

**ANALYSIS 7**  
OPENING DOORS TO PROSPERITY

**MONEY 8**  
OVER 1L IDS OF INDIANS FOR SALE ON DARK WEB

**SPORTS 12**  
3 WI PLAYERS REFUSE TO TOUR ENG

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# the pioneer



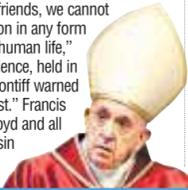
KRITI SANON:  
MISS PERFORMING  
ON STAGE

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## POPE: WORLD CANNOT TURN 'A BLIND EYE TO RACISM'

Pope Francis says he has "witnessed with great concern the disturbing social unrest" in the United States in reaction to the killing of George Floyd, and called for national reconciliation. "My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life," the pope said during his weekly Wednesday audience, held in the presence of bishops. At the same time, the pontiff warned "nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost." Francis said he was praying "for the repose of George Floyd and all those who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism".



## NO LION CENSUS, ONLY OBSERVATION ACTIVITY IN GUJARAT

The Gujarat forest department on Wednesday clarified that it would just be conducting a lion observation activity on June 5 and 6 and not a lion census. The census of lions, which was to be carried out last month, had to be put off in view of the coronavirus-triggered lockdown, it said. The Junagadh forest department, under whose jurisdiction the Gir Wildlife sanctuary is located, clarified this amid reports that the state government would carry out the lion census on Friday and Saturday with only forest department staff. "On every full moon day, we ask the forest department personnel to observe lions in the areas assigned to the staff.



## SCIENTISTS FIND 'PRISTINE' AIR OVER SOUTHERN OCEAN

The air over the Southern Ocean, which surrounds Antarctica, is free from particles, called aerosols, produced by human activity or transported from distant lands, according to a study. The researchers from Colorado State University in the US suspected the air directly over the remote Southern Ocean that encircles Antarctica would be least affected by humans and dust from continents. They found that the boundary layer air that feeds the lower clouds over the Southern Ocean to be pristine -- free from particles, called aerosols, produced by human activities or transported from distant lands.



## MUMBAI EXHALES AS IT EMERGES UNSCATHED FROM CYCLONE NISARGA

Coronavirus-hit Mumbai has escaped the worst of the severe cyclonic storm Nisarga - the second to strike India in two weeks - with rain stopping and wind speeds reducing drastically. No damage has been reported from the financial capital where movement of people was restricted in public places like beaches, parks and promenades along the coastline till tomorrow afternoon. Flight operations, which were suspended at the city's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, have resumed. Cyclone Nisarga made landfall on the Maharashtra coast near Alibaug at around 1 pm.



# India moves towards one nation, one market

■ Cabinet deregulates cereals, pulses, onion, amends EC act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved amendments to the six-and-a-half-decade old Essential Commodities Act to deregulate food items, including cereals, pulses, and onion, a move aimed at transforming the farm sector and raising farmers' income.

The amendment provides for the regulation of food items only under exceptional circumstances like national calamities, famine with a surge in prices. Also, processors and value chain participants are exempted from the stock limit.

Announcing the cabinet decision, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said: "Today is a historic day. Three important decisions have been taken that will go a long way in helping farmers while also trans-



PM Narendra Modi chairing the Cabinet meeting, in New Delhi on Wednesday

forming the agriculture sector." The deregulation of commodities under the Essential Commodities (EC) Act is need of the hour and removes fears of private investors of excessive regulatory interference, he said. With the amendment to the Essential Commodities (EC) Act, commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes will be

"Today is a historic day. Three important decisions have been taken that will go a long way in helping farmers while also transforming the agriculture sector" - NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR, Agriculture Minister



removed from the list of essential commodities, the government said.

The freedom to produce, hold, move, distribute and supply will lead to harnessing economies of scale and attract private sector/foreign direct investment into the agriculture sector.

# Regulated farming is here to stay, asserts KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu has said that 'regulated farming', being introduced in Telangana during the current monsoon, will be continued in every agriculture season permanently.

