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HYDERABAD, TUESDAY JUNE 2, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



PURI IS ONE OF
MY FAVOURITE
DIRECTORS:
MAHESH BABU

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MHA PUTS ON HOLD LIST OF NON-SWADESHI ITEMS FOR CAPF CANTEENS

Hours after making it public, the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday put on hold a list of non-Swadeshi products not to be sold at Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) canteens, saying there were discrepancies and a fresh list would be released soon. The MHA on May 13 had declared that the nationwide network of over 1,700 Central Police Canteens (CPCs) or CAPF canteens will only sell indigenous or 'swadeshi' products from June 1 in a bid to give a fillip to domestic industries. The MHA has asked the Central Police Welfare Board to put on hold its list, issued earlier in the day, barring 1,026 items of over 70 companies from selling in CPCs, a home ministry official said in a fresh order.



CENTRAL GOVT HIKES PADDY MSP BY RS 53/QTL FOR 2020-21

The government on Monday hiked the MSP of paddy marginally by Rs 53 per quintal to Rs 1,868 per quintal for the 2020-21 crop year, while the rates for oilseeds, pulses and cereals were also raised. The decision, taken by the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will help farmers take a call on which kharif crop to grow as sowing picks up with the arrival of the monsoon. The Met Department has projected normal monsoon during the June-September period. Based on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, the Cabinet approved MSP of 14 crops. Paddy (common) MSP has been increased to Rs 1,868 per quintal for this year.



SOCIAL DISTANCING NORMS, MASKS MUST IN RELIGIOUS PLACES FROM JUNE 8

Social distancing norms and use of masks and sanitisers will be a must in religious places from June 8 as people will be returning to the shrines, which have been closed for over two months due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown. In-charges and managements of temples, mosques and gurudwaras in the city said preparations are underway to ensure all safety measures are in place as they throw open their doors for the devotees amid the pandemic. The steps needed to adhere to detailed guidelines of the Centre and the Delhi government, and standard operating procedures for religious places that are yet to be issued will also be implemented, they said.



ELECTIONS FOR 18 RAJYA SABHA SEATS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 19

Elections for 18 Rajya Sabha seats will be held on June 19, the Election Commission has said. The elections, which were to be held in March, were deferred in view of the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent countrywide lockdown. Now as the lockdown is being progressively eased, the Commission has announced a date for the election. The list includes 4 seats each from Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, three each from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, two from Jharkhand and one each from the northeastern states of Meghalaya and Manipur. The voting will begin at 9 am on June 19.



Under Modi, India has emerged stronger on world stage

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FARMERS TO BE MADE INDUSTRIALISTS

KCR'S 'BIG BOUNTY' likely to be Agri SEZs

L VENKAT RAM REDDY
HYDERABAD

Ever since Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced on May 29 that he will soon come out with a 'big bounty' for farmers in the State that he said would make India watch in awe, there has been immense speculation and heated debate in various circles over what the scheme would be. Information obtained from reliable sources suggest that KCR wants to turn farmers in Telangana into 'food processing industrialists'. KCR has decided to set up 'Farmers SEZ' (special economic zones) in each Assembly constituency over an extent of 100 to 300 acres each. The government will develop SEZs, set up food processing industries and give shares to farmers village-wise in each

KCR has decided to set up "Farmers SEZ" in each Assembly constituency over an extent of 100 to 300 acres each

The govt will share the profits earned by these industries with the farmers every year

The government will invest on development of SEZs and setting up of industries. Farmers will be given shares in these industries based on the agriculture produce they achieve as part of 'regulated farming policy'. The government will share the profits earned by these industries with the farmers every year. This would be the first of its kind initiative in the country, where the government itself will allot land for setting up SEZ, set up food processing industries. These industries include rice mills, dal mills, oil mills, cold storages and other units.



Attacks on healthcare staff unacceptable: PM Modi

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OMC campus turning into Covid-19 hotspot

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Osmania Medical College is turning into a Coronavirus hotspot with seven postgraduate medics having tested positive for the virus. Two girls and five boys were infected with Coronavirus and are being treated in Gandhi Hospital. With the number of cases of infection increasing, authorities are now planning to test all the 280 PG students saying in the hostels of the campus. According to the OMC authorities, apart from testing all the students, the hostel is being disinfected. Principal Shasikala said that the condition of the PG students is stable even though the tests were positive. She said that they are sanitising classrooms and labs and junior doctors are under home quarantine since the exams are set to begin on June 20. A Gynaecology PG student posted in Petlaburj Maternity

94 cases and six deaths in State

HYDERABAD: Telangana on Monday reported 94 fresh cases of Coronavirus, with the dreaded infection claiming six more lives, taking the death toll to 88 in the State. Of the six casualties, three are male and three female, including a three-and-a-half month old baby from Falaknuma. While the baby girl was 'syndromic', another 39-year-old female and a 59-year-old male with no comorbidities also succumbed to the virus. All the deaths are related to Hyderabad and predominantly old city. Monday's infections took the total number of cases in the state to 2,792. Of the 94 cases, 79 are in GHMC area. While three cases each were reported in Rangareddy, Medchal districts, two each were reported in Medak, Nalgonda, Sangareddy.

Hospital reportedly contracted the virus and spread it to her roommate and others in the hostel.

Covid-19 reaches AP Secretariat

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Glaring lack of judgment and utter neglect by the authorities concerned resulted in two blocks of the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat at Velagapudi being sealed on Monday after an officer working in one of them tested positive for the dreaded Coronavirus.

As soon as the infection was confirmed, Agriculture Special Chief Secretary Poonam Malakondaiah directed 84 employees working in Block 3 and 4 to work from home for at least two weeks.

Monsoon keeps its date with Kerala

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon hit Kerala on Monday on its normal onset date, marking the commencement of the four-month-long rainfall season, the India Meteorological Department said on Monday. North India is likely to get "above normal" rainfall, while central India and the southern peninsula will receive "normal" rainfall. However, east and north-east India are likely to receive less rainfall than other parts of the country, according to the IMD.

"The southwest monsoon has made an onset over Kerala," IMD director general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra



declared as widespread rainfall occurred in the southern state during the past two days. The country receives 75 per

TS to receive 2% more rainfall

HYDERABAD: With southwest monsoon entering the country on Monday, Telangana State is likely to receive 2 per cent excess rainfall than average, similar to that of the country. The onset of monsoon will be between 5-10 June in Telangana. As per the IMD: "Season rainfall is likely to be 102 per cent of LPA over Telangana with a model error of ±8 per cent. Monsoon seasonal rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 102% of the LPA with a model error of ±4%".



Odisha joins 'One Nation-One Ration Card'

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TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Jyeshtha & Shukla Paksha Panchangam
Tithi: Ekadashi: 12:04 pm
Nakshatram: Chitra: 10:54 pm
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 03:28 pm - 05:06 pm
Yamagandam: 08:59 am - 10:36 am
Varjyam: 08:20 am - 09:47 am, 07:00 pm - 05:27 am
Gulika: 12:14 pm - 01:51 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: 05:04 pm - 06:32 pm
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 am - 12:40 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Haze
Temp: 34/24
Humidity: 55%
Sunrise: 05:40
Sunset: 06:47
Current Weather Conditions Updated June 1, 2020 5:00 PM

Street vendors to get Rs 10k loan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday launched a special micro-credit scheme to provide affordable loan of up to Rs 10,000 to street vendors, a move aimed at restarting their livelihoods affected due to coronavirus-triggered lockdown.

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry in a statement said the 'Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi' is likely to

benefit 50 lakh street vendors in the urban and rural areas of the country.

Those who were vending till March 24 this year can avail the benefits of the scheme, the duration of which is till March 2022, the statement said.

"The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year. "On timely or early repay-

ment of the loan, an interest subsidy of seven per cent per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer on six monthly basis," the ministry said.

It stated that there will be no penalty on early repayment of loan. The scheme, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Monday, is in pursuance to the announcement made by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on My 14, 2020, it said.

Woman dupes techie of Rs 1 cr on matrimonial site

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A techie was duped of more than Rs 1 crore by a woman he had met on a Telugu matrimonial website.

According to the police, the victim came in contact with a woman, identified as Anu Pallavi Maganti, through a Telugu matrimony website 'www.telugumatrimony.com'.

The woman told him that she was born in Baltimore, Maryland state and hence was a US Citizen and comes from a well settled family, residing at Jubilee Hills of Hyderabad. She claimed that she was a doctor and both her parents are



also doctors, adding that her father died in 2010. Soon, the victim decided to go and meet her parents at their residence. However, the woman claimed that her fam-

ily wouldn't accept him and was forcing her to marry a rich businessman's son. She also claimed that she has many issues and convinced him saying that her father had transferred sizeable properties on her name. She then went on to claim that her phone was hacked by unknown persons and her bank accounts and credit and debit cards were

frozen by her family to force her to agree to marry the person of their choice. The victim and the accused woman used to talk on WhatsApp and Telegram by texting and calling regularly. In February 2018, the woman asked the victim to send her some money for her legal issues.

The woman told him that she was born in Baltimore, Maryland state and hence was a US Citizen and comes from a well settled family, residing at Jubilee Hills of Hyderabad.

LOCKDOWN IMPACT

Working women complain of 'online' sexual harassment

Getting unwarranted video call requests at odd hours, being talked down during virtual meetings were among the complaints of sexual harassment from women working from home during the nationwide lockdown, according to experts working in the field.

The coronavirus-triggered lockdown has posed a lot of challenges for many women professionals who have been working from home for such a long period of time and struggling to manage the work-life balance. Many women had approached the experts for guidance as they were unsure of how to raise complaints of sexual harassment while working from home.

"There are no clear guidelines by companies on how work from home should function in an organisation and that confuses women. I have been receiving 4-5 such complaints of harassment everyday ever since the lockdown was imposed," said Akancha



Srivastava, who runs the foundation Aканcha Against Harassment, India's largest social impact against cyber harassment initiative.

However, the number of complaints received by the National Commission for Women (NCW) has been low since the lockdown began but the experts say that could be because many women do not want to officially complain and wish to consult what they can do in the matter.

"During the lockdown, many women are worried about their job security so they are not sure if they should speak up or not."

Under Modi, India has emerged stronger on world stage

Eminent gurus like Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore and Aurobindo proved how a country's ties with the world enhance its greatness.

The world was always in awe of the cultural and spiritual wealth of India. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country's culture has spread to other nations. Moreover, India has risen to the position of leading the world on cultural affairs.

In one word, India is emerging as a Global Guru for the whole world.

There is no doubt that India will emerge as a crucial destination to fulfil the needs of the Covid-19 afflicted nations.

Modi knows how to turn challenges into opportunities. That is why he took strategic measures in declaring lockdown and its subsequent lifting. He is acting with alacrity initiating measures to set the

economy back on track. Ever since Modi came to power in 2014, India became one of the important countries on the global map. It was amply clear that a strong leader, strong policy and a stable government are essential for the whole world to respect a nation.

At one time, Pakistan used to call the shots, but after the Pulwama incident, the world stood by India. This was not achieved merely in a day. For over five years, Modi made whirlwind tours of the globe, building rapport with not only developed nations but also other countries.

With a long-term strategy, Modi developed relations over trade, commerce, investment, production and technical cooperation and so on.

At the global fora, Modi left his indelible mark as demonstrated mammoth crowds, jam-packed stadia, selfies with fans, meetings with business-

Modi knows how to turn challenges into opportunities. That is why he took strategic measures in declaring lockdown and its subsequent lifting

men and global leaders.

Entering into cordial ties with countries like Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates was a bold step in international policy. Since these countries support Pakistan, earlier rulers ignored them and maintained relations with countries like Egypt.

But Modi observed the political changes occurring in Arab nations and moulded them to be favourable to India.

Not merely with an eye on the Gulf oil, he maintained close ties with the Gulf countries keeping in mind a long-term political strategy. Accordingly, he moved the pawns on the global political

chessboard.

At the same time, Modi extended the hand of friendship to Japan and has had good rapport with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to speed up cooperation between the two nations.

Modi knows that it will hold in check the China's hyperactive role in international arena. Around the same period, the USA became the most strategic partner of India.

India has been playing crucial role in G-20 and BRICS.

The moot question is why global nations are showing interest towards India. The only reason is Modi's foreign policy, whose objective is to



Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

strengthen the country economically.

That is why he took steps to simplify transactions of other nations with India (Ease of Doing business). He announced Make in India policy six years ago and is leading the country on the road to self-sufficiency. He announced Atmanirbhar package only to change the

country into a major production hub.

To weaken China, which is ruling the roost in the manufacturing sector, the PM is implementing series of measures acting with alacrity. He announced Rs 3 lakh-crore package to MSME sector. Also, the decision to extend the loans was not taken casually.

The world identified India as the country where manufacturing can develop on par with China.

The country has geographic area, capabilities, intelligence, cheap labour. Unlike China, the country has no language problem. The incentives announced to MSME sector by Modi government is a decision in the direction of overtaking China in manufacturing. There is no doubt that the companies using China to manufacture their products



will look towards India if the MSME sector is stronger here.

Japan, the USA and Europe have evolved overseas investment policies to facilitate shifting of their companies from China to India. In the future, more companies will commence their operations in India, lending support to our economy.

Reforms announced as part of the Atmanirbhar package and the decisions giving thrust to private sector and start-ups are aimed at making the Make in India campaign successful. In fact the package is an extension of the Make in India policy.

Modi has been acting fast to ensure that red tapism and corruption in the country on cause no hurdles to economic growth in the country.

If India exceeds China in production sector, Pakistan which is dependent on China

has no option except to maintain a low profile.

That is why Modi is paving the way for overtaking China in production activities on one hand and on the other, to check atrocities in Pak-occupied Kashmir.

China has been concerned over at these measures sensing that the posture adopted by India is harmful to its interests.

Meanwhile, India has been sending strong signals that it will not tolerate any steps that would put its interests in jeopardy.

Defence-wise, the country is not weak like earlier. The world knows that India can teach a lesson to anyone that meddles in its affairs.

Moreover, India is not alone in global political scenario. On account of the rapport Modi enjoys with world leaders, there is no doubt that they would come to its rescue in case of any trouble.

KCR failed to protect TS' water rights, says Bandi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP State president and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday attacked Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for 'failing' to protect Telangana's water rights. He alleged that the Andhra Pradesh government was diverting water from the Krishna River through the Pohireddyppadu reservoir and said this was because of KCR's inefficiency.

"KCR had failed to protect the interests of Telangana in making sufficient water available through Krishna River for irrigation projects. The state is not using its share of water as allocated by Bachavath Tribunal. It's high time the state raise the issue before the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal," he said.

He alleged that the KCR



Bandi Sanjay threatened to launch an agitation in the name of Krishna River Waters Porata Committee if the govt fails to act

government has failed to argue before the tribunal in this regard for the last six years. Sanjay threatened to launch an agitation in the name of Krishna River Waters Porata Committee. He said that the party will announce its action plan in this regard soon.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy said that the BJP would fight for its share of water. "The party

will appoint an action committee on irrigation projects after discussing comprehensively. The party would go ahead in the name of 'Telangana Projects Sadhana Porata Samithi'." Telangana BJP conducted a round table meeting on Krishna Waters at state BJP office on Monday with party leaders and experts. The meeting, in which BJP leaders and irrigation experts participated,

decided to go ahead with effective plan in regard to utilisation of Krishna waters. The meeting was held under the leadership of Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar. The meeting discussed on the strategies to be adopted towards Andhra Pradesh government, which is constructing new projects. The meeting also decided to launch movement against the KCR government for adopting anti-constitutional policies in regard to utilisation of Krishna waters.

BJP national general secretary P Muralidhar Rao, Union Minister for state of Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy, BJPLP leader Rajasingh, BJP lone MLC N Ramchander Rao, MP Dharmapuri Arvind, leaders-Nallu Indrasena Reddy, Dr K Laxman, Mothkupalli Narsimulu, DK Aruna and others participated.

Ministers deceiving people: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that all TRS Ministers were emulating Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao in deceiving the people, especially farmers through false propaganda.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, Uttam described the Nalgonda incident as unfortunate wherein Minister Jagadish Reddy entered into an argument, used unparliamentary language and resorted to personal attacks on him when he just questioned the status of crop loan waiver scheme and paddy procurement. He alleged that TRS Ministers have become habitual liars and speak in deceptive tone to protect themselves from accountability or any kind of criticism.

While having the argument, Jagadish Reddy even forgot that he was a Minister. Stating that he himself had served as Minister in the undivided



TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan

Andhra Pradesh, he said he had never indulged in such a behaviour.

Uttam said that Chief Minister and his Ministers believes only in self praise and derives pleasure by making false claims. "Just by closing their eyes, they assume that no one is watching them. They don't want anyone to identify their mistakes. They are in no

mood to correct themselves. Making fake promises and false claims got inculcated in their culture," he alleged.

The TPCC chief asked as to why it was difficult for the state government to waive off crop loans in a single take from the annual budget of Rs 1.82 lakh crore. He said not a single rupee of crop loan has been waived although the TRS gov-

ernment took charge for the second term one-and-a-half years ago.

He pointed out that the Congress government in Chhattisgarh had waived off crop loans of over Rs 11,000 crore within hours after taking charge.

He alleged that TRS Government did not waive off 100 per cent crop loans even in the last term and only 80 per cent were cleared just before the 2018 elections.

Uttam alleged that the state government has been cheating the farmers on all issues. He said the implementation of Rythu Bandhu scheme was erratic. He said that the scheme was meant to provide investment support to farmers at the beginning of cropping season. But it is being treated as reimbursement scheme where majority of farmers are being paid money after the end of season.

Citing instances, he said in Nalgonda division, of Rs 62 crore, only Rs 35 crore were released to the farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

KCR's 'big bounty'...

Continued from page 1

However, there are also speculations of KCR would be offering monthly pension of Rs 3,000 to each farmer or free fertilizer and pesticide.

But, official sources rule out this possibility, pointing out that KCR is already extending Rs 8,000 per acre for each farmer under Rythu Bandhu and there is no scope for extending another similar financial assistance scheme again. The government is already incurring Rs 14,000 crore per year on Rythu Bandhu, Rs 1,000 crore on Rythu Bima, Rs 5,000 crore on 24x7 free power to agriculture, Rs 30,000 crore on crop loan waiver for next four years. In this backdrop, offering monthly pensions and free fertilizers and pesticides again would have huge financial implications on state.

Revanth slams Jagadish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC working president and Malkajgiri MP A Revanth Reddy on Monday took potshots at Power Minister G Jagadish Reddy. He said that Jagadish behaved like a street rowdy in Nalgonda on Sunday. Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan, Revanth said that it is not proper on part of Jagadish Reddy to criticise TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy instead of answering to the questions. He alleged that

the government has not identified the families of martyrs even after six years after the formation of Telangana state.

