

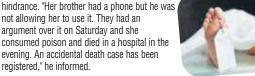
# **CHINA 'BIGGER THREAT TO INDIA' THAN PAKISTAN: PAWAR**

Aid the border tension with China, NCP president Sharad Pawar has saidChina Ais a "bigger threat to India" than Pakistan. China's military might is "ten times greater" than India, the former defence minister said, adding that Beijing has "weaned away" India's neighbours to its side. The Centre should try to put international pressure on Chinathrough negotiations and diplomatic channels, Pawar said in an interview to Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana'. The second of the threepart interview series was published in the Marathi daily on Sunday. "When we think of an enemy, the first name that comes to our mind is that of Pakistan. But we need not worry about Pakistan.

# MAHA: TEEN GIRL ENDS LIFE AFTER FIGHT WITH BROTHER OVER PHONE

19-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide in Nagpur in Maharashtra after A<sup>19-</sup>year-old girl allegeniy committee succes in reagent in transfer of the successful said her brother refused to allow her to use his mobile phone, a police official said on Sunday. A Hudkeshwar police station official said the deceased had been asking her parents to buy her a mobile phone but the

family's poor financial condition was a hindrance. "Her brother had a phone but he was not allowing her to use it. They had an



# DON'T PUT BRAHMIN COMMUNITY IN THE DOCK OVER CRIMES OF ONE PERSON: MAYA

Appearing on the side of the Brahmins in the wake of the gangster Vikas Dubey episode, BSP chief Mayawati on Sunday said the entire community should not be put in the dock over the crimes committed by one person. In a series of tweets, the BSP leader also cautioned the state government against "indulging in politics" over the issue and refrain from doing anything due to which the Brahmins feel "unsafe or terrorised". She said the government should act on the basis of facts to restore people's faith, adding that it should be "honest and impartial" only then the state will "become crime-free"

# **KERALA HUB OF GOLD SMUGGLING, ALLEGES RAMESH**

charpening his attack against the CPI(M)-led LDF government over the Dsensational gold smugglin case, Congress veteran Ramesh Chennithala has alleged Kerala has become a 'hub' of smuggling of the yellow metal and wants the NIA to expand its ambit of probe. With the NIA probing the case, having

arrested key accused, including the alleged kingpin Swapna Suresh, Chennithala said NIA should investigate the possible role of government officials. Referring to the removal of IAS officer M Sivasankar as principal secretary to the CMand IT Secretary after his name emerged in the case, He alleged that the action itself speaks about the link of the old smuggling mafia with the state government.





KCR: Maximise ayacut under water supply





Arvind Kejriwal terms pulse oximeters as 'suraksha kavach'

# TS mulls allowing online betting for horse racing

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana State government is actively considering a proposal to allow online betting during horse races planned to be organised sans spectators and punters by the Hyderabad Race Club at Malakpet, despite the Covid-19

pandemic situation. The club has already lost huge revenues with peak summer racing season suspended due to corona lockdown. Prospects for the monsoon racing season, set to commence by this month end, also look bleak otherwise.

learnt to have requested the Around 8,000 people take state government to allow betpart in betting for horse races ting online as punters and per day at the Malakpet Race fans are currently barred from Course on an average. attending horse races, should In this context, the club is they be resumed as per Unlock

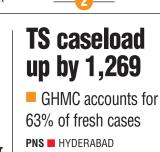
2 guidelines in the race course grounds in Malakpet.

The Karnataka state government recently permitted the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) to conduct online betting for

# Around 8,000 people take part in betting for horse races per day at the Malakpet Race Course on an average.

horse racing. Following this, the Hyderabad Race Club has made a similar request to Telangana state government.

Official sources said, "The state government is seriously examining how betting can be legally conducted online as in other countries and also in (other Indian) states so that we can soon resume horse racing, with punters and fans participating online, to revive the exciting sport and make up for losing crores in rupees due to the ban.



Telangana State reported 1,269 fresh Covid-19 positive cases and eight fatalities on Sunday, the death toll to 350



# In a first, Trump dons mask in visit to a military facility **PNS** WASHINGTON

✓ I think when you are in a hospital, especially in that particular setting when you are the particular setting when you are talking to a lot of soldiers, people that in some cases just got off the operating table, I think it's a great thing to wear a mask

-DONALD TRUMP, President of America

it's a great thing to wear a mask," Trump told reporters at the White House just before lic or ask other Americans to do so, saying it was a personal choice, although he had said he his visit to Walter Reed. would if he was in a crowd and could not maintain distance from others.

"I think when you are in a

hospital, especially in that par-

At the medical facility, Trump walked by media gathered for a carefully staged photo opportunity wearing a mask emblazor avv b with a presidential seal embossed in gold. He said only "thank you" as he passed.

# **Coronavirus enters** Telangana Raj Bhavan

# PNS HYDERABAD

Covid-19 has entered the Telangana Raj Bhavan, with at least 10 staffers, including the Governor's cook, and an equal number of their family



The 10 Raj Bhavan staffer and 10 of their family members who tested positive were

Governor for leading from the

front by not only arranging tests

for the Raj Bhavan staff and

police personnel, but also get-

ting herself voluntarily tested.

The Governor has appealed

to people in red zones or with

the contact history to get them-

selves tested at the earliest to

media drive to elicit concerns of people

Chandrasekhar Rao, conveying

its comments, observations

and suggestions to deal with

At a meeting on Sunday, the

the pandemic.

She tested negative.

Cong'Speak Up Telangana' social





Ficci survey estimates FY21 GDP growth to be in negative territory



# TODAY

#### ALMANAC Month & Paksham:

Ashadha & Krishna Paksha Panchangam Tithi : Ashtami: 06:08 pm Nakshatram: Revati: 11:14 am Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work) **Rahukalam:** 07:30 am – 09:07 am **Yamagandam:** 10:44 am – 12:21 pm Varivam: NIL Gulika: 01:59 pm - 03:36 pm Good Time: (to start any important work) Amritakalam: 08:32 am - 10:20 am **Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:55 am - 12:47 pm

### **HYDERABAD** WEATHER

Forecast: Cloudy Temp: 30/24 Humidity: 72% Sunrise: 05.49 am Sunset: 06.54 pm Current Weather Conditions Jpdated July 12, 2020 5:00 PM bers testing cornona positive on Sunday

Governor However, Tamilisai Soundararajan and husband Dr her P Soundararajan tested nagative. The coronavirus has already entered the Secretariat, Chief Minister's Office and the Chief Minister's official residence and

workplace Pragathi Bhavan. Covid-19 cases surfaced at the Raj Bhavan following rapid antigen tests on Saturday and Sunday. The tests were done since 28 special police battalion personel tested positive in RT-PCR test, following contact tracing with the help of Director

**Devotee puts 20** 

gold biscuits in

PNS 📕 TIRUPATI

said on Sunday.

Tirumala 'hundi'

An unidentified devotee has

offered 20 gold biscuits to the

shrine of Lord Venkateswara

at Tirumala Hills, near here,

a top official of the temple

The gold biscuits totally

weighing 2 kg were found in the

'hundi' (offering box) on

Saturday when the day's collec-

tion was being counted, execu-

tive officer of Tirumala Tirupati

Devasthanams (TTD) Anil

Kumar Singhal said. The TTD

governs the ancient hill temple.

amounted to Rs 16.7 crore

during the last one month

after the shrine was re-

opened on June 11 following

the coronavirus lockdown,

Singhal said.

The total cash offerings

of Public Health. In all, 395 Observers have praised the

admitted to Government Ayurveda Hospital in S.R.Nagar for further treatment.

tests were conducted, of which 347 proved negative.

All the 28 police personnel who tested positive were isolated immediately.

K VENKATESHWARLU

The Telangana Pradesh

Congress Committee's Covid-

19 Task Force has decided to

launch 'Speak Up Telangana',

an online drive on social media

platforms, on July 18 to elicit

the concerns of people with

Besides, a decision was

taken to write an 'open letter'

to TS Chief Minister K

regard to the pandemic.

HYDERABAD

The 10 Raj Bhavan staffer and 10 of their family members who tested positive were admitted to Government Ayurveda Hospital in S.R.Nagar for further treatment.

contain further spread.

and the cumulative number of positive cases to 34,671.

Out of the new positive cases, 800 were reported from areas under GHMC. In all, 132 persons tested positive from Rangareddy and another 94 from Medchal district.

On Sunday, the health authorities tested 8,153 samples, of which 6,884 proved negative. A total of 1,563 persons were discharged upon recovery on Sunday, taking the overall number of discharges to 22, 482. The number of active cases now stands at 11,883.

Task Force discussed health

Trump had previously refused to wear a mask in pub-

President Donald Trump, who has avoided wearing a mask in

public even as the coronavirus

pandemic spread, donned one

where he was to meet with

wounded soldiers and front-

The visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical

Center marked Trump's first

public appearance with a face

covering since the virus began

line health-care workers.

States earlier this year.

on Saturday at a military medical facility outside Washington

sweeping across the United ar setting v n voi talking to a lot of soldiers, people that in some cases just got off the operating table, I think

# Ashok Gehlot govt crisis deepens

#### PNS NEW DELHI

The Ashok Gehlot-led government in Rajasthan seems to be teetering on the brink of collapse as Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, on Sunday, claimed that 30 MLAs are supporting him, adding that the Congress government in the state is in minority now.

Pilot, who is also the chief of state's Congress unit, has also decided to skip Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting scheduled to be held on Monday at Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's residence.

Sunday. The MP accused the The Congress has 107 MLAs of indulging in land-grabbing as 'mafia'. He sought MLAs in the 200-member state assembly. It also has the support of independent MLAs and legislators of other parties like Rashtriya Lok Dal, CPI (M) and Bhartiya Tribal Party (BTP). The BJP

chased the convoy of the MP, pelting stones and eggs in the process. The MP could leave RSLP. the place unhurt.

bing by them in Warangal.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay meets MP Aravind and enquired about the incident

BJP MP attacked for his

remarks on TRS MLAs

The war of words between

an inquiry into alleged cases of land-grabbing by the MLAs. Apparently angered over the allegations, TRS activists came in large numbers and

has 72 legislators and is supported by three MLAs of Pilot, who has been locked

in a power tussle with Gehlot had gone to Delhi yesterday along with some Congress MLAs, who are believed to be his supporters, to meet party high command.



# 3 generations of Bachchan family hit by COVID-19

ment in tackling it.

# REUTERS MUMBAI

Revered Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan's daughterin-law and granddaughter have joined him and his son in testing positive for COVID-19, the family said on Sunday, in one of the highest-profile cases of the pandemic sweeping India.

From hospital with his father Mumbai, Amitabh Bachchan's son Abhishek said his wife and former Miss World Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and their eight-year-old daughter had also been infected by the

new coronavirus. "Aishwarya and Aaradhya



have also tested COVID-19 positive. They will be self quarFrom hospital with his father in Mumbai, Amitabh Bachchan's son Abhishek said his wife and former Miss World Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and their eight-year-old daughter had also been infected by the new coronavirus.

saying other family members had tested negative and thanking Indians for their wishes and

prayers. "My father and I remain in hospital till the doctors decide otherwise. Everyone please

antining at home," he tweeted, remain cautious and safe. Please follow all rules!" added Abhishek Bachchan, 44, also an actor. He and his father were admit-

ted on Saturday to hospital, where health officials said on Sunday they were stable.

the two parties continued on



and education issues in the light of Covid-19 pandemic. TPCC president Capt Uttam Persons believed to be Telangana Rashtra Samiti activists pelted Kumar Reddy attended the meeting, which was chaired by BJP leader and Nizamabad MP Marri Shashidhar Reddy. Dharmapuri Aravind's convoy The Task Force expressed with stones and eggs on Sunday serious concern over the spike for his recent comments on legin the number of Covid-19 islators Vinayabhaskar and cases in Telangana and decried Narender, alleging land-grabthe failure of the state govern-

PNS WARANGAL



# hyderabad 02

# **10-DAY LOCKDOWN IN PEDDAPALLI**

#### PNS PEDDAPALLI

Following rise in number of positive cases in the state, the officials of Peddapalli municipality have decided to observe 10-day lockdown in the town beginning Monday. The deci-sion was taken at a meeting of municipal councillors held here on Sunday to check the spread of the virus.

The meeting was organised following the death of a person in the district hospital on Sunday. The municipal officials and councillors, who ruled in favour of observing a lockdown voluntarily, opined that the spread of the virus can be checked by observing the lockdown for 10 days. The meeting decided to

allow traders to sell vegetables and other essential commodities daily for a few hours. The officials have asked the people of the district headquarters town to confine to their homes and observe self regulation.

It may be recalled that following rise in number of



Corona positive cases in the state, many towns are going for self-imposed lockdown. Imposing self lockdown curfew on the market, traders and vendors in the towns have decided to run their businesses between a scheduled time. The measure was taken to curb the spread of Covid in densely packed areas. Already many villages across the state opted for self- imposed lockdown.

Devarakonda declared selfimposed lockdown due to rise in number of Corona positive cases. In Vikarabad district, shop owners, hotels, dhabhas and others in Peddemul mandal headquarters have decided to close their shops voluntar-ily for one week. The traders urged the public representatives to extend their support in this regard as the mandal headquarter registered three

Corona positive cases. like Earlier, towns

# Woman killed in road accident

# PNS PEDDAPALLI

A woman died after the scooter she was riding pillion was hit by a rashly driven car on the city outskirts at Shamirpet, late on Saturday.

The woman was identified as Milli Das (43), a resident of Turkapally who was returning after a who was returning after a medical checkup, on a scooter driven by her daughter Sudeepti Das. According to the police, when the scooter

reached near Lalgadi Malakpet forest guest house, a car which was driven in a negligent manner hit the scooter from behind. "Both fell on the road

with Milli Das suffering a grievous head injury. She was immediately shifted to the nearby hospital, where the doctors declared her dead," police said.

The Shamirpet police booked a case and are investigating.

# Standard gold continues to be buoyant

#### PNS HYDERABAD

With the Asian markets slipping into a divergent mode due to accelerated rate of COVID-19 in most of the countries and the Indo-China border faceoff, standard gold continued to be buoyant though divergent.

Consequently New York gold showed an upswing and finally closed at US \$ 1,798.60 (per ounce), while silver followed suit, and closed at \$ 18.68 (per ounce). Platinum and palladium also marched forward and closed at \$ 812 (per ounce) and \$ 1,916 (per ounce) respectively.

ounce) respectively. Other economic parame-ters too remained divergent. Brent closed at US\$ 43.17 (per barrel), while Crude MCX oil was quoted at Rs.3,043 (per barrel). Whereas Gold MCX stood at Rs.48,863 (per 10 gms), the MCX Silver moved up and closed at Rs.51.362 (per up and closed at Rs.51,362 (per kg); copper closed at the higher level of Rs.495 (per kg). Sensex and Nifty 50 closed at 36594.33 and 10768.05 points respectively, following the retreat by Indo-China forces on the borders.

Leading foreign currencies' exchange rates were: US \$: Rs.75.16, British Pound: Rs.94.87, Euro: Rs.84.89, Singapore \$: Rs.54.05, Swiss

Franc: Rs.79.85, Australian \$: Rs.51,950 (per kg) or Rs.3400 Rs.52.22, Saudi Riyal: Rs.20.04, more than the previous week's Rs.52.22, Saudi Riyal: Rs.20.04, New Zealand Dollar: Rs.49.32, Kuwaiti Dinar: Rs.244.20, Omani Rial: Rs.195.12 and UAE Dirham: Rs.20.46, Japanese Yen: Rs.0.70, Hong Kong Dollar: Rs.9.70.

At home, though the demand for jewellery took a beating due to COVID-19 coupled with the beginning of inauspicious days for marriages, for smugglers the busi-

At home, though the demand for jewellery took a beating due to **COVID-19 coupled with the beginning** of inauspicious days for marriages, for smugglers the business was as usual

ness was as usual. However, both the precious metals moved within narrow limits due to prevailing divergent trend in the global markets. Standard gold (24 carats) marched ahead and closed at Rs.51,210 (per 10 gms). Ornamental gold too moved in

tandem, and was quoted in the range of Rs.46,830 - Rs 46,930 on the closing day. Similarly, Silver (0.999) also recorded handsome gains and closed at

appreciation for the fourth closing mark. **COMMODITIES** The sentiment in principal wholesale commodity markets

in the twin cities remained strong. However, Rythu Bazars and the various commodity markets located in Begum Kishangunj, Bazar, Mukthyargunj, Risala Abdullah, Mir Alam Mandi,

consecutive week, while staple foodgrains and common edible oils remained unchanged. On the other hand, turmeric declined by 10 to 15% due to the excess old stock of about 6 lakh bags in the cold storages and warehouses at Nizamabad, about 3 lakh bags at Metpally, Gollapally, Jagatyal, etc; and about 7 lakh bags of old stock in Erode, Salem and Mysore. The AP government has already purchased 2.5 lakh bags of the new crop and still about 2 lakh bags are expect-ed to be added from Kadapa and Duggirala.

Common vegetables such as cabbage, cauliflower, ribbed gourd, snake gourd, lady's finger, cucumber, potatoes, onions, tomatoes and French beans, along with other leafy vegetables, flared up and became costlier by about 30% over previous week's price level.

T h

Bazar observed vol- WEEKLY MARKET REVIEW untary closure, following spike in

COVID-19 cases. During the week, common pulses such as tuar dal, masoor dal, moong dal and urad dal

Dilsukhnagar,

Kukatpally,

Bowenpally,

General

NECC wholesale egg price in Hyderabad increased by Rs.5

and commodities like chillies and garlic recorded further

and closed at Rs.315 (per 100). The highest price of Rs.398 was recorded at Burdwan and Midnapur, while Warangal recorded the lowest of Rs.313.

# Ashok Gehlot govt crisis deepens ing to reach out to Pilot who left messages for him," he said.

#### Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, the meeting called by Gehlot at 9 pm to discuss the ongoing political cri-sis in the state with party MLAs has concluded. Speaking to reporters after

the meeting, Congress MLA Rajendra Gudda said, "Gehlot ji has the majority. We are also making efforts and some BJP MLAs are in our contact. We will bring more MLAs from BJP than we would lose.

The Congress party earlier today said that they were try-

offers 20 gold

**Continued from Page 1** 

About 2.5 lakh devotees

thronged the shrine during

Meanwhile, about 67,000

devotees, who had booked

tickets online for worship, did

not visit the temple for differ-

Devotee

biscuits...

the month, he said.

has been incommunicado for the last two days and have also left messages for him while

asserting that the government in Rajasthan is stable and will complete its full term. Congress general secretary in-charge for the state Avinash Pande said that all party MLAs in the state were in touch with him and that he did not know who were the ones supposed to have sided with Pilot.

"I have not talked to Pilot for the last two days and I'm trying to reach out to him. I have said. The sources also said that

The internal rift in the party the letter asking Pilot to appear for questioning in a probe into came out in open on Friday after the Rajasthan Police issued notices to Gehlot, Pilot and the government chief whip, seeking time from them to record their statements over an alleged attempt to topple the state's Congress government ahead of Rajya Sabha elections

in the state last month.

thing has been centralised

with the CM. With the

alarming spread of the virus

and the void created by his

absence, people of the state felt let down," the Task Force

alleged attempts to destabilise his own government has "crossed all limits" and made it "untenable" for those MLAs supporting him to work Gehlot. Gehlot and Pilot were in the race for the chief min-ister's post following the The letter from the special operations group (SOG) did Congress' victory in the Assembly election but the party not go down well with Pilot, high command chose the forwho apparently saw this as a mer for the CM post, leading snub, sources close to him to internal bickering.

# **Coronavirus** enters TS...

urged that one should not hesitate from getting tested and should motivate others to follow 4Ts-Test, Trace, Treat

# Six from Mancherial test +ve

the total number of cases to 179. District Medical and Health Officer Dr M Neeraja, in a statement, said that three persons from Mancherial, two

Srirampur towns were diagnosed with the acute respiratory disease. Results of their medical reports were out on Sunday.

wo persons have succumbed to the virus so far. On Saturday, seven persons including five women from Adilabad district, tested positive.

# **BJP MP** attacked for his remarks...

### **Continued from Page 1**

Later, TRS legislators of Warangal East and West Nannapuneni Narender and Dasyam Vinayabhaskar rebutted the allegations of the MP, terming them as 'false and fabricated'. The MLAs challenged the MP to prove his allegations or quit politics.

