-based care through 'Dhanvantri Rath' in Ahmedabad was highlighted and it was directed that it may be emulated in other places, the statement said.

Delhi govt to cancel next semester, final exams of univs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi government has decided to cancel all forthcoming semester and final exams of universities under it due to the COVID-19 situation, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said on Saturday.

Sisodia said these state universities have been asked to promote their students and award them degrees adopting a "progressive method of evaluation".

He said CM Arvind Kejriwal has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting him to replicate Delhi government's decision for all central universities across the country to end uncertainty among students regarding the exams. Sisodia said Delhi government's decision did not concern Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and other central universities in the national capital. The state universities under Delhi government include National Law University, Delhi Technological University, Ambedkar University, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha



University, Netaji Subhas University of Technology and Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women.

The deputy chief minister who is also Delhi's Education minister said studies in the universities were disrupted due to the pandemic, and it was not possible to conduct examinations. Unprecedented times require unprecedented decisions, Sisodia said. "The issue was complex since no studies or any other academic activities took place in the semester. So we have asked universities to cancel exams and promote students to next semester on the basis of past results or some other progressive method of evaluation," he said.

BJP uses electricity bills, Kejriwal's strength against him

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Arvind Kejriwal may have come to power riding on his popular free electricity scheme in Delhi up to 200 units, but it is the electricity bills now that the BJP is using it against him.

BJP's Delhi unit Chief Adesh Gupta has written to Kejriwal seeking time to discuss 'grievances of entrepreneurs, traders, school-hospitals, religious places and fellow citizens, who are troubled by the huge electricity bills due to fixed and other charges'.

The BJP leader has written that he has received complaints from many quarters about fixed charges, average billing on electricity bills that are inflated.

"Delhi's businesses and markets are shut since March. But due to fixed charge and steep commercial rates and taxes, they are getting charged steeply. For those who were forced to stay at home due to the lockdown have also received high electricity bills. Due to higher bills, they are



not being able to avail their subsidies," Gupta has complained in his letter.

Reminding that it is the "duty" of the government to pay heed to the problems of the people, which the BJP Delhi president claimed Kejriwal has ignored. He also cited example of Madhya Pradesh and Haryana -- both BJP ruled states, which have extended benefits to people for their electricity bills during the lockdown.

Rahul, Priyanka have the guts to take on Modi-Shah: Digvijaya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Saturday asserted that the party leadership must take up the challenge of building the party organisation under the "dynamic" leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. He said both have the guts and courage to take on the invincible duo of PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "The Congress leadership must take up the challenge of building the party organisation brick by brick. This is where we need the dynamism of Rahul ji and Priyanka ji. I am sure both of them have the guts and courage to take on Modi-Shah twins," Singh said in a series of tweets. Hailing the aggressive stand taken by Rahul and Priyanka over a range of issues to corner the BJP-led government, Singh said that the former Congress chief had virtually emerged as the main challenger to Modi in 2019. "I personally support the aggressive stand which Rahul ji and Priyanka ji are



taking on issues of national interest in India and UP. If this is not appreciated by some leaders in Congress then why are they in Congress?" he questioned.

Commenting on the recent setting up of an inter-ministerial committee to probe various alleged violations of legal provisions by the Gandhi family's Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust and Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, the Congress leader said, "Modi-Shah are under a misconception that they can browbeat Nehru Gandhi family by threats of

ED/IT/CBI. Their whole family have fought the British fearlessly, spent years in jail and are a brave lot. So don't be under any illusion Modi-Shah ji."

Once again echoing the demand that Rahul Gandhi again become the party president, he said, "No one and no one in Congress party is opposed to him. This perception is more in you people in the media than reality. The people in Congress who want to go soft on PM must have the courage to speak their mind either within the party or if they have guts say publicly."

'High performance programs key to producing champions'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's only individual Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra on Saturday stressed on the importance of high performance programs for producing champions in a "structured and accountable format".

"Champions have to be built through systems and processes," said Bindra during the online launch of High Performance Leadership Program organised by ELMS Sports Foundation and Abhinav Bindra Foundation.

"It requires a detailed and relentless pursuit of greatness. At the end of the day, when every athlete has been trained to the hilt, it is the small things that separate the good from the excellent."

Talking about the High Performance Leadership program, Bindra said it is an "initiative linked at creating advocates and architects of High-Performance Sport in the country, laying the groundwork for a robust Indian sport ecosystem that continuously generates champions by design and not by



chance. "High-Performance sport is simply attention to detail in recruiting, training, and creating champions in a structured and accountable format," the ace shooter said.

Over 50 participants from across the country have been nominated for this course, which will be attended by leaders from the SAI, state governments, national sport federations and private sector enterprises.

"High performance has been a possibility not just because of great athletes and coaches but also due to sports leaders. These leaders not only created an athlete centric approach but also executed plans with perfection," Bindra said.

Don't take voters for granted; even Indira, Atal had lost: Pawar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Taking aim at the BJP, NCP president Sharad Pawar has said that politicians should not take voters for granted as even powerful leaders like Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee had been defeated in elections.

Criticising former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis over his 'Mi punha yein' (I will come back) refrain during the last year's assembly polls, Pawar said voters thought this stance smacked of arrogance and felt that they should be taught a lesson. He also said that there was not an "iota of truth" in reports about differences in the three ruling allies- Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress- that are part of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

The veteran leader said he was



neither the headmaster nor the remote control of the MVA and made it clear that Thackeray and his ministers were running the government.

The former Union minister said this in an interview by Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, who is also the Executive Editor of party mouthpiece 'Saamana'.

The first of the three-part interview series was published in the Marathi daily on Saturday.

This is for the first time that a non-Shiv Sena leader has featured in a marathon interview series in this newspaper. In the past it had published such interviews of late Bal Thackeray and Uddhav Thackeray.

Meghalaya reports highest single-day spike

PNS ■ SHILLONG

Meghalaya on Saturday reported its highest single-day spike of 76 COVID-19 cases, taking the total to 312 in the state. There are 215 active cases in the state at present and of these, 132 are BSF personnel posted at its frontier headquarters here, officials said.

"Seventy-six more individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 in Meghalaya," Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said. So far, 45 people have recovered from the disease, while two have died.

The state has recorded 170 new COVID-19 cases in the last two-three days, an official said. The number is likely to go up further during the day as more reports are expected in the second half, he added.

ED raids Delhi-NCR travel firms, seizes over Rs 3.50-cr cash

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has seized Rs 3.57-crore cash after raiding tours and travel firms and their CAs in Delhi-NCR to probe alleged irregularities in processing of e-visa applications for foreigners wishing to travel to India.

The central probe agency said on Saturday it raided eight locations in Delhi and Ghaziabad on July 9 under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

The raids were carried out at the residences and offices of directors of several tour and travel companies and their chartered accountants and Rs 3.57-crore cash along with incriminating documents and digital records were seized, the agency said in a statement.

The ED had received "specific inputs" that these entities were involved in unauthorised receipt of foreign remittance through payment gateways in the name of providing e-visa services to foreigners, it said.



The agency said the preliminary probe found "two such entities received foreign remit-

tance of more than Rs 200 crore for processing Indian e-visa applications of foreigners without any authorisation from the government."

"These entities were also involved in high value suspicious transactions," it said.

It was also found that "certain chartered accountants played a key role in managing the affairs of these entities and were behind the suspicious transactions carried out by them."

"The seizure of unaccounted cash during the raids has raised further suspicion about the operations of such entities and blatant violation of statutory requirements," the ED said.

A probe is underway and the directors and executives of these firms will be questioned, a senior agency official said.

Security personnel testing Covid-19 positive won't be allowed to enter Sikkim

PNS ■ GANGTOK

With security personnel comprising a substantial chunk of the COVID-19 cases in Sikkim, the state government has decided to allow only those jawans to enter the Himalayan state who test negative for coronavirus, a senior health official said on Saturday.

Rapid antigen tests will be conducted exclusively on security personnel, including those from the Army and the paramilitary forces, at the Rangpo border check-post from Saturday onwards, he said.

The Rangpo check-post along the Sikkim-West Bengal border is one of the major entry points to the Himalayan state.

"Those testing positive for COVID-19 during the rapid antigen tests will not be allowed to enter Sikkim and will be sent back to quarantine centres from where they came," said Director



General-cum-Secretary of the Health Department, Dr Pemba T. Bhutia. The measure comes after more than three dozen security personnel posted in the Himalayan state, bordering China, tested positive for COVID-19.

Earlier, thermal screening was conducted on everyone including security personnel entering the state through the border check-posts. The rapid antigen

tests, that give results faster, will be conducted for free for the first 15 days, he said.

Meanwhile, eight more people have recovered from COVID-19 in the state, the official said. Of the 121 COVID-19 cases in the state, 41 are active and 13 patients (Army personnel) have migrated to neighbouring West Bengal, while the remaining people have been cured of the disease, he added.

Proactive screening helped curb Dharavi's Covid-19 spread: BMC

PNS ■ MUMBAI

With the WHO lauding the efforts taken to contain the spread of the COVID-19 in Mumbai's Dharavi, one of the world's largest slums, the local civic body said proactive screening with the assistance of private doctors and community support helped it in the fight against the disease.

World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, had said during a virtual press conference in Geneva on Friday that there were many examples from around the world that have shown that even if the outbreak is very intense, it can still be brought back under control.

"And some of these examples are Italy, Spain and South



Korea, and even in Dharavi - a densely packed area in the megacity of Mumbai," he had said. The Asia's largest slum, which was once declared a COVID-19 hotspot, has managed to flatten the curve of the viral spread.

Talking to PTI on Saturday, Kiran Dighavkar, Assistant

Commissioner of the G North ward of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the civic body had to change its traditional approach of waiting for patients, contact tracing, isolation and home quarantine to begin proactive screening instead.

"Proactive screening helped

"And some of these examples are Italy, Spain and South Korea, and even in Dharavi - a densely packed area in the megacity of Mumbai," he had said

in early detection, timely treatment and recovery," he said.

At least six to seven lakh people have been screened in Dharavi, while 14,000 persons were tested and 13,000 were placed in institutional quarantine with medical facilities and community kitchen for free," the senior official said.

We have to adjust to new normal: Arjun

PNS ■ MUMBAI

As Arjun Kapoor returned to the sets on Saturday after staying home for four months due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown, the actor urged people to try and adjust to the "new normal". Production on films, television and digital projects were put on hold in mid-March to vhelp curb the spread of the novel virus. On May 31, the Maharashtra government issued guidelines for producers and filmmakers to resume the shooting of films, TV shows and web series in non-containment zones, emphasizing safety and security norms. "Everyone of us will have to adjust to the new normal and slowly resetting our lives. My work life restarted and I shot for the first time in four months. Everything is changed. Accepted," Arjun said.