The Chief Minister held a three-day extended conference with agriculture department officials and farm experts on the strategy to be implemented for regulated cultivation across the State in the days to come. He made several

KCR instructed the agriculture department to continuously issue alerts and implement strategies so that farmers would inculcate the habit of cultivating only those crops that are sought out by the government in line with the demand in the market.

suggestions for transforming the agriculture sector in such a manner that the typical farmer will find farming profitable and not as an activity that is always subject to the vagaries of nature and predatory market forces. Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu instructed the agriculture department to continuously issue alerts and implement strategies so that farmers would inculcate the habit of cultivating only those crops that are sought out by the government in line with the demand in the market.

## VIRUS SPREAD UNABATED

# TS @ 3020

■ 7 deaths on Wednesday  
■ 129 new corona cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With 129 Covid-19 positive cases being reported on Wednesday, Telangana's corona tally mounted to 3,020 cases. The state also reported seven deaths, taking the death toll to 99. In all, 108 of the fresh cases are from GHMC area.

While Ranga Reddy and Asifabad reported six cases each, Medchal and Sircilla reported two cases each. Yadadri, Mahabubnagar and Kamareddy reported one case each. Two migrants tested positive on Wednesday, taking the tally of infected migrants to 448. About 30 persons were discharged, taking the count of those discharged upon recovery to 1,556. As part of ICMR clinical trials, five patients from

Two migrants tested positive on Wednesday, taking the tally of infected migrants to 448.

Telangana with patient ID P1311, P1459, P1647, P2415 and P2639 were given plasma transfusion at Gandhi Hospital. As per the Health Department, "All mandatory protocols set by ICMR were duly followed during the therapy. The therapy was introduced to the patients when their oxygen saturation levels dropped below 84% - 90%.

## Four doctors among 7+ve cases from NIMS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Four doctors from Cardiology Department and three lab technicians of the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences at Panjagutta here tested corona positive on Wednesday. This apart, as many as 23 PG students from Osmania Medical College were also infected by the virus. A whopping 200 students and staffers have been sent for home quarantine. Samples of almost 300 contacts of infected PG doctors and interns of Osmania were sent for Covid-19 tests on June 2. This also includes samples of 170 hostellers. Out of them, 23 tested Covid-19 positive. Sources in NIMS said that the doctors working in the Cardiology Department have been treating patients on rotational basis.

## RTC city services from June 8?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In little over a fortnight, public transportation in the city would get a heft with the resumption of RTC city buses as well as Metro Rail by then.

The TSRTC is likely to resume its city services from June 8. At a review on Wednesday, Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar considered this aspect while weighing the question of operating city buses and inter-state bus services in view of the easing of lockdown curbs.



The modalities of operating various bus services were discussed in the context of the fact that all government and private offices have resumed their work.

## Scientists identify distinct trait in coronavirus in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad have identified a distinct trait in the coronavirus found in the people infected in the country, mostly in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

They have named this unique cluster of virus population as 'Clade A3i' found in 41 per cent of the genome sequenced in India.

## SC dismisses AP plea on colours to offices

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed an appeal of the Andhra Pradesh government against the high court order asking it to remove the colour of flags of political parties, including the ruling YSRCP, from government and 'panchayat' buildings and get them repainted.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Krishan Murari and S Ravindra Bhat did not agree to the submission of the state government



on the issue and rejected the appeal of the state government led by YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

## 7-day home quarantine for all arriving in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Every person arriving in Delhi - by train, bus or flight - will now have to undergo compulsory home quarantine for a week, the Delhi government has said, changing its earlier rule where no quarantine was required.

The district administration officials have been tasked with ensuring that the rule is followed. Earlier, the Delhi government had only advised that incoming people should monitor themselves for the next 14 days and call the District Surveillance Officer or National Call Center, if they show symptoms of coronavirus.

## Air India to operate to US, Canada from June 9

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air India on Wednesday said it will operate 75 outbound passenger flights to select destinations in the US and Canada between June 9 and June 30 under the Vande Bharat Mission.

"Those who wish to travel to the United States and Canada and fulfill required entry conditions can book themselves on these outbound flights. Some



foreign airlines have already carried out evacuation flights and are planning to operate

more flights. These flights will also take foreign nationals," Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted.

He said the aforementioned 75 flights will go to destinations like New York, Newark, Chicago, Washington, San Francisco, Vancouver and Toronto.

Domestic passenger flights resumed in India from May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus-triggered

lockdown. Scheduled international passenger flights continue to remain suspended in India.