The TRS legislators ridiculed how the MP who "failed to fulfil pol promise pertaining to Turmeric Board" had started attacking TRS leaders for his vested political gains. The MLAs said that the MP had filed with the Election Commission false affidavits with regard to his educational qualifications.

# Cong 'Speak Up Telangana' social...

#### Continued from page 1

It was pointed out that KCR 'disappeared' from the scene for 13 days, despite having indicated that a cabinet meeting would be held to decide the future course of

Н е n c e , "#SpeakupTelangana" camaction with regard to the pandemic in the light of the paign would be aunched to

said.

**'Scrap BP** Sharma panel report'

#### PNS PEDDAPALLI

The National Backward Classes Welfare Association, in a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, demanded cancellation of the Report of

# Expert

ttee-2019, headed omm

#### Continued from page 1 She further said that early diagnosis not only protects us but also protects others and

and Teach.

**Continued from Page 1** 

lockdown regulations.

The horse racing industry

in the country too suffered

huge losses due to the ban on

horse racing due to Covid-19

The levying of 28 per cent GST from July, 2017 has already dealt a deadly blow to

the horse racing industry

over the past three years.

PNS PEDDAPALLI Six persons from Mancherial district tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday, taking

TS mulls allowing online

betting for horse racing ...

Rs 460 crore.

tax on horse betting, which was increased steeply to 28

per cent under GST regime.

The Hyderabad Race Člub's

turnover was about Rs 1,275

crore per year prior to GST.

After GST, it came down to

summer vacation and in the

process of losing race events

'We have already lost peak racing season during the

tive for Covid-19. The district still has 54 active cases. Results from Bellampalli and one from of medical reports of 36 per-sons are awaited. A total of 123 patients were discharged, and

Blood samples of 479 suspects have been gathered so far. Of them, 179 contracted the virus and 296 persons tested nega-

COVID-19 related issues, Singhal said.

As many as 91 TTD staff members in the hills have tested positive for the virus so far after tests were conducted on 3,569 employees, he added.

Unlock 2.0 guidelines issued by the Centre and fresh assessment of the situation. The state government had failed miserably in taking steps to arrest the spread of coronavirus. "There is no credible decision support system in the state as every-

help people voice their concerns about Covid-19. The online drive would be launched simultaneously on all social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp etc between 10 am and 5 pm on Saturday ie on July 18.

by BP Sharma, set up to revise the income criteria to determine creamy layer among the OBCs. R Krishnaiah demanded reconsideration of the entire issue and entrust the work to National Commission on Backward Classes.

na-induced The cord down has compounded the financial crisis of the indus-

try. The Hyderabad Race Club's annual turnover has come down by three times after implementation of GST. Previously, the state government had levied 7 per cent

the mons neriod scheduled in July-end. With no let-up in the virus spread, allowing online betting will

enable us to resume races sans punters and spectators in the stadium," said sources in Hyderabad Race Club. A ban on all sport activities, including horse racing, otherwise.

a winning horse and yet watch the show live or later,' they said. The online betting on a

has disrupted normal life and livelihood of all stake-

holders since the lockdown

was suddenly enforced and extended, with restrictions

being placed on many out-

door sports since mid-March.

"With the state govern-ment's approval, we will develop a smartphone app

for downloading by our

members, punters and spec-

their mor

tators to

seamless platform will also ensure transparency, removing bookmakers and illegal betting that thrive offline

# Let States not transgress into defence matters

The makers of our Constitution were indeed visionaries! Their prescient minds could perceive the future obstacles that the country would have to face. They were also aware that as the democracy matures, people would become more and more enlightened about their rights and will demand, albeit through their elected leaders, their share of cake. Undoubtedly, in order to

avoid any confusion or friction between the Union and the States, the Constitution provides three exhaustive lists of subjects which would fall within the purview of the Union, States and both. Thus, there is a clear-cut demarcation of the authority which could be exercised in certain matters by the Union and the States individually or jointly.

The first list forming part of the Constitution covers subjects like defence, foreign affairs, currency and coinage, war and peace, atomic energy, national resources, railways, posts, citizenship, navigation and shipping, foreign trade, inter-state trade and commerce, banking, insurance, national highway, sensors, elections, institutions of higher education etc., totally in all 97 subjects. Similarly, the State list

encompasses 66 subjects in which each state legislature can legislate and such laws would operate within the territory of each state. The main subjects of the State list are: police, public order, prisons, state court fees, local government, public health and sanitation, hospitals, liquors, libraries, agriculture, animal husbandry, water supply, irrigation, and canals, fisheries etc. Besides, there is a

Concurrent list containing 52 subjects on which both the Union and the States can make laws. The main subjects in this list are: criminal law, criminal procedure, preventive detention, marriage and divorce, transfer of property other than agricultural land, trust and ustees etc.

Thus, even a lay man can Uttar understand that in matters of defence, national security and citizenship, among others, only

Parliament can pass laws and the same shall be enforced by the central government. Therefore, in this critical period, when the nation is facing threats from three quarters namely COVID-19 pandemic, Sino-Pak war threats and Tukde-Tukde gang within the country, the Opposition would do service to the nation by at heinous. least keeping mum if it cannot

extend constructive support to

Undoubtedly, in order to avoid any confusion or friction between the Union and the States, the Constitution provides three exhaustive lists of subjects which would fall within the purview of the Union, States and both.

the central government in tackling the enemies. have shown the tendency of

**Encounters for killers?** Hardly the ink of our last week's main story in this column on police encounters has dried and here comes the disturbing news of police 'encounter' death of gangster Vikas Dubey and LEGAL

other co-accused in Pradesh. ROUNDUP Obviously, the police action seems to be in

retaliation to the brutal killing of eight policemen, including one DSP, by the dreaded Vikas Dubey gang. Unfortunately, the criminal justice formula 'eye for an eye' seems to have been applied by the state police which is against all norms of legal course prescribed by the criminal law to deal with any crime howsoever it may be It is indeed, a matter of seri-

ous concern that the law-

enforcing agencies; of late often taking law in their hands. The police action of liquidating the criminals without following the due course of law cannot be pardoned. If a crime is committed

despite there being a huge police force, it reflects upon the intelligence gathering by the police and preventing the occurrence of a crime or controlling the

same with limited use of force. Still what is more worrying is the public reaction to the encounters by police. By and large people from different walks of life rejoiced in the killing of not only the gangster VIkas Dubey and his henchmen but also for the encounters of killers of a veterinary doctor in Cyberabad not so long ago. At that time also, the country's police force too, celebrated these encounters.

ed Committee for the Reform of Criminal Laws would take a serious note of such actions by the police and reactions by people and make appropriate changes in the criminal laws to reinforce the people's confi-dence in the rule of law and the

Hope, the recently constitut-

procedures laid down for securing speedy justice. Reform of criminal laws

#### The recently constituted Committee for the reform of Criminal Laws by the Union

Home Ministry has invited suggestions from all stakeholders and those interested in the legal reforms. Responding to the demand for transparency and openness in dealing with the matter of streamlining the criminal law, the committee expressed its intention to approach the mandated matter with fairness, openness and transparency. The five-member committee is headed by the Vice-Chancellor of the National Law University, Delhi, Dr.Ranbir Singh, who has also served as the Director of the Hyderabad-based NAL-SAR.

SC on sale considereation In a recent judgment, the Supreme Court has held that

non-payment of a part of sale

consideration is not a ground for cancellation of a registered sale deed.

A division bench comprising Justice L.Nageshwar Rao and Justice Indu Malhotra, while considering an appeal filed against an order of the Gujarat High Court held: "Even if the whole of the price is not paid, much of the document is executed, and thereafter register, the sale would be complete and the title would pass all to the transferee under the transaction. The non-payment of a part of the sale price would not affect the validity of the sale. Once the title in the property has already passed, even if the balance sale consideration is not paid, the sale could not be invalidated on this ground."

Referring to the judgment in the Vidhyadhar vs. Manikrao[(1999) 3 SCC 573] and Sec. 54 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Court observed; 'In order to constitute a cell, the parties must intend to transfer the ownership of the property, on the agreement to pay the price either in present, or in future. However, the court observed that other than cancellation of the sale deed, the plaintiffs may have other remedies in law for recovery of the balance consideration.

# TS caseload up by 1,269

#### Continued from page 1

12 from Warangal Urban, 11 from Nizamabad, nine from

Peddapally, eight from Mahabubabad; seven cases

from Vikarabad and Jangaon; The Covid-19 positive cases four reported from other districts cases each from Nirmal, include 36 from Sangareddy, 23 Jagtiyal, Adilabad; three cases each from Karimnagar and each from Mancherial, Nagarkurnool; 17 from Mahabubnagar, 15 cases each Kothagudem, Siricilla and Siddipet; and two cases from from Nalgonda and Wanaparthy; 14 from Medak, Warangal Rural and one from

Khammam. Overall, since the outbreak of Covid-19, the health authorities here have tested 1,70,324 samples, of which 1,35,653 proved each from Yadadri, Suryapet negative.

and Gadwal; six cases each

# **3** generations of Bachchan family hit by COVID-19

#### Continued from page 1

Seventy-seven-year-old Amitabh Bachchan is one of India's most beloved personalities, and some fans were conducting Hindu prayer rituals for the whole family.

"It's shocking to know that one of the richest and most talented, educated family (sic) can get infected. We can only hope the family recovers as it's important for the morale of millions," tweeted one fan Jayant Sathe.vg

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED "Energy saved is Energy Produced"

E-procurement Short Tender Notice (Paper Notification) Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for Tender Spn. No. 02/20/20-21 - Extension of IKV HT Cat-II supply for a CMD of 1600 KWA with a connected load of 1600 KW to M/s. T-work oundation, Plot No. 1/D,1/F,Sy,No.83/1, Raidurgam, Madhapur, Hyderabad in operation tadhapur Section of Juble Hills Sub Division, Banjara Hills Division of Banjara Hills Circl der capital works in Metro Zone / TSSPDCL. For further details regarding detailed notification coefficient on and distile certificate between visit www theory telepaper area in pecification and digital certificate please visit www.tender.telangara.gov.in. Sd- Chief General Manager, Operation, Metro Zone TSSPDCL, Mint Compound, Hyderat DIPR RO No.729-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

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# hyderabad 03

# ORNER Constable arrested for harassment

RIME

HYDERABAD: A Telangana state police constable was arrested for allegedly harassing a woman who offered him a life in her car on Sunday. The Banjara Hills police made an arrest following a complaint. According to the police, the TSSP constable. identified as Veera Babu, working with the 12th Battalion at Nalgonda, had a few days ago stopped a woman in a car at Srinagar Colony and asked her to drop him till Punjagutta. "In her complaint, the woman said after getting into the car, the policeman took her mobile number. Veera Babu began sending her text messages and harassing her," said G Bharath Bhusan, Sub-inspector, Banjara Hills. The police have booked a case under Section 354 and 509 of the Indian Penal Code against the Constable. Speaking on the topic, Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar said, "No one is above the law. Veerababu is arrested and sent to jail for misbehaving with a lady. Such criminals in uniform put our head down in shame. Never tolerate any nonsense from anyone. Inform any misconduct by a cop on

# 'Corona suspect' commits suicide

WhatsApp at 9490616555.

HYDERABAD: Suspecting he had Coronavirus symptoms, a call centre employee committed suicide at his house in Santoshnagar on Saturday night According to the police, the victim identified as Syed Sadig Ali, 38 lived along with his family at Kalandarnagar in Santoshnagar police station limits. "For the last few days, he was unwell and visited a few clinics for medical check-up. On Saturday afternoon, Sadig went to a private hospital where doctors advised him a series of tests to confirm if he had contacted Coronavirus," said the police. After coming home, a depressed Sadig went inside his room and hanged himself to death. "The family members told us the man was depressed after falling ill and suspected he was a Covid-19 positive " said P Papaiah, Sub Inspector of Santoshnagar police. Following a complaint from the family members, the police shifted the body to Osmania General Hospital, duly following Covid-19 protocol, for post-mortem. A case under Section 174 of CrPC was booked by the police and

investigation taken up.



# **Health Dept contemplating** to suspend contact tracing

## PNS HYDERABAD

The medical and health department apparently decided to bid adieu to contact tracing as it is breaching the confidentiality of those tested positive and becoming target for victimisation by neighbours or fellow apartment dwellers.

days?

residents in apart-

ment. There were

complaints

against the

tracing of

the contacts

done by the

police stat-

ing that it

became

menace for

the patients.

The tracing is

posing problems to

Hitherto, police personnel have also been deployed in contact tracing. From now, police officials are not going to be involved in tracing. Only medical and health department officials or doctors will contact those who tested positive.

those who live in home Earlier, police used to question those who tested positive for the virus with a vollev of severe questions like "Where did they go during the past four days? How did they contracted the virus? Whom did they meet in course of time? What did they

do during the past several receive institutional treatment They used to meet the rather than home quarantine. senior medical and

neighbours or their fellow health department official got tested positive with mild symptoms. Únder pressure from the occupants of the apartment he is staying, he had to receive institutional treatment. In this context, the apex committee member on

quarantine and receive treat-Coronavirus pandemic on condition of anonymity said that ment and being subjected to the health department has inconvenience. Sometimes, they are facing decided to bid adieu to the contact tracing. The confidensocial discrimination from othtiality of those who receive ers. In case the patient is an treatment from home guaraninhabitant of an apartment, fellow residents have been putting tine conditions will be respect-

student's side without bias."

Many student organisation

is also alleging that ABVP's

demand is because of their

political affiliations. General

Union of India (NSUI) Md

Sohail Uddin said "ABVP is the

students' wing of BJP. They are

just promoting what their par-

ty is saying. However, it seems

like ABVP has forgotten that at its core it is a students' organ-

isation. Students' welfare

should be their priority. They

are following what their party politicians are saying. But, we

will keep protesting against

them and the UGC guidelines."

Secretary of National Students'

pressure on them advising to ed, the committee member said.

Many persons, fearing wrath from neighbours, have been giving false addresses and phone numbers at the time of giving samples to test for Coronavirus because of the activity of the police and local medical officers. The VIPs are also furnishing false names. If anyone tests positive among such persons, passing on information has become difficult. At least 20 per cent of the total tested persons constitute such elements. Even if someone goes to the address, the reply would be no such person has been living at the address. It has become a big headache for the authorities to pass information

to such persons. However, those who gave the samples with wrong information are trying to get the result through their acquaintances. **47,000 register** 

Over 47,145 have registered with the Central to layoffs.

Ministry has created the website in 2015 bringing all jobs both in government sector and also in the private sector under a single umbrella.

During the past five years, over 2.2 lakh have registered their names with the website for the past five years, while over 47,000 candidates registered with the website in just three months.

# Singing cop Gurmith Singh fights Covid-19 with music

#### NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA HYDERABAD

Being in the front line, many policemen have acquired the Coronavirus so far. Constable Gurmith Singh, from Kulsumpura PS, also found that he was tested positive for Covid-19 positive on June 3.

"One of my collegues was tested positive and I had coughing and mild fever, so I went for the test on June 2, and was confirmed positive the next day," shares Gurmith, adding, "I was admitted in Chest Hospital, Erragadda.

Talking about his experi-ence there, Gurmith adds, "Initially I had few symptoms, fever would come and go. So, I rested as much as I could. The staff was helpful, although I could see that they were scared with the entire pandemic situation too.'

But, living in isolation ward can get very lonely at times. "I missed family. But thank God for the smart phones, through which you can at least see your loved ones," Gurmith smiles, adding, "I saw all patients around me were also struggling due to the same. They all were alone in the ward.



"Previously, when I was well, I would go from street to street singing and raising awareness about the pandemic. I noticed that it raised the spirits of people back then, who were glum due to being stuck at home. So, I used the same technique. I would sing and that distracted people.

Gurmith was tested nega-He further added, "I am not a singer, but I can carry tive after 15 days of home a tune. I would sing bollyquarantine and joined duty. wood tracks, altering the All my colleagues are worklyrics to be something that ing hard to ensure the safety encourages the patients in the of people. So, as soon as I was ward to fight the virus with tested negative I went back to a smile. In fact, someone the PS to join my duty."



"Patients who have been

asked to be home quar-

antine need to be

very careful. Although they have

their own space,

there is a chance

that they might

spread the virus to

their family."

### PNS HYDERABAD

The Coronavirus pandemic has hit the smaller business sector very hard. So bad is the situation that many small enterprises had to pull down the shutter on their business, with no income and no remedy for monthly expenses.

To help female entrepreneurs, the ladies wing of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry has launched its first three series online mentorship programme for women entrepreneurs.

FTCCI President, Karunendra S Jasti, said, "Our idea is to 'Embrace, Engage and Empower' women entrepreneurs Today's women preneurs do not come only from the established business families or from the higherincome sections of the pop ulation, they come from all walks of life. From running sports media to construction firms and security and detective agencies - women are dabbling into fields that have traditionally been bastions of male domination."

GHMC Chief Entomologist,

Rambabu said distribution of

# **UGC GUIDELINES** Student fraternity stands divided for further education. It's also

not fair for the brilliant stu-

dents to be promoted same as

students who haven't per-

formed well throughout the

year. The universities can opt

for safer ways of taking the

which have been protesting to

get all the students promoted

for this year, see this move of

on the rise. In such grave sit-

uation when people are choos-

ing to stay at home, how can

the universities conduct

exams?" asks secretary of SFI,

T Nagaraju, adding, "ABVP is

trying to egg the students on

The Coronavirus cases are

ABVP as a betrayal.

Other student organisations,

exams

# PNS HYDERABAD

Although many students' organisation have been protesting against the new UGC guidelines to conduct final examination, a few now have come forward supporting the Centre's decision.

The Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank defended the decision by the UGC on Saturday. Supporting this, the ABVP started Twitter trend '#studentsforevaluation'.

Telangana joint organising secretary of ABVP Shiva Kumar shares, "We are supporting the UGC guidelines as examinations and marks acquired will help students



PNS HYDERABAD

Government-run National Career Service website seeking jobs during the past three months as Coronavirus has played havoc with the livelihoods of people and also led The Union Labour

Talking about his experience, he says, "I asked my family to not even come close to my room. Even while giving food, I asked them to do that from a distance. Sometimes my mother didn't feel good that she had to almost throw the roti in my plate, but we had to take hose precautions.



# Colony residents vacate homes against reopening of electric crematorium

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Their fears may be unfounded, but, the residents of Bansilalpet in Secunderabad are worried that the electric crematorium that remained shut for more than four years in now reopened for cremation of Covid-19 victims.

While the house owners at Arun Jyoti Colony adjoining the crematorium are fighting for its permanent closure, several tenants began vacating no sooner than a Covid-19 victim's body was cremated in the electric furnace on July 8.

"Several families vacated and some are searching for houses," said the colony secretary Sudhir.

Ón Sunday the colony residents launched en masse protest raising slogans against cremation of bodies at the electric crematorium.

The crematorium, built four years ago, is at a distance of just 1 km from Gandhi Hospital. The electric crematorium was originally installed

# Made in Hyd apps catch fancy of users

### PNS HYDERABAD

At a time when Corornavirus induced lockdown forced people to stay indoors and look for avenues of social engagement, and the recent ban on Chinese apps created a void, few mobile applica-tions developed by Hyderabad-based firms have caught the imagination of consumers.

These 'made in Hyderabad' apps have emerged hot favourites and are witnessing tremendous downloads on both GooglePlay store and Apple iStore.

The ban on popular Chinese apps, led to Dubshoot emerging as a favourite video-sharing social networking platform among

The famous Ujjaini Mahankali

temple in Secunderabad wore

a deserted look as the annual

festival Bonalu was celebrated

sans the devotees on Sunday

Husbandry Minister T Srinivas

Yadav along with few other

officials made the offerings to

the goddess on behalf of the

state government while the

temple priests conducted the rituals.

All the roads leading to the temple were barricaded by the

Some devotees including

women were seen trying to

proceed towards the temple but

Animal

due to Covid-19 pandemic.

the regional language speak-ing netizens of India.

VacYa, is another mobile application made in the city of pearls that witnessed tremendous growth during the nation-wide lockdown being observed for over three months. The platform now has over 1,00,000 signups as the software has been made available for free during these unsettling times of Covid-19

and today it is the largest 'Made in India' unified communications and collabora-tion platform, say the developers.