CAPSULE



Gland Pharma files papers for IPO

NEW DELHI: Hyderabad-based Gland Pharma has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi for an initial public offer that includes fresh issue of shares worth up to Rs 1,250 crore. Apart from the fresh issue, there is an OFS of a little over 3.4 crore shares as part of the IPO. The company, backed by China's Fosun Pharma, has filed a DRHP with Sebi. It develops, manufactures and markets complex injectables. The issue comprises fresh shares worth up to Rs 1,250 crore and OFS of up to 3,48,63,635 shares. The latter includes sale of up to 1,93,68,686 shares by Fosun Pharma Industrial Pte Ltd, 1,00,47,435 shares by Gland Celsus Bio Chemicals Pvt Ltd, 35,73,014 shares by Empower Discretionary Trust and 18,74,500 shares by Nilay Discretionary Trust, as per the DRHP.



Don't allow Chinese firms in Train 18 project: CAIT

NEW DELHI: The Confederation of All India Traders on Saturday urged the Centre not to allow Chinese firm's participation in the global tender for semi-high speed indigenous train project of Indian Railway. The development comes as a part of its 'boycott Chinese' products and services campaign in the light of growing border tensions between the two Asian giants. Consequently, CAIT in a communication sent to Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal urged him not to allow Chinese state owned firm CRRC Corporation to participate in global tender for semi-high speed indigenous — Train 18 — project. "The total worth of the project is more than Rs 1,500 crore for 44 Vande Bharat Express Trains," CAIT said in a statement.



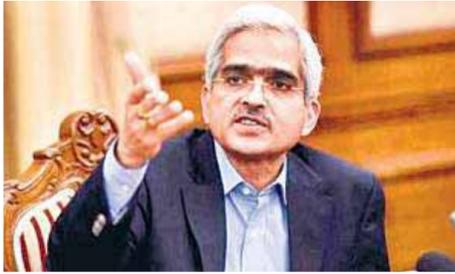
Odisha banks to attract investments in textile sector

BHUBANESWAR: In a bid to attract investments in the textile and apparel manufacturing sector, the Odisha government said it has "world-class infrastructure facilities, strong logistics base and skilled manpower required for such units to flourish. Industries Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra, while addressing the 'Invest India Exclusive Investment Forum for Textiles and Apparel Sector' event, highlighted Odisha's unique competitive advantages in the textiles and apparel sector. "Textile and apparel manufacturing is one of the focus sectors of the Odisha government and several firms have already set up their units in the state," he said.

Indian economy showing signs of returning to normalcy: RBI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian economy has started showing signs of returning to normalcy in response to the staggered easing of lockdown restrictions, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Saturday. He further said the need of the hour is to restore confidence, preserve financial stability, revive growth and recover stronger.



"The Indian economy has started showing signs of getting back to normalcy in response to the staggered easing of restrictions," Das said at the 7th SBI Banking and Economics Conclave. Indian companies and industries respond better in a crisis, he noted.

"Das, however, said it is still uncertain when supply chains will be restored fully, how long it will take for demand conditions to normalise, and what kind of durable effects the pandemic will leave behind on potential growth. According to him, targeted and comprehensive reform measures already announced by the government should help in supporting growth. Possibly in a vastly different post-COVID global environment, reallocation of factors of production within the economy and innovative ways of expanding economic activity could lead to some rebalancing and emergence of new growth drivers, Das added.

The central bank, he said, strives to maintain the balance between preserving financial stability, maintaining banking system soundness and sustaining economic activity.

"Post containment of COVID-19, a very careful trajectory has to be followed in

Legally-backed 'resolution corporation' need of the hour

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday advocated the creation of a 'resolution corporation' with legislative backing for resolution and revival of stressed financial firms. The government in August 2017 had introduced the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill in Parliament which, among other things, proposed setting up of a resolution corporation. However, after a year, the government decided to withdraw the bill as there were concerns raised about the protection of depositors' money if it was passed with the controversial 'bail-in' clause, under which a bank's liabilities could be cancelled/modified to shore up its finances. "Going forward, we need the legislative backing to have some kind of a resolution corporation, which has to deal with resolution and revival of stressed financial firms," Governor Das said at the 7th SBI Banking and Economics Conclave. He said the regulator can issue early warning signals and flag the emerging risks. "The regulator will continue to take necessary measures, continue to engage with the management of the bank or NBFCs to identify the vulnerabilities, but there has to be a legally-backed arrangement," he noted. The governor said setting up a resolution corporation was earlier part of the FRDI Bill which the government withdrew because there were certain issues which needed closer examination. He further said the notification issued under Section 227 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has given additional powers to the RBI to deal with non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs). By using those powers, the RBI had appointed an administrator for Devan Housing Finance (DHFL) and that has been referred to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), he said. DHFL, the third-largest pure-play mortgage player, is the first NBFC/HFC to face the corporate insolvency resolution process.

orderly unwinding of counter-cyclical regulatory measures," he said. The financial sector should return to normal functioning without relying on the regulatory relaxations as the new norm, he added. He said the MPC has reduced policy rates by 250 basis points since February 2019 to support growth.

The conventional and unconventional monetary policy and liquidity measures by RBI have been aimed at restoring market confidence, alleviating liquidity stress, easing financial conditions, unfreezing credit markets and augmenting the flow of financial resources to those in need for productive purposes, he said.

The Indian economy has started showing signs of getting back to normalcy in response to the staggered easing of restrictions. Post containment of COVID-19, a very careful trajectory has to be followed in orderly unwinding of counter-cyclical regulatory measures

— SHAKTIKANTA DAS
RBI Governor

Petrol, diesel futures trading to start soon on exchanges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) may soon allow futures trading in auto fuels petrol and diesel giving an opportunity to bulk consumers of these petroleum products to hedge their risks from a volatile market where there is a sudden spurt in prices.



Sources said that petroleum ministry has approved the plan to allow trading of petroleum products in the derivative market and the commodity exchanges would be able to launch petrol and diesel futures soon after SEBI releases its final regulations in this regard.

Futures are financial contracts which help the buyer to purchase a commodity, or the seller to sell the commodity, at a predetermined future date and at a predetermined price. In the case of petrol and diesel, the derivative product would involve buying a specified quantity of the at a specified price with delivery set at a specified time in the future. In a rising market where prices of fuel is going up, the futures product would protect the participant from losing out as the financial product would hedge the risk and ensure uniform pricing of the commodity.

"It is a good development as

it will allow industrial and bulk consumers of the two petroleum products to hedge their risks. But in current market conditions, in the absence of a big pick up in demand oil prices are either stable or falling, hedging would work against the interest of participant as it would add up to the cost of hedging," said an oil sector analyst asking not to be named.

Currently futures trading is allowed in crude oil giving opportunity to refiners to hedge their risks against frequent price fluctuations. The addition of petrol and diesel will give them another instrument to hedge their refining margins.

Sources said that as current market conditions may not be conducive for a futures market in petroleum products, it

may wait before intruding the new product in the market.

Petrol and diesel futures in any case will not benefit retail customers as the quantum of fuel used by them would be low. SEBI may allow derivative products with a floor of say 100 litre of petrol and diesel. This will be too high a level for retail customers to participate in the futures market.

Futures contract in petrol and diesel are expected to be ideal for refiners, transport companies, petrol pump owners, etc. In India a part from volatility in international markets, petrol and diesel prices are also impacted by frequent changes in government duties, both at central and state levels, on the two products. The futures contract can help against these unforeseen price increased too.

SpiceJet to operate UAE flights from July 12th

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Airline major SpiceJet on Saturday said it will operate flights from across four stations in India to Ras Al-Khaimah (Dubai) between July 12th and 26th for eligible 'Identity and Citizenship (ICA) approved UAE residents'.

Accordingly, the airline will operate flights from Delhi, Mumbai, Kozhikode and Kochi to the UAE.

"These flights will carry only those passengers who are destined for UAE," the airline said in a statement.

"From the Ras Al-Khaimah airport, SpiceJet will also be providing coaches, free of cost, for passengers travelling to Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi."

According to the airline, all passengers will be required to undertake a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test conducted not more than 96 hours

prior to the departure while also carrying the Covid-19 negative test result to be eligible to board the flight.

"Passengers must also have the Al-Hosn UAE App downloaded on their respective mobile phones. It is also mandatory for passengers to submit the health declaration form and quarantine undertaking form before boarding the flight," the statement said.

The airline has helped repatriate over 45,000 people in the last 45 days from UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar by operating 'Special Charter Flights' and by participating actively in the Vande Bharat mission.

"We will operate more repatriation flights in the coming days and we are fortunate to acquire another opportunity to serve and fly back people to the UAE to their families or for work," Shilpa Bhatia, Chief Commercial Officer, SpiceJet, was quoted as saying in the statement.



CREDAI seeks TN's help for speedy approval of projects

PNS ■ COIMBATORE

The Coimbatore chapter of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI) on Saturday requested Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami to look into the association's demands.

In a representation listing the 14-point charter of demands, CREDAI president Surender Vittel sought specified time of clearance of building projects since the current approval process takes a minimum of six months to one year. Presently, the approval process goes through Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP), Corporation, and that takes time, he said.

Such long approval time makes the designs obsolete, so CREDAI has been seeking a specified time of clearance, he said. The spread of COVID-19 has limited the travel of people



in Coimbatore to Chennai and at present every file of 15,000 sq ft of building and above has to go to DCTP-Chennai for approval, he said.

In the current circumstance due to the pandemic, CREDAI, Coimbatore, has requested approvals of upto 2 lakh sq ft in the city's LPA itself which would reduce unnecessary commute and contact/physical interaction, Vittel said.

At present, various no objection certificates (NOCs) have to be obtained along with recommendation from local

Panchayats and the procedure is unclear leading to unethical practices in various departments, he said. An online single-window application and tracking system should allow the status of the application at LPA, DTCP, Corporation or any central or state government department linking all approvals thereby making the system seamless and efficient. "Currently, we face delays at each department making the real estate industry opaque with incremental cost of compliance," Vittel said.

Signature Global to invest Rs 225 cr in housing project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Signature Global will invest Rs 225 crore over the next four years to develop a new affordable housing project in Gurugram, Haryana.

The project, comprising 852 units, will be developed under the Haryana government's affordable housing policy. Signature Global said in a statement that the project cost is estimated at Rs 225 crore. The selling prices of the units range from Rs 14.46 lakh to Rs 25.80 lakh.

"The demand for affordable housing has increased manifold. The realisation of the importance of one's home has dawned on people while staying and working from home, as many of them have faced challenges," Signature Global Group Founder & Chairman Pradeep Aggarwal said.