More so, the government is insulting the families of martyrs. "The government didn't lift the cases against those who participated in the statehood movement.

However, the government succeeded in lifting all the cases filed against KCR family," he alleged. Revanth Reddy asked KCR to reveal whether he is the Chief Minister to Erravalli or to Telangana.

Working women complain of ...

Continued from page 1

"The women have the constant dilemma that they should not be looked upon as troublemakers," Srivastava said.

She said work from home means there are going to be some disruptions and that one must respectfully accept but that is not happening and it is causing even more stress to women.

"Since we have never experienced absolute work from home before, women are always second-guessing if it was harassment, where does one draw the line, how does one define the body language as offen-

sive or indecent? Male colleagues stalking them on social media or sending friend requests, commenting on their pictures when they are not even friends.

"They are made to feel guilty of any home responsibility they might have and women are being demanded to come online at odd hours they are being talked down if the environment is not to their liking. These are very subtle ways of sexually harassing women," she said. Giving examples, Srivastava said one woman had recently received a video call request from her boss at 11 pm for an "urgent matter", but when she received the

call it turned out to be for something that on a regular day would have been easily taken care of over an email. In another case, a woman was asked by her boss over video call if she was capable of handling work assigned to her as she seemed "distracted" because of her children who were playing in the background. Some women have also complained that they find their colleagues to be inappropriately dressed during virtual meetings that made them uncomfortable.

An expert at InfoSec Girls said a lot of people don't report but wish to discuss what they do in such scenarios.

Covid-19 reaches AP Secretariat

Continued from page 1

Minister Mekapati Gautam Reddy also rescheduled his review meeting in Secretariat and held it from an office in Vijayawada.

Recently, the State Government sent 10 RTC buses to Hyderabad to bring the government employees stranded in Hyderabad on account of lockdown.

They were taken to the CK Convention Centre in Mangalagiri and tested for the virus on Friday. However, there were no efforts made to explain why employees were allowed to return to work at the Secretariat even before the test results were received.

Three of them tested positive or the

virus. One of them is working in the Secretariat, while two others are working in the offices of heads of department.

The infected employee working in agriculture department in the Secretariat, was tested upon arrival here from Hyderabad and the lab report came out positive for the virus.

According to sources, the other two infected employees are believed to have wandered in the two blocks. Other employees expressed fears about the spread of Coronavirus as their infected colleagues had wandered in various sections over the past four days.

Disinfection measures were carried in the two blocks on Monday.

Woman dupes techie of Rs 1cr

Continued from page 1

He then began sending her money for all the 'legal expenses' as her family has political connections. Believing her, the victim transferred a total

amount of Rs 1,02,18,033 through online transfer into her bank accounts. Later the victim came to know that the accused is a habitual cheater with a fictitious name "Malavika Devi".

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD
₹ 49,170 (10 gm)
₹ 370

SILVER
₹ 50,100 (1kg)
₹ 1550

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg

Dressed/With Skin ₹228
Without Skin ₹259
Broiler at Farm ₹157

EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD 340
VIJAYAWADA 315
VISHAKHAPATNAM 350
RETAIL PRICE ₹3.40

Monsoon keeps its date...

Continued from page 1

It is not only crucial for farming in the country, but also for replenishing the reservoirs, and more importantly to the economy which is still largely dependent on agriculture. Overall, the country will receive normal precipitation with a Long Period Average of 102 per cent with an error margin of plus or minus 4 per cent. M Rajeevan, secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said at a media briefing on the second long range forecast for the 2020 southwest monsoon rainfall. In its first long range

TS to receive 2 % more rainfall

Continued from page 1

In July, the country is predicted to receive 3 per cent excess rainfall while in August it is likely to receive 3 per cent deficit rainfall, both with a model error of ±9 per cent. According to IMD, "Southwest Monsoon has advanced into entire south

Arabian Sea and Lakshadweep area, remaining parts of Maldives, most parts of Kerala and Mahe, some parts of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, some more parts of Comorin area and southwest Bay of Bengal. Thus, SW Monsoon has set in over Kerala today, June 1."

forecast for monsoon 2020 released in April, the IMD had said the rainfall will be 100 per cent of the LPA.

There is 41 per cent possi-

bility that the country will receive "normal" rainfall and just five per cent possibility of "deficient" rainfall, Rajeevan added.

CRIME CORNER

3, including a cop, killed as car rams into tree

HYDERABAD: Three persons including a cop were killed, while another person was injured after their car ramed into a tree on the roadside at Chevella late on Sunday night. The victims were identified as Sara Naresh, Yenkata Raghavender and Garella Ravinder, all in their 30's. Their friend, Naveen Goud suffered injuries in the incident. All the occupants of the car were from Aloor village of Chevella. While Naresh was working for Microsoft, Raghavendra was a constable in the Armed Reserve unit of Vikarabad district police and Ravinder was a private employee, said the police. According to police, the incident occurred when they were returning home. While passing through Mirzaguda village, the driver of the car, lost control over the vehicle and ramed into a tree. The car was badly damaged in the incident and the victims received multiple injuries and died on the spot. Police suspect that the car was being driven in a rash and negligent manner and was speeding. The Chevella police registered a case under section 304a (death due to rash and negligent driving) of the IPC and began an investigation.

Alcoholic man kills wife over an argument

HYDERABAD: A woman was found murdered at SR Nagar on Monday afternoon. Police suspect that the woman was killed by her husband. The victim was identified as Rani. She was married to Sanjeev, who was working as a driver at the government-run TB and Chest Hospital. The couple lived along with their children at the staff quarters. According to the police, the couple had a fight over family issues on Sunday night. On Monday morning, a relative found her lying in a pool of blood at her house with stab injuries. Police suspect that the woman was killed by Sanjeev who later fled from the place. Rani's relatives told the police that Sanjeev was an alcoholic and the couple used to quarrel frequently. The SR Nagar police registered a case and began an investigation.

Man bludgeons wife to death over dowry

HYDERABAD: A housewife was murdered allegedly by her husband in Banjara Hills after an argument between them on Saturday night. The victim was identified as R Anita, 29, a native of Vikarabad district. Anita was married to R Anil, 33, in the year 2009 and the couple lived at Indiranagar in Banjara Hills. On Saturday night, Anil picked up an argument with his wife over some issue and hit her on head with a water heater resulting in bleeding injuries. The woman subsequently died in the house, S Kalinga Rao, SHO Banjara Hills, said. The family members of Anita told the police that Anil used to beat the victim frequently and used to demand money and property from her parents to start a business. On Saturday night also Anil picked up a quarrel with Anita and when she protested and argued with him, he hit her on head with the water heater resulting in injury and death, they alleged. Basing on a complaint made by the family members, the police registered a case under various Sections of Indian Penal Code and Dowry Prohibition Act 1961. Efforts are on to nab Anil who went absconding after the murder.

Man found dead under suspicious circumstances

HYDERABAD: A 48-year-old man was found dead under suspicious circumstances at his house in Chaderghat on Sunday. The victim was identified as S Pavan Kumar, 48, a private employee, was living alone at his house located in old Malakpet Rani Bagh area. His wife and children were staying separately at Begumpet, said the police. According to police, a foul smell started emanating from the house of Kumar on Sunday. Neighbours grew suspicious and alerted the police. The police reached the spot and broke open the door and found Pavan's body lying on the bed. Police said that the body was in a highly decomposed state, suggesting that he died a couple of days ago. A case was registered and is being investigated.

Hustle bustle returns at railway stations in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The daily hustle bustle returned to Secunderabad and Nampally railway stations in Hyderabad after more than two months with the operation of daily special trains from Monday to ferry thousands of passengers to their destinations.

Other stations in both the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were also abuzz with activity with the resumption of train services.

Hyderabad-New Delhi Telangana Express was the first to chug out of the Nampally station at 6.25 am with the South Central Railway (SCR) authorities ensuring strict adherence to the guidelines prescribed to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Secunderabad-Danapur Express departed from Secunderabad at 9.35 am while Secunderabad-Guntur Golconda Express left at 12.20 pm.

The SCR officials with the help of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and city police made large-scale arrangements to handle the passengers and ensure hassle free boarding. SCR is operating nine pairs of trains including Hyderabad-Mumbai CST, Secunderabad-Howrah, Hyderabad-New Delhi, Secunderabad-Danapur, Secunderabad-Guntur, Nizamabad-Tirupati, Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam, H.S. Nanded-Amritsar and Secunderabad-Nizamuddin bi-weekly which will run on Thursdays and Sundays.

In addition to this, five pairs of trains will pass through the SCR. The trains will pass through both the Telugu states.



Passengers walk in a queue to board a train at a railway station in Hyderabad on Monday

The SCR officials with the help of the RPF and city police made large-scale arrangements to handle the passengers and ensure hassle free boarding

While authorities in Telangana are allowing trains to halt at all designated stops, Andhra Pradesh has restricted the number to 18 in view of the constraints in screening the passengers for Covid-19 and quarantine them.

Passengers only with confirmed reserved tickets and wearing masks were allowed to enter the stations while main-

taining social distancing. Authorities had provided clear foot markings outside the station building and also on the platform to ensure this.

The passengers were allowed to board the trains only after thermal screening. Automatic thermal scanners were installed for the purpose. Passengers found symptomatic of Covid-19 during the screening will not be allowed to travel and in such case, full refund of ticket fare will be provided to them.

The cameras with scanners were also installed for the passengers to show their e-tickets. Officials said they also provided automatic mist hand sanitiser for the passengers.

Though passengers were asked to arrive at least 90 minutes before the departure time of the train, long queues were seen at both Secunderabad

and Nampally stations even three hours before the scheduled departures. Police deployed its personnel to ensure adherence to the guidelines.

The IRCTC canteens were opened at the stations only with take-away service. Officials said passengers can either bring their own food or buy the ready-to-eat meals from the IRCTC.

Trains were not equipped with linen, blankets or curtains while three PPE kits were provided on each train as a precautionary measure.

Railways has advised people with co-morbidities like hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, immune deficiency conditions, pregnant women, children below the age of 10 years and persons above 65 years of age to avoid travel, except if it is essential.

Intensive sanitation drive commences in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Intensive sanitation drive was official commenced on Monday in various municipalities. Mayor Bonthu Rammoan inaugurated the sanitation drive at Musheerabad junction on Monday.

As part of this drive, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao called on the officials to ensure removal of garbage, water storage, broken tree branches, collapsed walls and construction waste on the roads. Intensive sanitation drive is being conducted from today till 8 June across all the districts in Telangana. Citizens are advised not to dump garbage and sewage on the roads.

"It is responsible for citizens to keep the places clean," he said. As a part of Pattana Pragathi, Deputy Mayor Baba Fasiuddin participated in a special drive and operated JCB to remove debris at Peeli Dargha, and other places of Borabanda division.

Meanwhile, Labour Minister Malla Reddy on Monday took part in the Pattana Pragati programme in Boduppall. He inspected Racheruvu tank beautification works and asked the officials to complete the works as part of special drive.



Mayor Bonthu Rammoan holds meeting with CE Maintenance team of GHMC, CRMP & SRDP agencies to review the status of various monsoon works

Rs 170 cr to lay roads on city outskirts, says Mayor

HYDERABAD: Mayor Bonthu Rammoan has said that 300 kilometer long CC roads have been sanctioned on city outskirts. The roads will be executed at a cost of Rs 170 crore.

Addressing the coordination meeting of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) projects, maintenance, engineering officials and CRMP agencies on Monday, the Mayor asked officials to take steps to provide ways for laying new pipelines and cables in the middle of the roads in future. The maintenance of 709-km-

long roads entrusted to agencies under CRMP is completely vested with the agencies, he said.

Digging roads indiscriminately to dig pits during the rainy season, defeats the government's objective, he said.

He said that the roads were groomed beautifully during lockdown period. The CRMP agencies and other government departments have no powers to cut roads. The permission given to some government departments to cut roads in January expired by May 15, the Mayor said.

Talasanani assures benefits under govt schemes to movie workers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Cinematography Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Monday assured that the eligible workers belonging to all 24 crafts of Tollywood and small screen industry will be benefitted under various schemes introduced by the state government.

Several association members of cinema and television industry called on the Minister at his office in Masab Tank and submitted a memorandum seeking ration cards, health cards, pensions and benefits under Kalyana Lakshmi scheme. They urged the Minister to build a hospital and school for the residents of Chitrapuri colony. They thanked the Minister for supplying essential commodities to over



Associations members of cinema and television industry handovers a memorandum to Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Monday

14,000 workers who have been facing problems for want of work during the lockdown period.

The government will evolve the best ever policy for the Tollywood development. The proposed policy also includes

welfare of the cine industry workers too. The issue was discussed with actors Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna and others from the industry during a recent meeting. Talasani said that permissions for film shootings will be given shortly.

Traffic diversions for Telangana Formation Day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of Telangana Formation Day celebrations on Tuesday, the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao will visit Gunpark, opposite Public Gardens in Nampally to pay tributes to the Telangana Martyrs at 8:30 am on Tuesday. "Due to this, the traffic will either be stopped or diverted from 8:30 am to 9:00 am at routes including Raj Bhavan Road, VV statue Khairatabad, Nirankari, Old Saifabad PS, Ravindra Bharathi Junction," said Anil Kumar, Addl. Commissioner of Police.

Kavitha helps tribal student join IIM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former MP, Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha comes forward to help a tribal student who secured seat in the prestigious IIM.

Son of agricultural labourers, Mahesh Kurukula, a student of mass communication from Osmania, managed to get a seat in IIM Ranchi.

Appeal via Twitter to Former MP to extend him help. It was almost inconceivable for Kurakula Mahesh, a native of Kalwakurthi, to secure a seat in IIM Ranchi,

but the youngster did the unthinkable and got in.

However, his parents, who work as agricultural labourers, were not able to afford Rs 1 lakh fee, due to the family's poor financial condition.

While Mahesh and his family were overjoyed that he managed to get a seat, their financial status however put them in a tough spot, as they had no means to pay fee. It was then that Mahesh sought help from Kavitha and approached her on Twitter. The ex-MP responded to Mahesh's tweet and decided to extend financial support to him.

T Wallet completes three years

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

T Wallet, the official digital wallet by state government, which makes digital payments for both government and private services with ease, has completed 3 years since it is launched on June 1, 2017. T Wallet can be used to make payments including electricity bill, water bill, new water connection, traffic e-challan payments and others.

Citizens can open full KYC T Wallet account at more than 4,000 MeeSeva centers and 16,000 ration shops. All services offered by MeeSeva centres can be paid through T Wallet.

It can be used to make payments for various educational institutions such as POLYCET, DOST, JNTU services, TASK and TSPSC notifications. T Wallet can also be used to make private bill payments such as mobile recharge, DTH and others.

There are no charges to load money into T Wallet using debit card, net banking and UPI. Merchants can also register with T Wallet to accept payments.

Provide facilities to brick kiln workers: HC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Monday directed state government to provide food, shelter and other facilities to the brick kiln workers till they reach their native places through buses or trains.

A division bench of the court comprising of the Chief Justice RS Chauhan and Justice B Vijaysen Reddy as an interim relief while dealing with a Public Interest Litigation filed by the coordination committee member of HRF S Jeevan Kumar urging the HC to issue directions to the state government to shift nearly 1.5 lakh labour working in around 810



brick kilns spread across different districts of the state.

The Court asked the state government to respond on

that the state government had failed to identify and register the brick kiln workers, who have to be transported to Western Odisha despite the fact that the season of brick making had come to an end in the state.

He alleged that the state government had allowed the workers to walk on the highways instead of making arrangements to send them back to their homes.

Jeevan also urged the HC to issue directions to the state government to make train and bus reservations for their journey to Western Odisha besides asking it to submit a report on the issue before the apex court.

55 kilos of ganja seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A drug consignment which was en route to the Dhoopet area, was waylaid and seized by the officials of Excise Enforcement on Monday.

The officials seized 55 kilos of marijuana, worth more than Rs 10 lakh from the possession of three men.

The accused were identified as Deepak alias Deepu, Santosh Singh and Baba Balakdas, said the police,

adding that they were transporting the contraband by concealing it inside a banana cluster in a Tata Ace vehicle.

The drugs were shipped from Tadepalligudem. Deepak is the peddler while the other two men were drivers.

A week ago, Deepu brought one consignment and supplied the same to one Mukhesh Singh. The team arrested the trio and seized 55 kilos of new consignment from their possession on Monday.

17-yr-old girl hangs herself

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 17-year-old girl committed suicide by hanging herself in Vikarabad on Sunday.

The girl got married to Shiv Kumar Reddy two months ago. However, she was staying with her parents, after disputes arose between them, as Shiv family was harassing her. The police registered a case and are investigating.

APHASIA AWARENESS MONTH

Awareness is the key to aphasia rehabilitation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Brain stroke is the second most common cause of death in the world. The estimated adjusted prevalence rate of stroke range is, 84-262/100,000 in rural and 334-424/100,000 in urban areas.

Aphasia persists as a disability in 21% to 38% of stroke survivors. Aphasia is an acquired communication disorder due to brain damage that impairs a person's ability to process language, but does not affect intelligence. Aphasia impairs the ability to speak and understand others.

Most of the PWA also experience difficulty reading and

writing. There are many types of Aphasias. Some people have difficulty speaking while others may struggle to follow a conversation. In some people, aphasia is fairly mild and you might not notice it right away. In other cases, it can be very severe, affecting speaking, writing, reading, and listening. While specific symptoms can vary greatly, what all people with aphasia have in common are difficulties in communicating.

If the symptoms of aphasia last longer than two or three months after a stroke, a complete recovery is unlikely. However, it is important to note that some people contin-



ue to improve over a period of years and even decades. Improvement is a slow process that usually involves both helping the individual and family understand the nature of aphasia. Contacting a speech therapist is crucial in the recovery of speech and communication.

The Telangana Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists Association is working to create awareness of aphasia

Speech therapists deal with identification, diagnosis, prognosis and planning of speech therapy, using appropriate clinical tools, in management of aphasia. They use certain techniques in recovering the speech and language in a PWA, they also provide compensatory learning strategies for commu-

nicating. Speech therapists may choose to deliver their services either on person to person bases or through Tele-rehab. Just like telemedicine to reach people in remote areas, where specialised doctors are not available, tele-rehabilitation

are facilities provided through e-services. PWA can be tested and given advice by the speech therapist from their locations using e-resources. This will not only help in dealing with the communication problems of PWA but also improve the quality of life of that individual as a whole.

The Telangana Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists Association (TASLPA) is working to create awareness of aphasia.