Another fast-emerging prospect in the lot is Just-A-Sec, a location-based information services app that runs on an augmented reality platform.

In fact, less than 83 per cent of the registered are under the age of 34. Besides candidates having other qual-ifications right from SSC, 17 Ph D degree holders also registered with the website for jobs.

Various employment consultancies have provided jobs to only 1,371 during the past three months, which reflects the alarming situation on the job front.

In all 11,204 SSC candidates registered with the website, while 9,497 are Intermediate students. The number of degree holders registered with the website is 20,637. The PhD holders who registered with the website are 17. Others constitut-ed 3,759.

This year, the maximum number of applications for registration with the website was registered during June -30.769

#### the weekend. The display is also to create

awareness among the public about the noise pollution-lev-

**NOISE, CO LEVELS** 

In a move to curb pollution

levels in the city, the Telangana

State Pollution Control Board,

in association with Cyberabad

traffic police, has installed

live noise and carbon monox-

Towers II

PNS HYDERABAD

Board to aware people

ide (CO)-level display units at monoxide pollution, noise

els in the city. The TSPCB and Cyberabad traffic police will install more display panels at different traffic junctions in the city, sources said, adding that the programme is an initiative of the National Clean Air pro-

inction over pollution at the permissible levels of it. It will help in set-ting a goal for them to reduce the pollution-level and follow the rules," said Prasar Dasari, an official of the TSPCB.

gram taken up by the TSPCB.

create awareness about the

rising noise pollution and air

pollution among the people.

Seeing the display, people will

become curious and will

search the internet on carbon

"We hope this move will

When the signal at the junction turns red, these panels deliver general audio messages on the permissible pollution-levels. Further, the panels display messages both in Telugu and English.

# All GHMC staffers get PPE kits

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has almost completed the distribution of PPE safety kits to its sanitary and entomology workers.

Last week, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao had launched the distribution of the safety kits to the entomology and sanitation workers.

staff. The municipal corporation is spending about Rs 13 crore for distribution of the kits safety kits to entomology and to 22,000 sanitary workers and 2,500 entomology worksanitary workers was being taken up zone-wise.

Meanwhile, Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Though, the municipal corporation used to distribute Reddy distributed these kits to gloves and soaps in the past, workers and also participated in the 'Sunday 10 AM - 10 this is the first time that it is distributing all the required minutes' sanitation pro-gramme organised at Chitra Layout, RK Puram of safety commodities in a kit to sanitary and entomology

Saroornagar on Sunday.

four years, adjacent to the Low-key Bonalu celebrations in Sec'bad sans devotees

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana's

home.

cremated at the crematorium amidst protests from colony residents. When people complained about leakages in the chimney leading to spread of smell with particles in the resedential area, Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav got it

GHMC in a latest move to get it reopened as it would be convenient to cremate the dead due to the virus. Since the crematorium has been located so close to the Gandhi Hospital,

due to Coronavirus. The police have arranged a

traditional (firewood) cremation ground with 50 bodies per day capacity. Earlier, daily bodies were

shut. The Gandhi Hospital Medical officers requested the

the crematorium was reopened to cremate the dead

temporary picket at the place to ensure that the crematorium staff would not face any problem from the locals. The property owners are gearing for legal battle.



The famous Ujjaini Mahankali temple in Secunderabad wears a deserted look on Sunday

were stopped and sent back by the police. Srinivas Yadav said the devo-

of Covid-19. The temple, which used by thronged by thoutees should understand that

religious gatherings were sands of devotees every year, wore a deserted look. This is banned to contain the spread said to be the first time in the temple's history that devotees

have not participated in the cel-ebrations. Officials said restrictions around the temple would continue till Monday when Rangam ritual will be performed. The elephant procession will not be conducted this year.

The nearly month-long festival began on June 25 with the celebrations at the Sri Jagadamba temple atop the historic Golconda Fort.

The festival will conclude with celebrations at Sri Simhavahini Mahankali temple in Lal Darwaza and at Sri Akkanna Madanna Mahankali temple in Haribowli, both in the old city of Hyderabad, on July 19 and 20.

The folk festival is mainly celebrated in the twin cities region during the month of Ashada" The women make offerings in the form of food to

goddess Mahankali in specially decorated pots. During the month-long festival, people also hold 'rangam' or forecasting the future, organise processions and cultural events.

During the festival women offer Bonalu, which consists of cooked rice, jaggery, curd and turmeric water, carried in steel and clay pots on their heads. The devotees believe that the annual festival will ward off evil and usher in peace.

It is commonly believed that the festival was first celebrated over 150 years ago following a major cholera outbreak. People believed that the epidemic was due to the anger of the Mahankali and began offering

"Bonalu" to placate her. After formation of Telangana state in 2014, the TRS had declared "Bonalu" as the Telangana state festival.

police to prevent people from gathering for the festival. The government had asked the people to celebrate Bonalu at



# hyderabad 04

# **Increase Covid test centres**, **Kishan tells Telangana govt**

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Union Minister for State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy Sunday said that the Centre has no plans to transform Bibinagar AIMS hospital as Covid-19 hospital, however, the Centre will put its efforts to transform it if the state government asks in this regard. Kishan Reddy said that already the Centre is using Railway and ESI hospitals for Covid treatment. He alleged that the private hospitals are charging indiscriminately as there is no government control over them, he said stressing the need to control private hospitals excesses. He said that the Central

teams would give suggestions for better treatment to corona patients. He said that the state government informed that there is dearth of medical staff in the state and stated that the Centre will provide online training to the new medical staff in any state. Kishan Reddy demanded the state government to speed up tests to control the deaths. He said that he



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddyinteracting with the staff of Gandhi Hospital in the city on Sunday

suggested the state government to conduct tests on everyone in containment zones.

"As Coronavirus cases in Hyderabad city are increasing, I have been visiting different COVID-19 centres across the city, meeting doctors there, patients, and paramedical staff. am trying to build confidence among them. I request the Telangana government to increase the number of Coronavirus centres in the city," he said.

"Everyone residing in containment zones should be tested. For this, the Telangana government must increase the Covid test centres. A person who develops symptoms or gets tested positive should be given proper treatment. Telangana government must take confidence buildup mea-

sures in the state," he said. Kishan Reddy made it clear that the Centre is ready to extend any sort of help to the state in regard to contain the

develops symptoms or gets tested positive should be given proper treatment. Telangana government must take confidence buildup measures in the state, said **Kishan Reddy** 

A person who

spread of the virus. He urged the state government to initiate all steps to tackle the spread of corona in the coming days. He said that he visited Gandhi hospital though several people warned him not to visit. He said that he discussed with the SLBC officials on the steps initiated for the implementation of Athma Nirbhar Bharath. He said that he suggested SLBC officials to strive to reach the goal kept before them by Prime Minister.

houses of Nirmal town with the help of the filter bed. He

and keep their premises clean

for 10 minutes. He advised

# KCR: Maximise ayacut under water supply



PNS HYDERABAD

Κ Chief Minister Chandrashekhar Rao on Sunday instructed officials concerned to prepare an action plan so that the river water coming from the irrigation projects, which were constructed with lot of hard work and expenditure, should be supplied to as many agriculture lands as possible in the State. He made it clear that the state government had no other priority item on the agenda than to create water facility for majority of the farmers and for this, the gov-

ernment would ready to spend any amount of money. He said water from the projects should first be utilised to fill the tanks, later reservoirs and finally the ayucut. He said for the Sriram Sagar Flood flow canal, more OTs should be created and with other schemes water should be supplied to fill the tanks to supply water to the lands where irrigation water was not available. He also instructed that all the wings of the Irrigation Department

should be brought under one umbrella. He held a detailed review here on Sunday at Pragathi Bhavan on identifying the areas where irrigation facility was not there and the plan to supply water for those

# Vijayashanthi lashes out at KCR

TPCC campaign committee chairperson Vijayashanthi on Sunday alleged that the TRS government is not in a position to answer to the nurses who came on to the road questioning the injustice meted out to them in terms of postings, seniority, and salaries issue.

> he will he in Pragath The employees are not

Rao, Koppula Eswar, S Niranjan Reddy, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Errabelli Prasnanti Reddy, Errabelin Dayakar Rao, Nagarkurnool MP P Ramulu, Government Whip Balka Suman, MLAs Marri Janardhan Reddy, Ala Venkateswarlu, Jaipal Yaday, Pavichankar, Sanjay, K Ravishankar, Sanjay, K Vidyasagar Rao, Kandala Upender Reddy, Principal Secretary (Irrigation) Ranjit Kumar. participated. Kathalapur ZPTC Bhoomaiah, farmer Ŝripal, who had a telephonic discussion with the CM were also invited as special

invitees. "The state government is constructing major irrigation projects on Krishna and Godavari rivers clearing several hurdles, spending a lot of money. The government has completed the pending projects on a fast-track. Tanks and revived with the inspiration from the movement (Telangana statehood movement). If fruits of these works to be passed on the people, the only way is to supply water to more agricul-ture lands. Till date, Telangana faced the irrigation water prob-lems. After formation of the Telangana State, the TRS government had given priority to the irrigation sector. With Kaleswaram and other projects we have now availability of



water in abundance. We have to utilise water completely. We have to supply water to more ayucut. Examine the capacity of canals whether they can supply water to the last piece of land in the Ayucut. If need be, increase the flow capacity of canals. Fill the tanks first. Later fill the reservoirs and finally supply to the ayucut. Supply water based on this plan. With this water received during the Monsoon period can be saved in larger volumes. All tanks and check dams should be filled with water in Telangana state. This will in turn increase the water level which can supply water to the borewells which farmers dug at a cost of Rs 45 thousand Crore," the Chief Minister said.



# **Oppn parties**' allegations meaningless, says HM

PNS HYDERABAD

Home Minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali on Sunday refuted the allegations levelled by the leaders of the opposition parties over the demolition of mosques and temple in the Secretariat and termed them as meaningless.

"Leaders of the Opposition parties criticised the move even after the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao announced that a new mosque and temple would be built as part of the new Secretariat. CM said that the inauguration of the new secretariat building would take place only after prayers are offered in the new mosque and temple after the construction of the new secretariat building," he said. He said that they are making unnecessary propaganda in the mosque and the temple issue as the leaders of the opposition parties could not find any point to criticise the state government. He said that they could not see the development being done by the state government and that their existence would be questionable if these development programme s continued like this in the future.



# This village celebrates birth of girl child

KONDAPUR: At a time when crime against women is on the rise and common notion prevails among people that a girl child is an additional responsibility, there are people who are breaking the stereotype and setting a new trend. Haridaspur village of

gives birth to a baby the whole Kondapur mandal of village should erupt in joy Sangareddy district is one such celebrating the arrival of the

# 'Mission Bhagiratha reflects govt's vision'

### PNS 📕 NIRMAL

The State government's Mission Bhagiratha programme will address the drinking water crisis and ensure that the present and future generations do not suffer on account of water scarcity, said Minister for Forests and Environment Allola Indrakaran Reddy. He was speaking after inspecting a filter bed of the prestigious drinking water scheme at Siddapur village in Nirmal rural mandal.

On the occasion, the Minister said, "The Mission Bhagiratha programme reflects the government's vision. The government showed the way to the entire country by con-ceiving and implementing Mission Bhagiratha. Drawing inspiration from Telangana, West Bengal has taken up the Bengal 'Jal Swapna' programme to provide drinking water to every household," he said.

them to wear face masks and ther stated that pr H sanitisers for preventing the tected and purified drinking water was being supplied to all spread of the novel Coronavirus.

added the drinking water crisis of the district centre had become a thing of the past now. He instructed authorities of rural water supply to expedite works belonging to Mission Bhagiratha and to take steps for supplying drink-ing water to all habitations at the earliest.

Later, the Minister participated in Telanganaku Ĥaritha PNS HYDERABAD Haram at the filter bed and planted saplings on the premises. He also took part in a sanitation drive at his residence in Nirmal. Indrakaran urged the people to ensure that rain water does not stagnate and to remove unused articles and home appliances. He opined that cleanliness plays a vital role in staying healthy. He called upon the people to observe Sunday as a dry day

In a statement on Sunday, she said that nobody knows as to when the Chief Minister will go to farmhouse and Bhavan. The government is not in a position to explain the confusion prevailed in regard to salaries of RTC employees. understanding as to how to lead their life with meagre salary. She alleged the prevailing conditions are best example to the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's atrocious rule in the state. Is it Bangaru Telangana dreamt by you? Did people elect him for this? KCR has to answer to these questions, Vijayashanthi said.

RTC employee gets 'single-digit' salary

# PNS BHADRACHALAM

RTC employees, who have been drawing only a part of their salary for the last three months hoped that they would at least draw full salary for the month of June. According to the RTC employees, they have not got their salaries on the first of the month for the last few months or so. Last month, the RTC employees got salary on 7th day.

Like other government mplovee



village which is leading by example. Contrary to popular stereotype about girl child, the residents of Haridaspur celebrate if anyone in the village delivers a baby girl.

Haridaspur in Sangareddy district is a small hamlet. The residents of the Haridaspur welcome girl child into any family in the village with open arms. This is not just to practice a ritual or strange tradition.

Sometime back, the villagers had called for a meeting and resolved killing of the girl child

baby girl, it was resolved. If any woman of the village is pregnant, the whole village should pray to the almighty that the family should be blessed with a baby girl, the villagers announced amidst beating of

was a great sin. They resolved

that every family in the village

should regard the birth of a girl

child as a great fortune. They

If any family in the village

got the solution spread to

everyone in the village by

beating of drums.

drums. Moreover, the village panchayat gives some money to the family into which the girl child was born to help raise the girl. The villagers adopted a resolution in this regard. The resolution is being implemented from January this year.



Minister for Forests and Environment Allola Indrakaran Reddy inspecting the works in Nirmal on Sunday

employees also used to get salaries on the first day of every month, but for the last few months, the workers are said to have not received their salaries on the first day and the delay had been till sixth or seventh day of the month. In June, the RTC employees did not receive their salaries even on July 9.

However, the RTC management credited salaries rather belatedly in the bank accounts only to deliver a shock treatment to employees. Pouring cold water on aspiration of RTC workers to draw full the RTC management credited pittance in the bank accounts of employees, who were stunned to see their pay slips. One employee received a salary of mere Rs 7. No employee was found to have received in excess of Rs 5,000. There are over 49,000 peo-

ple working in the TSRTC in various capacities like drivers, conductors, mechanics and supervisors. Since buses are not running on full scale, duties are not given to all workers. Therefore, the RTC management has paid wages to

of days of work done. There are many employees who have drawn single digit salary. And many employees have drawn their salary which is less than not only Rs 1,000 but also less than Rs 100. Many employees received salary between Rs 4,000 and Rs 5,000.

A worker in Bhadrachalam depot showed his payslip indicating that Rs 7 was credited in his bank account. Another employee in the same depot has drawn Rs 57 as his wage. Yet another employee has drawn Rs 77 as the wage.

# **'Convert IRCS Blood Banks** into Plasma Banks'

#### PNS VIJAYAWADA

"There is a need to prioritise our efforts in increasing the recovery percentage and creating confidence among people that Coronavirus is just like any other virus and not to panic," said BVS Kumar, former State Committee Member, IRCS. In a statement here on Sunday, he said that the known fact that fear and tension in an effected person will minimise the immunity levels to combat the virus. To improve the recovery rate and reduce the Covid-19 deaths, there is a dire need to make available the Convalescent Plasma to the patients. Convalescent Plasma is nothing but the plasma taken from a person, who is a Covid-19 winner.

He says that as the availability of an effective vaccine for this virus is not in sight, only the use of Convalescent Plasma is the only way to reduce the deaths. Kumar said that at present only one Plasma Bank was set up by Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Delhi.

# Varavara Rao's kin demand his release

#### PNS WARANGAL

The family of the arrested poet and activist Varavara Rao on Sunday demanded his immediate release by stating that his health condition is deteriorating fast and that the state is trying to kill him in jail. In a release, Hemalatha, wife of the poet and daughters --Sahaja, Anala and Pavana expressed serious concern over the health condition of the poet. The statement mentioned that the entire family was worried about the deteriorating health of the jailed poet

The statement maintained that the health condition of Varavara has been scary for over six weeks now, ever since he was shifted in an unconscious state to JJ Hospital from Taloja Jail on May 28, 2020. Even as he was discharged from the hospital and sent back to jail three days later, there has been no improvement in his health and he is still in need of emergency heathcare, it detailed. The familv members sav that the immediate cause of concern now was that they were very much perturbed at the routine phone call they received from Varavara on Saturday evening.

"Though the earlier two calls on June 24 and July 2 were also worrying with his weak and muffled voice, incoherent speech and abruptly jumping into Hindi. As an eloquent and articulate public speaker and writer in Telugu for over five decades, a Telugu teacher for four decades and known for his meticulous memory, this fumbling, incoherence and loss of memory were in themselves strange and frightening," they said.

Hemalatha went on to say that the family was informed about Rao's hallucinations. in Navi Mumbai Taloja Jail. "But the latest call, on July 11

is much more worrisome as he did not answer straight questions on his health and went into a kind of delirious and hallucinated talk about the funeral of his father and mother, the events that happened seven decades and four decades ago respectively. Then his co-accused companion took the phone from him and informed us that he is not able to walk, go to toilet and brush his teeth on his own. We were also told that he is always hallucinating that we, family members, were waiting at the jail gate to receive him as he was getting released," she said.

# Officials forcing us to relocate to Koheda market, allege farmers

#### PNS WARANGAL

The marketing officials shifted the Kothapet fruit market to Koheda and advised the farmers to bring fruits to Koheda market. But the farmers and commission agents say that it would amount to contempt of court and questioned the authorities the rationale behind shifting the market to Koheda without fully developing amenities there.

It may be recalled that the tin roofs of temporary sheds set up in the Koheda fruit market were blown away sometime back as rain accompanied by gales lashed the city. Several have been injured in the incident too.

The farmers argue that the officials are advising them to sell their fruits in Koheda market in spite of the fact that there are arrangements made at the market. There are no platforms built there. During the current monsoon season the fruits would get damaged, the farmers lamented.

Earlier, some farmers and traders, who conducted operations there sustained

injuries as the roof of the temporary sheds got blown away. Since there are no arrangements for farmers and traders at Koheda market, the commission agents moved the State High Court against the government's decision to shift the market to Koheda.

The court ruled that the government should relocate the market to Koheda only after proving all amenities to farmers and traders. Throwing the court orders to winds, the Marketing Department directed the

farmers and traders to move to Koheda market. The commission agents said that they would move the contempt of court petition in the High Court. Traders and farmers questioned the government whether the Coronavirus would subside if the market is relocated to

Koheda. Marketing The Department officials are not sanitising the market and not observing precautions in Kothapet fruit market, but asking the farmers and

### It may be recalled that the tin roofs of temporary sheds set up in the Koheda fruit market were blown away sometime back as rain accompanied by gales lashed the city. Several have been injured in the

Koheda market. They demanded an explanation from the authorities questioning, "What is the hurry?" The commission agents alleged that some elected people's representatives, market committee members, marketing department officials have purchased lands near the Koheda market. Perhaps to increase value of the lands, the marketing officials have been pressing for relocation of market to Koheda, the sceptical comtraders to relocate to the mission agents said.

incident too

# TTD wins pilgrims' applause for spiritual progs

#### PNS TIRUPATI

Among the two dozen pilgrim callers, who made calls to TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal as a part of the monthly Dial Your EO Programme held on Sunday, most of them complimented and thanked TTD for telecasting live Sundarakanda Pathanam and Veda Parayanam on Sri Venkateswara Bhakti channel.

Pilgrim callers, Padmavathi from Hyderabad, Madhavi Latha Ramana and from Suguna, Bengaluru, Ramamurthy from Vijayawada, Kalpana Devi from Palakkad of Kerala, Vijaya from Visakhapatnam, Koteswara Rao from Guntur lauded TTD for telecasting the Parayanam programme live on SVBC. They also appreciated TTD scholars, Kuppa Venkata Siva Subrahmanya Avadhani and Dr A Vibhishana Sharma for taking the programme forward in the most successful manner.