The central government, however, started the Vande Bharat Mission from May 7 to bring back the stranded Indians from abroad through special inbound flights.

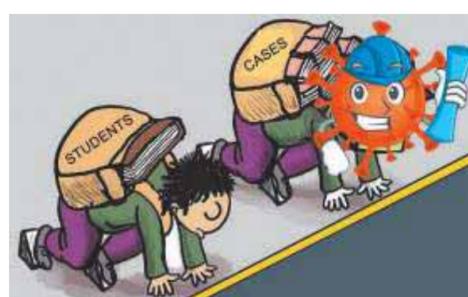
It is for the first time that outbound flights have been included under the mission.

# 'Cancel exams' now rallying cry of students, parents

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA  
■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State's SSC exams are scheduled to be held from 8th June to 5th July. Still, amid the scary coronavirus situation in the state, many students and parents have voiced on social media platform Twitter their displeasure at the very idea of conducting examinations. They have urged the government to not only cancel the 10th class examination, but also promote students without conducting any exams.

No wonder, on Wednesday the hashtag #CancelTSExamsPromoteStudents was trending at number



one in India on Twitter. Talking about the situation and how many parents are scared of sending their children to take the examination,

Venkat Sainath K, joint secretary, Hyderabad Schools Parents' Association (HSPA), says, "Most states have postponed the dates of examina-

tions because they fear the virus might spread. However, I do not understand the hurry. The state government can certainly delay the examinations till August. If they are planning to re-open schools, in that scenario I feel they should just promote all the students who are to appear for the SSC exams."

Although, the state officials have promised that all precautions would be taken to make sure the examination centres

are sanitised properly before each examination, it seems that parents have lingering doubts.

"Various sources have been reporting that the number of cases will only increase in June-July," says Seema Agarwal, vice-president, HSPA. She adds, "Even if the government takes all precautions to sanitise the school premises, the children will still have to travel to reach the examination centres."

## Shramik train services down to a fifth of their peak daily runs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The daily runs of the Shramik Special trains, which once averaged around 250, have now reduced to a paltry 50 due to a dwindling demand for the services from state governments, official data showed on Wednesday.

Over the last three days, the Railways ran 69 trains on Sunday, 46 on Monday, and 41 trains on Tuesday. Around 30 trains are scheduled for Wednesday, the data showed.

Since May 1, the Railways has operated 4,197 Shramik trains ferrying 58 lakh



migrants home, according to the latest data.

While on the first day, four such trains were operated, the number reached its peak on May 20, when 279 such trains were operated.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Jyeshtha & Shukla Paksha Panchangam  
Tithi: Trayodashi: 06:05 am, Chaturdashi: 03:15 am (Next Day)  
Nakshatram: Vishakha: 06:36 pm  
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)  
Rahukalam: 01:52 pm - 03:29 pm  
Yamagandam: 05:44 am - 07:22 am  
Varjyam: 10:17 pm - 11:46 pm  
Gulika: 08:59 am - 10:37 am  
Good Time: (to start any important work)  
Amritakalam: 10:35 am - 12:02 pm  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 am - 12:40 pm

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Mostly cloudy  
Temp: 33/24  
Humidity: 52%  
Sunrise: 05:40  
Sunset: 06:48  
Current Weather Conditions Updated June 3, 2020 5:00 PM

# Atmanirbhar Abhiyan with a new perspective

While announcing relief package of Rs 20 lakh-crore to cushion the impact of Covid-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed the need for self-reliance and the need to promote and buy local products to give a fillip to domestic manufacturing.

Appealing to people to be 'vocal about local' he put the concept of self-reliance in the broader perspective of Vasudhaiva Kutumbam and the global economy. Modi stressed upon economy, infrastructure, demographic dividend, technology-driven systems and demand as the five pillars of the concept of Atmanirbhar Abhiyan. Emphasis on buying local strengthens the fifth pillar of Atmanirbhar Abhiyan — the demand for goods.

The concept of Atmanirbhar Abhiyan may not be the outcome of just the strategy to revive the economy post Covid but a culmination of series of events hap-

pening in the global arena in the last 5 to 6 years.

After establishment of the WTO in 1995, world trade has undergone a change. Rule-based trading system emerged establishing a global supply chain. China joining WTO in 2001 became a game-changer in terms of global trade.