TASLPA conducts awareness programmes, this year the aim is to reach the unreached through 'Aphasia tele-rehab, as we celebrate 'June 2020' as aphasia awareness month.

TELANGANA RASHTRA SUCCESS

TS celebrates six years of transformation, sets new record in development and welfare

L VENKAT RAM REDDY
HYDERABAD

As Telangana State celebrates its sixth formation day on Tuesday June 2, the fact cannot be ignored that the youngest state in India, has within this short span of time made its mark in various sectors and emerged as a role model for Centre and governments of other states in implementing development and welfare programmes. The innovative schemes being implemented by Telangana government headed by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao such as Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kakatiya, Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, 24x7 free power to agriculture, TSIPASS etc are being adopted by Centre and several state governments with different names.

Telangana already tops the country in spending highest amount on welfare schemes for poor and marginalised sections. The government spends over Rs 40,000 crore per year on welfare schemes. Telangana holds the record of extending higher financial assistance per month towards social security pensions in the name of Aasara pensions. Under Aasara Scheme all old age poor people in the state, physically challenged, widows, toddy tappers,

weavers, AIDS patients, Beedi rollers and aged artists are being provided with pensions. Total beneficiaries under Asara Pensions are around 39,14,194 and Rs 11,758 crore was earmarked for their welfare in the 2020-21 Budget.

The state government is also offering financial assistance to single women. An amount of Rs 2,016 per

TELANGANA ALREADY TOPS THE COUNTRY IN SPENDING HIGHEST AMOUNT ON WELFARE SCHEMES FOR POOR AND MARGINALISED SECTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS OVER RS 40,000 CRORE PER YEAR ON WELFARE SCHEMES

month is being given to 1,34,990 single women. Rs 327 crore is being spent per year for this scheme. Telangana is the only state to give monthly pension to beedi workers. An amount of Rs

2016 (Rs 989 crore per year) is given to 4,08,505 beedi workers. Physically challenged are being paid highest pension of Rs 3,016 per month. Nearly 4,97,819 people have benefitted from the outlay of Rs 1,802 crore. Also, the State Government is spending Rs 35 crore on 14,370 lymphatic filariasis (Filarial) patients who get Rs 2,016 per month.

About 62,950 toddy tappers are paid pensions of Rs 153 crore annually. For 37,436 weavers Rs 91 crore, Rs 81 crore for 33,168 AIDS patients and Rs 2 crore for 417 old age artists is being paid annually. To help perform the marriage of girls from the poorer sections, the government is implementing Kalyana Laxmi, Shaadi Mubarak schemes, under which Rs 1,00,116 is paid to each bride. Six kg of rice per head per family per month is supplied through the Public Distribution System without any upper cap on quota. A family of ten members are eligible to get 60 kg of rice just at Rs 1 per kg.

About 87,56,456 families having ration cards covering 2,80,54,223 people are getting 1,78,754 lakh

metric tonnes of rice at Rs. 1 per kg annually. The government is supplying fine rice to 3,854 welfare hostel students and for 28,623 government school children under midday meal scheme to the Hostels and Schools; the government is supplying 12,000 metric tonnes of fine rice (BPT, Sona Masuri and Super Fine). Under the scheme, 44.61 lakh students benefit.

For SCs, 134 residential schools (104 residential schools, 30 degree colleges) for STs 51 residential schools were established.

Overseas scholarship of Rs 20 lakh each is

being extended to students. Telangana tops the country in IT exports. Telangana's exports grew at 17.93 per cent compared to the national average of 8.09 per cent and the rest of the nation's average of 6.92 per cent.

Telangana also stood at the first place in agriculture output and procurement this year.

The State contributed 52.23 lakh tonnes out of 83.01 lakh tonnes procured at the national level by the Food Corporation

of India for the rabi season by May end. In agriculture sector, Telangana created several records in the past six years, which no state could match.

Telangana is the only state in the country to provide 24x7 free quality power to agriculture by spending over Rs 5,000 crore per year.

It's the only state to extend Rs 8,000 per acre per year to every farmer irrespective of land holding at a cost of Rs 14,000 crore per year under Rythu Bandhu scheme. It's also the only state to extend Rs 5 lakh insurance through LIC in case of death of farmer for any reason under Rythu Bima scheme.



FARMER-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

Nearly 58.33 lakh people in the state are depended on agriculture sector. The state government had implemented numerous welfare Initiatives for the welfare of the farmers. Towards welfare of farmers, the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has introduced long term, medium term and short term plans. The government has taken up waiving off crop loans, according input subsidy, providing free and uninterrupted power, construction of godowns and others thus making farming sector fruitful in all aspects. During 2017-18 Budget towards distribution of loans, Rs 46,946 crore was targeted. Towards free power during 2017-18, Rs 4,485 crore, during 2018-19, Rs 3,728 crore has been allocated. In 2017-18, for agriculture and allied sectors, Rs 13,640 crore has been allocated. Rs 5,755 crore was allocated for agriculture. During 2019-20 Budget, Rs 20,107 crore has been earmarked.



TS, THE GO TO PLACE FOR INDUSTRIES

Telangana, especially Hyderabad has emerged as the go-to place for many companies. The steps taken by TS government towards Ease of Doing Business and the transparency brought in with the introduction of TSIPASS has paved way for several industries to get attracted to invest in place like Telangana state under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. In order to develop the IT sector in a big way, annual Budgets have earmarked. IT giants in the world like Microsoft, Google, IBM and Oracle are operating from the city besides Infosys, Wipro, TCS and Tech Mahindra. Google has setup its campus in Hyderabad with 1,000 crores investment. Away from America having such big set up for Google is a matter of prestige for Hyderabad. IT giants like Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, Salesforce have set up their second biggest offices.



REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN IRRIGATION

After formation of TS, there has been a comprehensive review on the development of irrigation sector. In order to overcome problems related to agriculture, drought and migrations a total revamping of irrigation system was desired. The need was felt that across the state in each constituency at least one lakh acres has to be irrigated and aimed at one crore twenty five lakh acres to be irrigated. Prior to formation of TS, in 10 years for 23 districts, Rs 94,000 crore has been incurred for irrigation. After formation of Telangana state, in four years, Rs 50,000 crore has been incurred on irrigation. The government has framed an action plan to provide irrigated water for 1.25 crore acres of land. Also, the recent release of Godavari waters into the Kondapochamma reservoir marks an important day in the history of India. It signifies the execution of KLIS for pumping millions of cubic metres of water to a height of 500 metres and a distance of 110 km.

ECONOMY OF TS



Prior to formation of Telangana, its GSDP was Rs 4 lakh crore. After formation of Telangana, within five years, it has doubled and reached Rs 8.5 lakh crore. Telangana stood as one of the states which has crossed National average and stood in top ranking. In last five years, Telangana prospered at a record state. When at national level GDP growth rate was decreasing, at the state level GSDP growth rate has been increasing. After formation of Telangana, in the primary secondary and third stages, GSDP growth has crossed 10 per cent. In 2012-13, Telangana growth rate at existing prices was at 11.7 per cent and national average growth rate was at 13.8 per cent.

ECONOMY OF TS

PRIORITY TO HEALTH

The government's primary responsibility is to accord free medical aid for the poor. As part of the same, Telangana government is providing quality medical care with improved technology to its people. After formation of Telangana, Chief Minister evinced more interest on public health in a better manner. While strengthening the ongoing health schemes, new schemes were also introduced. With the result, people who are taking a back step to visit government hospitals or even the primary care centres are now rushing towards them to avail medical facilities. Telangana government has been spending a maximum sum on medical and health. During 2020-21, Rs 6,186 crore has been earmarked. During 201-15, Rs 4,062 crore, in 2015-16, Rs 5,024 crore, in 2016-17 Rs 5,992 crore, in 2017-18, Rs 5,976 crore, in 2018-19 Budget 7,357.20 crore, in 2019-20 vote on account Budget Rs. 5,536 crores was ear marked. Facilities were improved from primary health centres to super speciality hospitals.



HYD, A GLOBAL CITY

The city of Hyderabad, which has more than 400 years of history, heritage and lineage, is known for its cosmopolitan culture, a crucible of several social streams and it is the centre of Telangana socio-political and economic development. Hyderabad is centre for the world's largest education and research institutions, hub for pharma and hospital industry, and a favourite tourism destination, Information Technology Corridor and is fast growing as a smart city. It is regarded as the second Silicon Valley in the World. After the formation Telangana, the State is making innovative steps for the welfare and development of people. Under the visionary guidance of Chief Minister, in all fields and sectors, the state is making rapid strides. The city of Hyderabad is fast becoming an international city thereby throwing up opportunities for the people and opening up several new avenues.



GIANT STRIDES IN POWER SECTOR

Telangana has been making rapid strides in power sector since 2014. When the State was formed, there was severe power crisis. There used to be regular power cuts and power holidays. In Hyderabad 2-4 hours power cuts, other cities 6 hour power cuts, in villages 12 hours power cuts were in vogue. For industries once in a week two days power holiday was prevalent. Due to this most of the industries were closed. Industrialists used to indulge in Dharnas for want of power supply. Telangana set a new record in the last five years in power consumption with the demand soaring to 13,040 megawatt. Officials attribute the rise in power demand to rising temperatures across the state in the last few days and farm power requirement going up. The power utilities in TS have achieved remarkable progress in strengthening the Transmission and Distribution network. The transmission is available to 99.90 per cent of the regions in the state, which is higher compared to the national average. The utilities have taken up construction of sub-stations, erection of power transformers and distribution transformers and laying of new power lines at a total cost of Rs 27,770 crore.



Warangal (Rural) District Gazette No.23/ WGL (R)/2020, dated 21-05-2020
Collector, Warangal (Rural),
Proc.No.G/1654/2017, dated 21-05-2020
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Revenue Department
DISTRICT COLLECTOR, WARANGAL (RURAL)
FORM-C
(Under Section 11 of the Act, where 10A Exemption is given) (See Rule 6/12)
NOTIFICATION

Where as it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector, Warangal (Rural) that a total extent of 38.22 acres, patta land is required in the Kammepalli and Bhanjipet Villages of Narsampet Mandal of Warangal (Rural) District for public purpose. The Executive Engineer, I&CADD JCR DLIS Division 2, KC Colony Chinthagattu Warangal has filed the requisition for acquisition of land to an extent of 38.22 acres for Excavation of 10L-Distributory of Right Main canal from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 8.760 [T.E.] of Rangaiiah and Erraiah Cheruvu to create irrigation potential.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Kammepalli and Bhanjipet Villages of Narsampet Mandal Warangal (Rural) District for public purpose namely for excavation of 10L-Distributory of Right Main canal of Package -V from K.M. 0.000 to K.M. 8.760 [T.E.] of Rangaiiah and Erraiah Cheruvu.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the village of Kammepalli and Bhanjipet Villages of Narsampet Mandal Warangal (Rural) District land measuring, more or less [38-22] acres of standard measurements, whose details description is as following is proposed for acquisition.

SCHEDULE
Village: Kammepalli & Bhanjipet
Mandal: Narsampet Dist: Warangal [Rural]
(K.M. 0.000 to 8.760 [T.E])

Sl. No.	Sy No.	Type	Area	Name of the Applicant and Occupant	Details of Trees, Structures etc. if any	
Kammepalli village of Narsampet Mandal						
1	2284/1	Dry	Patta	0.05	Bhashaboina Swamy s/o Mallesh	Nil
2	2283/1	Dry	Patta	0.07	Vanga Mahendar s/o Sammaiah	Nil
3	2291/1	Dry	Patta	0.05	Vanga Ravi s/o Kattaiah	Nil
4	2297/1	Dry	Patta	0.16	Puchakayala Venkat Reddy s/o Srinivas Reddy	Nil
5	2294/1	Dry	Patta	0.07	Pendayala Bikshapathi s/o Saraiiah	Nil
6	2293/1	Dry	Patta	0.04	Sankati Manjula w/o Thirupathi Reddy	Nil
7	2313/1	Dry	Patta	0.03	Vanga Ravi s/o Kattaiah	Nil
8	2502/1	Assigned land		0.10	Sankati Manjula w/o Thirupathi Reddy	Nil
9	2503/1	Assigned land		0.16	Mokireddy Mohan Reddy s/o Samba Reddy	Nil
10	2503/1	Assigned land		0.04	Muddam Kurumraiah s/o Odela	Nil
11	2503/1	Assigned land		0.03	Puchakayala Kavitha w/o Venkat Reddy	Nil
12	251/1	Dry	Patta	0.13	Mokireddy Kalavathi w/o Ranga Reddy	Nil
13	2531/1	Dry	Patta	0.15	Puchakayala Srikanth Reddy s/o Mallareddy	Nil
14	2531/1	Dry	Patta	0.02	Mokireddy Kalavathi w/o Ranga Reddy	Nil
15	316/1	Assigned land		0.02	Dasari Malla Reddy s/o Samba Reddy	Nil
16	316/1	Assigned land		0.32	Dasari Buchi Reddy s/o Kattaiah	Nil
17	317/1	Dry	Patta	0.15	Mokireddy Samba Reddy s/o Narsaiah	Nil
18	317/1	Dry	Patta	0.12	Dasari Chinnamma prathap Reddy s/o Narsaiah	Nil
19	317/1	Dry	Patta	0.05	Road	Nil
20	318/1	Dry	Patta	0.16	Kore Prabhakar s/o Ilaiah	Nil
21	318/1	Dry	Patta	0.03	Kokkara Bheerappa s/o Balakomuraiah	Nil
22	318/1	Dry	Patta	0.03	Kukatla Indira w/o Itoni	Nil
23	318/1	Dry	Patta	0.16	Vankudothu Raju s/o Jambiah	Nil
24	318/1	Dry	Patta	0.21	Kore Mallesham s/o Ilaiah	Nil
25	318/1	Dry	Patta	0.04	Gugulothu Harilal s/o Megya	Nil
26	318/1	Dry	Patta	0.06	Ajmeera Veeranna s/o Kobal	Nil
27	318/1	Dry	Patta	0.22	Markala Aruna w/o Ramreddy	Nil
28	320/1	Assigned land		0.06	Dasari Mallareddy s/o Samba Reddy	Nil
29	336/1	Dry	Patta	0.09	Vankudothu Sambiah s/o Ramulu	Nil
30	336/1	Dry	Patta	0.04	Vankudothu Raj Kumar s/o Ramulu	Nil
31	336/1	Dry	Patta	0.14	Vankudothu Padma w/o Suraiah	Nil
32	336/1	Dry	Patta	0.04	Vankudothu Narsaiah s/o Narayana	Nil
33	338/1	Dry	Patta	0.11	Ajmeera Nagaraju s/o Sammu Naik	Nil
34	338/1	Dry	Patta	0.03	Dasari Rajireddy s/o Mallareddy	Nil
35	338/1	Dry	Patta	0.10	Vankudothu Rajendar s/o Narayana	Nil
36	338/1	Dry	Patta	0.25	Vankudothu Prabhakar s/o Narayana	Nil

37	338/1	Dry	Patta	0.03	Vankudothu Narsaiah s/o Narayana	Nil
38	340/1	Dry	Patta	0.16	Dasari Mallareddy s/o Sambareddy	Nil
39	340/3	Dry	Patta	0.20	Dasari Anitha w/o Ranga Reddy	Nil
40	340/1/2	Dry	Patta	0.01	Dasari Sandeep s/o Srinivas Reddy	Nil
41	371/6	Dry	Patta	0.06	Vankudothu Raj Kumar s/o Ramulu	Nil
42	371/6	Dry	Patta	0.07	Ajmeera Vijaya w/o Srinivasam	Nil
43	371/6	Dry	Patta	0.04	Vankudothu Uma w/o Ravi	Nil
44	371/6	Dry	Patta	0.13	Ajmeera Dhansingh s/o Lachya	Nil
45	371/6	Dry	Patta	0.12	Ajmeera Khandya s/o Jaggu	Nil
46	384/14	Assigned land		0.33	Ajmeera Chinnamma Devula s/o Ramulu	Nil
47	384/8	Assigned land		0.07	Ajmeera Rajendar s/o Dasu	Nil
48	384/8	Assigned land		0.08	Ajmeera Ravindar s/o Dasu	Nil
49	384/25	Assigned land		0.04	Ajmeera Padma w/o Valsingh	Nil
50	384/21	Assigned land		0.15	Chennuri Buchamma w/o Komuraiah	Nil
51	384	Dry	Patta	0.03	Road	Nil
52	385/1	Dry	Patta	0.17	Chennuri Buchamma w/o Komuraiah	Nil
53	385/1	Dry	Patta	0.09	Komandla Gopal Reddy s/o Sai Reddy	Nil
54	385/3	Dry	Patta	0.18	Komandla Vidya Sagar Reddy s/o Veeraiah	Nil
55	386/3	Dry	Patta	0.08	Komandla Madhavi w/o Sathish	Nil
56	386/1	Dry	Patta	0.08	Komandla Vinoda w/o Veeraiah	Nil
Total 14.05						
Bhanjipet village of Narsampet Mandal						
1	120/1	Dry	Patta	0.09	Penthala Mallareddy s/o Venkataiah	Nil
2	132/2	Dry	Patta	0.17	Penthala Mallareddy s/o Venkataiah	Nil
3	131/A	Dry	Patta	0.32	Singaboina Rajanna s/o Cheralu	Nil
4	131	Dry	Patta	0.02	Cart track	Nil
5	131/A	Dry	Patta	0.34	Thatikonda Thirupathi s/o Pedda Sammaiah	Nil
6	126/4	Dry	Patta	0.03	Thatikonda Thirupathi s/o Pedda Sammaiah	Nil
7	126/4	Dry	Patta	0.05	Lenkala Radhika w/o Mallesham	Nil
8	126/4	Dry	Patta	0.01	Thatikonda Ilaiah s/o Komuraiah	Nil
9	121/2	Dry	Patta	0.02	Thatikonda Ilaiah s/o Komuraiah	Nil
10	121/5	Dry	Patta	0.16	Thatikonda Shantha w/o Kumaraswamy	Nil
11	121/5	Dry	Patta	0.06	Thatikonda Sudhakar s/o Saraiiah	Nil
12	122/6	Dry	Patta	0.13	Thatikonda Sudhakar s/o Saraiiah	Nil
13	122/7	Dry	Patta	0.18	Thatikonda Srikanth s/o Rajaiiah	Nil
14	122/1	Dry	Patta	0.15	Thallapalli Srinivas s/o Sambaiiah	Nil
15	122/4	Dry	Patta	0.01	Thallapalli Srisaliam s/o Sambaiiah	Nil
16	122/5	Dry	Patta	0.12	Dargula Paidi s/o Suraiah	Nil
17	122	Dry	Patta	0.01	Cart track	Nil
18	122/2	Dry	Patta	0.10	Sunkari Sambareddy s/o Jambiah	Nil
19	123/3	Dry	Patta	0.04	Sunkari Sambareddy s/o Mallareddy	Nil
20	123/5	Dry	Patta	0.10	Vanga Komuraiah s/o Balaiiah	Nil
21	123/5	Dry	Patta	0.09	Vanga Purushotham s/o Komuraiah	Nil
22	123/1	Dry	Patta	0.01	Vanga Raju s/o Komuraiah	Nil
23	82/1	Dry	Patta	0.07	Vanga Raju s/o Komuraiah	Nil
24	82/1	Dry	Patta	0.12	Junkoji Ilaiah w/o Swamy	Nil
25	82/1	Dry	Patta	0.08	Bhashaboina Ilaiah s/o Pappiah	Nil
26	82/1	Dry	Patta	0.13	Nidikonda Koti s/o Venkataiah	Nil
27	82	Dry	Patta	0.02	GP Road	Nil
28	82/1	Dry	Patta	0.28	Bhashaboina Ilaiah s/o Komuraiah	Nil
29	82/1	Dry	Patta	0.02	Faitala Thirupathi s/o Sambaiiah	Nil
30	86/1	Dry	Patta	0.02	Bhashaboina Ilaiah s/o Komuraiah	Nil
31	86/1	Dry	Patta	0.01	Boja Sarayamsulu s/o Ilaiah	Nil
32	86/1	Dry	Patta	0.02	Marapaka Sarojana w/o Komuraiah	Nil