# nation 05



## Sunday curfew brings K'taka to a standstill

BENGALURU: Roads wore a deserted look and shops remained shut during the second Sunday v to help fight COVID-19, bringing Karnataka to a virtual standstill. Most vehicles stayed off roads today including city buses, autorickshaws, cars and twowheelers with only essential activities permitted. Policemen on duty were seen enforcing the curfew in a strict manner. While a majority of people abided by the curfew order and remained indoors, there were instances of violations too. The policemen were seen questioning the violators. In Bengaluru, police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao had appealed to the people on Saturday to abide by the curfew and had also warned violators. "Curfew will prevail in Bangalore City Commissionerate from 8 pm today to 5 am on Monday. Requesting all Bangalureans to cooperate and stay home. This is in public interest.

## **UP** government forms panel to probe Kanpur ambush

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government on Sunday constituted a one-member commission to probe the Kanpur ambush and the encounter of gangster Vikas Dubey. The panel will be headed by retired Allahabad High Court judge Shashi Kant Agarwal and submit its report in two months, a government statement said. It will be based in Kanpur. According to the statement, the panel will also probe the gangster's "relationship" with police and people from various departments. It will suggest ways so as to prevent such a repetition in future, it said. A government spokesperson said in the statement that the killing of eight policemen in the ambush on the intervening night of July 2 and 3 by Vikas Dubey and his henchmen and the gangster's encounter on July 10 is a "subject of public

### Separatist leader, Jamaat members

importance"

# **Arvind Kejriwal terms pulse** oximeters as 'suraksha kavach'

# PNS NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday termed pulse oximeters as 'suraksha kavach' (protective shield) that have helped minimise COVID-19 deaths of patients under home isolation in Delhi. Delhi government has pro-

vided pulse oximeters to asymptomatic and mild symptom corona patients undergo-ing home isolation. "Delhi has been able to min-imise deaths of Corona patients

in home isolation thru this suraksha kavach called pulse oximeter. If patients detect their oxygen is falling they reach out to us for help. We immediately send oxygen concentrators to their home or take them to a hospital," Kejriwal said in a tweet.

A pulse oximeter is a device that measures blood oxygen level. Coronavirus patients need to be hospitalised if their



oxygen level reaches 90 per cent or below, according to A Delhi government statement said that of the total 691 health guidelines. deaths that occurred in last A study of COVID-19 fortnight, only seven were of those under home isolation deaths reported in the last fortnight (from June 24) con-

(between June 24 and 30). ducted by the Delhi govern-Not a single death of any ment has revealed that no one patient under home isolation under home isolation has died ĥas occurred in July. This can in first week of July. The total be attributed to the chief number of daily deaths too minister's decision to distribhave shown a sharp decline, the ute oximeters to all patients

A pulse oximeter is a device that measures blood oxygen level. Coronavirus patients need to be hospitalised if their oxygen level reaches 90 per cent or below, according to health guidelines.

statement said. The oximeters alert the patients of dropping oxygen levels which is an early sign of deteriorating health.

Home isolation experience of patients was improved by daily tele-counselling and providing oximeters so that people feel safe and comfortable at under home isolation, the

Decision on monsoon session of Parliament soon: Joshi

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said a decision will be taken "very shortly" on when to start the monsoon session of Parliament.

Both Houses of Parliament were adjourned sine die on March 23, nearly two weeks before schedule, as the budget session was curtailed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"There will be monsoon session. But when....it will decided very shortly," Joshi said.

He said with regard to the monsoon session, the time in hand is till September, and many a times the session has been called by August-end.

However, the minister accepted that COVID-19 cases were witnessing a surge.

Let's wait how it unfolds fur-

The productivity of Lok

ther," he said.

ĥome, government said.



Sabha was about 90 per cent and that of Rajya Sabha was 74 per cent in the budget session, the minister had earlier said in an official statement.

The budget session commenced on January 31 and was scheduled to conclude on April 3. Both the Houses adjourned "As far as COVID is confor recess on February 11, and cerned, it is on the surge now. reassembled on March 2.

The first part of the Budget Session yielded a total of nine sittings of Lok Sabha and Rajya

Sabha, and in the second part, there were 14 sittings of both the Houses. The minister had said the

session was curtailed with consensus among all parties in view of the COVID-19 outbreak.

During the session, a total of 19 bills (18 in Lok Sabha and one in Rajya Sabha) were introduced, the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry had said in the statement.

# LDF, UDF two sides of same coin, SUPPORT BJP: Nadda

report said.

BJP president J P Nadda on Sunday took aim at Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the gold smug-gling case detected at the Thiruvananthapuram airport, and also accused him of "messing up" the COVID-19 situation in the state by "sup-

pressing" figures. Nadda alleged that the Left government in the state was inefficient, corrupt and believed" in violence.

Speaking from the national capital at the inauguration of a party office in Kerala's Kasaragod district, Nadda said the CPI(M)-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF were two sides of the same coin and sought people's support to his party. With the BJP having been unable to make a serious political impact in the southern state despite its increased vote share in recent polls,



Nadda accused the LDF and the UDF of joining hands to keep his party at bay, and asserted that the saffron organisation was determined to emerge victorious there.

Nadda attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is a Lok Sabha MP from the state, as well for his criticism of the Modi government on the border standoff with China. Gandhi skipped 11 meetings of the Parliament's committee on defence, and this shows his dedication to the issue, Nadda said, and accused him of "demoralising" the defence forces.

# Rajasthan crisis: Kapil Sibal says he is worried for Congress

# PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

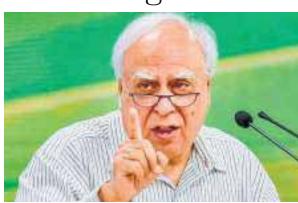
As a crisis appeared to be brewing in the faction-riddled Rajasthan Congress, senior party leader Kapil Sibal on Sunday said he was "wor-ried" for the party. "Will we wake up only after the hereach balted from

the horses have bolted from our stables," he said on Twitter, a day after Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot accused the BJP of trying to topple his govern-ment by bribing Congress legislators.

"Worried for our party," the former Union minister said. Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha said his worry is every party member's concern.

"Kapil ji your worry is every party member's concern. It's time to strengthen the party to fight forces who have only 1 agenda :: weaken congress and our democratic values and institutions," he tweeted.

A power struggle between Gehlot and his deputy Sachin Pilot, which has been on since the Congress' central leader-



ship picked the senior leader for the chief minister's post, appears to have deepened with those in Pilot's camp claiming that there have been repeated attempts to undermine his authority.

The latest flashpoint between the two is a notice issued to Pilot by the Rajasthan police's Special Operation Group in a case related to alleged attempts to bribe Congress MLAs to switch sides in the Rajya Sabha polls. Gehlot, however, has repeat-

edly pointed out that a similar notice has been sent to him, the government's chief whip as

well as some ministers. Pilot, along with some Congress MLAs, is currently camping in the national capital and is seeking a meeting with top Congress leadership. The SOG on Friday registered an FIR against two people, who have been arrested, after their call intercepts allegedly indicated involvement in horse-trading of Congress MLAs.

# What happened that China took away India's land during Modi's rule: Rahul

PNS NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday again attacked the government over the Ladakh face-off, and asked what happened that China "took away" India's land when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is at the helm.

He also tagged a news report quoting a defence expert, alleging that the Government is "misleading" the media on the Chinese disengagement along the LAC and that disengagement at the Galwan Valley is dis-

advantageous to India. "What has happened that under Modi ji rule, China took away Mother India's sacred land," he asked in a tweet in Hindi.

Gandhi has been attacking Modi and his government on the standoff in Ladakh and has accused the prime minister of "surrendering" India's land to China.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter



**Rahul Gandhi** (@RahulGandhi) What has happened that under Modi ji rule, China took away Mother India's sacred land

standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last eight weeks. The tension escalated manifold after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed

All the country's land is with our security forces: **Ram Madhav** 

#### detained in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Separatist Hurriyat leader Ashraf Sehrai and some members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami have been detained and are likely to be booked under the stringent Public Safety Act, Jammu and Kashmir police chief Dilbagh Singh said on Sunday. Sehrai is chairperson of the pro-Pakistan Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Besides him, about a dozen other members of the Jamaat-e-Islami have been taken into custody, Singh said. The police action comes days after veteran separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani announced his complete disassociation from politics. Sehrai had taken over from Geelani and was representing the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat at All Party Hurriyat Conference, a conglomerate of 26 separatist parties. This faction of the Hurriyat is different from the one led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, who has favoured dialogue as a means to end the violence in Jammu and Kashmir

People testing negative but showing symptoms should be treated: Experts

# PNS NEW DELHI

Test results may come out negative even if one has contracted COVID-19, experts have warned, advising that those showing symptoms of the disease must be treated without waiting for a confirmatory test to prevent aggravation of the infection.

There have been several cases where patients showing clinical symptoms of COVID-19 have tested negative for the virus multiple times. They were confirmed positive after repeated tests, doctors said.

The general perception of the experts now is that a high degree of suspicion arising out of the clinical symptomatology and the CT scan reports should be the guiding factor for treatment rather than rely-ing only on the RT-PCR test which has a sensitivity of only



per cent, Dr Neeraj 70 Gupta, professor in the Department of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the Safdarjung

Hospital in Delhi, said. Even the rapid antigen test has a sensitivity of only 40 per cent.

"So many patients will be missed if we rely only upon these tests," Dr Gupta said. The antibody tests has a sen-

crisis and the border row with

China. Hailing Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's leadership,

Naqvi said India is the only

democratic country in the world

which provided free food to 81

crore people, free gas cylinders

to 8 crore families and 'Garib

Kalyan' package worth Rs 1.70 lakh crore to the poor.

of development with trust among

people of the country," Naqvi said. The Modi government has

brought historic and path-break-

ing reforms in socio-economic-educational fields, administra-

tion, trade, labour, defence, coal,

"These steps instilled a sense

sitivity of 90 per cent but they are only useful for confirming past exposure for SARS-CoV2 and have no value in the early stages of the disease. "All the treatment strategies

should be guided towards preventing the progress of the disease from its mild to moderate or moderate to severe and for that we cannot wait on test reports. We have to go by clinical symptoms," he explained.

# visits residence of Wasim Bari

#### PNS SRINAGAR

BJP general secretary Ram Madhav, Union Minister Jitendra Singh and other leaders on Sunday visited the residence of the party's Bandipora district president Wasim Bari who along with his father and brother was killed by terrorists. Madhav demanded proper security for party workers in Kashmir Valley and swift action against those responsible for the killings. "We have come here to offer condolences to the bereaved family and

"All BJP leaders of the country stand by the family in this difficult situation. Those who are responsible for the act should be neutralised," Madhav said.

# ITBP and BSF DG amid Sino-India standoff

#### PNS GURGAON

As Chinese and Indian troops move to disengage in eastern Ladakh after a tense standoff, the chief of ITBP and BSF on Sunday said all the country's land is under "full possession" of our security and defence forces. S S Deswal, Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Border Security Force (BSF), was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a plantation drive held at a BSF camp in Bhondsi.

"All the country's land is with us. Our land is in full possession of our security forces," Deswal told reporters here.

He made the remarks when asked to comment on the current military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

ment, Chinese military has further thinned down its pres-'All our borders are safe, be it the eastern, western or ence in the ridgeline of Finger



northern. The security forces of the country are very active, capable and dedicated. "They are capable to protect

from the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh ahead of another round of Lt Generalthe borders against any kind of enemy with all their might and level talks between India and China aimed at finalising efficiency," the 1984-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) modalities for complete disengagement along the LAC. officer said. According to peo-ple familiar with the develop-

Four and removed some boats

When asked if the ITBP had moved more troops to its posts along the LAC, Deswal said the forces are moved across the country as per requirement.

# Cong's 'arrogance' shows something is fishy: Naqvi

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi alleged on Sunday that the Congress party is in "chaos" due to its "garbage of corruption" and its leadership's "arrogance" shows something is fishy.

"The garbage of corruption under the dynasty's carpet is crystal clear. This has caused chaos in the Congress. Arrogance of these merchants of corruption proves that there is something fishy," he told reporters. In a swipe at the opposition party, Naqvi said its leadership can not differentiate between solar plant and solar park or "pyaz and pizza".

The Congress leadership is looking for a political opportu-



nity in the coronavirus pandemic and the China issue, he said, accusing it of giving ignorant comments on the economy, security and reforms. The BJP and the Congress

civil aviation, power distribution, have been locked in a war of space, forest land, agriculture, words over the Modi governcommunication, banking and ment's handling of the Covid-19 investment sectors.

# New US visa rules: Indian students on the edge

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Fear of deportation in the middle of a global crisis, unpaid loans, rising risk of COVID-19 infection, dropping out a semester and the possibility of never being able to return to campus are among the concerns of Indian students in the US after announcement of the new visa regulations.

In a move that is expected to adversely impact thousands of Indian students, the US immigration authority has announced that foreign students will have to leave the country or risk deportation if their universities switch to online-only classes in this fall semester due to the coronavirus pandemic.

While Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Johns



Hopkins University have filed a lawsuit seeking to revoke the order, some universities, including Princeton University, Stanford University, California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and Cornell University have announced their support for the lawsuit. India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla also

raised the issue with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale during an online meeting earlier this week stating there is a need to keep in mind the role of educational exchanges and peopleto-people relations between the two countries as they played a key role in development of the overall ties

However, the students continue to be gripped with anxiety waiting for further updates.

This will be a big blow to students who came to the US with long term plans. I stayed back in the country when the campuses shut in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. I did not want to travel as well as different time zones would have made it miserable to attend online classes. But suddenly my stay here is now legally invalid, Shobhna Mukherjee, a student at Duke University said.

"What happens to the semester, what happens to the education loan, what happens to the work I was doing here at the university to aid my tuition fore? And most importantly if fees? And most importantly if I am deported, will I ever be able to get back? There are no answers to these questions," she added.

**Opt for four-day** workweek, says Akhilesh to govt

### PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday suggested the Uttar Pradesh government to implement a four-day working week to contain coronavirus instead of imposing a stricter lockdown on weekends.

The SP chief, however, said emergency services should operate round the clock on all davs. His reaction came on a day the government decided to impose stricter curbs across the state from coming Saturday amid a spike in infection cases. Additional Chief Secretary Awanish Awasthi earlier said that the restrictions will remain in place at least for July.



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# The Dharavi project

WHO has praised Asia's biggest slum for containing COVID-19 through community engagement and fast protocols



From being a major cause for concern to being praised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for successfully containing the community spread of the Coronavirus, Asia's largest slum Dharavi, with a population density of 2.27 lakh per sg km, has come a long way. Along with Italy, Spain and South Korea, Mumbai's slum cluster has shown that even if the outbreak is very intense and happens in an under-serviced and infrastructure-scarce settlement, it can still be brought back under control. All it needs is a synchronised human drill. Dharavi is indeed a test case of how resource-deprived zones

can fight the virus, too. Its 6.5 lakh residents live in an area of just 2.5 km, which challenges the golden mantras for fighting the pandemic, namely social distancing, frequent hand-washing and living in well-ventilated spaces. A minimum of seven to eight people live together in small, 100 square feet dwellings and queue up for water each day as piped water at home is a luxury they can only dream of. A whopping 80 per cent of the slum-dwellers are forced to use community toilets and fresh air and good ventilation is a rarity as homes and factories co-exist in single buildings lining the slum's narrow lanes. Yet, on July 7, the slum reported only one Coronavirus case and till July 10, the number of cases was just 2,359, a far cry from what was expected when the first case was discovered in Dharavi on April 1. In fact, Western Press editorials had written off Dharavi as a time bomb waiting to explode.

So what was it that the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) did to turn the tide of the pandemic? Because even as the rest of Mumbai suffered and became a hotspot, Dharavi defied all logic and did not turn into a Corona cesspool. The BMC decided to take the problem by its horns and involved the community in its chase of the virus. It set up teams to reach out to families and they reached out to almost seven lakh people in Dharavi, tracking signs and symptoms and tracing contacts of the infected. Between April 1 and July 10, a whopping 47,500 households were scanned by doctors and private clinics. More than 3.6 lakh people were screened, out of which 14,970 people were screened in mobile vans, thus supplementing the work of overworked health centres. As many as 8,246 senior citizens were surveyed and as the key to containing any pandemic is rigorous testing, the BMC also ran fever clinics to let people get themselves checked without fear. Its teams also checked people's oxygen saturation levels and if they were below 95 per cent, they were taken to quarantine centres. The logic was that this was faster than testing and in any case it was not possible to test everyone. As it is, they were only able to test 13,500 people. The BMC also employed 350 local private practitioners and if someone was found to have symptoms, they could volunteer to be quarantined even without getting tested. Since home quarantine was never an option in Dharavi, local clubs and schools were converted into quarantine facilities where free food and health check-ups were provided. As many as 2,000 elderly were taken to protective guarantine and only critically-ill patients were admitted to hospitals while 90 per cent patients were treated inside the slum. All private hospitals were taken onboard and acquired for treatment, including Sai Hospital, Prabhat Nursing Home and Family Care. A 200-bed hospital was also set up in a record 14 days. What Dharavi did was that it focussed on community engagement. Politicians and NGOs provided thousands of free meals and rations while Bollywood actors and businessmen donated gear, oxygen cylinders, gloves, masks, medicines and ventilators. Dharavi also followed the basic rules of testing, tracing, isolating and treating all those who were sick and hence, broke the chain of transmission and suppressed the virus. And to make sure that the lockdown worked, free meals and rations were provided to residents trapped at home without work and a source of income. It's not surprising then that Dharavi has turned out to be a beacon of hope for densely populated cities in poor nations and Delhi and other cities struggling with the pandemic could well learn a lesson or two from it. Human endeavour is the biggest cure.

# **Erdogan's revisionism**

# opinion 06 End this patronage

The so-called steel frame of bureaucracy has developed jelly in its spine, which is out to please our political masters. A systematic overhaul is needed to avoid Dubey-like encounters



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

ndia's most wanted gangster Vikas Dubey is dead. The police encounter may have raised several questions even as politicians, civil rights activists and human rights workers have called it a "cold blooded" murder. But the fact remains that over 100 families rejoiced as the news about Dubey's encounter reached Bekaru - the non-descript village in Kanpur — where his fiefdom ran large. Sweets were distributed and the family of the eight policemen, who were martyred on July 3 in an ambush, expressed satisfaction, saying justice was finally done. Even Dubey's parents disowned him and said he deserved what he got.

The saga that started on the night of July 3 ended on the morning of July 11 but the episode has many twists and turns. Many high-profile actors — who puppeteered Dubey behind the may have heaved a sigh of scene relief following his killing. They continue to be safe and unseen. This is why this encounter will not bring an end to the criminal-political nexus, which thrives in every gram panchayat of Uttar Pradesh and which, according to lawmakers, is an elixir of Indian politics, one that has kept the political system going.

The story of a young man, having political ambition, entering the blind alley of crime to follow the orders of his political masters is not new in Uttar Pradesh. "Yeh gaon gaon ki kahani hai (this is the story of every village)," said a lawmaker with a wry smile. A few hundred rupees in one's pocket, a motorcycle and caste backing are enough to turn any youth, jobless and restless, into a short-time criminal. In a matter of years, he would qualify to become a full-time criminal. Sometime later, he could start contesting the elections and even win the Assembly or the Lok Sabha polls. Sometimes, even from jail.

Dubey's story is no different. He and Lallan Bajpai, who was the head of the Shivli nagar panchayat, were friends but in 1996, differences cropped up between the two. During the Assembly election, Bajpai supported Santosh Shukla of the BJP while supported Sama Party (BSP) candidate Hari Kishan Srivastava. Shukla lost that election. This widened the gap further. In 2001, Dubey tried to acquire land near the Shivli Inter College where he wanted to develop a market. When the manager (Sidĥeshwar Pandey) opposed, Dubey killed him. Then Dubey attacked Bajpai, killing three of his men, though the latter survived.

Dubey killed Saroj Shukla inside a police station where the latter took shelter following a brawl. In reality Dubey had stage-managed this episode with his contacts in the forces to corner and eliminate him. Despite the grisly crime being committed in the afternoon and that, too, in the presence several cops, Dubey's terror was such that the police witnesses turned hostile during the trial. The irony was that even the investigating officer turned hostile — this has probably never happened in the annals of any criminal investigation.