China took full advantage of WTO processes and emerged as the manufacturing hub of the world.

With most of investment shifting to China for manufacturing, manufacturing jobs in USA took a big hit and this was a major campaign point for Donald Trump in 2017 Presidential election.

In the last four years, a series of measures taken by him like imposing tariffs on goods from China, India and other countries and a deliberate attempt to undermine the

**The concept of Atmanirbhar Abhiyan may not be the outcome of just the strategy to revive the economy post Covid but a culmination of series of events happening in the global arena in the last 5 to 6 years**

WTO process by USA makes it clear that in the future, international trade is going to happen as per new rules.

The call for self-reliance given by the Prime Minister needs to be seen in this context rather than in a Covid specific one.

There was of course an attempt to draw a parallel between Atmanirbhar Abhiyan propounded now by Narendra Modi and the concept of self-reliance

and self sufficiency as propounded by Jawaharlal Nehru soon after Independence.

However, there is a fundamental and qualitative difference between the two. Self-reliance as envisaged by Nehru rests on two principles of commanding heights for the public sector and a centralised plan for the country wherein what to produce and how much to produce would be decided by State itself, keeping in view the interest of the soci-



IYR KRISHNA RAO  
former Chief Secretary,  
Government of AP

ety at large.

But as we have seen, both these concepts failed leaving the Indian economy in doldrums by the 1990s.

The commanding height that the Public Sector Undertakings held in the

Indian economy was successful as long as the conditions were monopolistic and the market captive. However, once the economy was opened up, and they had to face competition and the chinks in their armour got exposed.

Some of them like BHEL, which developed technical competence in certain fields, withstood competition for some time but could not survive competition from global giants and Chinese companies in the long run.

Over a period, governments, irrespective of the political party in power, found it wiser to disinvest rather than to support these enterprises with public money.

Denied entry into commanding heights of the capital industry, Indian private sector enterprise found it convenient to operate in a protect-

ed secure domestic market quality not being the main consideration.

Central planning system degenerated into a licence permit quota raj where the main job of India Inc became getting a licence which they sometimes traded or produced in a secure environment with hardly any competition.

Naturally, quality took a beating.

No wonder when government was contemplating opening up of the markets in 1990s, the Bombay club of the Indian businessmen stoutly opposed it.

It was during this time that countries like Japan, South Korea and Singapore concentrated on export markets and produced goods of quality and built enterprises which subsequently became global

enterprises. It is this which distinguishes the new concept of Atmanirbhar Abhiyan from earlier concept of self-reliance of the Nehru era.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised both these points in his speech when he spoke of the need to maintain quality and the concept of Atmanirbhar Abhiyan in the broader context of global markets.

In a more truncated form global markets will still be relevant. We may see more and more free trade agreements, regional economic unions in place of WTO monitored global trade.

We should be prepared to take advantage of them and be part of these supply chains. The domestic market can serve as a strong base to produce quality material to capture these markets. The concept of Atmanirbhar Abhiyan can help India position itself in post-Covid world where the writ of WTO may be limited.

# Banks in dilemma over Vanakalam credit plan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The bankers have prepared their scale of finance on Vanakalam (kharif) credit plan pegging the total amount to be given as crop loans to farmers at Rs 33,000 crore. However, as per the regulatory farming, the total amount needed to be disbursed is Rs 39,900 crore.

It would require at least Rs 50,000 crore for disbursing as crop loans as the area of cultivation under various crops is put at 1.30-crore acres. Therefore, the credit plan for Vanakalam for this year needed to be revised.

Prior to the advent of the regulated agriculture in the state, the bankers put the area under cotton and maize at 50 lakh and 12 lakh acres respectively. As per the regulated farming, the state government is discouraging farmers to raise maize during kharif.

The bankers put the limit on lending to Rs 23,000 per acre if farmers cultivate maize under rain-fed conditions. Similarly, the ceiling put on lending crop loans to raise cotton is Rs 38,000 per acre under the same conditions. The cap on lending for cultivation of soya beans is Rs 24,000 per acre. The Agriculture Department has been encouraging farmers to raise red gram. For red gram



**Bankers have prepared their scale of finance on Vanakalam credit plan pegging the total amount to be given as crop loans to farmers at Rs 33,000 cr**

cultivation, the bankers extend the maximum of Rs 18,000 per acre.