Marico Foundation selects 3 innovations for affordable ventilator

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Marico Innovation Foundation (MIF) on Saturday said it has selected three innovations to provide affordable ventilator solutions amid COVID-19 crisis for funding.

MIF will help the selected innovators by providing access to business opportunities, men-

torship and guidance on business operations, so that they can reach the right pockets of India.

Concluding its

#Innovate2BeatCOVID challenge, MIF has selected three



innovations in 'Ventilators and Other Respiratory Solutions' and offered Rs 85 lakh grants, it said in a statement.

MIF has already announced the three winners for providing innovative solutions in 'Personal Protective Equipment

(PPE)' category, where it had distributed Rs 1.60 crore in grants.

In March, MIF, A T E Chandra Foundation and Marico Chairman Harsh Mariwala in his personal capacity launched a nationwide hunt for innovative solutions to healthcare challenges during COVID-19 crisis.

They had offered a grant of Rs. 2.5 crore for cost-effective and innovative solutions to combat a short supply of ventilators and personal protective equipment.

The challenge had received over 1,500 interests from across the country during the 20 days - from March 29 to April 18 2020, it said.

LOCUST SWARMS

Centre takes measures to prevent crop losses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has taken various steps to control locust swarms, and carried out operations in over 1.5 lakh hectares area since April 11 to prevent crop losses.

"As per the instructions of Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, continuous action is being taken to control locust swarms," an official statement said on Saturday.

Starting from April 11 till July 9, control operations have been done in 1,51,269 hectares area in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana by Locust Circle Offices (LCOs), it added. The control operations have also been done in 1,32,660 hectares area in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Bihar by state governments.

Elaborating on the actions, the Agriculture Ministry said that in the intervening night of July 9-10, control operations were carried out at 16 places



in 8 districts - Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, and Karauli of Rajasthan, 2 places in Bhuj district of Gujarat and at 1 place each in Auraiya and Etawah districts of Uttar Pradesh by LCOs. Besides this, respective state agriculture department/s also carried out control operations at 1 place in Alwar district in Rajasthan; and at 1 place each in Auraiya and Etawah districts of Uttar Pradesh against small groups and scattered population of locusts. Further, five companies with 15 drones are deployed at Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Nagaur and Phalodi in Rajasthan for effective control of locusts on tall trees and in inaccessible areas through spraying of pesticides.

American Airlines threatens to cancel Boeing Max orders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

American Airlines is warning Boeing that it could cancel some overdue orders for the grounded 737 Max unless the plane maker helps line up new financing for the jets, according to people familiar with the discussions.

American's stand comes as airlines are finding financing increasingly difficult and expensive as the coronavirus pandemic has crippled their operations.

American had 24 Max jets before they were grounded in March 2019. It has orders for 76 more but wants Boeing to help arrange financing for 17 planes for which previous financing has or will soon



American's stand comes as airlines are finding financing increasingly difficult and expensive as the coronavirus pandemic has crippled their operations

steep drop in traffic," but did not comment on the talks with American. The Fort Worth, Texas-based airline declined to comment. News of American's threat to cancel some orders was first reported by The Wall Street Journal. The situation underscores the strain facing airlines during the coronavirus pandemic. It has grown more difficult and expensive for

them to finance planes. American's negotiating stance doesn't reflect a loss of confidence in the plane's safety, the sources said. The Max was Boeing's best-selling plane before crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people and led regulators around the world to ground all Max jets.

The coronavirus pandemic has compounded Boeing's

problems by causing a sharp drop in air travel and a loss of interest in new planes. Nearly 40% of the world's passenger jets are idled, according to aviation data supplier Cirium, as most airlines have more planes than they need until travel recovers.

The 17 planes in dispute were supposed to have been delivered to American at least a year ago. That has given the airline the option of canceling the order without penalty and recovering its down payments now, according to one of the people familiar with the matter. The deliveries have been delayed while Boeing works to fix a flight-control system suspected of playing a role in the crashes.

ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with VISHAKHA FULSUNGE, the country's first woman motovlogger about what got her interested in riding and experiences from her travels

She loved to compete with the boys in her area and do one better. She was in primary school when the neighbourhood boys bought themselves BMX cycles and she had no intentions to be left behind and insisted that her father buy her a cycle as well. She got a girl bike which she rejected on sight. She wanted the one that the boys were riding. When she was in Class VIII they graduated to motorbike and she also wanted one. Since then there has been no stopping this 26-year-old — the country's first motovlogger. Meet Vishakha Fulsunge who has three Indian Book of Records to her name for her feat. The first, India's first woman motovlogger. Second, first woman to ride solo to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The third is on the way.

For those who don't know who or what a motovlogger is, he is a person who shoots a video log while riding a motorcycle. While her parents may have indulged her and told her to follow her passion, it was not very easy for Fulsunge to reach where she is today. She tells you that it is tough to be a rider in this country especially if you are a woman.

There have been a couple of instances where Fulsunge has had to resort to threats to get a room in a hotel. "I ride alone. When I am all geared up people can't tell whether I am a man or a woman. But the minute I take off the helmet, there is no hiding. Sometimes I ride long hours but other times I take short breaks. As a woman rider I can't pitch a tent anywhere. When I went to this hotel and asked for a room, he refused. I understood that he thought that since I was a woman and alone, he could take me for a ride and I would beg. Instead, I threatened him and told him that I was recording whatever he had said. He had not expected that and finally relented and gave the room," Fulsunge recounts.

Another time, she ended up getting the fright on her life while taking a parikrama of the Narmada River. It had got late and she took a wrong turn and it took her on a narrow kuccha narrow lane. Soon she reached a dead end and realised there were three men squatting and staring at her, walked up to her and asked: *Aur chori kahan ja rahe hai*. "That really scared me but I knew if I showed fear they would pounce so I calmly without looking at them turned the bike, it took a bit of back and forth since there was no space and rode out of there like there was a fire on my trail. It was dark and on a bike the headlights give light only in front. In a jungle one doesn't know from where the danger can come," Fulsunge tells you.

Then there is the whole issue of toilets. "It is not easy to leave all the gear on the bike and go to the washroom. It takes ages to take off all the protective gear and wear it again. Also, when I take a break to eat, I have to park the bike where I can see it all the time or pick a snack I can eat on the go," Fulsunge says.

Then there have been some serious accidents that she has met with. An acci-

“WHEN I FIRST STARTED TO GO ON RIDES ALL ALONE, BUYING THE GEAR WAS A CHALLENGE. TO BEGIN WITH, YOU JUST CAN'T GET ONTO ANY BIKE AND BECOME A RIDER. YOUR MACHINE AND YOU HAVE TO GET USED TO LONG HOURS OF BEING ON THE ROAD. FOR THIS, THE BIKE HAS TO BE IN PRISTINE CONDITION AS WELL AS YOU TO BE ABLE TO TAKE LONG HOURS OF RIDING”



dent last year put her in the ICU. Her mother was a pillar of strength. While people told her that maybe her riding days were over, it was her mother who told her that her bike whom she has named Kashish is waiting for her at home. It was only once Fulsunge was home, after three months, that her

mother broke down and cried. Since then, she has a few people who are immediately contacted if her bike falls. There is an app that she has synced to her phone and any jolt sends a message to people listed as emergency contacts.

There are safety measures that she devised. One of them is a ponytail that

she has attached to her helmet which has pink ponies to let people know she is a woman rider and not to touch her. At night, the ponytail is out for the same reason — she doesn't want people to know she is a woman rider.

It is not just about people giving her strange looks because she is a woman

rider. "When I first started to go on rides all alone, buying the gear was a challenge. To begin with, you just can't get onto any bike and become a rider. Your machine and you have to get used to long hours of being on the road. For this the bike has to be in pristine condition and so should you be, to be able to take long hours of riding," Fulsunge says.

She also had to get used to wearing all the protective gear. It took her two years before she could buy proper riding gear. This includes a jacket and we all know the price of a good quality jacket in the country. In a country like India, where it is hot nine out of the 12 months, the jacket that she has to wear has to be special, that which has can withstand extreme heat and extreme cold since she has traveled the length and breadth of the country excluding North-east which is on her wish list and she all set to go there when the lockdown was announced. Her plans have had to be put on hold but not for long, she tells you.

"Back then, it was extremely difficult to get quality products in the market. I would ask my friend or acquaintance who would travel abroad to get me the gear that I needed," she tells you.

More so, because Fulsunge had decided she would pursue her passion under her steam and not borrow money from her parents. For this, even she was still a teenager, she took up jobs that came her way.

"When I was in college, I used to earn money by asking people to fill coupons. I would save up for months on end to buy what I needed. I was also very confident and could chat with people easily. I am also unlike most bike riders. I am petite. People take to me easily. There was an event at a mall in Mumbai where I was working when I saw that the organisers were a bit agitated. I came to know that their host had not turned up. I told them I could do it. It was the best event that the company had had in a long time and I walked away with Rs 4000. Slowly, my earnings increased and bought my gear and then started vlogging. Today, there are many companies that cater to women riders and it has become easy to source the protective gear. It is still expensive though," Fulsunge says.

Then there are knee-high boots with special soles to protect the feet from all the grit that hits when you ride. The length of the boot is to protect the legs from road burns if she falls. Riding pants and gloves are just as important. She tells you that a riding jacket costs ₹25,000 depending on the level of protection, pants ₹18,000, a helmet ₹22,000, gloves ₹5000 and boots another ₹25,000.

Interestingly, before she started her channel, she completed her integrated MBA. "In our country, people give importance to a degree and not skills. I wanted to pursue a degree. But I also knew that I was the kind to be tied to a 9 am to 5 pm job. I love what I do. Yes, there are perils that come with it but the freedom that it gives me, makes me happy," Fulsunge says.

Young and beautiful at heart

She dons several hats and that is what sets her apart from others. ARUSHI NISHANK tells MUSBA HASHMI how she got interested in social work and how she is using her dancing skills to give out a social message

At an age, when most people focus on their career and a yearn for name and fame, this leading lady thought of giving it back to Nature. When children are busy playing around with mud and building sand castles, this young heart realised the importance of preserving and respecting Mother Nature.

Meet a 33-year-old social activist, environmentalist, young-preneur, film producer and dancer, Arushi Nishank. It is not easy for Nishank to don several hats, it took years of effort, hard work and not to mention eternal dedication. Having been born in Kotdwar, Uttarakhand, Nishank always feel

that she has a moral responsibility towards River Ganga, and that is how she came on board as National Ambassador of Sparsh Ganga, a campaign that aimed at restoring and conserving the holy river.