Little wonder then that the strongman's criminal prowess soon attracted political attention. Dubey was happy to oblige and dabbled in village and panchayat-level politics. He was first elected as the pradhan of a village and later became the member of district panchayat with the backing of two regional parties. After he decided to distance himself from politics, his wife took over the mantle and was elected as the district panchayat member. She, too, was elected with support from a regional political party. Gradually, Dubev ensured that his relatives got

elected in local-level elections. ypur in Kanpur cit

(SP) and then to the BJP. At one time, Dubey even claimed that Behenii (as Mavawati is known among her supporters) had called him by his first name in a crowd of 500 people. His influence was so entrenched in the region that he would hold kangaroo courts where his word would be the only law. Those who did not abide by what he said were beaten up by his cohorts. Even when the police demolished his mansion and started an investigation against him with vigour, people of almost eight villages were afraid to talk

OWNGE

to the police. The police officials are quite candid to admit that had Dubey not been eliminated, he would have become a lawmaker — may be in 2022 (Assembly election) or 2024 (Lok Sabha). His political clout would have gone up. He would have engaged the sharpest of legal brains in India and would have proved in the court that he was not present in Bikaru village on July 3. Dubey would have also got a reprieve like he got in the 2001 murder case. In 2003, the then Mulayam Singh Government did not even challenge the lower court's order in the High Court.

All of this is not a new story Ittar Pradesh D brought a new dimension to the

political-crime nexus where short-term criminals, who hold

sway in 10-12 villages and can

influence a few thousand votes,

hold the key to any election.

Earlier, criminals preferred to

stick to one party. But Dubey was

different. Instead of clinging to

one party, he preferred to change

the party flag on his car mast as

the Government changed in Uttar Pradesh. He never joined any political party.

GER

NOITUAS

There are people like Hari Shankar Tiwari, Virendra Pratap Shahi, Mokhtar Ansari, Atiq Ahmad, Brij Bhushan Saran Singh, Rama Kant Yadav, Uma Kant Yadav and Raghuraj Pratap Singh — the list is endless who, despite having criminal antecedents, continued to win the elections, both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. In the mid-1980s, Hari Shankar Tiwari and Virendra Pratap Shahi created waves when they won the elections from the jail premises. But this was just the beginning. Tiwari even became a Minister while Shahi was gunned down in

the 1990s All these tainted names carry a Robin Hood image as they help the local people financially in getting their daughters/sisters married. In turn, they live in safe mansions surrounded by bodyguards belonging to the same or nearby villages or their own caste/religion. For them, it's easy to earn money as they run a lucrative contract business and also have shares in Government contracts for the construction of roads, dams and bridges in their

parlance, it is called the "mafia

share." It's an open secret as to

who the main beneficiary is in

the corridors of power. Later, the

dons graduate to running big

criminal operations, including

extortions and kidnappings and

nexus finds its reflection in the

2017 Assembly elections, too. In

This criminal-political

required, murder.

its report, the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) had said that 143 legislators -36 per cent of the total strength of 402 — have criminal records against them. Of this, 107 - 26per cent of the total strength are facing murder charges. Who gave these criminals political patronage? Why do voters elect these tainted leaders despite the ADR educating them about such criminals?

The time has come for some serious introspection. Is it only the political system that's responsible for this rot? If the nexus between the criminals and politicians is deepening, this is the time for the judiciary to stand up and deliver. Government records suggest that till 2018, 10.27 lakh cases were pending in various lower courts in Uttar Pradesh alone. Delayed justice means the criminals can walk away. This was very much evident in the case of Dubey, who, despite facing 60 criminal charges, including that of the murder of a Minister-rank leader, was roaming free, build-

ing his empire. The common perception is that the police arrests only the aam aadmi and spares the powerful. Ditto is the case with the indiciary

frame of our bureaucracy has

developed jelly in its spine, which

is out to please its political mas-

ters than the people. We need a

holistic change in all sectors

where crime is crushed at the

very beginning so that we do not

Editor, News, The Pioneer,

(The writer is Executive

birth more Dubeys.

The world-famous Hagia Sophia museum in Istanbul, originally a cathedral, has been re-converted into a mosque



he Blue Mosque undoubtedly has its place in Istanbul but it is the Hagia Sophia which has the heart of every visitor. For rarely does one find such a secular icon in any world culture. Built as a cathedral, it has lasted since the 6th century through waves of conquests in Turkey, each era adding a layer of syncretism and a defining mark but never swamping its preceding legacy. So even though it was converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest in 1453, with domes on the outside, its insides were not defaced but just covered with lime

wash and concealed. Just the practice of faith and its prayers changed. So Christian emblems, including the famous mosaic of the Virgin Mary on its central dome, were preserved through hundreds of years. And citizens internalised this co-existence as part of their DNA, one that Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, envisioned as being the progressive face of an Islamist republic, one which would endure in the contemporary world. So he decreed that it should be a museum, where every faith symbol would be respected and kept the way it was, and welcome believers from everywhere. But according to a new decree by Turkish President Recep Erdogan, this all-faith shrine will revert to being a mosque as the courts annulled its museum status following petitions by staunch Islamists.

By changing the status of Hagia Sophia, Erdogan is symbolically taking down Ataturk's inclusive and secular vision that had endeared Turkey to the world. To him, that amounts to pandering to the West. Yet that would have been the only antidote to the growing Islamophobia around the world. Powered by new-fangled radicalism, hyper-nationalism, immense nativism and a maximalist desire to lead a post-modern Islamic world, the Turkish leader has made Hagia Sophia's status a matter of Turkey's sovereignty. And a message for his core Islamist constituency that his leadership is worth its support. So though the move invited criticism from around the world, particularly the UNESCO, which said that the shrine was a part of shared world heritage and should not be appropriated by religiosity, Erdogan ordered the first prayers there and took down the site's social media handles. Of course, non-Muslim visitors would continue to be allowed in. Islamists have been campaigning for the reconversion of Hagia Sophia for long but a secular Opposition had been able to hold them off. But in a post-pandemic world, where Governments are justifying power grabs by all means, Erdogan has used this sensitive religious matter to justify his leadership, which is increasingly coming under criticism for mishandling the post-COVID economy and rising unemployment. And since Hagia Sophia was an Orthodox shrine once, his unilateral move has upset both Greece and Russia, both of which have sizeable Orthodox church followers. At a time when inter-faith dialogues have been replaced by collisions, Hagia Sophia has been a bridge in a deeply divided world. To challenge its status is to challenge civilisation itself. To define its identity sits at odds with a city that has bridged Europe with Asia. With this move, Erdogan has only stereotyped Islam further as revisionist and archaic. Hagia Sophia represented the dynamism he could have used to change the discourse and debunk myths. Perhaps even reclaim his ambition to craft a neo-Islamic world. A secular icon strengthens faith, does not erode it.

The same year, on October 12,

being a Brahmin-dominated area, Dubey's caste added more strength to his muscle power. He preferred being called panditji as Brahmins are addressed in rural Uttar Pradesh. He was a big catalytic factor in Mayawati's famous Dalit-Brahmin social experiment. With a change of Government, Dubey switched loyalty to the Samajwadi Party

#### S O NDBITE U



I don't know what Trump will do after the November elections. If things were to develop between India and China in a more critical fashion. I'm not sure where he (Trump) would come down.

**Former US NSA** 

Is the State (UP) so powerless that it cannot safely bring an accused to trial? Or are such encounters meant to protect others linked with the accused? Links: Parties and individuals?

Lucknow)

**Congress** leader –Kāpil Sibal

#### ETTERS TO тне EDI т OR

# Uninspiring but funny

The rising population has

become a challenge. If

we want to stand with

developed nations,

**Union Minister** 

—Giriraj Singh

we'll have to bring a

Population Control Act.

Sir — In these troubling times, we need a laugh and Noah Lyles, a fast runner but not as fast as initially thought, provided it. Because of COVID restrictions, a number of sporting events have been postponed or cancelled, including the Olympics. The spirit of this sporting event is to inspire us to be the best we can, faster, higher and stronger. It does truly inspire us although not this year. An alternative was found with the athletes competing in a ZOOM-like approach at different locations around the world.

Lyles competed in the 200m in an apparent time of 18.90 seconds, a new world record that even he could not believe and he was right. As it turned out, he had mistakenly started in the wrong lane and, thus, ran 15 m less than others. He would have known that something was wrong as athletes at this level know what they are doing every second of the race. Obviously, this was his worst best day.

We need to enjoy these occasional, small, 15 m errors as everything is too serious at the moment. If we need further

# Make India's defence sector self-reliant

n the aftermath of the Chinese Army build-up in the Galwan Valley, the Government has rushed to make capital acquisitions for IAF. The Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal for the purchase of 21 MiG-29 and 12 Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter planes. The Air Chief Marshal said that an order for another 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Teias MK IA is likely to be placed with HAL soon. He added that there was a higher likelihood of the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) finishing the full development of the Light Utility Helicopter this year.

Not long ago, the ruling Government had ejected the CPSU and HAL out of the deal for the acquisition of 36 Rafale fighter jets from Dassault Aviation. According to it, the CPSU was dropped for various inefficiencies and high costs associated with co-production. Ironically, the substitute for HAL as the offset partner in the contract was Reliance Aerostructure Limited. In those days, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) was conducting a performance audit on the "Capital Acquisition in IAF." It was expected that the audit would bring clarity to the unexplained terms in the Rafale aircraft supply contract. But the national auditor churned out an innocuous report which was devoid of any independent analysis on the important aspects in the deal

#### inspiration, watch the film, Anarchy in UP Eddie the Eagle, a story of a

Sir

brave or perhaps stupid ski jumper, who although hopeless, inspired everyone. Dennis Fitzgerald ALLAN & MARRING हिन्द्रस्तन ध्येनदिकस लिपिटेड april 1

or serious comments. It was strange that discussion on the financial and technological capability of the fledgling offset partner was not an objective of the performance audit. Strange as it may sound, the Constitutional institutions have been stingy in acknowledging the fact that India's biggest builder of warplanes, HAL, is the powerhouse in the IAF. This is not to say that the aircraft builder has always acquitted itself as an epitome of efficiency and economy. In various reports, the CAG has castigated the CPSU for inefficiency, delays and cost overruns. Nonetheless, the country needs this strategic defence manufacturer now more than ever

> Haridasan Rajan Kozhikode

Kanpur by history-sheeter Vikas Dubey and his assailants has exposed the anarchy in the This refers to the editor-State. As per the report of the ial, "Encounter the truth" (July National Crime Records Bureau, in UP, as many as 555 personnel Send your feedback to: 11). The dastardly attack on a

injured during police operations in 2018. This shows how the State has become dangerous due to the lack of law enforcement

**Tushar Anand** Patna

# Let law take its course

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Encounter the truth" (July 11). The killing of Vikas Dubey has once again raised several questions about "encounters" being used as a tool by the police to deliver "justice." Ideally, Dubey should have been brought to the court for his alleged crimes. Being a citizen of the country, he had the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. But looks like the police has little time for the due process of law. No matter how grave the accusations, it's not for the police or our political leaders to decide on matters related to life and death. The country has an efficient judiciary. The police would do well to abide by principles. Shivansh Via emai

Melbourne team of Uttar Pradesh police in were killed and 2,048 cops got letterstopioneer@gmail.com





# F I R S T C O L U M N Rising fuel costs slow growth

Any society that pays high for its fuel suffers as this erodes incomes, reduces purchasing power and causes a slowdown in the pace of production



#### SHIVAJI SARKAR

he rising prices of food items are adding to the woes of the people even as they struggle to come out of the economic impact the Coronavirus-necessitated lockdown has had on their lives and livelihoods. Now that India has moved into a phased "unlocking" stage, States like West Bengal, Assam and Uttar Pradesh are in a quandary whether to allow full opening of their economies or continue as before with select sectors being allowed to open up. This uncertainty is disrupting supply chains and creating artificial shortages in most parts of the country.

It is a double whammy. Recession has hit not only India but the entire globe. Job losses, reduction in income and fall in production are common. But in countries like India, the rising cost of transportation due to the unprecedented hike in administered petroleum/diesel prices, is telling on the people. Given the reduced purchasing power, inflation has added to the woes of consumers and farmers alike. Despite higher minimum support prices, farmers have not been able to get even the minimum cost for their produce and have been forced to sell at rock-bottom prices.

Since most restaurants, hotels and processing plants remain under lockdown, the demand for vegetables and foodgrains is low. This has a direct bearing on most farm produces. Corn for example fetched ₹2,200 per quintal in 2019 but this year it is difficult to get even onefourth of that price. So a farmer who earned ₹20 plus lakh last year, despite better production, is content with ₹5 lakh this year. Plus, the farm sector is in trouble as input costs have increased manifold during the last few months. Even irrigating the fields costs more than double now, as the administered price of diesel has set new records. The people are certainly not beneficiaries of the crash in crude prices to around \$40 a barrel as the taxes have remained high. Any society that pays high fuel costs suffers in more than one way. It erodes incomes, reduces purchasing capacity and causes overall slowdown at a time when pace in production is a must.

However, the rising food prices are in reality a pre-Corona phenomenon. Even in December 2019, prices were rising. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 14.2 per cent on an annual basis. This was the highest increase since December 2013. The latest 20 to 40 per cent rise in prices of vegetables is attributed to higher labour costs and 15 to 20 per cent higher transportation costs. Supplies, too, have reduced by about 15 per cent due to summer rains damaging vegetable crops. The shortage of labour following the reverse migration has increased wages of farm labourers.

These all reflect in the spiralling vegetable and food grain prices. Even prices of rice and wheat have increased in the market despite a massive dole being given to the poor by the Government. It is said that in about 11 States, the free distribution of foodgrains has not happened as planned. According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs data. 36 States and Union Territories procured 6.38 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of eight lakh MT allocated for migrant workers by the Centre for the months of May and June. However, till June 30, just 1.07 lakh MT, about 13 per cent of the foodgrains was distributed. Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Tripura had distributed not more than one per cent of the supplies got by them.

The crisis has been building up on the price front since the 2019 general elections. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) procured 36 million tonnes prior to that in 2018, the highest since 2012-13. It swelled the FCI's stocks to 75 million tonnes — 33 million tonnes of wheat and 42 million tonnes of rice. It is estimated to be about one-third of the total production. It has been utilised well for distribution till coming November at a cost of ₹1.5 lakh crore. But the mismatch in distribution, the market supplies and other factors have continued to add to the prices. Interestingly enough, despite free supplies, the prices have not come down in rural markets either. This is intriguing. It is attributed to reverse migration causing a large influx in rural areas. The prices of edible oils have also noticed significant spikes. The village markets have seen a spiral in locally-produced oils. This has happened due to the rise in mustard and other oilseeds prices. labour costs. electricity and diesel prices. Overall, expelling and freight costs have increased. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in June noticed the inflationary situation. Its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) says, "The macroeconomic impact of the pandemic is turning out to be more severe than initially anticipated because of supply disruptions and demand compression. Beyond the destruction of economic and financial activity, livelihood and health are severely affected." The MPC says it is necessary to ease financial conditions further. It reduced interest rates which caused hardships and further reduced purchasing power of the most vulnerable classes. There may not be any magic wand but a soft policy approach and reduction in Income-Tax rates for now would help the common man. With a benevolent tax regime, prices too can mellow. It would reduce governance costs and add to the well-being of the country.



# POINTCOUNTERPOINT

AMID THE CRISIS POSED BY THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, BJP LEADERS HAVE GONE BEYOND HUMANITY AND ARE ENGAGED IN TOPPLING THE GOVERNMENT. -RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT



THE BJP HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ALL THIS. DURING THE RAJYA SABHA ELECTIONS ALSO, THEY HAD LEVELLED SUCH BASELESS ALLEGATIONS. -RAJASTHAN BJP PRESIDENT **SATISH POONIA** 

# Justice turns turtle

Law-keepers have been walking a tightrope in this part of the Hindi heartland. With the killing of gangster Vikas Dubey, they have shown how they blindly follow political masters



AMIT SENGUPTA

n the badlands of Uttar Pradesh (UP), things only change to remain the same. In that iconic film, *Omkara*, made by Vishal Bhardwaj and located in the diabolical landscape of western UP where bahubalis (strongmen) call the shots, every character, with the caste prefix attached most often with their surnames and on their foreheads, fits into this eternally-predictable jigsaw puzzle. There is a revealing scene in this incredible gangster film of bitter realism. Langra incredible gangster film of bitter realism. Langra Tyagi, obviously a Brahmin, played superbly by Saif Ali Khan with a pronounced limp, goes to a jail as a "visitor" to meet a buddy. The police-man at the "reception" is making a loud announcement. Among other instructions he is clearly stating that no arms, ammunition and so on will be allowed to be taken inside the prison. So Langra Tyagi walks up to him nonchalantly and declares for all to hear that he has arms and ammunition. The policeman looks up and jokammunition. The policeman looks up and jok-ingly dismisses him, saying: "Chal jhutte (Oh

come on, you are a liar)." In recent weeks, indeed quite apparently since July 3 this year, almost a similar script played out for the world to see. And it was more platile than the pandemic, the lockdown, the quarantine, mass migration of workers especially in UP and Bihar, joblessness and the economy that's awaiting some sort of resurrection. It had such a typically inevitable ending that even a C-Grade Bollywood script writer would blush in astonishment and embarrassment.

By now, the macabre story of the murder of eight policemen, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police, in UP and the 'encounter" of the man who led the attacks on "encounter" of the man who led the attacks on the cops has unfolded, with all its gory details in the media and social platforms. More than the detailing, which is unfolding and which is still wrapped in many hidden sleaze tales of the underground and the overground, mixing in a sinister synthesis with such lucidity, there are too many questions. All of these surround the bithmany questions. All of these surround the hitherto not so popular figure of the protagonist: Vikas Dubey of village Bikaru in Kanpur Dehat, Chaubepur block.

istory-sheeter gangster and criminal

LIKE LANGRA TYAGI, DUBEY WALKED WITH A LIMP, HE SIMPLY COULD NOT RUN. EVEN THEN, THE UP POLICE WAS FORCED TO SHOOT HIM DEAD. ONE WONDERS WHY? WAS HE SHOT IN THE CHEST? IF HE WAS RUNNING,

WITH A LIMP, HOW COME HE WAS NOT SHOT IN THE BACK?

WHY DID HE SURRENDER IN THE FIRST PLACE IF HE REALLY WANTED TO RUN? WHY DID HE NOT HIDE AND GET HOLED UP, WITH

PATRONAGE, TILL

unique selling points. Not really a Robin Hood, or a do-gooder bandit, he was soon branded as one of the most wanted criminals in the countryside.

He liked to be called "Pandit", proudly flaunting his Brahmin legacy. The first murder case apparently happened in 1990. Nothing happened to him in terms of the justice system as is the undeclared norm in UP in many cases. He thereby chose to become a lackey of a politician who shifted from the BJP to the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Dubey, too, joined the BSP in 1995-96. Both he and his wife won local

elections by hook or by crook. Significantly, he was the main accused in the murder of BJP leader Santosh Shukla, who was then a ENOUGH POLITICAL Santosii Shukia, who Minister of State, no less, at the Shivli police station, again in Kanpur Dehat THINGS COOLED in 2001. In a daredevil act, sending a DOWN? WHY DID HE signal to all across the police force and NOT SURRENDER the political spectrum, he apparently IN A COURT WITH chased the Minister inside the police LAWYERS, IN FULL station and shot him dead as a public PUBLIC VIEW, AND spectacle. Two policemen also died in that incident. However, Dubey was not INSTEAD CHOSE TO arrested. SEND A SYMBOLIC He surrendered after some months, MESSAGE reportedly accompanied by politicians, BY SURRENDERING even while the entire bureaucracy and IN A HINDU police administration tacitly refused to TEMPLE? proceed against him, according to the brother and relatives of the BJP politician he had murdered. Predictably, again, he was acquitted. Dubey was finally arrested in 2017, booked under the Gangsters Act and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act. Two years later he was chargesheeted. However, his activities continued unabated. As is well-known, for reasons best known to him, Dubey's gang ambushed a police party looking for him on the night of July 3 in his village and killed them in cold blood. Eight cops were killed and several injured. Dubey was

reportedly tipped off by his contacts in the police force that a raid was about to be conducted on him. The gangster and his men not only took the guns of the policemen but also reportedly inflicted severe wounds with an axe on their bodies. Why he participated in this elaborate bloodbath, only he knew; something, perhaps, the nation will never come to know now.