33	87/1	Dry	Patta	0.10	Bhashaboina Ilaiah s/o Komuraiah	Nil
34	87/1	Dry	Patta	0.07	Bhashaboina Rama w/o Komuraiah	Nil
35	87/1	Dry	Patta	0.16	Bhashaboina Ravi s/o Komuraiah	Nil
36	87/1	Dry	Patta	0.08	Bhashaboina Kumara swamy s/o Itoni	Nil
37	87/1	Dry	Patta	0.03	Yegga Neelamma w/o Rajaiiah	Nil
38	81/1	Dry	Patta	0.13	Bhashaboina Kumara swamy s/o Itoni	Nil
39	73/1	Dry	Patta	0.13	Samudrala Kumara swamy s/o Venkata narsu	Nil
40	73/1	Dry	Patta	0.08	Thallapelli Kavitha w/o Srinivasam	Nil
41	73/1	Dry	Patta	0.07	Thallapelli Mogili s/o Mallaiah	Nil
42	73/1	Dry	Patta	0.05	Samudrala Raju s/o Sambaiiah	Nil
43	67/5	Dry	Patta	0.10	Samudrala Raju s/o Sambaiiah	Nil
44	67/6	Dry	Patta	0.04	Samudrala Sathish Kumar s/o Sambaiiah	Nil
45	67/1	Dry	Patta	0.19	Mateeli Ramnarsu s/o Narsaiah	Nil
46	67/5	Dry	Patta	0.04	Samudrala Chandra shekar s/o Ankaiah	Nil
47	67/5	Dry	Patta	0.10	Bhashaboina Srinu s/o Ilaiah	Nil
48	67/5	Dry	Patta	0.10	Bhashaboina Ravi s/o Ilaiah	Nil
49	66/5	Dry	Patta	0.06	Bhashaboina Ravi s/o Ilaiah	Nil
50	66/3	Dry	Patta	0.01	Bhashaboina Mogili s/o Kanakaiah	Nil
51	66/3	Dry	Patta	0.12	Bhashaboina Swamy s/o Kanakamallaiiah	Nil
52	66/1	Dry	Patta	0.02	Bhashaboina Sambakka w/o Ravi	Nil
53	66/1	Dry	Patta	0.01	Bhashaboina Pappiah s/o Chinna Komuraiah	Nil
54	66	Dry	Patta	0.02	Cart Track	Nil
55	61/1	Dry	Patta	0.01	Nanaboina Kumara Swamy s/o Komuraiah	Nil
56	61/1	Dry	Patta	0.01	Singaboina Chinna Komuraiah s/o Komuraiah	Nil
57	61/1	Dry	Patta	0.00	Singaboina Pedda Komuraiah s/o Kattaiah	Nil
58	61/1	Dry	Patta	0.00	Singaboina Cheralu s/o Kattaiah	Nil
59	61/1	Dry	Patta	0.02	Samudrala Sambaiiah s/o Sailu	Nil
60	61/1	Dry	Patta	0.02	Samudrala Venkanasu s/o Narsaiah	Nil
61	63/5	Dry	Patta	0.02	Samudrala Sambaiiah s/o Kanukaiah	Nil
62	63/5	Dry	Patta	0.05	Sunkari Sambareddy s/o Malla Reddy	Nil
63	63/5	Dry	Patta	0.04	Bhashaboina Swamy s/o Chinna Komuraiah	Nil
64	63/5	Dry	Patta	0.04	Bhashaboina Pappiah s/o Chinna Komuraiah	Nil
65	64/5	Dry	Patta	0.01	Bhashaboina Sadaiah s/o Rajaiiah	Nil
66	64/5	Dry	Patta	0.06	Bhashaboina Swamy s/o Mallesh	Nil
67	541/1	Dry	Patta	0.07	Varanganti Praveen Reddy s/o Veeraiah	Nil
68	541/5	Dry	Patta	0.07	Varanganti Ravi s/o Rajamallaiiah	Nil
69	541/2	Dry	Patta	0.04	Varanganti Ranga Reddy s/o Veeraiah	Nil
70	539	Dry	Patta	0.01	Varanganti Ranga Reddy s/o Veeraiah	Nil
71	539	Dry	Patta	0.05	Varanganti Praveen Reddy s/o Veeraiah	Nil
72	539	Dry	Patta	0.24	Remidi Rajireddy s/o Samba Reddy	Nil
73	538	Dry	Patta	0.04	Bhashaboina Swamy s/o Mallesh	Nil
74	534/2	Dry	Patta	0.01	Gandgi Jaipal Reddy s/o Rangareddy	Nil
75	534/2	Dry	Patta	0.12	Amma Komuraiah s/o Ilaiah	Nil
76	534/1	Dry	Patta	0.07	Komandla Mohan Reddy s/o Narsimha Reddy	Nil
77	534/1	Dry	Patta	0.06	Komandla Pushpamma w/o Sarva Reddy	Nil
78	534/1	Dry	Patta	0.09	Komandla Chandra Reddy s/o Pedda Mallaiiah	Nil
79	534/1	Dry	Patta	0.07	Komandla Srinivas Reddy s/o Pedda Mallaiiah	Nil
80	534/1	Dry	Patta	0.05	Komandla Nagamma w/o Komuraiah	Nil

81	531/6	Dry	Patta	0.02	Komandla Nagamma w/o Malla Reddy	Nil
82	531/6	Dry	Patta	0.05	Komandla Pushpamma w/o Sarva Reddy	Nil
83	531/6	Dry	Patta	0.07	Komandla Mohan Reddy s/o Narsaiah	Nil
84	531/3	Dry	Patta	0.10	Katta Janardhan Reddy s/o Ramaiah	Nil
85	531/6	Dry	Patta	0.20	Ydugula Jaipal Reddy s/o Rajireddy	Nil
86	555/2	Dry	Patta	0.10	Ganta Mohan Reddy s/o Sammi Reddy	Nil
87	555/3	Dry	Patta	0.12	Puttapa Narsamma w/o Komuraiah	Nil
88	555/2	Dry	Patta	0.06	Puttapa Ravi Kumaraswamy s/o Komuraiah	Nil
89	555/1	Dry	Patta	0.06	Puttapa Kumara swamy s/o Kistaiah	Nil
90	554/1	Dry	Patta	0.05	Dhamam Chandra moul s/o Sammaiah	Nil
91	Abadi	Dry	Patta	0.05	Dhamam Chandra moul s/o Sammaiah	Nil
92	1/3	Dry	Patta	0.04	Dhamam Chandra moul s/o Sammaiah	Nil
93	1/3	Dry	Patta	0.11	Bushanaboina Sushama w/o Veeraiah	Nil
94	1/1	Dry	Patta	0.04	Bushanaboina Kanukaiah s/o Mallaiah	Nil
95	1	Dry	Patta	0.03	Cart track	Nil
96	2	Dry	Patta	0.12	Bushanaboina Kanukaiah s/o Mallaiah	Nil
97	16/1/1	Dry	Patta	0.03	Bushanaboina Kanukaiah s/o Mallaiah	Nil
98	16	Dry	Patta	0.01	Koyyala Swamy s/o Sammaiah	

Another push

Cabinet decisions on MSMEs and the agricultural economy are well-intended but depend a lot on implementation and sub-text



The Coronavirus and its shape-shifting effect on the economy have been debilitating but the Government has been reacting to it in fits and starts. And while the stimulus packages announced in a series so far haven't been as stimulating, the Cabinet decisions with regard to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the agricultural economy are well-intended but depend a lot on implementation and details. The definition of MSMEs has been changed, their turnover limit revised upward to ₹250 crore from ₹100 crore. The Government has infused ₹20,000 crore into

the sector as subordinate debt for stressed units. And although the Finance Minister in her first tranche of the stimulus had included ₹3 lakh crore collateral-free automatic loans for them, many MSME owners claimed that about 97 per cent were not in the corporate sector and were either partnerships or proprietorships. So only a minuscule number of firms, that were either private limited or LLP, were benefitted. Besides, this badly-hit sector, which contributes up to 30 per cent of the GDP, has not quite recovered from demonetisation and many units are almost on the verge of closure. And for all the detailing, the fact of the matter is that credit channels like banks and NBFCs will have to ease loans to this sector no matter what the Government says. Even now, MSME credit is a very small percentage of total outstanding bank credit and that pie was declining even before the pandemic, decelerating industrial growth. The proposed fund of funds would help list MSMEs on stock exchange, hoping it will encourage private sector investments in them. But without good ratings and financials, that would not deliver immediately. Farmers, too, got some incentive in the form of a hike in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 crops, which will be 50-83 per cent more than the cost of production. But the Government's loan facility to farmers (₹3 lakh with a two per cent interest subvention) and the credit scheme for street vendors still do not address the dire need for fund infusion. Of course, more decisions guaranteeing farmers' incomes, encouraging crop rationalisation and making agri-business investment worthy are expected like getting rid of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act and facilitating easy inter-state trade for farmers. Farmers currently are bound to sell agriculture produce only through APMC mandis, which restrict the free flow of farm products and lead to cartelisation. Though APMCs were meant to protect farmers from commission agents and middlemen, over time they embodied the very ills that they were meant to cure. But to their credit, they did ensure a steady procurement of foodgrains to avoid our food crises. So though farmers may have free market benefits, dismantling a regimented procurement structure would have to be followed up by creating an efficient marketing and distribution system that does not compromise our food security. Free market policies may not look at such altruistic priorities as creating a buffer. Yet we must remember that at least our surplus food reserves helped us somewhat during an emergency brought about by the pandemic. The dairy industry would be a good comparison. With private dairies refusing to buy extra milk produced, only cooperative dairies picked it up and converted it into other milk products, thereby easing the pressure on dairy owners. The Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation is even providing free milk to migrants to take care of the glut in supplies. Also, over 90 per cent of our farmers do not have access to regulated markets, so dismantling them wouldn't really have a cascading impact. A better bet would be to widen a network of well-distributed mandis and invest in longer shelf life of produce by way of attendant infrastructure like cold chains, storage, grading, transportation and so on.

Also, many of these measures were intended and discussed before to revive a slowing economy and are not particularly a palliative to the pandemic. We still have a slowing GDP to take care of and that will need big bang reforms and a fund infusion in the short run. Second, this year's GDP projection has fallen to 4.2 per cent and a consistent downward revision of growth means that figures aren't sacred. And for all the push to the agricultural sector, nothing is being done to generate demand in urban hubs or joblessness without which no reform would make sense. Our manufacturing and construction growth is almost flatlining and certain sectors are just not being considered for incentivisation. Till this piecemeal approach continues, no matter how reinvigorating each is, there is no rescuing the economy.

Back to space

The privately-funded SpaceX mission not only marks America's return to manned space flight but is much more



A comment on Twitter read, "2020 in the US resembled 1968." A statement by aviation journalist Jon Ostrower has a historical context to it. For those of us in India, it is worth recalling that in the late 1960s, as the US reached for the moon, race riots and civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King reached a crescendo. Similarly, protests following the "effective" murder of an unarmed Black man George Floyd, just as America launched its first manned mission to space after almost a decade, is a telling commentary on the US: The world's only superpower can

climb the greatest heights and plumb the lowest lows all at once. However, one must not lose sight of the tremendous achievement of the SpaceX Crew Dragon mission to the International Space Station (ISS) undertaken by astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley. For one, while funded in part by the US' space agency, NASA, the rocket that carried the astronauts to space, the Falcon 9, the Dragon capsule and even the spacesuits the astronauts wore, were all developed by the Elon Musk-promoted SpaceX. Musk, who also founded electric carmaker Tesla, is a divisive figure for many but only the most petulant will deny that he is a technology visionary. Developing a commercially-viable space launch system from scratch and now using it to launch astronauts from American soil, he has done something that was previously unthinkable. A private, commercial organisation without Government support, funded by Musk's billions among other investors in a sector previously dominated by Government money across the world, he has proven, like he himself with electric cars, that change is possible.

This acquires even more significance as India, too, is opening up its space sector for commercial opportunities. Of course, we might not be able to find a man like Musk but even small private sector development, starting with a satellite that can use existing technology from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), can drive India's space industry. Musk's development with SpaceX alongside the work by fellow American billionaire Jeff Bezos with his "Blue Origin" has created large volumes of research as well as high-tech jobs across the US. India can emulate this and create jobs for legions of its best and brightest engineers, many of who emigrated to the US to work with the likes of Musk and Bezos as well as the larger aerospace and space industries. Arguing that opportunities exist and allowing industry access is not, however, the be-all and end-all of policy. The Indian Government, ISRO and private Indian industry will have to walk the talk if we want to emulate Musk.

Age of reason

Amid border tensions, India must beat China at its own game by playing to its strengths, lowering rhetoric, strengthening its military-economic muscle and posturing peace



BHOPINDER SINGH

The crest and trough of the Sino-Indian relationship has been witnessing its lowest ebb ever since the Doklam standoff of 2017. Now, an expected reportage of counter-narratives is ensuing on both sides. Hard facts have become a casualty. The primary driver for the present jingoistic fervour is the cold reality of extreme "political vulnerability" following mismanagement of the COVID pandemic and its accompanying impact both in Beijing and New Delhi. Thus, the common urge for some societal distraction. The ability to spin the situation (however severe) towards their own advantage has been the hallmark of both regimes.

While this is certainly not the sort of distraction that would appeal to New Delhi's sensibilities, it is clearly up the Chinese path of circumstantial preference. The Xi regime is legitimised and galvanised by the hegemonic "Chinese Dream" and the sudden undoing of the same due to the socio-economic cost of COVID-19. Alongside came the trade war with the US, impulsive tendencies flaring up in Hong Kong, Tibet and with the Uighurs. The re-election of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-Wen, who has brazenly slammed the door on the Chinese offer of "one country, two systems," dealt a further blow. Chinese President Xi Jinping is desperately looking for distraction and is showcasing some "wins." He is punting on the tried and tested formula of patriotism to "manufacture" distraction.

In such times, the media becomes the foremost weapon for subterfuge and inflaming passions that tend to divert passions from real issues. It is in this backdrop that a rather bizarre, loaded and factually questionable goad was made by Xi when he said, "It is necessary to explore ways of training and preparing for war because epidemic control efforts have been normalised." The supposed "enemy" was not named. It could be anyone — Taiwan, the US or India — given the prevailing dissonance. The Indian media does no service in biting the bait with its own proclivity for war-mongering and provoking the citizenry to adopt their own diversionary views. Uber-nationalism is also fodder for TRPs. Besides, it also ostensibly projects a "positive" outlook of Indian capabilities.

Amid the media din, the official dispensation has maintained an unusual silence, unlike the fuming free-for-all against Pakistan. Somewhere, the chinks in our foreign policy (especially with our neighbours) are getting embarrassingly exposed with traditional allies like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, too, rolling their eyes gently at China. Indian diplomacy seems to have got carried away with its own supposed stridency and circumstantial "pivot" with an ultimately fickle



US ignoring the virtues of quiet diplomacy and humility.

The fact is that China has an expansionist agenda while India does not. This is reflected in Chinese realpolitik and its chessboard moves. Denial and deception are a standard feature of Chinese diplomacy and no amount of serving tea on a swing can undo that basic instinct. When Xi was being personally charmed in Ahmedabad, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) was engaged in a border fracas at that very moment. The same China, which selectively posits a "Dragon-Elephant tango," will have no qualms to veto India in favour of an international terrorist like Masood Azhar.

To get carried away by "hometown diplomacy" is reminiscent of *Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai* (India and China are brothers) naivety. Border issues between India and China date back to decades but a consensus on delinking the same was established by way of improving bilateral relations. Today, a breakdown of that diplomatic understanding is apparent. Rhetoric on both sides needs to be lowered and not escalated. Beyond a point, the Chinese themselves cannot afford to open yet another "front" in these trying times.

So when the dust settles, both sides will claim to have "bloodied each other's nose," their cadres will be electrified and then, the leadership on both

sides will move on to the next set of distraction after having "won" this round. But the essential point of "tripping diplomacy" is well-nigh forgotten.

Reality is that 2020 is not 1962 even though the Indian armed forces are numerically and materially lesser than the PLA. However, the Chinese would know better than most that numeric superiority is not enough. Limited combat operations against India in 1967 at Nathu La and Cho La or the more expansive war against the Vietnamese forces in 1979 would validate this but the Chinese did get a bloody nose, both times.

Worse for the Chinese, today's PLA is also the largest military to have never partaken in any tangible combat experience whereas Indian soldiers are combat-experienced and tested. The Chinese are masters of knowing when to bargain as also just how much. They will limit their activism to the levels already established and keep the kettle boiling with existing and new-found proxies in the sub-continent. They just found a convenient opening for limited distraction as the Indian diplomacy and the Government inadvertently afforded the chance.

The foremost lesson for India is to not be taken in by its own charm offensives and instead strengthen its "core" in defence and economy. As it is, the diplomatic dice is loaded and

we make it worse with thundering blusters that unsettle smaller neighbours and send them scurrying into the willing arms of China. Uber-nationalism that is seen and heard in political rallies need to be inked where it matters, that is in defence budgets. All talk of mass exodus of US firms from China to India is more social media fantasy, like the cadre call for boycotting Chinese products. A bulk of this lopsided trade with China is done by the Indian Government itself.