"The Sparsh Ganga Campaign was started by my father, Ramesh Pokhriyal, in 2009. People hailing from Uttarakhand realise that it is their duty to protect and conserve Ganga ji. The whole world looks up to the river as *moksh* giver, they see it with a lot of *aastha* and a whole lot of feelings are attached with the holy river. This is what got us thinking and in 2009 under the guidance of Dalai Lama, several

dharam gurus and Hema Malini ji we started the campaign in Rishikesh. At that time, my father was the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand at that time and the campaign was a Government project. However, there was no surety that the next Chief Minister will have the same feelings for the campaign, so we privatised it. And now, more than 5.5 lakh people from around the world are associated with this campaign," Nishank tells you.

What is even more interesting is that people associated with the campaign do it out of free will and without any pay or funding. "All these people organise a weekly Sunday cleaning drive. This has now become a ritual. This doesn't mean they only clean River Ganga, instead they get together and clean any river that is there in the proximity or for that matter even colonies and drains," Nishank explains.

This is not it. In 2016, she also boosted the Clean Ganga Initiative through her Kathak shows *Ganga Tujhe Salam* in Dubai and UAE. The purpose of these shows was educating the NRI's about the importance of River Ganga and its cleanliness. Even, her compositions and choreography like *Ganga Avataran*, a story of Goddess Ganga coming to earth, and *Sajda*, a classical Kathak dance performance are based on the Sufiyana theme.

"Being from the young generation, I know that the best way to give out a social message is to do it in an entertaining way. I have studied in Toronto, and have had a lot of friends from India and abroad. Whenever we conversed, I realised that it is not like our generation isn't concerned about anything, they do care about our culture and environment. But the fact is they don't want to see it in the

old traditional way. This got me thinking and I started walking on this road. I tried utilising my dancing skills and came up with several compositions that talked about our culture. Also, I am a trained Kathak dancer and if I started doing typical Kathak, no one would have understood it. Therefore, I experimented with it a lot and came up with the compositions," she says.

Her passion for Kathak came from her mother. "My mother was a Kathak dancer. She left all of us at an early age. Seeing her photos where she is all dressed up in classical attire and performing Kathak, I got interested in the dance form and started pursuing it when I was in Class VIII. The thought that some day I would also look that beautiful in the classical attire, excited me a lot. Also by God's grace, my family has that values and virtues that we are automatically inclined towards Indian culture," she tells you.

Nishank is also associated with various social reform programmes aimed at uplifting women all over the world. Off late, she chaired the International Women Empowerment Program (IWEP) in Dubai, and for her contribution to social work and women empowerment, she was featured in Forbes Middle East. She is also globally active to promote *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*, a Government initiative to save Girl Child. She also founded the Himalayan Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital in Dehradun, Uttarakhand in 2006. She took the step to educate the youth

“I ALWAYS HAD THIS THING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND THAT ONE DAY I WILL CREATE A SOCIETY WHERE WOMEN WILL BE CREATING SYNERGY WITH EACH OTHER AND WHERE ONE PLUS ONE WILL BE 11”



about the benefits of Ayurveda and to create employment.

The sense of empathy strike Nishank at an early age, all thanks to her being the eldest daughter of the family. "I have two younger sisters, and everyone knows that the eldest in the family is automatically more responsible towards the family. That was the case with me. As I grew up, I became responsible towards my career and when I achieved that, I realised that I am responsible to bring in good things to our society as well. That is how I started doing all the social work," she tells you.

What made her play an active role in women empowerment, she says, is the reason that a woman's greatest enemy is a woman. "We all have heard the saying once in a while, but somehow we never understood its depth and essence. Gradually, when you grow up and face a lot of politics in your respective fields, you realise how true it is. I faced a lot of difficulties in my life. Sometimes when you are pretty, you are bullied, you are pushed around by other girls and people are judgemental about you because of who your parents are. Having faced all this, since a very young age, I always had this thing in the back of my mind that one day I will create a society where women will be creating synergy with each other and where one plus one will not be two but 11," she says.

She adds that in Uttarakhand women are the bread earners of the family. "These women are the best example of

women empowerment. They are so mentally and physically strong that no one can even dare to touch them. To help these women even more, we with the help of other women from different countries came up with policies at IWEP in Dubai," she tells you.

With the help of NGOs in Uttarakhand, Nishank also helped in generating more employment opportunities for these ladies. "We used Vimal trees bark to make a fabric out of it. The bark was also used by these women to make baskets. This not only created employment opportunities for 800 women of Uttarakhand, but also acted as a substitute for plastic. Then we used the flowers and petals that were drained into Ganga to make scent sticks, this further gave employment to around 200 women. The numbers are small but we plan to grow even more," Nishank tells you.

She recalls a story that she says was the introduction of women power to her: "It was my school days and I was in Rajasthan. One day, I saw a member of the hostel staff who lived nearby, she made her toddler sit on a *charpayi/khat* and placed a tub underneath it. She then bathed her son and utilised the water to wash her clothes and gave the remaining to the animals. She didn't waste a single drop of water. We have been using the ornamental words like reuse and recycle for decades now, but the real essence of these words is known by our women who are doing it since eternity. That was a wake up call for me to understand a woman's brain."

Being a film producer, there were certain Bollywood films on Nishank's cards which are now on hold. "Keeping in mind the current situation, all those projects are now on hold. But we are eyeing the digital space at the moment. We shall come up with something soon," she tells you.



REALISE DEEPLY THAT THE PRESENT MOMENT IS ALL YOU HAVE. MAKE THE NOW YOUR PRIMARY FOCUS OF YOUR LIFE
—ECKHART TOLLE



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



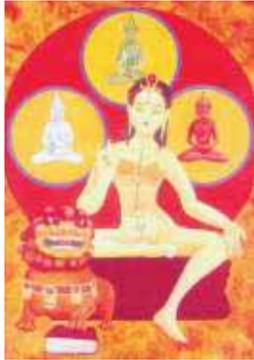
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you are likely to neglect your physical and emotional health. It is high time you change your lifestyle and choose a more healthy way of living. You need some time to rebuild your physical, mental and spiritual energies. Ensure a positive outlook in life to deal with health issues. On the career front, you will experience some negative energies that may cause mental pressure upon you. Be sincere towards your work and no harm will come to you. Financially, this is not a good time for a lot of you. Stay away from gambling as major loss is indicated. In love, a committed relationship may bring a new height of intimacy and joy. Singles, may soon find deep and true love in someone.

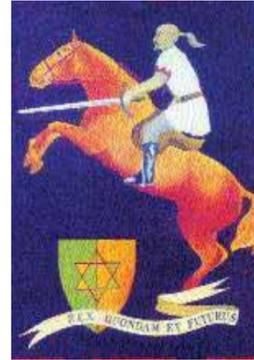
Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Something big awaits you this week. You are full of enthusiasm and are adventurous to face the challenges life chooses to throw at you. Your health is at its best and you will experience high energy and vitality. Positive attitude and jolly nature will enhance your personality. In career, stay focused and keep a positive outlook. Be careful about the rivals at your workplace and do not disclose your strategies and plans to anyone. The week is favourable for spiritual healers and medical practitioners. Utilise this time to enhance your knowledge. Listen to your inner voice to follow the right track. In terms of the relationship, committed couples will enjoy strong bonding this week. Your reputation and goodwill will fetch you rich dividends and this will help you lead a charmed life.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Camel Brown
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Your health is likely to get affected due to stress and anxiety. A disappointing situation will leave you emotionally exhausted. Make sure you take some time out for meditation and proper rest. Be optimistic. On the work front, you are likely to face difficult circumstances due to your thoughts and perspective. Try to look at things with a different viewpoint and you may find many options available to sort out the difficulty. Those looking for employment may get a call for an interview. This week you may feel that your relationship is becoming boring. Therefore, you need to sit and openly discuss your feelings with your partner. Things will change for the better. Singles, analyse what you want from the relationship and then consider to enter into it.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Rose Gold
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Your health will be good this week and you will be confident about your future. Explore new ideas to maintain good health. Stay away from circumstances that will make you lazy. Those suffering from some illness may expect a speedy recovery. It is important to be grateful to those who stood by you in the journey of your progress. Professional life looks good. Those who are employed are like to get the next position in line. Negotiating your value is worth your effort. A partnership proposal from an old friend or colleague is on the cards. Go for it as this will prove lucky for you. On the relationship front, express your feelings with passion. Singles may find love this week. A positive start will give you confidence.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Off-White
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you will possess the inner strength to take up any physical and mental challenge. You should make some efforts to uplift your fitness level by following a workout regime. Follow a diet chart to ensure balanced intake. A legal issue is likely to cause worry and keep you a little tensed. You should work towards avoiding negative vibes, this will help you be a confident person. On the career front, you will not have any pending work. Those who have started a new venture may have a reason to worry, but this will be temporary. It is advised to stay calm this week. Relationship wise, love will bloom and so will you. Happiness and contentment in all relations are indicated. Your dream for a perfect relation may come true.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week your health will be good. Look out for new ways to maintain this — this could be by following a new fitness routine or a diet plan. Follow whatever suits you, as it will increase your vitality. Emotionally, you are content and will spend some good time with your family. On the work front, you will be successful in achieving your goals. Your efforts and hard work will be acknowledged. This week you will shine, but make sure that success doesn't get into your head as this will bring disappointment. Those seeking jobs may find one. In the love life, if things are not going well, then talk to your partner openly. Singles, before starting a relationship you need to be aware of your emotional issues and try to correct it.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Be very careful about your health and at the same time, be observant as there are fine solutions for many health issues. Do not avoid situations where you have to decide on your health, as this can help you recover from your health issues. Maintain balanced behaviour and a positive outlook. On the career front, you will be overburdened and likely to be weighed down by responsibilities and commitments. You need to impose time management techniques to ensure that the work burden doesn't exhaust you. Ensure you take rest. Relationship wise, this week foresees happy family time, both for committed and single people. You and your partner will enjoy a peaceful time as you both are on the same page.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you will be full of energy and vitality and this will further help maintain a perfect harmony with respect to your body, mind and soul. You know what you want from life and will maintain a balance between personal and professional life. You need to take some time out to relax. On the professional front, the week is satisfactory. Those in the field of finance will perform better. Trust your communication skills and listen to your inner voice. This will bring you desired results. You are likely to connect with important people who will play a role in your professional growth. On the relationship front, a fresh start is foreseen. This is a good time for love birds. Couples will experience a truly deep love in the coming days. Love is in the air.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will witness a sound mind and body connection. Consider your thoughts and behaviour while dealing with a health issue. Genetics and environment play an important role in creating such conditions, but negative thinking makes the situation worse. Seek help from a counsellor to deal with this negativity. At work, you need to think before acting on any situation, else it will lead to an unfavourable consequence. If required, re-evaluate your goals and change your priorities. There may be some turbulence in your love life. A relationship might end or have already ended. It will be an unpleasant situation as you will dwell in the memories of the past. You may heal by forgiving and learning from the mistakes.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pastel Blue
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You will work towards correcting the issues for the betterment of your health. If the issues become problematic, then it is advised to make some changes for a healthy lifestyle. Pay attention to your diet, exercise, and relaxation. If required, consult a health professional. On the career front, those looking for a new position will attain it. This week is a crucial time for you. You are likely to gain a new project. Work towards maximising your potential for a longer period. With hard work and persistence, you will leave a positive impact on senior management. Love life is not so rosy. A relationship has either ended or is on the verge of getting over. Don't let this situation dishearten you. You will overcome this situation.