Since then, he was known to have travelled across four State borders, undetected, and ended up, as if going for a morning walk, at the Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga temple in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh (MP), on July 9. Unarmed, he surrendered, without an inch of anxiety written on his face, to the unarmed and untrained guards at the temple. He was reported-ly identified when he repeatedly shout-

that it was not the same one which was carrying him initially. Reportedly, the vehicle which overturned was a Mahindra SUV while he had been travelling in a Tata Safari earlier.

Thereafter, the cops came out with a predictable version: The SUV overturned, Dubey tried to snatch a gun from a policeman and run. Like Langra Tyagi, Dubey walked with a limp; he simply could not run. Even then, the UP Police was forced to shoot him dead. One wonders why? Was he shot in the chest? If he was running, with a limp, how come he was not shot in the back? Why did he surrender in the first place if he really wanted to run? Why did he not hide and get holed up, with enough political patronage, till things cooled down? Why did he not surren-der in a court with lawyers, in full public view, and instead chose to send a symbolic message by surrendering in a Hindu temple? What were the sleazy, sinister and shady secrets Dubey was hiding in his several decades of criminal life, so lucidly tangled within the web of UP politics?

(The writer is a senior iournalist)

with over 60 cases against him, including multiple cases of land-grabbing and murders, Dubey was known to be a typical bahubali. Pandering to the upper caste politicians at the local level with big ambitions, he not only wielded the gun as an insignia of his prowess but also convinced them about his invincibility in their grand design. It is slowly emerging that he had been used by politicians across the spectrum. It is also being openly said that he was bumped off brazenly and with a total lack of finesse in the darkness of the night so that he would not reveal all the shady stories of politicians and policemen up his sleeve.

However, uncanny questions remain, about his life and especially the manner in which he died. It is common knowledge that officers of the UP Police have a reasonably murky record in terms of the numerous "encounters" under the current Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime, despite observations against the same by the highest court in the land. Vikas Dubey, shot dead at the age of 43 in a striped white T-shirt with a pronounced and happy potbelly, started his criminal life when he was young. His early gang was conceived in his youth, with muscle-flexing, land-grabbing, extortion and murder as his

ed his name for all to hear, and his identity was established through the use of the Truecaller app on the phone.

The MP Police handed him over to the UP Police, which then took him in a convoy to some unknown destination, probably Kanpur, followed by intrepid reporters in their vehicles. He was apparently made to sit with policemen, unarmed obviously, and handcuffed, in a Tata Safari. He showed no desire to escape and had willfully surrendered, obviously working on a bigger plot. There were speculations in the media and amid UP-watchers that he would be bumped off just like the rest of his close aides had been.

On July 10, as the night unfolded into another macabre drama, the SUV with Dubey inside, surrounded by policemen, allegedly turned turtle, on a road which did not seem to have any bumps or potholes. According to reports, the SUV, which had skid on a smooth tarmac, did not leave any tyre marks or wasn't damaged. Besides, its doors were jammed. There are reports

Indeed, if Dubey was bumped off, which seems to be so at this moment, what was the hurry to enact this public spectacle so soon after his arrest and so shoddily at that? And why were the reporters following the convoy stopped again and again, and then finally barricaded?

In the badlands of UP, these questions make little sense. Indeed, those reporters who would be brave enough to ask these questions are clearly not following their beats. Law keepers have always been walking a tightrope in this part of the Hindi heartland. With the killing of gangster Vikas Dubey, the criminalisation of politics has again come a full circle. Or, should we say, that it has turned turtle?

(*The writer is a senior journalist*)

# The rise and rise of secular sectarianism

With intensifying economic, political tensions and polarisation, the nature of internal conflicts within societies is evolving



NADEEM PARACHA

■ he concept of sectarianism is largely associated with factions and divisions within a religion. However, there is also now an increasingly used expression called "secular sectarianism." This is about factionalism within a secular ideology, especially one which directly or indirectly sees itself as being as grand an idea as the idea of faith. In fact, in some cases, it wants to actually replace it as a new kind of faith. Most secular ideas, however, retain a democratic respect for religion, as long as it remains relegated to dealing with the people's personal spir-

in the worldly workings of the Government. But there have been episodes where some followers of a secular ideology broke away to remould this ideology into a new faith that was to replace the old religions. In the late 18th century, when a violent revolution in France overthrew the French monarchy and Catholic clergy, the intellectual leadership of the revolution looked to create a secular democratic republic. However, within this group were also those who believed that the revolution had only been able to weaken the political role of Catholicism

and that a new religion was needed

to completely expunge it from French society. US academic Keith

Baker writes that a faith called "Cult

of Reason" was founded complete with temples of reason. This did not

go down very well by most of their

compatriots who saw it as a contra-

dictory act. How could secularism,

which insists on separating Church

new State religion? Second, the detractors also pointed out that the idea of reason, in the political context at least, rationalised this separation instead of becoming a theological doctrine itself.

The "Cult of Reason" was, therefore, a short-lived idea and sidelined. However, soon it was replaced by the "Cult of the Supreme Being." This was mainly conceived by the radical French republican, Maximilien Robespierre.

When his faction of French revolutionaries overwhelmed the "moderates", Robespierre declared the new faith as the State religion. Historian Emmet Kennedy writes that Robespierre insisted that a belief in a godhead was important for social order but it needed to be done through reason. This, however, did not stop him from organising festivals to honour the "god of reason." This again was problematic.

The "moderates" in the French

after the revolution, had agreed with the revolution's pursuit of completely abolishing the monarchy and neutralising the political power that the clergy and the Church once exercised. However, many of them were also of the view that religion's social utility need not be attacked. Ironically, Robespierre, who detested his moderate colleagues, agreed. But he suspected that remnants of the Church might be used to usurp his faction's power in the assembly. So, he decided to create a whole new faith to fill the void left behind the receding avenues of Catholicism.

The contemporary Slovenian philosopher, Slavoj i ek, explains Robespierre as a highly contradictory character who placed the "necessity" of violence and terror in the context of ideas that were actually opposed to those that he was propagating. In fact, in an early exhibition of secular sectarianism, he opposed the idea of separating faith itual matters and does not interfere and State, become the source of a assembly, that had come into being from politics, by quoting the 18th unacceptable to reject the new faith.

century French philosopher Voltaire as follows: "If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him."

Secondly, Robespierre fully understood how, for centuries, the Catholic Church in Europe had managed to gather tremendous degrees of political and economic power. But since the French revolution was directly aimed at abolishing this power along with the monarchy, Robespierre decided to replace Catholicism with an alternative faith.

To Robespierre, the "Supreme Being" was a deity called Liberty. This, to him, was a "living deity" which was to be worshipped through democracy and reason. This then would lead to a life of virtue and the immortality of the human soul. The moderates were left horrified when Robespierre started to hold festivals which looked quite like the ones held by the fallen clergy of yore. Even though he was already ordering the beheading of critics, he also made it

When his faction's acts became too radical, the moderates managed to remove him through an internal coup. His faith, too, was abolished. Robespierre's faction, believing itself to be purer republicans and revolutionaries (compared to the moderates), could not help but fall into a "god complex," with the right to judge what was politically correct and what wasn't.

In the 1960s, the Red Book that carried quotes of the founder of communist China, Mao Tse Tung, became a sacred tome in China and Mao became a living deity of sorts. Of course, in theory, communism is atheistic, but when Mao whipped up "Cultural Revolution" in 1966, "Maoism" almost became a religion. Those in the Chinese Communist Party, who exhibited distaste or concern towards what Mao had triggered, were cut down by fanatical mobs, waving the Red Book and claiming to be on the right side of the revolution. International

communism split into various factions

JNU professor Ajay Gudavarthy writes that, over the years, because of intensifying economic and political tensions and polarisation, the nature of internal conflicts in societies is changing. According to him, old class and ethnic conflicts remain but they are being increasingly added to by conflicts within marginalised groups who were once most likely to remain united. He gave the examples of racial equality and women's rights groups who, after finding the need to expand their identities beyond the usual "binary" ways that race and gender are perceived and debated, have ended up spending more effort battling other such groups who may think otherwise. It's like standing in front of a mirror and shouting at your own reflection, believing the reflection to be the enemy. In a way then, sectarianism is not unique to religions alone.

(Courtesy: Dawn) 



# money 08

# CAPSULE



#### Tsuzuki to set up plant in Jhaiiar NEW DELHI: Model Economic Township Ltd (METL), a

subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd, on Sunday said Japanese company Tsuzuki will set up a manufacturing facility at its Jhajjar-based (Haryana) location. The company has entered into an agreement with the Japanese firm in this regard, METL said in a statement. Tsuzuki will manufacture steering knuckle for the automobile industry at Reliance MET, it added. Tsuzuki MD Eiichi Oya said the company will start manufacturing operations in the new unit in Jhajjar by 2021. It would cater to both domestic and international markets, he added. Tsuzuki is the third Japanese company after Panasonic and Denso to invest in MET Jhajjar, which is one of the 12 sites identified

LIFE

# Life insurance sector witnesses **18.6 pc drop**

NEW DELHI: Hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, the life insurance sector witnessed an 18.6 per cent drop in the first year premium to Rs 49,335 crore in the April-June quarter of the current financial year, according to a report by CARE Ratings. The overall sum assured also declined 12.9 per cent to Rs 8.8 lakh crore in the June 2020 quarter, compared with Rs 10 lakh crore (which was an increase of 17.6 per cent) in the corresponding period of the previous year. The sector had seen their firstyear premium declines of 32.6 per cent and 27.9 per cent in April 2020 and May 2020, respectively, the report said adding that the June 2020 quarter figures are indicative that the sector is moving towards recovery. The life insurance sector continues to report a drop in their first-year premium collection as businesses have been severely

# **Ficci survey estimates FY21 GDP** growth to be in negative territory

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Industry body Ficci on Sunday said its Economic Outlook Survey has projected the country's annual median GDP growth for 2020-21 at (-) 4.5 per cent.

With the rapid spread of COVID-19 pandemic mani-festing into an economic and healthcare crisis globally, the latest forecast marks a sharp downward revision from the growth estimate of 5.5 per cent reported in the January

2020 survey, it said. The pandemic outbreak has severely impacted the economic activities as the country had to go through a lockdown to check spread of the virus. However, the restrictions are

restrictions.

biz to grow in double digits

tial growth," he said.

Alembic Pharma expects domestic

Shaunak Amin said in a joint

communication. The compa-

ny aims to grow its presence in

being gradually eased. While addressing SBI Banking and Economics Conclave on Saturday, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Indian economy has start-



had said the GDP growth dur-ing 2020-21 is likely to remain ed showing signs of getting back to normalcy in response to the staggered easing of in the negative territory.

Releasing details of the sur-"It is, however, still uncertain vey, Ficci said the present when supply chains will be restored fully; how long will it round of 'Economic Outlook Survey' was conducted in June take for demand conditions to 2020 and drew responses from normalise; and what kind of leading economists representdurable effects the pandemic ing industry, banking and will leave behind on our potenfinancial services sector.

"The latest round of Ficci's In May, the Reserve Bank Economic Outlook Survey puts forth an annual median GDP growth forecast for 2020-21 at (-) 4.5 per cent - with a minimum and maximum growth estimate of (-) 6.4 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively for 2020-21," it said.

As per the survey, the quar-terly median forecasts indicate GDP growth to contract by (-) 14.2 per cent in the first quar-ter of 2020-21, with a minimum estimate of (-) 25 per cent and a maximum estimate of (-) 7.4 per cent. Economic activity-wise

annual forecast indicated a median growth of 2.7 per cent for agriculture and allied activities for 2020-21. "Agriculture seems to be

the only sector with a silver lining right now. There is an apparent upside as far as the performance of monsoon is concerned this year and the water reservoir levels in the country stand at good levels," the industry chamber said.

**'Ban on Chinese** 

apps opened

oppurtunities'

PNS NEW DELHI

# Stressed NBFCs, HFCs seek about Rs 10,000-cr financing support

#### PNS NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Sunday said financing requests of close to Rs 10,000 crore have been received under the special liquidity scheme worth Rs 30,000 crore for stressed NBFCs and HFCs whose financials further deteriorated due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The scheme was launched on July 1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided funds for the scheme by subscribing to government-guaranteed special securities issued by a trust set up by SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAP).

"RBI has also issued a circular to NBFCs and HFCs on July 1, 2020 itself on the Scheme. SBICAP has received 24 applications requesting about Rs 9,875 crore of financ-Trust has approved investment of up to Rs 200 crore in ing as on July 7, 2020 which are commercial paper issued by the applicant. Non-banking being processed," the finance ministry said in a statement. The first application has been approved and the

financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance comparemaining are also under connies (HFCs) came under stress sideration, it said. The following a series of defaults by Investment Committee of IL&FS group firms in Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS) September 2018.



# Thermal coal imports at major ports decline

### PNS NEW DELHI

Thermal coal imports at India's 12 major ports dropped 34.70 per cent to 17.71 million tonnes (MT) in the the first quarter of the current fiscal, according to the Indian Ports' Association (IPA).

Impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, coking coal imports too witnessed a decline 28.49 per cent to 10.69 MT in the quarter.

These ports had handled 27.13 MT of thermal coal and 14.95 MT of coking coal in the April-June period of the previous financial year. The IPA, which maintains

cargo data handled by these ports, in its latest report said percentage variation from the previous year" in thermal coal and coking coal handling was 34.70 per cent and 28.49 per cent, respectively. Thermal coal is the main-

stay of India's energy programme as 70 per cent of power generation is dependent on the dry fuel, while coking coal is used mainly for steel making.India is the thirdlargest producer of coal after China and the US, and has 299 billion tonnes of resources and 123 billion tonnes of proven reserves, which may last for over 100 years.

# **ReNew Power** gives up to 12 pc pay hike

PNS NEW DELHI

ReNew Power has given up to 12 per cent salary hikes and bonuses to all its employees amid COVID-19-induced lockdown, probably making an exception among its peers.

Some clean energy firms in private sector have given hikes to employees but that is not across the board and is very nominal for lower income categories (like below Rs 10 lakh per annum), as per industry sources. "2020 has been a challeng-

ing year for everyone. ReNew power also had its fair share of challenges but ReNewers have faced adversity with determination and have ensured continuation of operations. "In these difficult times, we consciously decided to go ahead with salary hikes and bonuses to ensure our employees do not face any hardship on this front. With many sectors of the economy slowly recovering, I expect the Indian economy to be back on the growth path soon," Sumant Sinha said.

# PNS NEW DELHI

under its control.

PNS NEW DELHI

Leading realty firm Godrej

Properties is well placed to

maintain its growth momen-

tum this fiscal despite head-winds due to the COVID-19

pandemic, and will look to

increase market share as well

as add projects available at a

distressed valuation, a top

In his message to the com-

pany's shareholders in the

annual report, Godrej Properties Executive

Chairman Pirojsha Godrej

company official said.

Properties

Amid heightened anti-China sentiments in India, Swedish Ericsson has said it hopes to win contracts in the Indian telecom market on the strength ERICSSON of its technology leadership, and added that as a practice, the company does not base business plans on matters not

Indian telecom market on strength of tech

"In 2020-21, we expect

(domestic) business to grow in

double digits in sync with the

Indian telecom market,

### where data and voice consumption patterns are charting new highs.

PNS NEW DELHI ness plans on things which we cannot control... we believe in technology leadership. And, if you see globally, we have been winning on our technology leadership," Bansal told PTI. Other impact areas that are being keenly watched in the telecom space are 5G trials and the mega 5G networks that will be created in the future.

since last year. Since August 2019, gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) have received net inflows of Rs 3,723 crore. As per the data, a net sum of Rs  $3,\overline{5}30$ crore was pumped into goldlinked ETFs in the six months ended June 30 this year. Monthwise, investors put in a net Rs 202 crore in January, Rs 1,483 crore in February, but withdrew Rs 195 crore in March on profit booking. Inflows resumed in

Gold ETFs attract Rs 3,500 cr in

H1 2020 on safe-haven buying

The category has been one of April at Rs 731 crore, followed 494 crore in June. "As the surge in coronavirus cases have cast a doubt on the swift recovery hopes, investors continue to hedge their exposure to riskier assets by investing a portion of their assets in gold, as it is seen as a safe haven in times of uncertainty," said Himanshu Srivastava, senior research analyst (manager research), Morningstar Investment Adviser India.

# The ban on 59 apps with Chinese links has opened up opportunities for homegrown players to accelerate growth but they will have to ensure good user expe-rience and engagement on their platforms to be successful, according to industry analysts. Homegrown apps like Roposo, Chingari and oth-

ers have claimed to have seen manifold growth in downloads since the ban was announced last month.

Some players have also announced significant ramp up in employee base and server capacity to meet this growth in usage on their platform.

PNS NEW DELHI Alembic Pharmaceuticals is looking at enhancing prof-itability of its domestic business and expects it to grow in double digits in the current financial year with focus on

high-margin products, according to the company's annual report for 2019-20. Sharing information with the company's shareholders, the drug firm said it has already started witnessing an uptick in domestic business with new product strategy in

place. "We completed this transi-tion in 2019-20 and started witnessing an uptick in performance in the last quarter of the fiscal, Alembic Pharmaceuticals Managing Directors Pranav Amin and

# **TVS Motor: Biz** environment challenging PNS NEW DELHI

TVS Motor Company

Godrej looks to gain mkt

share, add distressed projects

the specialty and chronic thergrowth in the market," the apy segments, they added. company leaders noted. Ericsson India hopes to win contracts in

# by the Japanese govt to develop industrial townships.

impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic



### Chunk of 1.10 lakh hectares land with ports to be utilised

NEW DELHI: To propel portled development, the government will ensure industries are set up on a chunk of the 1.10 lakh hectares of land available with India's 12 major ports, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said. Apart from this, plans are afoot to boost cargo handling, he said. "Major ports have among them about 1,10,000 hectare land ... A chunk of this will be used for developing industries and industrialisation for port-led development in the country. We are in the process of identifying port-led industries," Minister of State for Shipping Mandaviya said. India has 12 major ports. These 12 ports had handled 705 MT of cargo in the last financial vear

ment to remain challenging for most part of the current financial year due to the coronavirus pandemic with chances of some revival only in the later part of the year, according to the company's annual report for 2019-20.

The two-wheeler major said that good monsoon this year could lead to growth in the agriculture sector, which may help in reviving the two-wheeler industry.

"In 2020-21, the economy will see significant challenges owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant interruption to economic activity which is beginning to reopen," TVS Motor Company said.

Restriction on public mobility and impact on many sectors of the economy will affect GDP, disposable incomes, consumer sentiment and also the auto indus-try, it added. "Consequently, a very sharp decline in the first quarter of 2020-21 is expected, which may partially alleviate in the following quarter, with any upside possibilities only playing out in the later part of the year," it noted.

Ericsson India head Nitin question on whether the anti-Bansal said that the compa-China sentiments in the ny remains "very confident" country would provide a of its technology prowess. competitive edge to non-Bansal was responding to a Chinese gear vendors in

said the housing demand will

certainly be impacted due to

the economic slowdown

caused by the pandemic. However, he said the

demand from prospective homebuyers will further con-

solidate towards large organ-

ised developers with better

Moreover, Godrej said the

affordability has increased due

to low interest rates and stable

prices over the past seven

years. Home ownership would

also gain currency due to

track record in execution.

Gold exchange traded funds saw hefty net inflows of over Rs 3,500 crore in the first six months of this year as investors continued to hedge their exposure to riskier assets amid the COVID-19 crisis.

In comparison, investors had pulled out Rs 160 crore from this asset class in January-June 2019, according to the latest data available with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi).

# FPIs pull out Rs 2,867 cr in July so far

24,053 crore by FPIs in domes-

investors in the last quarter

ended June as "valuations have

become extremely rich after

the sharp rally and disap-

pointing Q4 FY20 earnings

vehicle registration number), it

FASTag employs radio fre-

quency identification (RFID)

Besides, FPIs have been net

tic markets in June.

## PNS NEW DELHI

Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) have pulled out Rs 2,867 crore from Indian markets in July so far, mainly on account of profit booking after surge in Indian equities.