Instead, the citizenry has to put pressure on the Government to revert to old-fashioned and professional diplomacy that is not necessarily conducted under the glare of the media lens or with one eye permanently fixated on electoral prospects. China fears India as a "moral idea" which intrinsically resonates across global capitals. We cannot look and sound like China. Xi's "thought on diplomacy" is unapologetic about its hegemonic intent. India needs to "manage" the same by lowering rhetoric, strengthening military-economic muscle and yet posturing peace and reason. Basically, beat China at its own game by playing to its strengths. The elephant needs to remain calm, wise and powerful. It must never forget the ignoble fire-spewing instincts of the dragon.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

“ THE CITIZENRY HAS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO REVERT TO OLD-FASHIONED AND PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMACY THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY CONDUCTED UNDER THE GLARE OF THE MEDIA LENS OR WITH ONE EYE PERMANENTLY FIXATED ON ELECTORAL PROSPECTS ”

SOUNDBITE

If you take the modern-day game, India has two best players in Virat and Rohit, who play orthodox cricket but they are absolutely destructive in any format of the game.

Former Sri Lanka captain —Kumar Sangakkara



I've never been hell-bent on having a birthday celebration. I find great joy in the simplicity and modesty of things. I like and find comfort in a lack of pomp and flair.

Actor —Shobhita Dhulipala



The WHO needs to reform. What the President said, if it reforms, ends corruption and reliance on China, the US will very seriously consider coming back.

US NSA —Robert O'Brien



It (the BJP) does not have any experience of administration at the national level... in States, it's a different matter... Now they don't know how to face this pandemic.

Congress leader —Kapil Sibal



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Condemnable act

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Racist attack" (June 1). George Floyd's death is a dastardly and brutal act. The image of him begging for air to breathe is tragic. The circumstances around his death are a shame not only for the US, which still follows racism in this computer age, but also for the rest of humanity. It is nothing but a vulgar display of authority and arrogance by the police and is a case that must be condemned in harsh terms. It is a sheer violation of human rights. The hope is that the law and judiciary will do justice to Floyd.

NR Ramachandran
Chennai

Ill-effects of e-learning

Sir — Though just some time ago, youngsters, especially school-going kids, were prohibited from using mobile phones and computers for a longer period of time, nowadays, they are the ones who use digital devices for long hours as online classes have become a norm, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Things Government must set right

On March 24, when a three-week nation-wide lockdown was announced, the Government's concern was to save human lives. Prime Minister Narendra Modi borrowed an idiom from Urdu poet Meer Taqi Meer, "Jan hai toh jahaan hai" (If you have life, you have the world) to drive home his point. The Corona pandemic had just begun spreading its tentacles then. On the day when lockdown 4 ended to be replaced by unlock 1, India reported 8,380 cases and 193 deaths, taking the total tally to 1,82,143 cases and 5,164 deaths — a big leap from just 10 earlier. The idiom, too, was tweaked to, "Jaan bhi and jahaan bhi" (Life also, the world also). All of this seemed to echo the insensitivity shown by US President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, though to a lesser extent. There has been a marked attitudinal change by the Government towards the virus and life. However, the notion of the two Western nations is too obsessive to be emulated in India, which has to take care of millions of people on the roads, under tin roofs and in thatched huts across the country; in short those who have been facing myriad existential issues for ages. The Central Government is insistent on adopting a uniform strategy. There is perceptible reluctance on its



part to let State Governments rule and regulate without Central interventions. Further, it is either ignorant about the diverse environment in States or is ignoring the pattern deliberately. It remains a fact that COVID cases and deaths in many saffron-ruled States show exponential rise every passing day. Possibly, it is this political expediency that is forcing the Government to drag its feet from devising State-specific strategies to unlock the Corona-driven crisis. Yet, let us not underestimate the enemy. There is an urgent need for a new template now.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Be a responsible citizen

Sir — The Corona pandemic has affected almost every sphere of our lives. All sectors of the economy remain paralysed, thus affecting their financial position. It's only now that the economy is resuming activities. But with life slowing down, this is the time for us to inculcate positive changes.

The vacuum created due to COVID-19 also reminded us of an old saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention." Even as life remained stagnant, we learnt to remain "self-dependent" and practise "self-reliance." Barring a few cases, in general people were cooperative, confining themselves to their homes and maintaining minimum interaction. Now that our fight against the COVID pandemic will continue until a vaccine/cure is found, it is for the people to stay safe. The lifting of curbs will see a spontaneous rise in cases. But people must voluntarily observe safety protocols while going about their lives.

Gobardhan Singh
Ranchi

been raised by experts. They fear that overuse of digital devices and too much exposure to the internet can harm young minds in a hazardous way and that is unpredictable.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Beware the dragon's moves

China's recent actions at the LAC have only gone to prove the long-term and diverse strategies that the nation follows



AMRIT PAL SINGH

China is doing what it does best — confuse and confound. Its recent actions have only gone to prove the long-term and diverse strategies that the nation follows. It began with the sequential escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at Naku La in Sikkim and then at Pangong Tso in Ladakh. This has been followed by a face-off at the Galwan Valley in the Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) sector of the LAC in Ladakh. The activities, with soldiers engaged on three border points, have the potential to escalate due to the intrinsic linkages between and the changed circumstances of the present clashes from the earlier incidents. There were also some indirect actions on both sides that have been in focus like the objection by Nepal to the development and inauguration of the road from Dharcula to Lipulekh pass in Uttarakhand. This is despite an agreement between India and China to have trade across the pass in the tri-junction of Nepal-India-China. Beijing accepted the pass as one of the commercial and cultural transit points with India under its 1954 Peace and Tranquility Agreement. This was reiterated when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China in 2015. The route has deep-rooted spiritual and civilisational significance for India. In contrast, the recent broadcasting of weather reports of Gilgit-Baltistan on Indian news channels and the pre-conditions set for Foreign Direct Investment in segments of the Indian economy have definitely upped the ante for the Chinese.

The three sectors where India and China have recurrence of disputes are in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh. The Arunachal sector is largely dormant despite China's claim to the entire State. The Sikkim sector is strategic as any Chinese road and infrastructure development in its proximity can threaten the narrow Siliguri Corridor which is the gateway from India to the seven States of North-East India. The Doklam stand-off for 73 days from June to August 2017 amply demonstrated the strategic relevance of this sector.

It is in the Ladakh sector that the geo-strategic implications of the face-off and incursions assume significance. The Chinese have made an immense investment of \$62 billion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Recent assertions by India on its right to Gilgit-Baltistan through which the CPEC passes on its way to the Karakoram Pass in the Shaksgam valley (illegally conceded by Pakistan to China) have obviously rocked the boat. China does not make short-term tactical moves without a long-term plan which may unfold in the winter when terrain and weather put India at a disadvantage. Unlike Doklam, where the Chinese movement was restricted to the single track which they were trying to develop along a narrow valley, in Ladakh the LAC is open and rugged. There are various "disputed areas" and "areas of differing perceptions" from the DBO in the north to Fokche in the south (the point of entry of the Indus river from Tibet to India). The scene of the recent scuffle has been on the banks of the Pangong Tso Lake. Its centrality to the entire LAC in Ladakh and proximity to the Spanggur Gap and Chushul make the south bank of the lake a secure flank for large-scale moves by the Chinese. Hence, it holds operational importance to both armies.

The western Ladakh region of DBO provides a buffer against Chinese direct access to Shaksgam valley and the Siachen heights. India therefore, strongly holds on to DBO. Here the Galwan valley has witnessed similar stand-offs in the past with Chinese encampments detected far inside the alignment of the LAC into the valley. Strong deployments along the Line of Control (LoC) at Kargil and Drass opposite Pakistan have also to be maintained by India at all times. Reinforcements and additional forces will perforce have to be moved into Ladakh mostly from the plains and will require acclimatisation to operate in high-altitude areas of 11,000 to 16,000 feet. Logistics and sustenance of forces are a key factor, especially in Ladakh.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) forces involved in the skirmishes are not their regular army but the Border Defence Regiments (BDR) backed by PLA garrisons and camps with acclimatised troops along the Chinese East-West Highway. In contrast, Indian regular troops get sucked in as reinforcements and readjustments of command and control are necessitated as the Indo-Tibetan Border Police force (ITBP) readjusts from its border posts held in peacetime.

Hence, two imperatives for the Department of Military Affairs and Ministry of Defence to resolve in the present will be in the fields of command and control of border management forces and logistic preparedness. The office of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is best suited to resolve intra-service coordination of both areas as also inter-ministerial resolution of the command and control lacunae of forces on the LAC. India's approach must include a myriad of agencies and all elements of national power. The annual defence allocations have been shrinking regularly (experts say the percentage available for modernisation has shrunk from 40 per cent to almost 32 per cent) and cannot sustain the human and equipment inventory needed to effectively deter China. In such a situation and in the post-Corona reduced resource basket, the prioritisation of requirements rather than a dilution of weapon qualitative requirements, is recommended. There must be a push towards operationalising the Rohtang tunnel to full capacity especially in view of logistic sustenance and troop reinforcements for the road closed period starting in November.

(The writer is a veteran and co-author of 'Maoist Insurgency and India's Internal Security Architecture'.)

THESE THUGS ARE DISHONORING THE MEMORY OF GEORGE FLOYD, AND I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN. WHEN THE LOOTING STARTS, THE SHOOTING STARTS.

—US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



AFTER STOKING FIRES OF WHITE SUPREMACY YOUR ENTIRE PRESIDENCY, YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO FEIGN MORAL SUPERIORITY BEFORE THREATENING VIOLENCE?

—SINGER TAYLOR SWIFT

Hope sprouts in the farm

The Government deserves some credit for at least putting on the table long-pending reforms in agri-marketing, which if carried through, will be truly revolutionary



UTTAM GUPTA

Heralding a new chapter in agricultural market reforms in India, on May 15 Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made three major announcements under the "Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan." The first announcement was about the Centre's decision to enact a legislation to enable direct purchase of specified commodities — under entry 42 of the Union List and entry 33 of the Concurrent List — from farmers outside the designated Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs). Next was the move to enact a Central law on contract farming to provide a legal framework for farmers to engage with processors, aggregators, large retailers and exporters in a fair and transparent manner. Third was the decision to amend the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1954 and take off pulses, cereals, edible oil, oil seeds, onions and potatoes from the purview of this archaic law.

To understand the full ramifications of the proposed enactments, at the outset, let us take a look at the existing regulations. At present, trade in agri-commodities is governed by a highly-restrictive legislation viz. the APMC Act. This empowers State Governments to specify market areas — where farmers bring their produce for sale. These are operated and regulated by market committees. There are a total of about 5,000 such markets or *mandis* across the country.

The stated objective of the APMCs is to promote organised marketing of farm commodities to ensure fair play, achieve an efficient system of buying and selling of commodities, protect farmers from intermediaries and traders and to ensure better prices and timely payment for the produce. Far from achieving these objectives, farmers are being exploited by a network of licenced traders and middlemen, who have a complete stranglehold over these platforms.

While on one hand, farmers don't get to sell their entire produce at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), on the other, no alternative platforms are available where they could sell. Even Government agencies don't come forward to buy when the market price dips below the MSP. Actually, the problem is much deeper.

This has to do with a cozy nexus between politicians and grain traders that has existed and flourished for decades. A grain trader has a fundamental interest in ensuring that he minimises his payout to the farmer for the grains he buys. He can succeed in this gameplan if the farmer is left high and dry by State agencies. So, he collaborates with the politicians in the ruling establishment to ensure that State agencies remain weak and de-motivated.

This nexus has also come in the way of amending the APMC Act to make way for alternative channels of selling, such as direct purchase by bulk buyers, processors, exporters and so on (the revenue State Governments get from levy of market fee on transactions at the *mandis* has proved to be another major deterrent. In 2017, the Modi Government had passed a Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing [Promotion and Facilitation] Law containing provisions to give more options to farmers for selling their crop and greater flexibility to traders such as 'single pan-State licence' for buying from anywhere in the State).

True to its nomenclature, the model law is a mere showpiece as until hitherto (prior to the COVID-19 crisis, to be specific), a majority of the States showed no interest in amending their

“ THESE FARM REFORMS ARE INTENDED TO CREATE A PARALLEL ARRANGEMENT FOR SELLING FARM PRODUCE AND CAN CO-EXIST WITH THE APMCS. THESE AIM AT BREAKING THE MONOPOLY OF A FEW LICENCED TRADERS AT MANDIS, CREATE COMPETITION AND THUS HELP BOTH FARMERS AND CONSUMERS. WHETHER OR NOT THESE ACTUALLY SEE THE LIGHT OF THE DAY REMAINS TO BE SEEN ”



laws. In a daring move, the then BJP Government, led by Devendra Fadnavis, had approved in August 2018, an amendment to the Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 1963, in sync with the Centre's model law. That was done through the ordinance route. But Fadnavis was forced to withdraw the Bill on November 28, 2018 from the legislative council, a day after it was passed.

The continued writ of the APMCs has meant that there is no free movement of farm products even within the State, forget free inter-State trade. With several pieces of State legislation creating impregnable zones, even the much-trumpeted electronic national agriculture market (e-NAM) has failed to take off. The processors, exporters and other large buyers have no incentive to invest in agri-infrastructure. The archaic ECA (1954) with its draconian provisions, especially with regard to stock limits, acts as a further disincentive.

All this boils down to farmers not getting a remunerative price for their produce on the one hand and consumers having to pay a high price on the other — even as a number of intermediaries in the supply chain appropriate a major slice of what the latter pays. Needless to say, that the resulting low income not only keeps farmers poor but also boomerangs on overall economic growth through reduction in rural purchasing power. The extant state of affairs is not good for boosting exports on a sustainable basis either.

The COVID-19 crisis may have come as a blessing in disguise. It gripped India at a time when the Rabi crop, mostly the winter staple wheat, was ready for harvest. April-May is the period when farmers congregate at the *mandis*. Being the only platform where farmers could sell their produce, this would have led to overcrowding at the markets

which comes in conflict with "social distancing" — a pre-requisite for preventing the spread of the deadly virus.

Due to the dire need for adhering to "social distancing", Modi asked the States to suspend certain provisions of their respective APMC laws for three months to make way for purchase of farmers' produce directly from their doorsteps by large farmers' producers organisations (FPOs), large buyers such as processors, millers, exporters, cooperatives, individual traders and so on.

Some States like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka responded by making amendments in their APMC laws (using the ordinance route as none of the State Assemblies are in session, courtesy the prevailing emergency). As per the amendment, the entire State is declared as a "single market" wherein a trader can get a single licence for purchase of agricultural produce from any *mandi* within it. Further, it allows trade in all farm commodities, including livestock, outside the regulated APMC markets.

This has not only kept COVID-19 at bay (as the traders went to the farmers' doorstep instead of the latter having to go all the way to the *mandi*) but also fetched a remunerative price for their produce by offering more choice, resulting in higher income. No wonder, amid the gloom and doom in most other sectors of the economy, agriculture is expected to show a positive growth rate of over three per cent during the current year (of course, this will be helped by normal monsoon predicted by the meteorological department).

In retrospect, there is some reason to rejoice over the changes in APMC laws by the aforementioned States, which has enabled private trade to complement efforts of State agencies in ensuring record procurement from the farmers. While Modi had asked for suspension of the relevant provisions for

three months, these States have gone a step further by bringing an element of permanence. That serves as the icing on the cake. But some doubts remain.

For one, most States continue to turn a deaf ear to the Centre's wish. Even in the four States, where the changes have been brought about, these will have to be passed by the State Assemblies in the end. Given the deep-rooted vested interest, a Maharashtra-type fiasco can't be ruled out. In this backdrop, the Centre's decision to enact a Central law, wielding the rarely-used power under the Constitution to regulate inter-State trade and intra-State trade, makes major sense. The law will enable an entity to buy farm produce from farmers directly anywhere in the country, even outside the regulated market yards.

At the same time, the amendment in the ECA to remove fetters such as stock limits (these limits will be imposed only in exceptional circumstances) will enable large buyers viz. processors, millers, exporters and so on, to scale up purchases, thus providing sustained support to farmers. The proposed Contract Law — enforceable in all States — will clearly lay down rules of the game for a processor/large retailer that it must follow to ensure that farmers are not taken for a ride.

These farm reforms are intended to create a parallel arrangement for selling farm produce and can co-exist with the APMCs. These aim at breaking the monopoly of a few licenced traders at *mandis*, create competition and thus help both farmers and consumers. Whether or not these actually see the light of the day remains to be seen. For now, the Government deserves some accolades for at least putting on the table long-pending reforms in agri-marketing, which if carried through, will be truly revolutionary.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Don't take their right to life away

Having given legal protection to intersex kids against unnecessary surgeries, India must proactively put an end to intersex and female infanticide



PRASHANT SINGH GOPI MADURAI

The recent killing of a one-day-old girl child in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvannamalai district has brought to the fore the unending practice of female infanticide. The murder was discovered on the complaint of an alert medical officer who suspected foul play.

Being the second reported instance of female infanticide from the region, this case has demonstrated that this evil practice is alive even during the current pandemic. Nearly 30

years ago, economist Amartya Sen argued that 100 million women were "missing." However, much before this usage was coined, the phenomenon behind the phrase was a reality in India, reflected in the practice of sex determination, selective abortions and female infanticide. There were no official numbers on female foeticide until the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) started collecting data on this crime in 2014. However, the consequences of killing the girl child before or after birth are clearly reflected in the skewed sex-ratios in the country.

In 2016, the Government released data based on the civil registration system. It showed that the sex ratio at birth (SRB) had fallen from 946 girls for every 1,000 boys in 1949 to 877 in 2014. A deeper crisis is revealed when the data on girls in the age group of zero-six years is examined. In 2011, the number of girls below six per

1,000 boys stood at 914 — which is the lowest since Independence. Now that the registration of births is compulsory, the SRB data is considered to be quite accurate. The problem is graver in five States (Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Tamil Nadu) which have an SRB equal to or below 840.

Prevention of female foeticide and infanticide has been the focus of a wide range of the Government's efforts since the 1990s, with some successes and many challenges. The child sex ratio has continued to be on the decline even after the enactment of a Central law in 1994 banning the use of prenatal diagnostic tests for sex determination. Aside from this legal measure, the Union and State Governments have undertaken several policy initiatives such as the National Action Plan of 1991 to Balika Samridhhi Yojana in 1997 to the latest Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

campaign of 2015, to incentivise retention of the girl child. Several State Governments have also implemented innovative initiatives like the "Cradle Baby" scheme of the Tamil Nadu Government. Launched in 1992, the aim of the scheme was to encourage parents to give female children up for adoption by providing for cradles at Government hospitals and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). The two-fold objective was to prevent female infanticide and also stop illegal sale of babies.