Lucky number 1
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will enjoy good health this week. Therefore, invest your energy into something productive. This is the right time to start a new health regime like a fitness plan, a diet plan or an exercise routine. Those who are facing health challenges, are likely to recover soon with the help of their loved ones and people around them. Being optimistic will help you big time. On the professional front, things look favourable. You will be happy to help others and will make the working experience a pleasant one. The money will be in abundance. In the love life, you are likely to face conflicts. Therefore, try to have open communication with your partner to avoid any misunderstandings. Singles, this is not a good time to get into a relationship.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

For a healthy life, you need to have patience and mental strength. Stay optimistic and spread good vibes around you. Share your motivation and inspiration with others. That might just as well heal them. Those who are dealing with bad habits, this is the right time to correct it. On the career front, uncertainties and confusions will dominate your mind and decisions and make your goals unclear. Colleagues and peers might try to limit your capabilities. Be confident and you will be able to overcome all opposition. In the matters of heart, you and your partner are likely to feel inspired and motivated. Spend time with each other and try to express your feelings. A new beginning is on the cards for singles. Use your creative energy productively.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Unlock the mind to heal

Lockdown is being gradually eased out. People are trying to resume normal activities, but the problems confronting us are not yet over. It will take some time before things settle down. As nature goes through unforeseen twists and turns, we are faced with unprecedented situations. We can't change nature's course. But how we respond is definitely in our hands. If we negotiate with the challenges coming our way with fortitude and intelligence, we may be able to contain the damage. We faced similar pandemic during 1918-1920 in which more than 50 million people lost their lives, which included 2.25 million Indians. This time, however, the recovery rate is higher and death toll so far has been much lesser. It is not that world's destiny has taken a different turn. It needs to be appreciated that it is the result of human endeavour that medical science has grown substantially and we are better equipped today.

In life too, we are often confronted with challenging situations, many of them beyond our control. Many of us become a victim of our own making also because of our flawed perceptions. But here again, what matters the most is how

we respond to the situation. Some amongst us are able to face the situation bravely, intelligently negotiate the challenges and keep marching ahead in strength. But many, particularly the weak, come under great pressure, that is difficult to withstand, often at times calling for medical intervention. The question now is: Why given a similar situation, different people respond varied ways?

The answer lies in the unique character of each being, coming as it may as one's karmic carryover from the past. In one's life time, we would have learnt and unlearned many a things, acquired skill sets, developed habits and attitudes, acquired virtues and attributes, and also have unfulfilled desires left. Their imprints get carried over in the form of thought seeds to our successive incarnate body-mind organism. As and when the thought-seeds get a congenial ground, they come into play involuntarily. That may be to our advantage or detriment, depending on the character and content of the thought-seeds. To sum up, we are all invariably born with a preconditioned mind, which sets the premise of one's thought process — the basic fabric of individual mind-frame — on which our



future life takes off. Accordingly, each mind involuntarily develops its individual specific defining principles that guide all actions on our part — the desires nursed and pursued, the initiatives we take, or how we respond or react to a particular situation. That, of course, is subject to further modification as we go through learning lessons during ongoing life. With such a preconditioned mind, our scope of vision comes under restriction. That doesn't let us look at the issues in hand with an open mind, and so often fail to perceive things in the right perspective due, and evidently to our detriment.

The beauty of human mind, however, is that it can self-reflect upon its own trends and could respond to fresh educative inputs also. That empowers us to watch our thought-trends and make necessary amends through conscious efforts. The paradox, however, is that seldom do we remain conscious about using the above exclusive privilege. Often, our ego also plays spoil sport, as it doesn't let us identify and acknowledge our fault lines. Here comes the role of Astrology, which can dispassionately read your personality trends. For, it reads your individual energy signature with a fair amount of precision. And energy knows no bias.

Here is the case of a person who came seeking guidance on how to come out of acute stress he is undergoing. Look at his astrological pointers. The Sun conjunct Saturn in the *lagna*, a fixed sign, both opposed to Jupiter conjunct mischievous Neptune. That speaks of a hardened negative mindset. Second, he is stuck to his self-defined delusory beliefs and perceptions. Third, has a swaggering ego, who wishes to live exclusively on his own terms. All the more because mind signifying Moon occupies a dual sign Gemini and afflicted by both the sign lord Mercury and *lagna* lord Venus. That clouds his vision and interpersonal relationship skill. If all that would not be enough, fiery Mars conjunct erratic Rahu, lock horns with both Mercury and Venus. He, thus, has a restive and a cynic mind, who habitually finds fault with others for all the wrong happening. I wish, he unlocks his preconditioned mind, and things will definitely turn better.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025
Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273
Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

To not have any hope is where things start to get really bleak. Things are possible. The impossible can be possible
— Sarah Paulson



Hope in the times of pandemic
Leaders have emerged because of their genuine interest in helping people out, their intellect, and by being proactive



Dealing with muscle pain



Automation will become the key driver of “Vocal for Local” narrative for the manufacturing industry in India, writes PRADEEP DAVID, as he explains how Collaborative Robots will be significant in proliferating businesses in the post Covid-19 era

A CASE FOR COBOTS

The world has come to a standstill and the global economy has taken the worst hit in history. Right from the negative pricing of crude oils to the worldwide lockdown, it has brought the global economy to its knees, looking for the road to recovery. With the global cases mounting up to 8 million, the impact of the grave pandemic can be witnessed across geographies. This has resulted in a major shift of leading lives and the whole world is coming to terms with the new normal. As the famous saying goes, ‘Every crisis brings an opportunity’ and this pandemic has provided an opportunity for businesses to be creative and adapt an innovative approach to sustaining the tide. Most of the countries — whether developed or developing — are actively pursuing opportunities to become completely self-reliant to battle the situation and also prepare for any future disruptions.

THE INDIAN SCENARIO

The labour-intensive manufacturing sector has been one of the hardest-hit due to the coronavirus. According to a business publication, the seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), a reflection of the health of the manufacturing economy, fell to 27.4 in April, from 51.8 in March this year.

Like the rest of the world, India, too, is experiencing a major outbreak of the Covid-19 virus and has slowly reached the second phase of the pandemic. According to the World Bank, India was the world’s sixth-largest manufacturer at the end of 2018. However, having a labour-intensive manufacturing sector has resulted in the sharpest deterioration in business conditions in the last 15 years, with the seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) — a reflection of the health of the manufacturing economy — falling from 51.8 in March 2020 to just 27.4 in April.

As the current unlocking phase across the nation takes place, social distancing, stringent hygiene measures, and remote working have all become a part of the new normal. The manufacturing sector, however, is one of the few places where online meetings can only do so much. After all, the majority of the nature of the work is on-site, physical, and time-sensitive, so work-from-home is not always an option.

OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIA

The ground reality is that Covid-19 is not expected to abate anytime soon, so our daily lives must instead incorporate the right measures to prevent the risk of contagion. According to Forrester analytics, we are stepping in the second stage of the pandemic, which steers us to ‘Adapt and Overcome’ the situation. To stay afloat, the industry needs to adjust to the new normal and strategise how to



accelerate recovery from the losses incurred so far, optimising efficiency and encouraging self-dependency.

THE NEW APPROACH: COLLABORATIVE ROBOTS, OR “COBOTS”

While the government’s Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan initiative is a significant step towards restart the operations and encouraging various sectors to stabilise themselves, it is vital that manufacturers recognise the need to join hands with technology and embrace automation. In fact, a study by EY found that 41% of employers across the world are fast-tracking automation plans in an endeavour to make up for lost productivity and also prepare for the post-crisis world. Normalising the allegiance of employees and technology will pave a path that will lead the sector to growth, stabilising Indian business and enabling self-sufficiency.

Rewiring an industry and making it tech-friendly comes with its own challenges. Some of the obstacles faced by the manufacturing industry include an abundance of unskilled labour, a lack of space on the shop floor, and the lack of technical expertise to operate complex new technology. Collaborative robots, or “cobots,” are a niche robot technology that present the perfect solution by addressing all these challenges, offering an easy automation solution for Indian manufacturers.

EMPOWERING MANUFACTURING THROUGH HUMAN ROBOT COLLABORATION

While industrial robots have been around for years, collaborative robots are a much newer technology. Cobots are an advanced robotic arm that — unlike their industrial robot predecessors — were created to share the same workspace as humans, without the need for any cumbersome caging or fencing

(subject to application risk assessment). This is thanks to their advanced safety features, backed up by 65 patents, including a protective stop that is enabled when an obstacle blocks a cobot’s path of motion, ensuring that a person that may come in contact with a cobot is not harmed. By simply changing the end-of-arm-tooling on a cobot, it can be used for a variety of tasks, ranging from the tending of CNC and other machines, dispensing, quality inspection, pick and place, screwdriving, and much more. This makes them versatile to use in a multitude of applications across virtually every industry.

Cobots can handle tasks that require high repeatability, precision, and quality, as well as jobs that pose ergonomic risks. Humans are then free to cater to tasks that require mental efforts and human ingenuity, often leading to the upskilling of labor. In a crucial time like this, it has become a priority for industry leaders to not just utilise their workforce wisely to handle tasks that need human intervention, while cobot can handle work that could cause physical and mental stress to people.

Human Robot Collaboration is one of the key drivers of Industry 4.0 and, in fact, a study on a BMW assembly plant, conducted and published in MIT Technology Review found that there is a whopping 85% reduction in the idle time of workers when they collaborate with robots. Cobots, thus, can empower domestic production and facilitating the Make in India mission. In the Covid-19 era, when manufacturers are facing issues of labor uncertainty and recognising the need to automate but unsure how to start, cobots are one of the quickest solutions on the market, addressing many common barriers to automation faced by Indian manufacturers.

HOW COBOTS BOOST MANUFACTURING

Social Distancing: By allowing humans and cobots to work side-by-side, cobots reduce the need for contact between human workers, ensuring that they maintain safe social distancing standards. This is especially vital in crowded assembly lines and worker-dense factory floors, which will have to take measures to ensure that distance is maintained between individuals but no efficiency is lost. In essence, this enables businesses to optimise productivity while also helping flatten the curve of Covid-19 contagion.