The overseas investors pulled out a net Rs 2,210 crore from equities and Rs 657 crore from debt segment, taking the total net outflow to Rs 2,867 crore between July 1-10, according to the depositories data

The latest withdrawal has come after investment of Rs

season," Rusmik Oza, executive vice president, head of fundamental research at Kotak Securites, said. After remaining net buyers in June in the Indian equity

manager

Morningstar India.

markets, FPIs have gone slow with respect to their invest-

# Gaursons Realtech guilty of profiteering PNS NEW DELHI

The GST anti profiteering authority has found Ghaziabad-based Gaursons Realtech guilty of not passing on lower tax rate benefits worth Rs 19.72 crore to homebuyers. While upholding the profiteering amount, NĂA also asked DGAP to investigate 33 other projects of Gaursons Realtech to check whether the benefits of lower taxes paid on raw material used in construction were passed on to flat buyers.

Based on the application that the realty company had resorted to profiteering when it sold flat in its '16th Park View' project on Yamuna Expressway, the DGAP investigated the case.

The applicant had alleged that Gaursons Realtech had charged 12 per cent GST from him on the consideration paid by him before Goods and Services Tax was rolled out on July 1, 2017.

Tellurian's Petronet deal expires, co fails to qualify for LNG supply

#### PNS NEW DELHI

US energy upstart Tellurian has failed to qualify in a tender for supply of competitively priced gas to India just as its ÚSD 2.5 billion tentative stake sale deal with Petronet LNG Ltd expired, officials said.

Petronet, India's biggest gas importer, had on September 21, 2019, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for purchase of up to 5 million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Tellurian Inc's proposed Driftwood



LNG terminal for 40 years. The deal was concurrent with Petronet making an equity investment of USD 2.5 billion for an 18 per cent stake in Driftwood. The September MoU contemplated conclusion of the transaction by March 31, 2020, but the timeline was extended to May 31,



fy promoters as well as test if LNG from Tellurian would be competitive, Petronet invited bids to buy 1 million tonnes per annum of LNG for 10 years. Suppliers were asked to quote a price lower than 30 cents minus Japan/Korea Marker (JKM) LNG price, which effectively brought the rate close to spot or current 2020 after Petronet promoters prices

# Centre asks NIC to capture FAS' lag details before vehicle registration

#### PNS NEW DELHI

lockdown

The government on Sunday said it has decided to ensure capturing of FASTag details while registering or issuing fitness certificate to vehicles all

over the country. In a letter addressed to NIC, with copies to all the states and UTs, the ministry has informed that full integration of National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) with VAHAN portal has been achieved, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement.



added

The VAHAN system is now getting all information on FASTags through VIN/VRN (vehicle identification number/

technology for making toll payments on national highways directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it.

ments in Indian equities in July so far, said Himanshu

Srivastava, associate director -

"This could be attributed to

intermittent profit booking by

FPIs given the surge in the

Indian equities in June and in

July so far," Srivastava said.

research

at

A prepaid tag, fixed on vehicles' windscreen, allows automated deduction of toll charges, and lets any vehicle pass through a toll plaza with zero human contact.

"As such, the ministry has asked to ensure capturing FASTag details while registering new vehicles, as also while issuing fitness certificates to vehicles plying under national permit," the statement said.

# Hyderabad

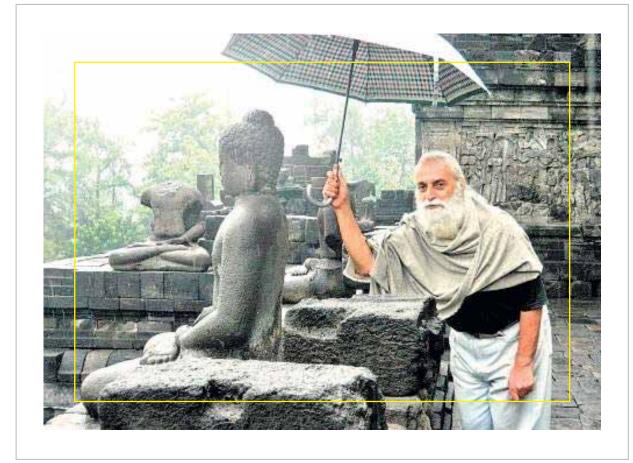
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> Monday July 13, 2020

# WRITINGS AND THE THEMES...

I started writing during my mature years. My first poem was when I was 16 years old, but it did not get published until I was 23. By 25, I started graying and my hair was white. My poetry was my way of coming out as gay to the world. I had to hide it as I couldn't openly say that I was gay. My poetry is my means of conveying things to the outside world. I don't torture my readers, I write for boys who are coming out and there are four-five words that I use time and again. Unlike the Americans, I never used big words and jargon. I waited and made a proper theme vocabulary and style for myself. My second poem was published when I was 40.

A poet, critic, activist, and academician, he may be popularly referred to as the first openly queer poet. Hoshang Dinshaw Merchant, a retired Professor, who has written several critically acclaimed books of poetry and critical writing, describes himself as a male homosexual Parsi by religion, Christian by education, Hindu by culture and Sufi by persuasion. Penning over 13 books of poetry and critical studies, Merchant is also known for Yaraana — Gay Writing — from South Asia, which grew to become a seminal anthology of queer literature. Hoshang who made Hyderabad his home since the mid-80s speaks to NAVEEN KUMAR about his journey as a writer, early years, and more...



ARLY YEARS... Hoshang Merchant was born in 1947 to a working-class

**WE LIVE IN OUR** 

HEADS, NOT

THE SOCIETY'

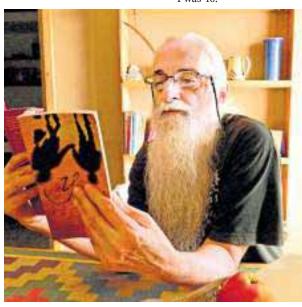
Zoroastrian family in Mumbai, where he attended Xavier's Lads Academy and St. Xavier's College. He has a Masters from Occidental College, Los Angeles and for his Ph.D. in 1981, he wrote a dissertation on Anaïs Nin. He has lived and taught in Heidelberg, Jerusalem, and Iran where he was exposed to various radical movements of the Left. "I was a very good student, also a loner growing up who never played a game in my life. But I was good at art, painting and essay writing and always stood first in English. However, I was not someone who you would call an overall topper," he says.

#### SETTLING DOWN IN HYDERABAD...

My family was the fourth generation in Bombay back then. My childhood was very that of a wealthy and pampered kid. We were those kids who had a car to pick and drop us back from school. My parents got divorced when I was very young and that was very traumatic. We were told that those who go with my father would get all the family money and those who go with mother, won't. I have three sisters and they went with my father. I was sent for higher studies to the States with a meager allowance. Though I was very poor, I was rich in my experiences through my travels. In 1984, I came back to Bombay but could not find a job. After two years of unemployment, I joined Hyderabad Central University in 1986 after I noticed an advertisement in the newspaper. I was kicked out of 13 jobs in 10 years and have travelled all over the world before settling down in Hyderabad. Even here, I could not rent a room and moved places 17 times in 12 months because of my sexual orientation. Thankfully nobody touched me or beat me up.

# GAY MARRIAGE...

Marriages are about property. Any marriage. Say some-



body has served somebody for 25 years, and then he dies. So the other one inherits his property. But what about people who don't have property? Or what about the kind of relationships that don't last that long? The kind of relationships I've had — two months, three months, a few days. What does marriage mean to people like us? But I can understand that people have grown up in a heterosexual society and want to think, "Oh, I want to live with this person forever". I did too. I knew no better. I'd also grown up seeing my father and mother. As human beings, we live in our heads, we don't live in society.



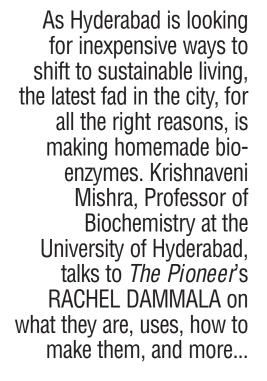








# Cleaning your house? Go eco-friendly with DIY bio-enzymes



he lockdown sure got a lot of us to try various things at home. While some realised we could cook dishes like Haleem too in our own homes, some others realised they could grow vegetables in a garden in their own backyard. The newest trend to be catching on has to be making our own 'Bio-enzymes' at home to keep chemicals at bay.

What are Bio-enzymes, you ask? Bio-enzyme cleaners are organic solutions produced by fermentation of fruits, vegetables, sugar, and water. In simpler terms, Bio-enzymes are a natural way to manage your home cleaning need, by doing yourself and the environment a favour, for almost no cost. Several people have been taking interest in this, including actress Samantha Akkineni, who can't stop promoting this simple yet effective discovery she made recently! So how do they work? These

# HOME-MADE BIO-ENZYME CLEANERS ARE ORGANIC SOLUTIONS PRODUCED BY FERMENTATION OF FRUITS, VEGETABLES, SUGAR, AND WATER

cleaners use good bacteria to digest wastes, soils, stains, and bad odours. This is possible by the bacteria that produce enzymes specifically designed to break down certain molecules into smaller pieces. How to make your own Bio-

How to make your own Bioenzyme at home? All you need are over 3 kilograms of citrus peels (of oranges, lemons, pineapple, and sweet lime, etc.), 10 litres of water, 1 kilogram of jaggery/brown sugar, a teaspoon of yeast. (The yeast here can be the remaining of your previous batch of bio enzyme, or if this is the first time you're making one, instead of a month with yeast, it'll take you three months without.)

Now mix all these ingredients in a plastic container that has screw bottle caps. Now leave this for a month (3 months without yeast). Release excess gases by opening the bottle cap once in two days but ensure it is covered always. Once it's ready, drain the liquid and store it in plastic bottles. The bio-enzyme is ready to be used for multiple cleaning purposes. What to keep in mind while

What to keep in mind while making one? Since there will be gases that will be released during the process of production, a plastic container is the best option. Also, don't screw the bottle too tight, the gases can cause it to explode. Ensure that the container is covered always to keep away fruit flies from getting into it.

# WHAT YOU CAN USE YOUR HOME-MADE BIO ENZYMES FOR:

- □ To clean and disinfect all surfaces in the house
- To purify air and remove bad odour
- □ To break down grease and grime
- To de-clog drains
- □ To remove limescale on taps and other steel appliances
- To remove pesticides and harmful chemicals from fruit and vegetables
- To clean and freshen clothing and footwear
- □ To be spray as a natural pesticide and herbicide
- To nourish the hair and skin of pets
- To keep cockroaches and mosquitoes away
- To purify groundwater

The worsening conditioning of the environment has called for an urgent need to move towards natural and sustainable living. If you're one that's impatient to wait a month and longer, most organic stores sell bio-enzyme cleaners, so go ahead and buy one. At a time when Hyderabad is under the threat of harmful chemicals contaminating our water and land, this is definitely one step we can take towards helping the planet heal.



# what's brewing? Anupam Kher's mother, brother Raju Kher test COVID 19 + ve

eteran actor Anupam Kher has shared that his mother Dulari, brother Raju Kher and two other family members have tested positive for

COVID-19. The actor took to social media to share the health update. He also revealed that he had tested negative for the virus.

wrote.

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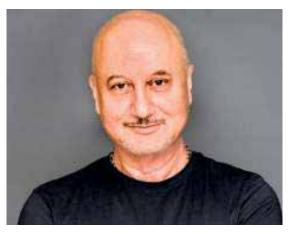
We have admitted her into

mother started showing. "I would like to inform friends, well-wishers

have tested negative. The family has self-quaranand everyone else that I had taken my mother for a check-up yesterday, as she tined themselves and we had been experiencing loss have informed the BMC. I of appetite. On doctor's would like to reach out to recommendation, we took everyone with aged parher for CT Scan to rule out ents — please get your parents tested even if they show the slightest of any medical issue. Upon testing, she was found mildly Covid +ve," he Kher continued: "Owing to her age, we have admitted her into Kokilaben Hospital. She is doing fine.

symptoms. Despite the extreme amount of carefulness displayed by my brother and his family over the last few months. they still tested positive. So I urge everyone to take Three other members ( my brother, his wife and my this seriously and understand that no amount of safety measures are enough. Friends, don't let your guards down. Let's be vigilant, let's be aware and let's fight the bad times

together." Many celebrities wished the family a speedy recovery.



"Speedy recovery, lots of love and energy to mom , Raju and his daughter .. this too shall pass my friend .. take care... love you," wrote Anil Kapoor. "Prayers for the speedy recovery of your family,"

Bipasha Basu commented. Actress Bhumi Pednekar shared: "Eagerly waiting for her next video #DulariRocks", while Neena Gupta said: "Oh ho take care my dear and good luck fr ur family."

# **AISHWARYA, AARADHYA TEST COVID 19 +VE**, **JAYA TESTS -VE**

ctor Abhishek Bachchan tweeted to confirm on Sunday evening that his wife, actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, and daughter Aaradhya had tested Covid-19 positive. "Aishwarya and Aaradhya have also tested COVID-19 positive. They will be self quarantining at home. The BMC has been updated of their situation and are doing the needful. The rest of the family including my Mother

# **DUBBING STUDIO, WHERE ABHISHEK WORKED ON BREATHE, TEMPORARILY SHUT**

analyst Komal Nahta shared the news on Twitter. "Sound N Vision dubbing studio closed temporarily as Abhishek Bachchan had, just a few days back, dubbed there for his web series, Breathe: Into The Shadows," he wrote. Abhishek had been stepping out to the studio almost daily earlier this month to finish the last bit of work on his web series.

# **REKHA'S** bungalow sealed after security guard tests Covid-19 + ve



the Bandstand area of the Bandra locality has been sealed by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) after a security guard tested positive for Covid-19.

eteran actress Rekhas bungalow in

The bungalow named Sea Springs has also been declared a containment zone and BMC has sanitised the locality completely.

The bungalow normally has two security guards on duty. One of them has tested positive for the novel coronavirus, according to a report. The infected member of Rekha's staff is currently undergoing treatment at a facility in Bandra Kurla Complex.

Rekha is the latest Bollywood celebrity whose staff has been affected by Covid-19. Earlier, Aamir Khan, Karan Johar, and Boney and Janhvi Kapoor, have reported that members of their staff have been infected by the coronavirus.

An official statement from Rekha or her office is awaited in the matter.





have tested negative. Thank you all for your wishes and prayers," tweeted @juniorbachchan. Jaya Bachhan is tested negative for covid19.

A fter Abhishek Bachchan was found positive for the novel coronavirus, the dubbing studio where he worked on his web series Breathe, has been temporarily closed. Film trade

# BHISHEK BACHCHAN IS COVID 19 +VE, REQUESTS ALL TO **STAY CALM**

ctor Abhishek Bachchan on Sunday morning posted on Instagram to reit-erate that his father Amitabh Bachchan and he have mild symptoms of Covid-19. He requested all "to stay calm and not panic<sup>7</sup>. "Yesterday, both my father and I tested posi-tive for COVID-19. Both

of us having mild symp-

toms have been admitted to hospital. We have informed all the required authorities and our fami-ly and staff are all being tested. The BMC has been in touch and we are complying with them. I request all to stay calm and not panic. Thank you," wrote Abhishek on Instagram.

On Saturday evening the 77-year-old Amitabh Bachchan had tweeted to confirm he was Covid-19

positive. "T 3590 -I have tested CoviD positive .. shifted to Hospital .. hospital informing authorities .. family and staff undergone tests , results await-ed .. All that have been in close proximity to me in the last 10 days are requested to please get themselves tested! @SrBachchan had tweet-

ed.

Soon after Bachchan's tweet, Abhishek had tweeted to confirm that he too had tested Covid

positive. The Bachchans are admitted to Mumbai's Nanavati Hospital. Their condition is said to be stable.

The Bachchan bunga-lows, Jalsa, Prateeksha and Janak, were being sanitised by BMC on Sunday morning.

# FUN











**CALVIN AND HOBBES** 





### GARFIELD





# NANCY

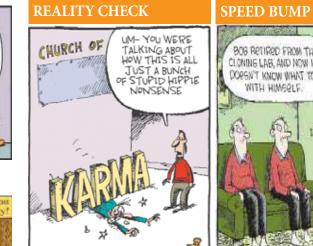


# GINGER MEGGS









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# ACROSS

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SOLUTION ORMOU

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# and started Mélange of food, pitching them to producers, but to no avail, love & humour in a finds NAGARAJ GOUD **MIDDLE-CLASS MILIEU** It will not be a punch-filled

inod Anantoju, the director of Middle Class Melodies (MCM), featuring Anand

Deverakonda and Varsha Bollamma in the lead roles, developed interest towards films during intermediate, while going on to do a bunch of short films in engineering to hone his skills. Before that, he was an avid reader. "My dad was a manager of Guntur branch Visalandhra book house. So, I cultivated the habit of reading at an early age. I started writing soon after and was also into storytelling as well. Because of slight financial instability at home, I had to take up a software job in Hyderabad after engineering. The initial plan was to do it for two-three years and then follow my dream of making movies. However, the two years soon turned into seven years," he smiles in a conversation with The Pioneer.

He continues, "During the ast four years of my job couldn't even make time to do short films because of the demanding nature of work at office. It was then I decided that if I continue to remain with the job, it will go on and

on. I had to take a call. Thankfully, my parents were always supportive of my deci-sion to enter filmdom."

Before Middle Class *Melodies*, Vinod wrote stories belonging to diverse genres and started pitching them to pro-ducers, but to no avail. "By default I could write stories which are serious in nature and it turned out to be a difficult proposition to convince pro-ducers with them. It was around this time, I decided to write a light-hearted drama along with my buddy Janardhan Pasumarthi. We first considered the title Middle Class Melodies. There was an inherent story and a theme in the title. So we thought of doing something from it and started developing it. The film is not a single protagonist story; other characters around him have significant impor-tance. All these characters were borrowed from real people's lives around us. We later bun-

dled them into a thematic connection," he shares Vinod is quick to inform that the story is not in a usual format, which is why it took him and Janardhan two years to get it green-lighted. "It's got a new flavor and is a realistic comedy.

comedy but more in the bracket of Jandhyala, Bapu and Vamsi's comedy. It will be a slice of life film minus the big stakes and outstanding drama. The conflicts are light and the narrative flow smooth. Tharun Bhascker happened to hear it and impressed by it, referred it to Anand Deverakonda. In fact, post the narration, the actor said he was looking for a story

of this nature. Bhavya Creations later endorsed it," he recalls, adding that while doing short films, he was aware of Tharun's work in the short films arena, so was the Pellichoopulu director of his. "However, we didn't know each other personally. My friend Raviteja Girijala, who edited my film, worked as an editor for Tharun's films Pellichoopulu and *Ee Nagarinika Emaindi*. It was he who helped me forge a bond with Tharun." In the film, Anand plays a

villager Raghava, an expert in whipping out Mumbai chutney. Hailing from Kolakaluru,

ilmmaker Ram Gopal Varma, who announced projects like *Murder*, *Thriller* and *Power Star* in the past one month, is gearing up for another film titled *Lockdown*. According to the buzz, he will be making another suspense thriller in the backdrop of coronavirus-induced lockdown. Leading the cast will be Varma's find Sri Tej from Vangaveeti and Lakshmi's NTR, and Poojita Ponnada. The filmmaker has already made a film

street food and the film has many portions revolving around food. In fact, there is even a song on different vari-eties of food items in Guntur. Raghava, however, has to encounter problems financially and opposition from his father to open his hotel. He has a love interest as well and her part blends into his dream. Simultaneously, supporting parts around the protagonist too have small story plots," he reveals.

Before Middle

Class Melodies,

Vinod wrote

belonging to

diverse genres

stories

Except for the lead pair, the film's supporting roles have been played by fresh faces like Chaitanya Garikapati, Divya Sripada, Goparaju Ramana, Surabhi Prabhavathi, Prem Sagar and Prabhavathi Varma. It was the story diktat, Vinod observes. "As I was attempting a realistic comedy, I wanted the audiences to connect to characters like their neighbours or their own. If popular supporting actors played those roles, it would give the feeling of watching a cinema, which I didn't want. I had to audition many actors from theatre groups of Guntur and Tenali for the parts and it took three months of time. The workshops followed soon after."