This measure of the Tamil Nadu Government also encouraged reporting of this crime unlike other States where the cases are massively under-reported. In addition to improving law enforcement and preventing access to ultrasonography, measures like "Cradle Baby" scheme are critical.

The preference for the male child leading to a skewed sex ratio has been well-documented. However, another

major consequence of such preference poses a serious risk to bodily integrity of intersex infants and children. Intersex children in India are at constant risk of forced surgical and medical intervention in the form of sex normalising surgeries to align their body as per the normative definition of traditional gender identity i.e. male and female. In most cases, intersex children are assigned as male at birth.

This heinous practice is widespread in several Indian States, including Kerala, which claims to be a model State in terms of human development indicators. Even worse, the medical community also justifies such procedures, displaying a shocking ignorance of intersex human rights. For instance, doctors working in a hospital in Kerala have admitted performing such surgeries on intersex children and have also highlighted the preference of parents for the male child. In 2019, the Madras High Court outlawed this

practice and directed the Tamil Nadu Government to pass an order implementing the ban. However, infanticide of intersex babies and children continues to be an ignored issue in India. It is estimated that every year, more than 10,000 intersex children are born in India.

Still, our official statistics, including the census, do not provide any authentic population data of intersex children in the country.

Over the years, various United Nations (UN) committees have highlighted this issue. In 2019, expressing concern over the "mercy killing" of intersex children with disabilities, the UN Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended the Government to "protect intersex children from attacks against their lives and any related harmful practices."

The "missing intersex children" phenomenon is not limited to India. There is an urgent need for more

research and documentation on this subject globally. Further, it is also critically important to initiate a dialogue on the need for an international instrument to prevent intersex infanticide and a complete ban on sex normalising surgeries.

Having already established a legal protection regime for intersex children against unnecessary surgeries, India has a unique opportunity to lead the intersex human rights movement if it can proactively put an end to intersex infanticide. To achieve these goals, the Centre and States must undertake urgent steps to ensure prevention and prosecution in cases of female and intersex infanticide.

(Singh is Executive Director, Srishri Madurai-LGBTQIA+ student volunteer movement and Madurai is the elected Intersex Representative and Executive Board Member of International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, Geneva)

CAPSULE



A K Srivastava is new BEML Director (Defence Business)

BENGALURU: A K Srivastava assumed charge as Director (Defence Business) of BEML Limited, a schedule 'A' company under the Ministry of Defence, on Monday. He was also nominated as member of the Board of the company where, prior to this elevation, he was Chief General Manager, BEML Defence (Marketing). He graduated from IIT Kharagpur in Mechanical Engineering and joined BEML as an Engineer Trainee in 1987, a BEML release said. In his professional career spanning over three decades in BEML, he has worked in various "critical functional areas" in the company, at different geographical locations including overseas, it said.



BSE launches options on gold mini, silver kg

NEW DELHI: In its endeavour to offer new products to commodity market participants and to deepen the market ecosystem, the BSE on Monday launched options on goods contracts like gold mini and silver kilo. The two contracts launched are gold mini (100 gram) and silver kilo, the exchange said in a statement. These contracts were launched by S K Mohanty, whole-time member of markets regulator Sebi, who emphasised that this is the right time for the launch of these contracts. "The options on goods contracts shall enable small-time jewellers, retailers to come forward and hedge their price risk on the BSE's commodity platform," said Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD and CEO of the BSE.



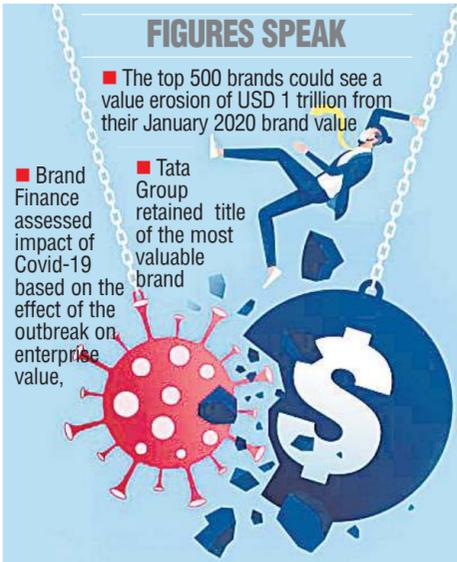
BMW India resumes ops post temporary suspension

NEW DELHI: German luxury carmaker BMW on Monday said it has resumed operations in accordance with the government guidelines. Consumers can once again safely explore and experience the complete range of BMW, MINI and BMW Motorrad products at company dealerships, BMW Group India said in a statement. Production at Chennai plant has resumed with less than 50 per cent of the regular workforce catering to the production demand in the country, it added. "It brings us great joy to finally restart operations at our dealerships, plant and corporate office."

COVID-19 to shave \$25 bn off from top 100 domestic brands

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The coronavirus pandemic is likely to shave at least USD 25 billion off from the January 2020 cumulative brand value of top 100 domestic brands, says a report. According to the latest report by Brand Finance, globally, the top 500 brands could see a value erosion of USD 1 trillion from their January 2020 brand value, following COVID-19 disruptions. "As the new coronavirus pandemic wreaks havoc on the global and national economy, the country's top 100 most valuable brands could lose up to 15 per cent of brand value cumulatively, a potential drop of nearly USD 25 billion compared to the original valuation as of January 1, 2020," the report said. Brand Finance has assessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic based on the effect of the outbreak on enterprise value, compared to what it was on January 1, 2020. The report further said the Tata Group has retained the title of the most valuable brand, breaking USD 20 billion brand value mark for first time this year and the group's luxury hotel brand Taj is the strongest brand in the country with brand strength index score 90.5 out of 100. This is despite the fact that the value has increased by only



2 per cent to touch the USD 20-billion-mark, making it the only domestic brand to touch this milestone. LIC retained its second position with a value of USD 8.1 billion, followed by Reliance at third (USD 7.9 billion), Infosys fourth (USD 7.08 billion), SBI at fifth slot (USD 6.4 billion).

Others in the top 10 list include, HDFC Bank at sixth place, followed by Mahindra (7th) which is down a notch from last year, IndianOil (8th) gaining a whopping 15 notches, HCL at ninth slot losing one notch from last year and Airtel was at the tenth slot losing eight

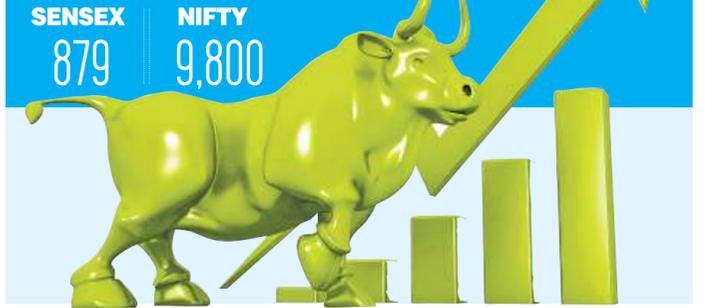
notches. Also, the Tata Group is the only domestic brand to feature in the top 100 of the Brand Finance global 500 2020 list, the agency said in a statement on Monday.

Savio D'Souza, director of Brand Finance, said, the sheer size and diversity of the Tata Group, which employs over 720,000 across 100 countries, could mean that it emerges from the pandemic, relatively speaking, unscathed.

Thanks to the strategic industry shift from oil & gas to the retail, media and telecoms sectors, the brand value of Reliance Industries moved up one notch to the third, following a 25 per cent value growth to USD 7.9 billion. The brand now claims 34 per cent share of market revenue in the telecom sector.

Despite the troubles plaguing them, banking brands did see solid growth in the year with 14 of them in the ranking list, with a cumulative brand value of USD 24.9 billion, recording an average brand value growth of 25 per cent.

State Bank of India (up 8 per cent to USD 6.4 billion) and HDFC Bank (up 22 per cent to USD 5.9 billion) have retained their positions in the top 10, with the latter climbing one spot to sixth in the ranking following a healthy 24 per cent growth over the previous year.



Sensex soars 879 pts as India begins to unlock; Nifty tops 9,800

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex surged 879 points on Monday, driven by gains in Reliance Industries, HDFC twins and TCS as investor optimism heightened after the government began the process of unlocking the economy.

Positive cues from global markets too buoyed investor sentiment here.

After skyrocketing 1,250 points during the day, the 30-share index settled 879.42 points or 2.57 per cent higher at 33,303.52.

Similarly, NSE Nifty surged 245.85 points or 2.57 per cent to finish at 9,826.15.

Bajaj Finance was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 11 per cent, followed by Titan, Tata Steel, SBI, M&M, HDFC, IndusInd Bank and Reliance

Bajaj Finance was the top gainer, rising around 11 per cent, followed by Titan, Tata Steel, SBI, M&M, HDFC, IndusInd Bank and Reliance

among the laggards.

According to Narendra Solanki, Head- Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi, Indian markets started the week on a positive note following upbeat Asian market peers and the sentimental positive news of 'Unlock-1' and hopes of economy gradually opening up took hold.

"The market further rallied in the afternoon session with much broad-based buying seen in both large and mid cap stocks tracked by respective

indices," he added.

The home ministry on Saturday said 'Unlock-1' will be initiated in India from June 8 under which the nationwide lockdown effectuated on March 25 will be relaxed to a great extent, including opening of shopping malls, restaurants and religious places.

The number of coronavirus cases in India crossed 1.90 lakh and the death toll climbed to 5,394, as per the health ministry data.

Globally, the number of cases linked to the disease has crossed 61.66 lakh and the deceased tally stood around 3.72 lakh.

Meanwhile, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul settled up to 3 per cent higher, and those in Europe opened with significant gains.

International oil benchmark Brent crude futures were trading 0.21 per cent higher at USD 37.91 per barrel.

Lockdown in metro cities need to be addressed, says Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Several factors like the lockdown in metro cities and the ban imposed by various countries on the entry of foreigners need to be addressed before resuming international passenger flights in India, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

Domestic services were suspended in India due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown and resumed after a gap of two months on May 25. Scheduled international passenger flights continue to remain suspended in the country.

"Numerous citizens have been approaching us to restart international flights. Several factors need to be addressed. Many international destinations are not allowing incoming passenger traffic, except for their own citizens or

diplomats," Puri said on Twitter.

Within India, most international flights operate from the metro cities where travellers arrive from the neighbouring cities and states, he said.

"Our metro cities were under various degrees of lockdown which are beginning to be lifted. Some of them are still allowing only limited flights to operate," the minister noted.

Airports in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have been allowed to handle a restricted number of daily flights as these states do not want a huge influx of flyers amid the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

The minister said: "MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs)



Domestic services were suspended in India due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown and resumed after a gap of two months on May 25

guidelines for lockdown 5.0 have further opened up inter & intra-state travel, and will facilitate calibrated reopening of the sector. As we move towards the critical mass of 50-60% operation of domestic flights, our ability to resume international operations will also improve."

Indian carriers operated a total of 3,370 domestic passenger flights till May 31 -- 428 on May 25, 445 on May 26, 460 on May 27, 494 on May 28, 513 on May 29 and 529 on May 30.

During the pre-lockdown period, Indian airports handled around 3,000 daily domestic flights, aviation industry sources said.

Assam eco advisory panel to fight lockdown woes

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Economic Advisory Committee, formed to suggest measures to boost the economy during the lockdown, Monday recommended to the government to form a Farmers Commission in Assam to address the problems of the agriculture sector.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced to form a three-member ministerial committee under the leadership of Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma with Industry Minister

Chandra Mohan Patowary and Agriculture Minister Atul Bora as its members for implementing the suggestions.

Submitting the report, Committee chairman Subhash Das said the report has given thrust on agriculture and allied sectors for reviving the economy of the state.

Lockdown: Retail credit at record low

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown have made Indian consumers risk-averse if one were to go by data showing a growth in deposits and retail credit plummeting to its lowest level since 2008, economists at SBI said.

On the deposit growth front, it has been a mixed bag, but the extension of the lockdown for a fifth time will ensure that the savings continue to surge, the economists said in a note.

Consumer confidence is a deeply-cherished aspect by policy makers because it is the primary driver of growth in the Indian economy for many years now. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a lot of commentary about the need to revive confidence and consumer demand.



Consumer confidence is a deeply-cherished aspect by policy makers because it is the primary driver of growth in Indian economy

Retail credit declined by 2.5 per cent, the lowest level since 2008, from when the data series started, it said, expecting that the decline will continue as Maharashtra has extended the lockdown till June 30.

Pichai: Google stands in support of racial equality

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

Google stands in support of racial equality, the tech giant's Indian-American CEO Sunder Pichai has said, expressing solidarity with the African-American community in the US in wake of protests sparked by the death in police custody of African-American George Floyd. Floyd, a 46-year-old African American restaurant worker, died in Minneapolis on Monday after a white police officer pinned him to the ground. Video footage showed the officer kneeling on Floyd's neck as he gasped for breath, sparking widespread protests across the US. The police officer has been fired, and on Friday was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter.

Odisha joins 'One Nation-One Ration Card'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Three more states -- Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram -- have joined the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme, taking the number of states and union territories (UTs) which have joined the scheme to 20, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Monday.

By August, Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Manipur will also be added to the national



cluster, he added. Under the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' initiative, eligible

beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any Fair Price Shop in the country using the same ration card.

The Food Ministry aims to implement this facility across the country by March 2021.

"Today three more states namely - Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram have been included in the scheme," Paswan said in a statement.

He said necessary infrastructure work -- upgradation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) software, integration with central Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS) and Annavitran portals, availability of ration cards/beneficiaries data in central repository and requisite testing of national portability transactions -- required for ration card portability has been completed in these three states.

Govt's locust control policy focus on chemical spray alone: Farm expert

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the country faces the worst ever desert locust outbreak in three decades, a farm expert has said the government is just focusing on chemical spray on the migratory pest, ignoring other natural methods for controlling the menace.

Presently, locusts have affected five states -- Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra -- and the Centre has issued a warning to



the border-sharing states. The Centre has plans to step up aerial spray using drones and helicopters. "Despite the known side effects of aerial spraying of pes-

ticides, the government's locust control policy is focussed on chemical spray only and other non-chemical measures are being completely ignored," Haryana-based Kudrati Kheti Abhiyan Advisor Rajinder Chaudhary said in a statement.

There is no doubt that the locust attack is a menace that cannot be ignored, but along with locust control, it must also be ensured that the control measures do not pollute air, water, environment and food chain, he said.

Satya MicroCapital, Sindhuja Microcredit raise Rs 170 cr from global investors

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Notwithstanding risk aversion the sector is facing, two micro-finance institutions Satya MicroCapital and Sindhuja Microcredit have managed to raise a total of Rs 170 crore from international investors.

While New Delhi-based Satya MicroCapital has raised Rs 105 crore from Japan-based Gojo & Company, Uttar Pradesh-based Sindhuja Microcredit was able to get funds worth Rs 65 crore from Norway-based Nordic Microfinance Initiative (NMI) and Mumbai-based Carpediem Capital.

Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) Chief Executive Officer Harsh Srivastava said the confidence exuded by international investors in the country's



microfinance sector at this time is truly encouraging.

"This clearly shows the confidence that equity investors have on the Indian micro-finance sector, its capacity to bounce back and manage its portfolio qualities even during demonetisation, Andhra crisis, etc, making it a safe and viable investment. Both investments came in the past

few days, showing resilience of the sector," Srivastava said.

Noida-based Sindhuja Microcredit co-founder and Managing Director Abhisheka Kumar said that of the Rs 65 crore capital, it has already received Rs 25 crore and for the balance Rs 40 crore, it has sought the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval.

"This is the Series-B funding round for us. We had raised Rs 25 crore in Series-A funding from Carpediem Capital in 2019," Kumar said.

After this second round of funding, Sindhuja's capital position will rise to Rs 100 crore, which, according to Kumar, will take care of any liquidity requirement for the next 18 months, he said.

In July 2018, Gojo & Company had invested Rs 40-42 crore in Satya MicroCapital.

OYO announces ESOPs for all furloughed employees impacted by COVID-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hospitality firm OYO is granting employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) worth a total of around Rs 130 crore to all its furloughed employees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as part of its efforts to minimise the disruption being experienced by them, an internal e-mail from its founder Ritesh Agarwal said on Monday.

On April 8, OYO founder and Group CEO Ritesh Agarwal had said in a letter and video message that the company will place a certain number of employees on furloughs or temporary leaves, globally.

According to the sources, the number of furloughed employees globally could run in thousands. The company, however,



did not share any details regarding the number of the impacted employees.

In an internal town hall note to the impacted employees, Agarwal on Monday said

According to the sources, the number of furloughed employees globally could run in thousands

tinue for sometime.

"I would like to recognise your contributions and this love and passion for OYO by making you a co-owner and shareholder of the company. I would like to inform you that all impacted OYOpreneurs would be eligible for ESOPs worth around Rs 130 crore (around USD 18 million)," he added.

Details on employees' specific grant will be shared on e-

mail separately, which will be detailed as per their band and geographies, he added.

"In addition, we also understand that some of you may already have stock options. For those employees, we are dropping the one-year cliff on the vesting of stock options for everyone we have hired in the past year. This will ensure that everyone departing, regardless of how long they have been with OYO, can become a shareholder," Agarwal said.

The company will also provide stocks to employees not impacted, thereby making 100 per cent team members co-owners, he added. "This is the first time in the history of the company that such a large part of the organisation is being inducted as a stakeholder," Agarwal said.

The lockdown called and being extended due to the pandemic has left students, of schools and colleges, and teachers, with the only option of making use of the web. Sritama Maitra, Assistant professor at Loyola Academy, and a research scholar in English literature speaks exclusively to SIDDHESH SUMAN on how good or bad this is, for the education sector



Education is the cornerstone of any advanced civilisation; without it, we're no different than animals. Due to the recent crisis of the Coronavirus outbreak, several public places have been closed down resulting in one of the worst global economic downfalls of the 21st century, along with the educational sector facing a similar problem due to the closure of all educational institutions.

With the syllabus left incomplete and final exams being halted, teachers and students around the nation opted for the next best thing available using internet-based platforms such as Zoom, Skype or Webex to conduct live online classes. But how effective has this new method proven to be and are the Indian educational institutions ready to take this big step of adopting online education and making classroom education obsolete?