Partial Automation: Complex automation with heavy machinery is expensive, space-consuming, and difficult for most manufacturers to carry out. Cobots, however, enable the automation of specific applications instead of an entire plant, thereby reducing capital expenditure significantly. This partial automation means that manufacturers can start small and identify applications that involve high precision, monotony, or potential ergonomic risk

for humans, and use cobots to handle these instead. For example, at Baxter Lab, one can see that the cobots are placing bottles in boxes, while the man is manually holding the boxes open for the cobot to do so. Both are thus, working together and the process is only partially automated to optimise efficiency.

Quick Deployment and Flexible Redeployment: Their ease of use and setup means that cobots are one of the fastest automation solutions currently in the market. While traditional automation solutions can take months to deploy, a cobot can be set up for a simple application within a single day, even by first-time robot users. Plus, a cobot can be programmed time and again for different tasks, functioning like a lightweight “tool” with many uses. In this uncertain environment, many manufacturers need to repurpose their assembly lines to focus on different products based on the urgency of requirements and changing consumer demands. Cobots are flexible and easy to re-station as needed, enabling high mix/low volume production.

DEMOCRATISED AUTOMATION

As you can see from the USPs highlighted above, collaborative robots are easy and quick to set up, have a low footprint, and enable flexible redeployment. This, combined with the Human Robot Collaboration facilitated by cobot, make it possible for manufacturers of all sizes to deploy this Industry 4.0 technology with ease. Cobots lower the barriers for automation faced by Indian manufacturers, allowing them to use robotic technology without having to make drastic changes to their existing shop floors. As SMEs are the building blocks of the Indian economy, it is vital that they are able to automate to meet global standards of quality to achieve their Make in India dreams.

To sum it up, the Covid-19 virus has caught the world unprepared, taking businesses by storm and showing no sign of abating anytime soon. If anything, the pandemic has shown us all the unpredictability of life and the need to invest in smart decisions to prepare for the possibility of any future disruptions.

With the spotlight on India as the new destination for global manufacturing, industries need to prepare for a prolonged recovery period where it has become of paramount importance to learn how to manage human capital and production capabilities. Cobots allow manufacturers of all sizes to automate areas previously considered too small or too expensive to automate, lowering the barriers to automation through USPs that traditional robots and automation solutions simply cannot provide. They enable manufacturers to increase agility to cater to rapidly changing demands.

The writer General Manager, South Asia, Universal Robots





I OFTEN THINK THAT THE NIGHT IS MORE ALIVE AND MORE RICHLY COLORED THAN THE DAY
— VINCENT VAN GOGH

HOPE IN THE TIMES OF PANDEMIC

We have role models who have led the fight against the pandemic in India. These leaders have emerged because of their genuine interest in helping people out, their intellect, and by being proactive.

STILETTOS



**MINIYA
CHATTERJI**

You step out in Mumbai and humanity is at your feet, almost all revealed. There is much squalour with some glitz. There is chaos and also the calm of the sea. You either move or get pushed down by the crowds. People and constructed spaces in this city flow like opium, filling up your senses. I have found maximum city Mumbai to be as overwhelming as life can get. It is these crowds and deeply socialised nature of the city that eventually played a strong role in augmenting the reproductive ratio of Covid-19 here leading to winning the race in India that no one wants to win — of having the most number of active Covid-19 cases until recently.

Mumbai could have been more prepared. In a note authored by Professor Dhaval Monani and myself, that we submitted to the Prime Minister's Office on April 2, 2020, we had proposed the setting up of temporary hospitals within vacant community halls, marriage halls, office spaces. But it was not until end of April that BMC decided to take over vacant spaces to create temporary hospitals for Covid-19 patients and for quarantining those at risk. BMC's search also included the wrong spaces — *maid-aans*, warehouses — which are not only expensive to convert in to Covid-19 recovery facilities, but also dusty and therefore detrimental to the condition of the patients. For setting up facilities at scale, we needed to keep the per-bed cost as low as possible. Instead, most of the facilities used expensive steel beds and equipment that was not needed.

Never waste a good crisis — I was dismayed to see this as the motto of several government officials to make a quick buck in procurement, of politicians who would be more interested in press coverage rather than getting any work done, and people in the private sector who overnight became dealers of testing kits at huge margins. I also watched (furiously) how CSR was at times used as a garb for profiteering off the crisis. My team's efforts come free of cost. However, for-profit ventures for social good are also excellent as this builds in incentives to do good so that it is sustainable — but when doing so the model needs to be transparent. Mumbai, a city where dreams are realised as fast as they are crushed, was even during a pandemic using its elbows to get ahead in the crowd.

Large private sector companies have not stepped up. While elsewhere in cities like Pune, companies like Wipro set up temporary hospitals within their



MUMBAI COULD HAVE ADOPTED DIFFERENT POLICIES IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS DEPENDING ON THE LOCAL CONDITIONS. THE EPIDEMIC COULD HAVE BEEN CONTAINED IN SOME AREAS WHERE IT WAS RAMPANT, AND CERTAIN UNAFFECTED DISTRICTS COULD HAVE BEEN OPENED UP

office buildings or the Serum Institute of India who is collaborating with universities to create a vaccine, where are the corporate giants of Mumbai? CSR is not enough, but even that has been inadequately spent to help Mumbai cope with the virus.

The city has woken up to randomised testing far too late. This week the BMC has removed the earlier order for the need of prescription to get a Covid-19 test and has introduced a new rule that does not require a prescription. People can now get a test done at any hospital. Right from the start of the spread of the pandemic, there should have been no need to make it so darned difficult to get tested! After the initial hic-

cup, Covid-19 tests were available in abundance. Numerous experts cried hoarse advising the government to make testing easier, but it was to no avail. Panic early, Mumbai.

Communications from the government has been confusing and damaging. At first, there was fear induced amongst people against Covid-19 which led to severe stigmatisation against patients. And then economic interests took over the concern for health, which suddenly made it alright for certain sectors to open up. Ironically, now as numbers of active cases of the Coronavirus soar, it has never been easier during this pandemic to be out and about in the city. There has been extreme short-sightedness on the part of

the government, in at first believing that social distancing would work in a country where 1 of 6 urban dwellers live in slum zones. In most cases — and more so in a health disaster — we can not copy-paste solutions that have worked for other countries on to the unique context in India. Economy and health needs to be balanced, but it should have been balanced very differently than done. Mumbai could have adopted different policies in different districts depending on the local conditions. The epidemic could have been contained in some areas where it was rampant, and certain unaffected districts could have been opened up.

There is hope. We have role models who have led the fight against the pan-

dem in India. These leaders have emerged because of their genuine interest in helping people out, their intellect, and by being proactive.

For example, I was introduced to Amin Patel when we were making our first Covid-19 quarantine centre in Mumbai in early May 2020. Those were the days when my team at my company Sustain Labs and at the Anant Centre for Sustainability a think-teach-do tank that I established two years ago, was manufacturing equipment and moving trucks across India amidst a complete nationwide lockdown. Amin is a three term MLA from the Mumbadevi constituency in Mumbai, but his concern was for all of Mumbai. He set up a 200 oxygen cylinder bank for everyone to use in Mumbai — this is refreshing as often the challenge for democracy is populism, and that too combined with a narrow vision of pleasing the constituency for votes.

When Covid struck, Amin's first reaction was to send ration to the Kamthipura area where overnight sex workers saw their incomes disappear due to social distancing rules in place. He once told me, "Even if one family anywhere in Mumbai needs ration I send a tempo with food." His sleep routine is highly unrecommended — he sleeps at 1 am; is awake from 3.30 am to 6 am answering distress calls that he would have received while asleep and taking action on them; then he goes back to sleep from 6 am until 8 am.

While setting up the Covid-19 recovery facility with the help of Amin, one of the partners in the project had a demand for 10% of project cost as management fee to which Amin's reaction is one that I will never forget. He was appalled at the demand and said, "10% of project cost can make 20 beds and save 20 lives every fortnight! We will refuse to pay that!" It is only too common for government officials and politicians to be in a hurry to get things done just to look good to the higher ups and the voters.

Why is it so difficult to help the government in India? This could well be the title of my next book as there is so much to reflect upon and write about this. In the meantime, all power to those government representatives on the frontline who are genuinely and effectively fighting for the rest of us.

The writer is CEO of Sustain Labs and Adjunct Professor at SciencesPo Paris. She is also a columnist and author of the 2019 bestseller Indian Instincts — essays on freedom and equality in India

Covid tales: The joy of homecoming

From keeping the various documents ready prior to the journey, to all the procedures and possible mishaps that could occur at the airport, travelling feels like a daunting mission nowadays. VANDANA SRIVASTAVA shares her first person account

Atense mood had surrounded our household, as our family braced up for a monumental change in their lives. My husband had just got his transfer order, which would entail us to move back to Delhi from Dubai in one of the repatriation flights, since we were diplomats. Undertaking such a massive transfer process along with the four hour journey in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic got me anxious for quite a few days. However I maintained my calm, and felt stronger by reassuring myself that this time would soon pass.

Finally, when all the boxes were packed and the rooms rendered empty, it was time for us to leave. As I started packing my final bags, I realised that it was time to say goodbye to Dubai, the place where I had spent 5 and a half golden years of my life. We were finally done with our final shopping in the region, and were getting braced up to travel during these trying times. Obviously, our main travel essentials were going to be Sanitisers, PPE, Masks, Face Shields, Disinfectant Sprays, and the like: as opposed to the usual earphones and a good book to read.

As advised by various acquaintances, we wrapped our entire check-in luggage in cellophane wraps. This would allow us to just open and discard them as soon as we reached our destination, allowing the main baggage to not be contaminated, and eliminating the need to disinfect the same. We reached the DXB airport at 10.00 hours (UAE time), and saw quite a meticulous arrangement of people waiting for their health checkup before moving on to the usual airport protocol. A vivid depiction of responsibility and unity was portrayed before our eyes as we saw every single person wear masks, gloves, maintain social distance, and follow all the new rules and regulations during the pandemic throughout the airport.

We passed our Covid health screening at the airport, and moved on to the usual airport procedure. We got our boarding passes, gave our check-in baggage, took care of some over-sized baggage since we were moving on a transfer basis, and moved on through the X-Ray area to the gates, where we would wait until boarding started. Air India also gave us Face Shields, Sanitisers, and extra Face Masks for use during the journey. They were also giving out PPE kits to everyone sitting in the middle seat. However, upon seeing two kids



travelling with me, they decided to give PPE kits to all of us. Even the security at the airport allowed all kinds of sanitisers and sprays to be taken on flights during this pandemic, which was strictly forbidden in the past.