Bachchan announced that himself, wife Aishwarya and daughter Aradhya too have been tested positive for coronavirus. A wave of get well soon

**Avika Gor's** birthday fundraiser to support 3000 students

pportunities for learn-ing and development are the key to nation's progress. Unequal access widens the social and economic divide. There are still hun-dreds of schools across the country where digital education is not yet possible, causing thousands of students to lose out on pre-cious hours, days, weeks and eventually months of education.

Camp Diaries, an organisation started by Milind Chandwani during his stint with Teach For India in 2017, makes learning fun for children from lower socio-econom-ic backgrounds. They have so far impacted over 5,000 students across nine cities in India

and



wishes began pouring in, flooding Twitter and other social media platforms. Big B had tweeted: "T 3590 -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

aim to impact 3,000 kids

in the coming year. Avika Gor of Uyyala Jampala fame, has been a constant supporter of Camp Dairies. She is helping the organisation to raise funds through her fans and well through her fans and well-wishers. She collaborated wishers. She collaborated with Camp Dairies and started a birthday fundraiser with online crowdfunding platform Milaap. While she is encouraging her family, friends and wellwishers to donate to this online fundraising campaign

fundraising campaign instead of presenting her gifts, she is also matching all the donations received through this fundraiser. Speaking of the fund-

raiser, the actress said, "I am a firm believer of equity and therefore envi-sion a country where all children follow their pas-sion and unleash their potential. There is a great amount of potential in many of the underprivi-leged children to

the last 10 days are requested to please get themselves tested!

Bollywood celebs aside, Tollywood celebs were not far behind wishing the Bachchans a speedy recovery. Megastar Chiranjeevi, who considers Big B as his role model and mentor, tweeted, "All our best wishes and

tollywood

Bachchans

a speedy

recovery

T'wood wishes

hearty prayers are with you Amit ji! @SrBachchan Get well Soon! (sic)." Nagarjuna Akkineni, who has family and business ties

with Bachchan, wrote, "Dear Amitji,our prayers are with you for a speedy recovery (sic)." Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma, who collaborated with Big B for Sarkar series among other films, in his usual andaaz tweeted: "SARKAAAR am sure u will kick Corona on its butt and come back more stronger than ever like u always did .. I wont pray for u, but I will pray for the Corona who will surely die in its assault on u

(Sic)."

In a lengthy post, power star Pawan Kalyan, a diehard fan of Sr Bachchan, said that he still remembers his family praying for the superstar's health when he got injured during *Coolie*'s shoot. "You always invoke such tremendous amount of love, loyalty and affection from different age groups. We love you not only because of your talent but also for your fighting-spirit, simplicity and humbleness. It gave me immense pain when I got to know that you and Abhishek ji have tested positive for corona. May lord Dhanvanthri bless you and Abhishek ji with healing energies," the actor said in a statement.

statement. Mahesh Babu posted, "Get well soon sir! Wishing you a speedy recovery... (Sic)." Other noted personalities like Ravi Teja, Gunasekhar, Useikh Sharker Gunarth

Harish Shankar, Sampath Nandi and Chinni Krishna were among a host of others who wished to see Bachchans recover fast.



# Sanjana Reddy signs another film

which is 20.5 kms drive from Guntur, he is passionate about cooking and aspires to open a hotel in Guntur and introduce Mumbai chutney to the locals. "Guntur is a popular hub for

Coronavirus, whose trailer is already out. Presently in post-production, it features Srikanth Iyengar and

is helmed by Varma's shisya Agasthya Manju. Lockdown is believed to roll after Varma

wraps up Power Star.

Varma gears up for another film on lockdown

# do anything, but there isn't a path for them to reach great successes?

ven before she embarks on the arduous road to make a biopic on Karnam

Malleswari, onefilm-old director Saniana Reddy has signed another film. This new project with KL Damodar Prasad will begin after she wraps up work on the Malleswari biopic. Sanjana met Prasad with a storyline after her maiden film *Rajugadu*, with the latter asking her to expand it fully. When he rang her recently to check her health status after she took ill, he also enquired her about the old story. She gave him a full narration later and impressed by it, he

# **THIS NEW PROJECT** WITH KL DAMODAR **PRASAD WILL BEGIN AFTER SHE** WRAPS UP WORK ON **THE MALLESWARI BIOPIC.**

decided to rope her in. It will be one of the four films he announced last year under Sri Ranjith Movies, which produced tasteful films like Ala Modalaindi, Anthaku Mundu Aa Taruvatha and Kalyana Vaibhogame.





# Fish with human-like face spotted in Malaysia

 $N^{\hbox{ature surprises us in different ways, with the variation and Pevolution among species being one of the most beautiful$ secrets. There are a number of species of flora and fauna available on our planet that are nowhere near to the concept of species we have in mind. One of these species is the Trigger Fish. A Twitter user recently surprised netizens with a picture of a weird-looking fish captured in Malaysia. What makes this fish different from other species is its human-like features, including mouth with lips and teeth. Ever since the picture was posted online, it went viral

leaving people astonished at the fish. The post has received a lot of traction, with around 14 thousand likes and eight thousand comments. While some people compared their faces to the fish. others added some more human beauty features to the fish. For those who are unaware, this fish is known as Trigger Fish. The species, abundantly found in the Indo-Pacific region, can be easily spotted in South East Asian water bodies. While there are 40 different



species of the Trigger Fish found in the water bodies, most of these have an oval-shaped body with a large head. They are known for their strong- jawed mouth and teeth, capable enough to crush shells. These are known as Trigger Fish as they have two dorsal spines out of which the anterior one can be ejected only when the second one is depressed, which is also known as 'trigger' spine.

# Earth's atmosphere is ringing like a bell!

Arecent study by scientists at Kyoto University and the University of Hawai'i at M?noa shows that the Earth's entire atmosphere vibrates analogously. In the case of the atmosphere, the "music" comes not as a sound we could hear: instead, it is in the form of large scale waves of atmospheric pressure spreading over the globe and traveling around the equator, some moving east-to-west and others west-to-east Every one of these waves is a resonant vibration of the global atmosphere, practically equivalent to one of the resounding nitches of a hell

In a new study. scientists present a detailed analysis of observed atmospheric pressure over the alobe every hour for 38 years. The

results revealed the presence of dozens of the predicted wave modes. Scientists mainly focused on waves with periods between 2 hours and 33 hours, which travel horizontally through the atmosphere, moving all around the world at 700 miles per hour. Lead author Takatoshi Sakazaki said, "For these rapidly moving wave modes, our observed frequencies and global patterns match those theoretically predicted very well. It is exciting to see the vision of Laplace and other pioneering physicists so completely validated after two centuries.

# **Jewellery store sells** diamond-studded masks

You might have read about the man from Pune, who got a gold face mask made for himself for Rs 2.89 lakh, to protect himself from the novel coronavirus. If that news left you stupefied, wait till you hear the latest update. A jewellery store in Surat is selling face masks adorned with diamonds worth Rs 4 lakh. The store in Surat has been manufacturing face masks made of gold, silver, diamonds and even American diamonds, since the past month. The masks are layered with lines of jewels in several patterns. Deepak Choksi , owner of the jewellery store,

said that he got the idea of making diamond masks after a customer placed an order for it. "A customer came to our showroom recently and bought jewellery for his wedding that is scheduled in the near future. He also asked

us to make a mask for him that he will wear during the ceremony at the mandap. We discussed the plan with our designer and he selected a mask, and also purchased it after we customised it for him," Deepak Choksi said. Masks made of gold, adorned with American diamonds, are sold for Rs 1.5 lakh each. Gold and white gold masks that are set with diamonds, are sold for Rs 4 lakh each.

# **Record deforestation in Amazon rainforest!**

 $D^{eforestation}$  in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest has hit a monthly record of 1,034.4 square kilometres in June, the government reported. The National Institute for Space Research (INPE) at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation revealed in a report on Friday that deforestation in June was 10.6 per cent higher than in the same month of 2019, and 24.31 per cent higher than May this year, reports Xinhua news agency. According to the report, the world's largest rainforest witnessed 2,248 fires in June, the highest level for the month of June in 13 years. Additionally,

areas totalling 3 069 57 square kilometres were deforested in the first half of the vear. an increase of 25 per cent compared to the same period in 2019. The figures came at a time



when the Brazilian government is receiving harsh criticism from the international community for its alleged lack of commitment in combating the destruction of the Amazon. On Thursday, Vice President Hamilton Mourao led a meeting with a group of international investors, who publicly expressed their disagreement with the country's environmental policy.



# **Ganguly seeks shortened** quarantine for team India in Oz

#### PTI NEW DELHI

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly wants a shorter than mandated quarantine period for the Indian team when it travels to Australia for a Test series this year as "we don't want the players to go that far and sit in hotel rooms for two weeks'

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the rules of the game, players have to be in quarantine for two weeks and be tested for the virus before they can take the field in empty stadiums for now.

have the bowling. We just need to bat better. The best teams But Ganguly is hoping that the Indian team will get some relaxation during its tour of overseas bat well. Australia, comprising four Tests, including a day-nighter, ful in England, in Australia, in Pakistan we were getting 400-

later in the year. ave co tour. In December we will be coming. We just hope the number of quarantine days get reduced a bit," Ganguly told India Today show The Inspiration. "Because we don't want the players to go all that far and sit in hotel rooms for two weeks. It is very, very depressing and disappointing. We are looking at that, the quarantine thing," he said.

# **BLACKWOOD MATTERS** Jermaine leads run-chase with 95 to help WI beat England by 4 wickets & go 1-0 up

### AFP SOUTHAMPTON

ermaine Blackwood falls short of his second Test hundred by five runs but his 95 off 154 balls made sure that ason Holder's Windies spoil Ben Stokes maiden Test as England's captain and win the first Test of three-match *#raisethebat* Test series by 4 wickets on the final day at Ageas Bowl in Southampton on Sunday evening.

Chasing the target of 200 runs to go 1-0 up in the series, Caribbean's were struggling at 27 for three at one point but 28-year old Jamaican Blackwood batted with responsibility to not just cancel the hosts initial advantage but also put his side on the cusp of famous win as cricket returns after almost four months shutdown but to coronavirus hitaus

At the time of tea, West Indies came through an early wobble to move to 143 for 4 at tea and 57 runs from victory.

Jermaine Blackwood was 65 not out and had revived the tourists with a 73-run partnership with Roston hase before Chase was out for 37. Before they came together, West

Indies was 27-3 and struggling in pur-suit of a target of 200 to take the series lead at the Rose Bowl. Jofra Archer's two early wickets

gave West Indies problems in a seemingly straightforward chase. Archer removed Kraigg Brathwaite (4) and Shamarh Brooks (0), and Mark Wood bowled Shai Hope for 9. West Indies had the ac

of opener John Campbell retiring hurt

after being hit on the toe with a york-

er from Archer. The West Indies team



# Poms should drop Denly, feels Vaughan

captain Michael Vaughan feels the out of form Joe Denly should be the one making way for skipper Joe Root in the second Test against the West Indies instead of

young Zak Crawley. In the second Test, scheduled to begin on Thursday in Manchester, either Denly or Crawley is expected to be replaced by Root, who missed the seriesopener to be with his wife for the delivery of their second child.

"England have a decision to make on Denly. Crawley surely has to stay in the side," Vaughan told BBC Sport.

"Joe Denly played the way he has played in all of his 15 Tests. It's been the same story. He did the hard yards then made a mistake," Vaughan added.

Denly, who plays at No 3, struggled with the bat in the opener, scoring 18 and 29 in the first and second innings respec-tively. The 34-year-old has failed to breach the 40-run mark in eight innings.



ond innings at the Ageas Bowl on Saturday.

"It's not even a conversation. You could argue that Denly was very lucky to have played 15 Test Denly, who made his debut matches. There are a lot of playhave played

And, as I said Australia and New Zealand have been in good position except Melbourne. So from that point of view we will be going there India captain.

that to Virat as well." Ganguly said that the series

500-600 in Test m

and hopefully the quarantine

days will be less and we can get

confirmed cases and more than

be facing a different Australian

side but believes that they still

stand a chance because of how

good they have been over the

series. It is not going to be what

it was two years back. It is going

to be a strong Australia but our

team is as good," he said.

"It is going to be a tough

We have the batting, we

'When we were so success-

500 of them have recovered.

Australia has over 9,000

Ganguly felt that India will

back to cricket."

past few years.

will be more important to Kohli's tenure as captain of the side than the World Cup.

"Because you are Virat Kohli your standards are high. When you walk out to play, when you walk out with your

team, Í, watching on TV, don't expect you to just play well against Australia. I expect you to win. So you have to live up to the standards. For his captaincy tenure this will be a milestone series — more than the World Cup," said the former

said Campbell would come out to bat again if needed. The indications were that he might be needed after pace pair Archer and James Anderson pinned the West Indies batsmen down and made it tough going for them at the start of their

said

second innings. Archer, the fast bowler who was born in Barbados, made the breakthrough in the sixth over when Brathwaite played on. Archer had Brooks lbw in his next over and the victory target didn't seem so easy anymore. Hope played two cover drives for

West Indies' Jermaine Blackwood plays a shot during his 95-run innings on fifth day of 1st Test AP

PACER SHANNON GABRIEL FINISHED WITH 5-75 FOR THE WEST **INDIES AFTER** COLLECTING THE TWO WICKETS ON SUNDAY MORNING THAT WRAPPED UP THE ENGLAND INNINGS

2019.

four to ease the early pressure but Wood On the other hand, 22-yearcame into the attack and knocked out old Crawley scored his second half-century in five Tests with a Hope's off stump as he tried to hit superb 76-run knock in the secanother and England had the upper

hand Blackwood's half-century settled the West Indies in the second session. He hit eight fours and was aided by Blackwood to put on an unbroken strand of 43 for the sixth wicket. West Chase.

Chase was caught behind off a mean bouncer to give Archer 3-35 in the second innings but the West Indies fightback was in full flow and that was the only wicket to fall in the second ses-

Tests and has failed to capitalise on good starts. His highest score of 94 came against Australia in

Shane Dowrich (15 not out) joined

Indies had a minimum of 42 overs left

in the last session of the match to make

the 57 runs it needed.

Tests and got hundreds," said Vaughan, who led England in 51 of his 82 Tests. "He has missed his chance

and they have to stick with Crawley. I'm sorry for Denly he's just not good enough," he added.

its second innings. Pace bowler Shannon Gabriel finished with 5-75 for the West Indies after collecting the two wickets on Sunday morning that wrapped up the England innings.

England scored 204 in its first Archer earlier made 23 with the bat innings and West Indies replied with as England was bowled out for 313 in 318.

# SINGLES

#### SWEAT ISN'T POSSIBLE EVERYWHERE: BHUVI

KOLKATA: India fast-bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar feels it is going to be a challenge with the saliva ban to shine the ball in place as sweat is not possible everywhere in the world. "Sweat is not possible everywhere in the world, definitely it's going to be challenging. Hope things get better soon as they were," Kumar said on Sunday during a Twitter chat with fans using the hashtag #AskBhuvi.

#### SHELDON JACKSON TO PLAY FOR PUDUCHERRY

MUMBAI: Prolific batsman Sheldon Jackson, who played a pivotal role in Saurashtra's maiden Ranji Trophy triumph in the season gone by, will compete for Puducherry in the domestic circuit this year, a decision which the cricketer said was "not easy". The right-hander scored 809 runs in the 2019-20 season in 10 matches. "This has been one of the hardest decisions that I had to make and it's not been easy for me but I feel its the right time for me to move on and play as a professional in some other team or state," Jackson said. Former Test bowler Pankaj Singh has also returned to Puducherry after missing the last season due to injury while Paras Dogra has been retained as the third guest player.

### ZAHA SUBJECTED TO ONLINE RACIAL ABUSE

LONDON: English Premier League side Crystal Palace's Wilfried Zaha has been subjected to racial abuse on social media, the forward shared screenshots ahead of Sunday's Premier League game at Aston Villa. "Woke up to this today," Zaha wrote along with the post on Twitter where he shared the screenshots. "This is an absolute disgrace and should not be happening. We stand with you, Wilf, and anyone else who has to suffer such horrific abuse," Palace said on Twitter.

# AFP TURIN

**¬**ristiano Ronaldo scored two penalties as Juventus snatched a dramatic 2-2 draw against Atalanta on Saturday to take a massive step towards a ninth straight Serie A title.

Lazio's 2-1 loss to Sassuolo earlier in the day gave Atalanta, on an 11match winning streak heading into the game, the chance to move second and cut the gap to Juve to six points.

But despite trailing twice and being outplayed for long periods, Maurizio Sarri's Juventus moved eight points clear at the top with six matches remaining as Ronaldo took his tally to 28 league goals this season. "We can't make calcu-

lations yet, we can't take our foot off the gas until we are mathematically champions," said Juve captain Leonardo Bonucci.

It was an ultimately frustrating outing for Atalanta who stay third, nine points off the pace, after conceding both spotkicks for handball.

"What are we meant to do, cut our arms off? You can at most put your arms



Luis Muriel.

Ronaldo's spot kicks save Juve |

in front of your body," Atalanta coach Gian Piero of the campaign.

Gasperini told DAZN. The interpretation of the rule is not the

same here as elsewhere. Other countries don't give penalties like that. SERIE A Atalanta grabbed the lead

in the 16th minute. scoring for the 25th consecutive match in all competitions. Papu Gomez was the Dvbala's cross.

creator, wriggling free in midfield before exchanging passes with Duvan Zapata before sliding the ball back for the Colombian to drill

Immobile at the top of the home his 15th league goal made The goal

Atalanta the first Serie A Juve in front with 10 minclub in almost 70 years to have three players score 15 times in a league season, with star's half-volley. Zapata joining Ilicic and

The reigning champions were gifted a route back into the game nine minutes after half-time as

Marten de Roon was past Wojciech Szczesny. penalised for handling

Ronaldo stepped up to score his 27th Serie A goal this term, drawing him within two of Lazio's Ciro penalised for handball

goalscoring charts. Ronaldo almost put

utes to play, but visiting goalkeeper Pierluigi Gollini made an excellent save to keep out the Portuguese Malinovskiy did put

Atalanta back into the lead in the 81st minute, as Muriel picked out his fellow sub to hammer a fierce shot

But Atalanta shot themselves in the foot again in the 90th minute, as Ronaldo fired in his second spot-kick after Muriel was

AFP VALLADOLID r ionel Messi made it 20

Lassists for the season in Barcelona's stodgy 1-0 win over Real Valladolid on Saturday, even as his team's La Liga challenge appears almost over.

Messi teed up Arturo Vidal's winner at Jose Zorilla to become the first player to provide 20 assists in Spain's top flight since Xavi Hernandez in 2009.

Victory for Barca means Real Madrid cannot clinch the title on Monday by beating Granada but only an incredible collapse will prevent them from putting their name on the trophy later in the week.

If they beat Granada, Madrid will win La Liga by Arturo Vidal celebrates with Lionel Messi after scoring Barca's opener AP prevailing at home to Villarreal on Thursday, regardless of defenders, triggered more Barcelona's results.

Overall, Madrid need only five points 103 from their remaining three matches to secure LaLiga their third La Liga title in eight years.

Yet even as Barca's turbulent domestic campaign draws to a close, Messi continues to shine.

His delightful pass for Vidal in the 15th minute, a scoop between two Valladolid

# Griezmann likely to miss title run-in

Barcelona: Barcelona forward Antoine Griezmann is set to miss his side's final two La Liga games after sustaining a thigh injury during Saturday's win over Real Valladolid.

Griezmann came off at halftime and a statement from Barca on Sunday said he had injured his right thigh.

The club did not say how long the France striker would be out for although newspaper Sport said he would be sidelined for three weeks, ruling him out of Thursday's home game against Osasuna and their final match, away to Alaves, next Sunday. AFP

As well as matching the best La Liga total for in 2002-03.

assists by one player in the Later, third-placed Atletico Madrid made sure of their last 11 years, Messi extends his own careerplace in the Champions League best number of assists in a sinnext season with a 1-0 win over Real Betis despite playing more than half an hour with 10 men. He also becomes only the

second player in the 21st cen-Diego Costa grabbed the tury from the five major only goal from a Yannick Carrasco free-kick in the 73rd European leagues to hit 20 goals and 20 assists in the same minute after VAR had earlier campaign, after Thierry Henry ruled out two goals.



remarkable milestones.

gle league season.

Vidal keeps Barca in fight