Sritama Maitra, Assistant professor at Loyola Academy, and research scholar in English literature says, "When I think about this, my mind goes to those people who cannot make use of this online facility and frankly their numbers aren't low. Even in the most esteemed private institutions where the most fortunate and privileged students come even, there is a considerable amount of students who do not have access to those facilities. So my heart goes out to them since neglecting that a considerable amount of students is unfair. Talking about government colleges where unprivileged students do not have access to the

internet, thinking of taking education online is simply absurd and unethical."

She continues, "Coming to students who can afford high-speed internet and can attend online classes in that case with more than a decade of experience in teaching college students, I think quality-wise, there's a huge difference. Such asynchronous teaching where students can attend recorded lectures at their convenience or attend live classes are no match to actual classroom teaching experience in terms of interaction or the number of questions students can ask. Lecturers getting immediate feedback by looking at the students - how they nod, how those who don't understand react, are some things that do not happen in live classes because most of them have their videos turned off and we have no clue whether our lessons are reaching them or not. This becomes very deadening and empty from a teacher's point of view. It doesn't feel like one is taking the class at all. And due to poor internet connections, the transmission of the classes isn't smooth which makes teaching and listening difficult for the students and the teachers."

Another thing is the lack of concentration from the students in online classes compared to a classroom. In a classroom, even the not so interested student at least tries to show they're interested maybe because they're afraid of the teacher, she thinks.

"Whatever the reason may be, there is an effort, but in an online class, there is no

concentration because no one is looking at you, you're video and mic is turned off so nobody knows if the student is paying attention or simply napping. And then the 'I will listen to it later' excuse never happens because we have completed the syllabus 2 months ago and I know students who have still not listened to



"ONLINE EDUCATION IS THE POOR COUSIN OF CLASSROOM EDUCATION AND IT TAKES AWAY THE REAL EXPERIENCE BOTH FROM A TEACHER AND A STUDENT. AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT IS ALL ABOUT FINISHING UP THE SYLLABUS,"
SAYS SRITAMA MAITRA,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LOYOLA DEGREE COLLEGE

those recorded lectures or don't remember a thing from those online classes

which makes us worried about how they will perform in their exams. If this

becomes a norm, it will affect the performance of the students. And in times

like this, we cannot blame the students because we don't know what kind of situation they are going through and we can't even motivate them. Online education is the poor cousin of classroom education and it takes away the real experience both from a teacher and a student. At the end of the day, it is all about finishing up the syllabus but what we taught and how much a student learns from it, is something impossible to gauge from this online method of teaching."

Sritama Maitra concludes. Avinash Denduluri a final year BA Mass Communication student, on whether or not online education can become a primary method of education, says, "There's a lot of factors to consider. Access to tech-

nology, and education of proper usage of said technology, both to the students and the teachers, is essential before one proceeds with an online class. It's a secondary, choice-based accessory with the system we have globally, it can't be an effective primary method of education."

Shubha Pai, a final year student pursuing Psychology, Journalism, and English literature shares her personal experience of online classes. She says, "Personally, I do not have any complaints with the online classes. My lecturers have made enough efforts to make the classes as efficient as possible. I do realise that a lot of teachers are not trained to take online classes but everyone is trying their best. It's heartbreaking to see so many students

make fun of their teachers during Skype calls which are not cool." But are these anywhere close to actual classroom teaching? "Not really. In classrooms, most of the time at least, you have to pay attention to the class but here you have the option of switching off your video and running your errands during a Skype call. But in conditions such as the pandemic, this is the best option. Students should understand that though life is at a halt during the lockdown, teaching, and studying needs to continue for their own good. On the other hand, it's also important for teachers to understand what the students are going through and help them to be mentally sound and motivated to study for their exams," she opines.

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Wajid Khan of composer duo Sajid-Wajid no more

Bollywood composer-singer Wajid Khan of the popular sibling composer duo — Sajid Wajid is no more. He passed away in the early hours on Monday.

Confirming the news, singer Sonu Nigam posted on his official social media handle: "My brother Wajid left us."

The cause of death has not yet been confirmed, though unconfirmed reports have stated the artist was suffering from COVID-19. A report in filmibeat.com, on the other hand, stated Wajid had been suffering from a kidney problem over the past few years, and had reportedly been on ventilator after being hospitalised recently.

Sajid-Wajid recently composed songs for Bollywood superstar Salman Khan during the ongoing lockdown, one of which was a number titled *Pyaar Karona*, a pop anthem encouraging all to fight the coronavirus. The song released in April was sung by Salman and also featured the actor in the video.

The composer duo also recently composed Salman's Eid special song, *Bhai Bhai*, which talks of communal harmony.

Sajid-Wajid frequently collaborated as composers for Salman Khan. In fact, they made their debut in the 1998 Salman superhit, *Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya*, scoring one song in that film, *Teri Jawani Badi Mast Mast Hai*.

The duo shot to fame with the Salman Khan blockbuster *Dabangg* in 2010, and there



has been no looking back. Among numerous hits they composed were *Tere Mast Mast Do Nain* and *Hud Hud Dabangg (Dabangg)*. *Do you wanna partner* and *Soni de nakhre (Partner)*, *Mujhse shaadi karogi* and *Laal Dupatta (Mujhse Shaadi Karogi)*, *Mashallah (Ek Tha Tiger)*, *Chinta ta chita (Rowdy Rathore)*, *Fevicol se (Dabangg 2)* and *Raat Bhar (Heropanti)*.

As a singer, Wajid recorded many hit songs, including *Do you wanna partner* and *Soni de nakhre (Partner)*, *Hud Hud Dabangg (Dabangg)*, *Chinta ta chita (Rowdy Rathore)*, *Tujhe*

Aksa Beach (God Tussi Great Ho) and *Jalwa (Wanted)*.

Sajid-Wajid also composed for a few non-film albums. These are Son Nigam's *Deewana*, Alka Yagnik and Babul Supriyo's *Khoya Khoya Chand* and Rahul Vaidya's *Tera Intezaar*.

Wajid also was a mentor of the music reality show *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Singing Superstar* and *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2012*.

As the news of Wajid's demise spread, Bollywood took to social media to express grief and shock.

"Terrible news. The one thing I will always remember is Wajid bhai's laugh. Always

smiling. Gone too soon. My condolences to his family and everyone grieving. Rest in peace my friend. You are in my thoughts and prayers," tweeted Priyanka Chopra.

Among the first to confirm the news with a tweet of condolence was composer Salim Merchant of the Salim-Suleiman duo. "Devastated with the news of the passing away of my brother Wajid of Sajid-Wajid fame. May Allah give strength to the family. Safe travels bro. @wajidkhan7 you've gone too soon. It's a huge loss to our fraternity. I'm shocked & broken," wrote Salim.

Vishal Dadlani wrote on Twitter, "Wajid Khan is gone far too soon. His talent and heart were never appreciated enough. All the times we planned to meet & never did because we were busy, those will always rankle. Sajid Khan, mere bhai. You will never be alone & our brother will forever be remembered."

"Heartbreaking news. Wajid no more. Spent time on the SRGMP show with him as a co-judge and he was so kind and generous. I know he was ailing for a while, regret not picking up the phone on him in this lockdown. Stunned and sad," wrote singer Sonu Mohapatra on Twitter.

Singer Harshdeep Kaur tweeted, "My deep condolences to #WajidKhan Ji's family. Still can't believe that he is no more. Have always seen him smiling and spreading joy around him. Huge loss to the music industry."

"This cannot be true! I can't believe that Wajid bhai has left us. In state of complete shock! Worked with u on so many songs and just met u a while ago @wajidkhan7. May your soul Rest In Peace.. May god give strength to the family to bear this huge loss," tweeted singer Tulsi Kumar.

Singer-Politician Babul Supriyo also expressed his condolence on Twitter: "Shocked to hear about the cruelly untimely demise of Wajid of the renowned Composer duo of Sajid Wajid. Incredible loss of a very very dear friend & a very very talented musical mind — a Gr8 sport."

UPASANA WOWS WITH HER PERSONALITY & PRINCIPLES

FICCI FLO Hyderabad chapter hosted a scintillating conversation titled *Freedom to be me*, between noted Indian entrepreneur Upasana Kamineni and well-known TV journalist Swapna. Upasana Kamineni, Vice-Chairperson of Apollo Life, winner of Dadasaheb Phalke Philanthropist of the year award, and also the wife of Tollywood actor Ram Charan Tej candidly said that she has a huge bucket list of things to do and has many goals to reach still, as she swayed the viewers with her witty retorts to some head-on, rapid-fire questions from Swapna.

"The conversation with Upasana Kamineni is the second in our Power-Hour series in which we present outstanding personalities, who epitomise the principles of leadership, passion, creativity, and be capable of showing the way to be a truly global citizen. Upasana is spell-binding in her honesty, earnestness, her commitment to various causes, and we are delighted to have been able to host this session with her," says Said Usharani Manne, Chairperson of FICCI FLO Hyderabad chapter, Founder-Director, Polmon Instruments Pvt. Ltd.

For the urban workforce, FLO Hyderabad has tied up with McLean Group that works with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) to impart employable vocational skills as well as guaranteed employment for the graduating trainees, with NSTI for customized courses to enhance employability, with ITI for Training in various trades. FLO is also looking to work towards identifying and mobilizing probable candidates for these courses.



Guilt-free SUMMER DRINKS

We are facing one of the hottest summers ever recorded in the country. With these kind of temperature, it becomes extremely difficult to maintain health and stay fit. Staying hydrated is the most important factor to deal with the blistering heat. Enjoying your favourite beverages to beat the heat and proper hydration to the body sounds like a great idea. But these beverage delights come loaded with sugar and calories. Sugary beverage intake is significantly associated

with a number of health issues. Even WHO guideline recommend adults and children should reduce their daily intake of free sugar to less than 10 per cent of their total energy intake. A further reduction to below 5 per cent or roughly 25 grams (6 teaspoons) per day would provide additional health benefits. "Believe it or not but you can now enjoy your favourite thirst quenching summer cooler and beverages without compromising on the taste or on your health. It is

time to replace sugar with a natural, zero calorie and great tasting sweetener such as Stevia to make your favourite beverages healthy, hydrating and refreshing. It can be part of a healthy lifestyle when it comes to looking for ways to reduce sugar and calories for your family," says Navneet Singh, VP Asia Pacific and Head of South Asia region at PureCircle. Try these great tasting and refreshing summer beverages sweetened with Stevia to beat the blistering heat and enjoy summer.



MANGO LASSI

- WHAT YOU NEED: (1 SERVING)**
 Mango pulp/mango slice: 1 cup (100g)
 Curd: 1/2 cup (50g)
 Water: 1cup (100g)
 Cardamom powder: 1 tsp (0.5g)
 Sugar free green: 3 scoops
- HOW TO MAKE:**
- Pour mango pulp in a blender and add curd, cardamom powder, water & sugar free green.
 - Blend it for 2 min or until it form a smooth blend.
 - Pour blend in a glass, garnish with few mango cube shape pieces.

MANGO GINGER LEMONADE

- What you need: (1 serving)**
 Mango puree: 1/2 cup (50ml)
 Water: 2 cup (250ml)
 Ginger shredded: 1 tsp
 Sugar free green: 3 scoops
 Lemon juice: 2 tsp
- HOW TO MAKE:**
- Take half cup of water in a pan and add 1 tsp fresh ginger.
 - Simmer for 10 minutes at low heat then keep aside and steep for another 30 minutes.
 - After 30 min strain the ginger extract in a bowl.
 - Add lemon juice to it, then add mango puree, 3 scoop sugar free green & remaining water (cold).
 - Mix all ingredients with hand or blend for 10-20 sec.
 - Pour the mixture into glasses and garnish with mango slice.



GINGER MINT LEMONADE



- WHAT YOU NEED (1 SERVING)**
 Water: 1 cup (200ml)
 Lemon: 1 tbsp
 Mint: 15-20 leaves
 Ginger: 1 tsp
 Sugar free green: 2 e scoops

- HOW TO MAKE:**
- Take a cup of water in a pan and add 1 tsp fresh ginger.
 - Simmer for 10 minutes at low heat then keep aside and steep for another 30 minutes.
 - After 30 min strain the ginger extract in a bowl.
 - Lightly Crush mint leaves in another bowl with help of rolling pin or in pestle mortar.
 - Add lemon juice, ginger extract, sugar free green & remaining water (cold).
 - Mix all ingredients, remove mint leaves.
 - Pour the mixture into glasses and garnish with a slice of lemon.



MANGO SHAKE

- WHAT YOU NEED: (1 SERVING)**
 Milk: 1 cup (125ml)
 Mango slices: 3/4cup (100ml)
 Sugar free green: 3 scoops
 Almond: 2 pieces
 Raisins: 4 pieces

- HOW TO MAKE:**
- Chop mango slice into small pieces.
 - Add mango pieces, 3 scoop of sugar free green & milk into the blender.
 - Blend until everything mix uniformly.
 - Pour shake into the glass and garnish with chopped almonds and raisins.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- 1 Fish tank
- 7 Fewest
- 8 Narrow shell
- 9 Ottawa is the capital of this country
- 10 Journey
- 12 Slightly hot
- 14 Thief
- 17 Sweeten a drink with this
- 18 A feeling of rage
- 19 Obstinate

DOWN

- 1 Once more
- 2 Messy, disorganised
- 3 Tumble over and over
- 4 Beneath
- 5 A watch's hands move in this direction
- 6 Not permanent
- 11 A red fruit used in salads
- 13 Correct
- 15 Start
- 16 A creature with nippers

SOLUTION



GINGER MEGGS



The still-untitled film on Karnam Malleswari, helmed by Sanjana Reddy, will go to sets next year. It will be shot in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil simultaneously, finds NAGARAJ GOUD



THE STORY BEHIND A SPORTING ICON'S BIOPIC

As Karnam Malleswari — the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal — rung her 45th birthday on Monday, producers Kona Venkat and MVV Satyanarayana officially announced a biopic on her. She joins other sporting icons like Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Mary Kom, Milkha Singh and Mohammad Azharuddin on the list of Indian sportspersons on whom films have been made in the past several years. In a historic moment for India, Malleswari lifted 110 kg in the snatch and 130 kg in the clean and jerk categories for a total of 240 kg at the 2000 Sydney Olympics to win a bronze medal that made her the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal. The still-untitled film, to be helmed by Sanjana Reddy, will go to sets next year. It will be shot in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil simultaneously.



FOR SANJANA, MALLESWARI IS HER "SUPER HERO" AND SHE FEELS BLESSED TO TELL THE TALE OF THE IRON LADY AS THE DUO COMES FROM SAME DISTRICT IN AP

Speaking to us about the project, Kona reveals that Malleswari was "a little reluctant" when the talks of the film were first initiated. Apparently, she was approached by many filmmakers in the past but she wasn't convinced that they would do justice to her portrayal on screen! "From me, she wanted to hear the structure of the biopic before deciding on whether she'd give the rights. Earlier this year, I invited her to Hyderabad and we sat down for four hours. Within an hour I told her what was in my mind in terms of the story and the way she will be projected on screen. She was very impressed! She said that this is exactly what she was looking for. In the next three hours, she recalled her journey," the writer shares fondly.

Picking a one-film old director like Sanjana to helm the story of a celebrated athlete is a risky proposition but Kona is sure that she will deliver the goods. Explaining his rationale behind signing her, he adds, "Besides doing a tonne of research, Sanjana travelled with Malleswari for a long time. I liked the way she looked at the 'big picture'. If a director's sensibilities match mine, I choose him/her to helm a film irrespective of the experience and success rate. I wanted someone to get into

the soul of reel Malleswari and who better than Sanjana, as she lived with the story of the athlete for years. Plus, being a female herself, I felt she would understand the story better and portray it effectively on screen."

For Sanjana who hails from Srikakulam, Malleswari is her "super hero" and she feels blessed to tell the tale of the iron lady (as Malleswari was referred to back then) who hails from Voosavanipeta, a hamlet in the same district of Andhra Pradesh. "She put our district on the global map and things improved for better as a school-going child growing up for us because of her accomplishment. She proved that women from a small village can be world beaters," she exults, adding, "In the industry they say stories chose you. I don't know why I didn't touch any other story than that of Malleswari for the past four years. The project took time but it progressed organically. It is where it is now because of Kona garu. He is both Malleswari garu's and my strength."

Sanjana observes that the way she spoke and the presentation she offered to tell the story of Malleswari might have led the latter to repose faith in

her. "I stayed with her story for four years without a producer in hand. In fact, when I first broached the movie topic to her, she casually said who would watch it. But it was only after the monster success of Dangal that she began to consider that her story be told to a large audience so that it motivates other athletes," the director recalls.

Kona admits that he will fictionalize the story a bit and dramatise some episodes of the weightlifter's life for cinematic purposes but overall, he wants to stay true to the real story. "Any sport has certain moments of high, especially when it comes to representing a country. If this story was that of a male weightlifter, it wouldn't have got the traction it did. But here was a female athlete from a poor family who did the unimaginable. I believe choosing a sport like weightlifting in an orthodox society like ours back then is a story worth telling on the screen. As a story, the film will focus on her journey — through her highs and lows — rather than on the sport in particular," he states.

The final screenplay of the film will be ready in the coming months and Sanjana believes that times are such that a writer has no option but to revisit a script they have locked. "People have consumed a lot of content on digital platforms due to lockdown in the past two and half months. So a writer, I feel, needs to update his/her work regularly. What he/she writes needs to be lapped up two years from now because you never know when films will start and release! Luckily for us, Kona garu is an expert in fleshing out strong women protagonist characters as is evident from his work in the past. That makes his inclusion a big blessing for the project," the director concludes.



From aha to Netflix

Mid last month, we've reported that Uma Maheswara Ugra Roopasya (UMUR), directed by C/O Kancharapalem fame Venkatesh Maha and fronted by Satyadev, will be dropping directly on 100 per cent first Telugu OTT platform, Aha, bypassing cinema halls. There seems to be a significant development to this end, as we've learnt that the deal has exchanged hands. According to our source, the film has now been picked up by Netflix.

The source informs, "As the story of Aha was ready to announce the date of streaming last month, they've received the sudden jolt of film slipping out of their hands. With Netflix offering the makers of

UMUR more than what Aha offered, there was no way that Arka Media and Praveen Paruchiri and Venkatesh Maha would've let go of the offer. The fact that the streaming giant has a wide reach to that of Aha was also another reason. Netflix will update the arrival of the film shortly."