Finally, our flight's announcement was called out and it was time for us to suit up in our PPE kits, Face Shields, Masks, and Gloves. We all resembled astronauts on a field mission in our face masks and shield combo. We boarded a bus and entered our airplane as usual, but were informed soon that there would be no food or drinks served in this flight. Contrasted with the old times, air hostesses were giving out hand sanitisers instead of refreshments. On top of all the security measures taken by the airport and the airline, we also made it a rule of thumb to spray disinfectant everywhere we went and everything we came in contact with.

A small box of food and a water bottle were already kept on everyone's seats, but we chose to keep it on the ground and ignore it. Owing to our fear and alertness, we did not eat or drink anything throughout the journey, and realised later on that it was everybody on the flight who did the same. It was pretty uncomfortable for all of us to wear masks and shields, and to add on to the inconveniences, the flight was already running an hour late. Living such a surreal moment, I was reminded of John Milton's poem, "On His Blindness", where he thought that god was testing him during every single moment of his life.

The 3 hour journey seemed much longer than it actually was, but we soon made it to the Indira Gandhi Airport in New Delhi. However, as opposed to what everyone believed, this was nowhere close to the end. We were told to remain

seated inside the plane until further notice, and to also download the Aarogya Setu app on our smartphones, which was a contact tracing app created by the Government of India in order for citizens to protect themselves from the Coronavirus. The plane was being sanitised from the outside, and soon the air hostess started calling out seat numbers on the PA system, upon which the respective passengers stood up and left the plane.

Upon entering the New Delhi airport, we were informed that a flight from Melbourne had just landed and the airport authorities were conducting their due procedures with passengers of the Melbourne flight first. Once all the passengers from that flight were cleared out, we proceeded to our checkups, and kept all our documents ready. Firstly, our temperatures were taken and our self-declaration health forms were checked, and

stamped. This allowed us to carry on to the next process, which was the standard immigration process, upon which our health forms were checked once again. Notably, they also kept a copy of the same for their own records. We followed the standard airport process since and moved to the conveyor belts, where the luggage was kept by the side of the belts instead of on the belt, owing to the very few amount of flights operating. We looked for our luggage and gathered it, all while maintaining social distancing and using disinfectant spray throughout.

After all standard procedures were over; we met yet another medical official at the airport who checked our Blood Pressure, temperature, and oxygen levels. Then, we went outside of the main airport building to a small makeshift office made by the airport authorities. The purpose of this office was to rule out if we had the Coronavirus or not, and would suggest the necessary means of precaution tailored to each person's health situation. We cleared all formalities, and were declared Covid negative. There was an SDM to check our quarantine documents, and we availed due permission to use our personal vehicle to get to our hotel, which was our designated quarantine center. It was now 21.30 hours (IST); almost 12 hours since we had started our journey from Dubai.

As soon as we reached, the hotel staff disinfected our luggage. We were taken to our room quickly, where we removed our masks, took a bath, and felt like we were in paradise. It was almost after 13 hours now, when we had the second meal of our day. It truly was pure bliss to finally see this journey come to an end successfully, and we were grateful that we made it safe.

To conclude, I would like to preface by saying that travelling anywhere during this pandemic is obviously not an easy thing to do. Ranging from the various documents needed to be kept in order prior to the journey, to all the procedures and possible mishaps that could occur at the airport, travelling feels like a daunting mission nowadays. However, throughout this experience, I would like to mention that the airports were well equipped and very cooperative, and all essential measures were taken to ensure that all passengers travel safely with the least amount of hassle possible.

The writer is a lawyer by profession and philanthropist by heart

All you need to know about perimenopause

Most women know the signs of menopause which happens around the age of 50. But there is another phenomenon called peri-

menopause which many are unaware of and tend to ignore.

Perimenopause - The term means "around menopause", is a time when your hormones undergo changes in preparation of menopause, points out Dr Asha Baxi, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Motherhood Hospital.

Here, the level of estrogen (the

female hormone) falls and women may also begin to have cycles where they do not ovulate (release an egg). Most women begin their perimenopause period at some point after their mid-40s. Many could also skip this stage entirely and directly experience menopause. But there are also cases when perimenopause could hit you as early as in your mid-30s, she adds.

The symptoms of perimenopause can be subtle, they come on gradually and many women fail either to notice it or just tolerate the changes. This phenomenon

is generally ignored by most people. But it is very important that whenever you experience changes in your menstrual cycle that interfere with your day to day life and well-being that you go see a doctor as these symptoms may indicate perimenopause, Dr Baxi says. If experienced at an early age like in your 30s, perimenopause will cause problems in conceiving and can cause infertility.

The expert shares some features of perimenopause:

Periods are irregular: The length of time between periods will start to vary as a woman starts experiencing perimenopause. Ovulation becomes irregular and you may have a space of 60 days or more

between periods.

Hot flashes & night sweating: You may suddenly feel feverish during perimenopause. Hot flashes may also be accompanied by redness of skin and excessive sweating. Your sleep patterns are also likely to be affected.

Fertility decreased: Due to irregular ovulation, you may experience problems in conceiving. The levels of estrogen, progesterone and other essential hormones decrease during perimenopause. The quality of the egg decreases leading to infertility.

Mood swings: Due to change in sleeping patterns and hot flashes, women tend to get irritable and depressed during perimenopause.

Problems related to the Vagina and the bladder: Low levels of estrogen will lead to loss of lubrication and elasticity in the vagina. Due to this intercourse may be painful. Libido also decreases.

Diminishing estrogen levels will

make women more susceptible to urinary and vaginal infections.

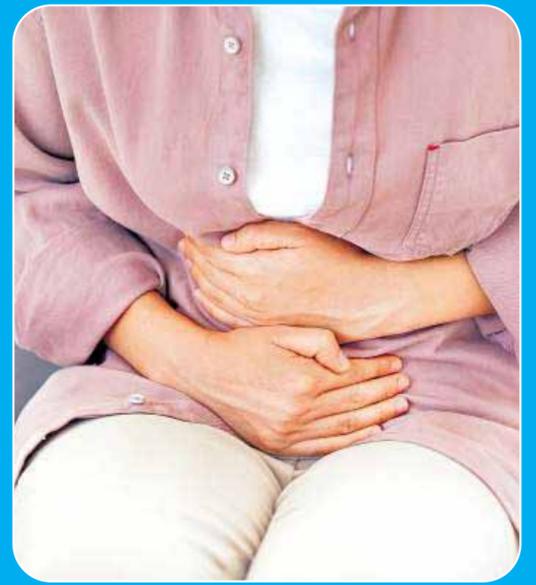
Decrease in Bone Mass:

Estrogen is the hormone that protects the bones in women. During perimenopause, as estrogen levels fall leading to bone loss. This also makes women more vulnerable to osteoporosis. This is a disease where your bones become so brittle that a simple fall or even mild bending/stretching may lead to fractures.

When should you see a doctor?

She replies: Irregular periods are quite common due to multiple reasons and most often than not women tend to generally ignore them. However, it is important to pay attention if this becomes a regular occurrence and schedule an appointment when one experiences the below symptoms:

- Extremely heavy bleeding or if the bleeding has clots
- Spotting between periods
- Bleeding last for more than 7 days
- Spotting after intercourse
- Painful bleeding or painful intercourse



DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

- Doctors take many things into consideration before determining whether a woman has entered perimenopause or not. There are a number of factors like age, menstrual history, the symptoms shown etc. There is no one test or process to determine this, Dr Baxi says.
- She adds perimenopausal complications can be treated with drug therapies like:
- Hormone Therapy:** This is the most effective form of treatment used to relieve the complications. Estrogen doses are given in the form of pills, skin patch, gels or creams to reduce your perimenopausal symptoms.
- Estrogen administered into vagina:** This form of treatment will help reduce the vaginal dryness caused due to decrease in the estrogen levels due to perimenopause. It will provide relief from vaginal and urinary infections.

Art procedures like IVF/ ICSI may be needed for women wanting to become pregnant.

It is very important to consult a gynaecologist to plan the course of medication. It is very easy to ignore mild symptoms like irregular periods or mood swings but remember these may all indicate underlying perimenopause. Detecting perimenopause and offering treatment in time provide a window of opportunity for long term benefits in conditions like protection against cardiovascular disease or osteoporosis. Talk to your doctor about the options available, check for risks and benefits and then make an informed decision.

DEALING WITH MUSCLE PAIN

In times of COVID-19 and the lockdown, most people have been staying indoors and levels of activity have decreased significantly. Work from home has become the new norm and we may see more of it even if the COVID-19 pandemic resolves.

For online classes, students have to sit for long hours in front of laptops or mobiles, often maintaining an incorrect posture on the bed rather than using a table and chair. Sitting at the desk or on the sofa watching TV for a long time weakens and tightens muscles, stiffening the back, shoulders and neck.

Dr Kaushal Malhan, Director Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement surgeon at Fortis Hospital Mulund points out: "A survey conducted at UK's Institute for Employment Studies (IES) found that more than half of those who responded, said they were experiencing new neck, shoulder or back pain. Maintaining a healthy diet and exercise plummeted over a fortnight since, with 60 percent saying they are exercising less, a third eating less healthily and 20 percent saying they were consuming more alcohol. Almost two-thirds (64 percent) of the 500 respondents said they were sleeping less, while 48 percent said their new working life involved increased and irregular hours."

Dr Malhan notes the common causes of muscle pain we see nowadays include:

Muscle cramps: Muscle cramp is a sudden contraction of one or more muscles. This can be intense and sometimes even lead to muscle injury. Sitting for long hours in a particular posture can lead to muscle cramps along the upper back, shoulder blade and calf muscles. These can be treated by gentle stretching exercises, massage, hot fomentation and

good hydration.

Muscle strains: Muscle strains are injuries due to sudden strenuous contraction of the muscles or a vigorous sudden stretching of the muscle leading to damaged muscle fibres. These are often seen due to unaccustomed or incorrectly done exercises. People are adopting new exercises by watching videos without proper supervision and preparation, resulting in muscle injury. These are treated by rest, ice fomentation, splintage and anti-inflammatory medications.

Overuse injuries: Overuse injuries or repetitive stress injuries are due to a small strain being applied very frequently. This happens due to bad posture with excessive repetitive pressure on a particular muscle or indulging in a particular motion frequently thus causing excessive localised muscle strain. An example is that of a tennis elbow when an individual may develop persistent pain along the outer side of the elbow because of some simple repetitive activity such as doing household chores like lifting, repetitive wrist extension, etc. To treat, one needs to rest the part, and couple it with Ultrasonic Therapy with a Physiotherapist and anti-inflammatory medicine.