UMUR — an official remake of Malayalam hit Maheshinte Prathikaaram — tells the story of an Araku-based studio photographer owner (Satyadev) who publicly vows that he will not wear his slippers again until he has avenged the humiliation that he has been meted out to, by a group. Maha has tailored the original to suit Telugu nativity. Wrapped up in flat 35 days, it was shot in a non-stop start-to-finish schedule in Araku. Nareesh, Kushalini, Chandana Koppiseti and Meghana

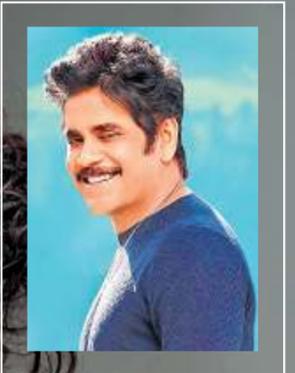


Appikonda have essayed other key roles in the drama. - NG

Jayaram lands a key role in Prabhas' next?

Popular Malayalam actor Jayaram, who was recently seen in the Telugu box office smash Ala Vaikuthapuramlo, is said to have signed Prabhas' next with Jil fame Radha Krishna. According to the grapevine, Jayaram will be seen playing a key character in the film whose supporting cast names are not fully out yet. Besides UV Creations, the fact that his role has a lot of prominence in the story drove him to green-lit the film, it is believed. An official confirmation thought is awaited.

Meanwhile, UV Creations has decided to announce the untitled film's title in a couple of weeks from now. They are in plans to release a couple of stills as well to quench the thirst of Prabhas fans who have been waiting for new developments about the film for the past couple of months. A romantic drama, the film sees Pooja Hedge alongside Prabhas.



When Nagarjuna insisted Seerat should not call him 'sir'

Actress Seerat Kapoor on Monday recalled how, while shooting with Nagarjuna for Raju Gari Gadhil 2, the Telugu superstar had insisted that she should not call him "sir".

"We were amidst a conversation about spirituality when Nag sir recollected his role in Shirdi Sai, which is when this moment was captured. He noticed I was glued to the visuals till the very end and said, 'It's okay, you don't have to watch the entire video!' and laughed it off. He also tried his best to wave me off from addressing him as sir. That's the kind of camaraderie we shared off sets. Wisdom and fun, the best of both worlds," Seerat shared.

On Instagram, she posted a throwback picture that shows her sitting next to Nagarjuna. On the work front, Seerat will be next seen in Krishna And His Leela and Maa Vintha Gaadha Vinura.

Puri is one of my favourite directors: Mahesh babu

In a rare conversation with fans on social media, superstar Mahesh Babu revealed what he has been up to during the quarantine period with family. "It's been an experience of a lifetime. I've done so many things with them that I wouldn't be able to do, had I be working," he said.

When a user asked what he would like to be remembered as, he replied, "I would like to be remembered as a great actor, an amazing father to my children and a great husband to my wife." To a question on what

keeps him so determined, he stated, "My hunger for perfection." Does his son Gautham want to follow in his footsteps, asked a fan. "He wants to I guess. Only time will tell," the actor said.

About the Sunday announced Sarkaru Vaari Paata with director Parasuram, he added, "SVP is a complete entertainer with a strong message! I am really excited about it."

Stating Iron Man and Hulk are his favourite Marvel super heroes and that test cricket has his vote over other formats of the game, the actor also said that he is

open to be directed by Puri Jagannadh again.

The director gave the actor Pokiri, a landmark film his career and went to collaborate with the actor again for Businessman. His subsequent efforts to work with the actor didn't fructify. He even recently suggested that Mahesh will do a film with him only when he delivers successful films. "Absolutely I would! Puri Jagannadh is one of my favourite directors... I'm still waiting for him to come and narrate to me" was the actor's reply when a fan asked about a possible reteaming with Puri in the future.



A film on modern relationships

Filmmaker Madhura Sreedhar, who promotes fresh talent, is presenting a new film, Love Life & Pakodi, which narrates the journey of a couple (played by new faces Karthik Bhimal Rebbu, Sanchitha Ponacha) who face

complications and their confusions honestly, while rediscovering themselves at every step. The film is a production and directorial debut of Jayanthi Gali, who says that it addresses a lot of questions the current youth have with regards to relationships. He is confident that the youngsters will relate and connect to the

story and elder generations will appreciate it, as it has something to take back home for every generation. He is planning to release the film once cinema halls open. Akarsh Raj Bhagavathula, Krishna Hebbale, Kalajyothi and Anuradha Mallikarjun have played significant roles in the film.

We need an alternative to saliva: Bumrah

Rohit & Virat defining pair of modern era

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Premier India pacer Jasprit Bumrah won't miss the hugs and high-fives as part of a wicket celebration but he will certainly miss applying saliva on the ball and feels an alternative should be provided to maintain the red cherry.

The ICC Cricket Committee, led by former India captain Anil Kumble, recommended a ban on using saliva on the ball as an interim measure to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Committee did not allow the use of artificial substances as a substitute move.

The new rule makes life tougher for the bowlers and Bumrah, like many former and current fast bowlers, feels there ought to be an alternative.

"I was not much of a hugger anyway and not a high-five person as well, so that doesn't trouble me a lot. The only thing that interests me is the saliva bit," said.

"I don't know what guidelines we'll have to follow when we come back, but I feel there should be an alternative," he added.

Bumrah said not being able to use saliva makes the game more batsman-friendly.

"If the ball is not well maintained, it's difficult for the bowlers. The grounds are getting shorter and shorter, the wickets are becoming flatter and flatter."

"So we need something, some alternative for the bowlers to maintain the ball so that it can do something - maybe reverse in the end or conventional swing."

When former West Indian



pacer Bishop pointed out that the conditions have been favourable to the fast bowlers over the last couple of years, Bumrah nodded in agreement. "In Test match cricket, yes. That is why it's my favourite format, because we have something over there. But in one-day cricket and T20 cricket... one-day cricket there are two

"I WAS NOT MUCH OF A HUGGER ANYWAY AND NOT A HIGH-FIVE PERSON AS WELL, SO THAT DOESN'T TROUBLE ME A LOT. THE ONLY THING THAT INTERESTS ME IS THE SALIVA BIT,"

new balls, so it hardly reverses at the end.

"We played in New Zealand, the ground (boundary) was 50 metres. So even if you are not looking to hit a six, it will go for six. In Test matches I have no problem, I'm very happy with the way things are going."

He finds it amusing that

the batsmen keep complaining about the swinging ball.

"Whenever you play, I've heard the batsmen - not in our team, everywhere - complaining the ball is swinging. But the ball is supposed to swing! The ball is supposed to do something! We are not here just to give throwdowns, isn't it? (laughter)

"This is what I tell batsmen all the time. In one-day cricket, when did the ball reverse last, I don't know. Nowadays the new ball doesn't swing a lot as well. So whenever I see batsmen say the ball is swinging or seaming and that is why I got out - the ball is supposed to do that."

"Because it doesn't happen so much in the other formats, it's a new thing for the batsmen when the ball is swinging or seaming," said the 26-year-old.

The Ahmedabad-born pacer finds himself in an unusual position as he has not bowled for over two months due to the lockdown imposed in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

When India will play next is not clear yet and Bumrah said he is not sure about how his body will hold up when he returns to action.

"I really don't know how your body reacts when you don't bowl for two months, three months. I'm trying to keep up with training so that as soon as the grounds open up, the body is in decent shape."

"I've been training almost six days a week but I've not bowled for a long period of time so I don't know how the body will react when I bowl the first ball."

"I'm looking at it as a way to renew your own body. We'll never get such a break again, so even if you have a small niggle here and there, you can be a refreshed person when you come back. You can prolong your career," he said.

Bumrah has risen rapidly in international cricket despite experts having reservations about his longevity due to his unorthodox action.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Every cricketing era has a "defining pair" which builds the narrative and the duo of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma is a special one for India in modern times, says Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara.

Kohli and Rohit have aggregated nearly 36,000 runs (35,930 runs) across three formats and Sangakkara feels the duo has the same aura which Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid had in the late '90s and early 2000s.

"There is something very special about Virat and Rohit. That fact that rules have changed and run-scoring might have become slightly easier in one-day cricket, but it's incredibly hard, the volume of cricket that India athletes play," Sangakkara said on Star Sports' 'Cricket Connected'.

Sangakkara feels that Kohli and Rohit deserve the respect also for the fact that players from bygone era didn't have to constantly play three formats.

"So, I think you have to have a lot of respect for Rohit and Virat but understand that it's all because of the players that

have gone before and have done all the hard work then as well.

"So, it's a knock-on effect, so in every era, there's always a defining pair and in the modern era, it's Rohit and Virat for India for sure," Sangakkara recalled the era of Dravid and Ganguly and drew a parallel with Kohli and Rohit where batsmen have been destructive despite being orthodox in their technique.

"If you look at Rahul and Dada, both of them are orthodox batsmen. They play beautiful cricket shots and are very technically correct. Dravid may be a little bit more so, but the ability to be as destructive with such rate and precision stroke-making is something that has to be really admired."

"If you take the modern-day game, India has two of the best players in Virat and Rohit, who play orthodox cricket but who are just absolutely destructive in any format of the game. You don't have to muscle the ball or put too much effort or look ugly doing it, they just play good cricket shots and results come," he concluded.

Advantage for Aus in D/N Test: Smith

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Star batsman Steve Smith says the experience of having played more pink ball games than India would give Australia 'slight advantage' when the two sides clash under flood lights in December but the Virat Kohli-led side has the batsmen to stand up to the challenge.

Cricketer Australia last week confirmed that India will tour Down Under for a full tour comprising four Tests, three ODIs and three T20Is. The second Test will be a day-night affair, starting from December 11 in Adelaide.

"We played a few more pink ball games, perhaps, than India which might be a slight advantage," the Aussie star batsman said in a Facebook session, hosted by Sony Sports India.

"India played pretty well in the day-night game they played at Kolkata. It's a different game but they certainly got the batsmen that can stand up to the conditions when it gets tough with the Pink Ball. And their bowlers, they stand the seam up with quality."

"They are world class play-



ers who are able to adapt to anything, so I see it being a pretty amazing contest," he said.

India will first clash with Australia in a T20I series beginning October 11 and then return to defend the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with the opening match at Gabba, where the hosts have tremendous record.

"Our record at Gabba (Brisbane) against anyone, is good to be fair, that is a fortress

Smith in best shape despite not picking up bat

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Top Australian cricketers resumed training on Monday at the Sydney Olympic Park with batting mainstay Steve Smith saying that he is in his best shape in years after putting the bat aside for two months to focus on physical and mental fitness.

David Warner and Mitchell Starc were among those who reported for training as the domestic pre-season began behind closed doors. Australia is one of the less-affected countries from the

COVID-19 pandemic with little over 7000 cases reported so far.

"I'm probably in the best shape I've been in in years, doing lots of running, lots of gym stuff at home. It's been a couple of months of good hard work," said Smith.

"I haven't touched a bat, really. A couple of little drills at home but that's about it. I've just tried to switch off from it a bit, which I don't do very often. I was just focusing on getting myself fit and strong and refreshing mentally," he said.

for us, we wanted to play first Test there for a long period of time," the 30-year-old said.

Smith, one of the world's best Test batsmen, also admired the way the Indian captain goes about chases in white-ball cricket.

"Look at his average in winning chases in one-day cricket. It's phenomenal. He's so good under pressure and calm. Just gets the job done and unfortunately for an

opposition player. You got to admire someone like that and what he has done for Indian cricket."

Asked about his comparisons with the Indian icon, he said, "I admire Virat a lot. He's an amazing player. The way they play the game now, the sheer passion he has for cricket... His body sort of transformed over time. He's so fit, strong and powerful now. Pretty amazing for cricket."

ECB to resume cricket behind closed doors

AFF ■ LONDON

The ECB has welcomed the UK government's decision to allow the resumption of professional sports behind closed doors which allows the board to go ahead with its plan of hosting international cricket starting next month.

In the latest health and safety guidelines designed to prevent the spread of coron-

avirus, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Oliver Dowden on Saturday gave the green light for live competitive sport to return behind closed doors in safe and carefully controlled environments from June 1.

"We are extremely heartened by Saturday's announcement from the Secretary of State, which will support the return of professional, domes-

tic cricket behind closed doors, and provides a meaningful next step for recreational players to begin playing at their clubs again," England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement.

The board added that it will study the guidelines laid down by the government to safely resume the game.

"Over the coming week, we will seek to understand the spe-

cific guidance from Government's medical teams so that we can provide support for cricket clubs who will be eager to see their communities safely playing in small groups."

"We extend our thanks to all those in Government who have worked hard to support the return of sport and we look forward to seeing players from across the game start returning to the field," it added.

Everyone entitled to their own opinion: Rabada on his aggression

IANIS ■ CAPE TOWN

South Africa speedster Kagiso Rabada reflected on the previous season and admitted he felt out of place and rusty. Rabada, who has been leading the Proteas' bowling attack for a while now, also opened up regarding his on-field aggression, which has gotten him into trouble many-a-times in recent past.

The 2019-20 season was rather indifferent for Rabada, according to his own high

standards. He failed to live up to the expectations on the India tour and scalped just seven wickets in three Tests as the hosts romped to a 3-0 victory.

"The past season was a disappointment," Rabada was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "Even though I see that my stats are okay, I just felt really rusty and a bit out of place."

Rabada did better on home soil against England, where he scalped 14 wickets in three

matches. Rabada couldn't feature in the fourth Test as he was handed a one-Test ban for his celebration after taking the wicket of England Test captain Joe Root in the third Test.

"It's passion, but everyone has their opinion and they are entitled to their own opinion," Rabada said.

"I have identified things that I needed to identify and I will address them with the people that are closest to me and who I feel should be helping me address it."



Man U extend Ighalo's loan deal

AFF ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United extended Odion Ighalo's loan spell until January 2021 on Monday to ensure the Nigerian striker will be able to finish the 2019/20 season with the Premier League club.

Ighalo's initial loan deal from Shanghai Shenhua expired at the end of May, but the 30-year-old has been rewarded for an impressive return of four goals in eight appearances for United before football was shut down by the coronavirus pandemic in March.

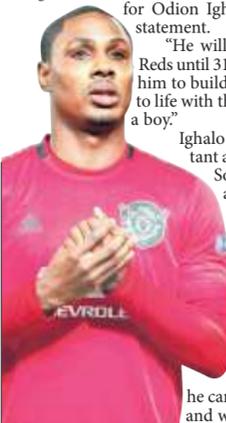
"Manchester United have reached agreement with Shanghai Greenland Shenhua to extend the loan deal for Odion Ighalo," United said in a statement.

"He will now remain with the Reds until 31 January 2021, enabling him to build on an impressive start to life with the club he supported as a boy."

Ighalo could prove an important addition to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's squad ahead of a packed schedule once games get back under way later this month.

"They (Shanghai) have been great towards us, allowing him to play for his dream club," said Solskjaer last week.

"It's been a dream for him and hopefully he can finish what he started and win a trophy with us."



BFI to nominate Phangal for Khel Ratna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Silver-medallist Amit Phangal and the seasoned Vikas Krishan were on Monday nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the Boxing Federation of India, which picked only Olympic-bound names as its nominees for the annual honours.

The BFI has nominated world Bronze-winning trio of Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), Simranjit Kaur (64kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) for the Arjuna awards. Of these, Borgohain has won the world Bronze twice, the most recent being last year.

For the Dronacharya awards, the BFI has finalised the names of national women's coach Mohammed Ali Qamar and assistant coach Chhote Lal Yadav.

"The nominations of the athletes and coaches have been on the basis of their performance during the last four years," the BFI said.

The 24-year-old Phangal (52kg), also an Asian Games champion, has not won any national sports award. He was being nominated for the Arjuna award for the past three years but was not considered by the selection committee because of a 2012 "inadvertent" dope offence.

"He is allowed to compete for the country and his medals are celebrated. He deserves to be honoured as well," BFI Executive Director R K Sacheti told PTI. "Youth level ki galtiyan to sab jagah maaf hoti hain. I didn't do it intention-



ally. I only took a medicine prescribed to me without knowing the consequences. I am hopeful I will be considered," Phangal had told PTI in a recent interaction.

Commonwealth and Asian Games Gold-medallist Krishan (69kg) won the Arjuna award in 2012. The 28-year-old had turned professional in 2018 after his CWG top finish followed by a third Asian Games medal — a Bronze.

He returned to the amateur circuit last year with the South Asian Games, winning a gold there before qualifying for the Olympics at the Asian qualifiers in Jordan in March this year.

Of the three Arjuna contenders, Kaushik has had a great run for the past couple of years, winning a Bronze in his maiden world championship (2019) to qualify for the Olympics after a Silver at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Both Kaur and Borgohain booked their Tokyo tickets at the Asian qualifiers.

Qamar, an Arjuna awardee, was India's first Commonwealth Games gold-medallist in boxing and has been in charge of the women's camp for over a year now. This was after serving as an assistant coach for one year.

Yadav is closely associated with six-time world champion M C Mary Kom and she has been crediting him for keeping her focussed in the past couple of years.

Former world-medallist N Usha has been nominated for the Dhyani Chand award for lifetime contribution to sports.

Real to play at training center on La Liga restart

AP ■ MADRID

The Spanish league is resuming in less than two weeks with Real Madrid playing its games at the club's training center.

Madrid will host Eibar on June 14 at the 6,000-capacity Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium, a venue used mostly by the club's "B" team at the Ciudad Real Madrid center on the city's outskirts.

Madrid is not stopping renovation work at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium as all remaining league games are likely to be played without fans because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The league on Sunday confirmed the dates and times of the first two rounds of matches to be played after the competition was stopped mid-March because of the pandemic. The first game will be the Sevilla derby between Sevilla and Real Betis on June 11 at 10 p.m. Local time (2000 GMT).

Defending champion Barcelona, which has a two-point lead over Real Madrid after 27 rounds, will resume at Mallorca on June 13, while Atlético Madrid visits Athletic Bilbao the following day.

The league has announced that every game will include an "applause

to infinity" tribute to the "heroes who are fighting to overcome" the pandemic. Pre-recorded applause uploaded in videos by fans will be played in the 20th minute of matches.

"We have created this initiative to help fans be a part of La Liga's return and also as an opportunity for them to show their support for the heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic," said league president Javier Tebas, who gave his weekly interview to league broadcaster Movistar on Sunday.

"We want them to feel close to their team, even if they cannot be in the stadiums cheering them on, and for players to feel the support of their fans."

Most games will be played late in the day to take into account high temperatures in Spain, but some will be brought forward based on favorable weather forecasts. There will be a couple of matches at 1 p.m. Local time in the first weekend.

The second division will resume June 11 with the second half of the game between Rayo Vallecano and Albacete, which was suspended at halftime in December after Ukrainian Roman Zozulia of Albacete was subjected to Nazi taunts by opposing fans.