It is most important to correct what you are doing wrong

and perform the repetitive activities in a manner which will not be strenuous for the muscle. This can be done by correct position of joints e.g. keeping a soft support under the wrist joint so as to reduce the extension at the wrist while typing. Correct posture at the work station with elbows rested and back supported will reduce the risk of neck and shoulder pain.

Muscle pain due to arthritis in adjacent joints: A number of patients with knee arthritis whose mobility levels have decreased are suffering from pain, not just in the knee joint but also the muscles of the thigh and the calf.



MEASURES TO PREVENT MUSCLE PROBLEMS:

- Regular change of posture and breaks from prolonged sitting with walks and movement exercises
- Avoid posture which specifically strains one muscle group
- Body postures should be such that the head and neck lie along the centre of gravity axis
- Postures should be such that none of the muscle groups are under constant tension
- Workstation should be designed so that the computer screen is at a height, backrest supporting the back and elbows supported on the table. Soft silicon support under the palms so as to avoid wrist hyperextension. Scapular retractions can be done while sitting to reduce neck pain
- While doing household chores avoid excessive loads at one go and divide a heavy job into small lighter sections
- Take a break in between activities. Movement breaks are better than standing breaks
- In case of any pain please consult your doctor for treatment.
- Regular gentle stretching exercises focusing on all relevant muscle groups; listen to your body and dial up or down as needed or as much as can be tolerated. Use your doorway for a full body stretch
- Aerobic exercise like walking should be done regularly within the house
- Deep breathing exercises and a positive optimistic outlook to reduce stress
- Endurance exercises involving lightweights and multiple repetitions for muscle groups which are more prone to problems
- Hot fomentation and gentle massage for tight muscles
- Regular hot water bath
- Drinking lots of water and having a healthy well balanced diet
- Avoid sitting in one position continuously for too long

FOR ONLINE CLASSES, STUDENTS HAVE TO SIT FOR LONG HOURS IN FRONT OF LAPTOPS OR MOBILES, OFTEN MAINTAINING AN INCORRECT POSTURE ON THE BED RATHER THAN USING A TABLE AND CHAIR. SITTING AT THE DESK OR ON THE SOFA WATCHING TV FOR A LONG TIME WEAKENS AND TIGHTENS MUSCLES, STIFFENING THE BACK, SHOULDERS AND NECK.

LYRICS IN HIS VEINS

Barely two words when one hears the lyrics of songs like 'Ee Sethitone', 'Nuvvu Chudu Chudakapo', 'Mounamgaaney Edagamani', 'Pedave palikina matallone'... the listener is taken back to the day he or she first heard it and starts humming along. These are some songs that ease your nerves, help you relax, and bring a smile onto your face. The man behind such songs, Kanukuntla Subhash aka Chandrabose, known for the 'Teluguthanam' in his songs, became a hit with his first song itself. His penmanship instantly connects with people across all age groups.

A man behind 3,400 successful songs, a multiple Nandi awardee, Chandrabose is one of the top and most-sought-after lyricists in Telugu cinema. In an exclusive conversation with **THE PIONEER'S** correspondent **K RAMYA SREE**, Chandrabose takes us through his childhood, family, while revealing some interesting facts about him.

My village, my roots...

My entire childhood was spent in Challagariga village in Warangal district. I studied till Class X in that village. There used to be a temple near my home where bhajan programmes were held every Monday. I used to sing there during my childhood. I also used to read a lot of novels in the library near my house. That's how I developed an interest towards music, poetry and writing, although no one from my family was into the seven arts. My village laid the foundation stone for my career, I can say.

Naughty as a child...

I used to be a notorious as a child. I used to seek newness in everything. I was different from other children of my age. I always wanted to do something different from others and think unique. I didn't want to follow the path everyone else treads. Sometimes, my experiments would turn a disaster and I used to get a good thrashing from my parents. Not just music, I used to take part in everything, including sports. My creativity and unique thoughts I have had since childhood, have helped me in my career in the cinema industry. I put all my thoughts in the form of lyrics.

Running a newspaper...

I used to run a handwritten newspaper named 'Vartha Vahini' during my school days. I used to write random news articles about what's happening in the village. My mother, K Madanamma, would go to farm work and my father, K Narsaiah, would go to school. When they returned home, I used to hear their conversations about what is happening around me and I would pen them down as either a news article or a poem, and drop the paper in the library of the village. All the elders in my village would first read my paper before other established ones.

When false news got me into trouble...

One day I was out of fresh news. I didn't know what to do. There used to be a stamp in my house that had a cow and calf on it. When I tried to stamp it on my newspaper to write a poem on them, because of the wrong way I did it, the cow and the calf looked malnourished. Immediately, I got a different news angle and wrote a story headlined "Pasuvula Vaidyashala Vunna Kuda, Bakka Chikkina Avu Dheena gaadha" (The story of a malnourished cow, despite having veterinary hospital in the village). The elders in the village read the article and were enjoying what I had written. The doctor of the veterinary hospital too was present while they were reading the article. The elders tried to tease the doctor with the headline I gave. The doctor felt bad and complained to my father after he returned from school.

My father beat me up and scolded me for writing such an article. I was in Class 6 or 7 then. The next day, I wrote another story, "Due to some unforeseen reasons, I'm shutting down this newspaper. Apologies." My tryst with newspapers ended there.

Writing for films was not considered lucrative...

I come from a lower middle class family. When I

used to do all kinds of naughty stuff, my mom would protect me from my father and she would support me, saying I was too young to know what is correct and what's not. They didn't know much about films. Writing for films was not considered well-paying, according to them. For them, becoming an engineer or a doctor was considered as a proper and cushy job. I initially couldn't tell them that I wanted to write for films. They used to think the heroes used to write the lyrics for their films. They had no idea about the department that writes songs, dialogues etc for any film.

Not meeting parents for a year...

Back then there were no cell phones, and there was no telephone too in my village. The only communication was through let-

Was turned down for various reasons...

During my engineering days when I used to go from pillar to post, looking for opportunities in the film industry. I got turned down for various reasons before I bagged my first job. Some turned me down because I was just an engineering student. Some suggested that I do MA Telugu literature, while a few others turned me down because I don't have a musical background and that I was too young. Finally, my friend Srinath Anna, took me to some directors and with his help I met director Muppalaneni Shiva garu who launched me in the industry. I came to the industry in 1995 and I have completed 25 years here. I have done 840 films and written 3,400 songs so far.

When I cried for two days...

Writing every song is like a yagna. I worked for two years and wrote all songs for *Komaram Puli*. When the first set of cassettes were out, my name was not printed on it. I cried for two to three days and was very upset. But when the second set of cassettes were released, the crew rectified the mistake and my name was printed. This is something I can never forget, because we all look for recognition.

Met my wife on a flight...

My wife, Suchitra Chandrabose, is a choreographer. I met her on a flight. We were working on a film and were returning from Chennai. She happened to sit beside me in the flight and recognised me. She introduced herself and appreciated my work and she said a few lines from my song she worked on. I was very impressed with it. Generally choreographers speak about the beats in the song and not the meaning, especially in depth. I felt she had an artistic heart and really liked her. Our friendship turned into love and we have been married for 21 years now. We are parents to two beautiful kids, a son, Nanda Vanamali, and a daughter, Amrutha Varshini.

Unforgettable memory with a fan in the US...

When I was in the US, one day I was walking towards the conference hall from my hotel room. While I was on my way, many people greeted me, but there was one guy who touched my feet and left. I was shocked and I stopped him and asked why he touched my feet. He said, "You are like a Swami Vivekananda in my life. I was very upset after my visa was rejected twice. I wanted to give up, but I heard your song 'Chamata neeru chindaga...' and took some inspiration from it and applied for the visa again. Fortunately, my visa was approved on the third attempt. If it wasn't for your song, I wouldn't be here enjoying all the luxuries."

Some of his popular songs:

- ◆ Ee Sethitone (Rangasthalam)
- ◆ Nuvvu Chudu Chudakapo (Okato Number Kurradu)
- ◆ Mounamgaaney Edagamani (Na autograph sweet memories)
- ◆ Manchu Kondallona Chandramaa (his first song, from Taj Mahal)
- ◆ Chai chatukuna Tagara Bhai (Mrugaraju)
- ◆ Cheekatito Veluge Cheppenu Nenunnanu (Nenunnanu)
- ◆ Panchadhara Bomma Bomma (Magadheera)
- ◆ Namaste Namaste Neeku Namaste (Samba)
- ◆ Telugu bhaasha theeyadanam (Naaku Nuvvu Neeku Nenu)
- ◆ Ekkado putli ekkado perigi (Student no 1)
- ◆ Jai jai ganesha jai kodatha ganesha in (Jai chiranjeeva)
- ◆ Inthe inthithe inthe inthithe in (Balu)
- ◆ Deshamnte matham kaadoy (Jhummandi naadam)
- ◆ Aakaasham ammayaithe (Gabbar Singh)
- ◆ Sai ante thalli (Shiridi Sai)
- ◆ Sayonara sayonara (1 Nenokkadine)
- ◆ Em antaaru (Gudumba Shankar)



"I gave my final year exams and wrote for the film at the same time. The cinema was a success and I got an engineering degree too. I was in a dilemma over the choice at hand. My friends suggested that I choose films as I got an opportunity there. I have wanted to write for films since childhood. So I set a year's deadline for myself to test my fate in the industry."

"I used to be a notorious as a child. I used to seek newness in everything. I was different from other children of my age. I always wanted to do something different from others and think unique. I didn't want to follow the path everyone else treads. Sometimes, my experiments would turn a disaster and I used to get a good thrashing from my parents."

Engineering vs cinema...

When I was doing my engineering, I used to look for opportunities in films. I was good in studies too. In my fourth year of engineering I got my first opportunity to write for a film *Taj Mahal*. I gave my final year exams and wrote for the film at the same time. The cinema was a success and I got an engineering degree too. I was in a dilemma over the choice at hand. My friends suggested that I choose films as I got an opportunity there. I have wanted to write for films since childhood. So I set a year's deadline for myself to test my fate in the industry. I told myself that if I did not succeed, I would return and appear for AE posts. I soon got an opportunity to write for *Pelli Sandadi*, which too was a huge hit and I started receiving offers on a regular basis. I didn't even realise when the years passed by.



RAPID FIRE:

- Describe yourself in three words: Freshness, loyal and humane
- What do you dislike in others: Someone who cheats
- Favourite holiday destination: Kerala
- Your inspiration: Athreya garu
- Favourite song: Em antaaru from Gudumba Shankar
- Favourite celebrity: Virat Kohli
- How do you deal with stress: Meditation and walking