Agriculture Department requested bankers to give loan to all farmers. The bankers are required to extend Rs 24,700 crore to raise cotton in 65 lakh acres and Rs 15,200 crore to raise paddy in 40-lakh acres. To advance crop loans to raise cotton and paddy, it would require bankers to allocate Rs 39,900 crore. But the credit plan targets to advance only Rs 33,000 crore.

The area under cultivation of cotton and paddy would be 1.05 crore acres. But the gov-

ernment says that the total area of cultivation under all crops would be 1.30-crore acres. So to advance loans to all farmers, the credit plan should be revised to Rs 50,000 crore.

However, the bankers are of the view that all farmers would not require loans. The state's annual credit plan would be released by government at the bankers' meeting to be held next month. Only after release of the credit plan, whether the bankers revise their target for extending crop loans during kharif would be come to be known.

**Govt releases Rs 3,000 cr Rythu Bandhu funds for kharif**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State government has released Rs 3,000 crore to implement Rythu Bandhu scheme for Vanakalam (Kharif) season. During the current season, the total area under various crops is targeted to be around 1.30 crore acres. Besides this, the government has asked the Horticulture Department to furnish the details of area of cultivation under various crops. According to the Revenue Department, patta-dar passbooks have been issued to over 61 lakh farmers. The Revenue Department furnished their details to Agriculture Department. The input subsidy granted to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu should be credited direct into their bank accounts.

The Agriculture Department has asked the bankers to furnish it with the details of farmers who owed crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh to banks.

**\$14 mn CEPI grant to develop Chikungunya vaccine**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) on Wednesday announced a \$14.1 million grant to a consortium comprising Bharat Biotech and the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) to advance the development of a Chikungunya vaccine. The CEPI, in collaboration with Ind-CEPI, announced a new partnering agreement with the consortium for vaccine manufacturing and clinical development of a two-dose live-inactivated vaccine (BBV87) against Chikungunya.

This grant is supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme through an existing framework partnership agreement with CEPI, said a statement. The consortium will be further supported with a grant of up to \$2 million from the Indian Government's Ind-CEPI initiative which will fund the set-up of GMP manufacturing facilities for the vaccine in India, and the subsequent manufacture of clinical trial materials.

The partnering agreement will finance a multi-centre Phase 2/3 adaptive clinical trial to be conducted by IVI in Colombia, Panama and Thailand which will provide crucial data.



**Welfare hostels to allow students from today**

PNS ■ PALONCHA

In all, 66 SC, ST and BC welfare hostels, which remained closed during lockdown period, in the district were reopened on Monday and would allow students from Thursday. The inmates of the hostels returned to their homes following the lockdown. The government has decided to keep them reopened to facilitate them to take the remainder of the SSC examinations to be held from June 8. In all, 3,298 students from 66 hostels are appearing for the SSC examinations. Of them, 1,253 are boys and 1,630 are girls. Till the examinations are through, the students should remain in

hostels. Officials are allowing only four students for each hostel room.

The students will be screened for their health prior to their admission to hostels. Daily they will be sanitised and thermally screened. Masks will be given to all of them. Wardens will sensitise students on the need to observe physical distance. SC welfare officer P Venkatesh said that special mess has been set up for SSC students. Daily eggs will be served and bananas will be served for six days a week. ANMs services will be made available to conduct health check-up of students of BC hostels, BC welfare officer Surender said.

**Shramik train services down to a fifth of...**

Continued from page 1

As of now, Gujarat and Delhi have indicated that they are not in need of more Shramik trains. The last trains to originate from any railway station in Delhi was on May 31, and the same day Gujarat Labour Ministry announced closure of all migrant train services.

The top five States/UTs from where maximum trains originated are Gujarat (1,026), Maharashtra (802), Punjab (416), Uttar Pradesh (294) and Bihar (294).

The top five states where maximum trains terminated are Uttar Pradesh (1,682), Bihar (1,495), Jharkhand (1,197), Odisha (1,187), West Bengal (1,156).

The Ministry of Home Affairs permitted movement of stranded persons through special trains on May 1, after the plight of migrant workers, who had started walking from several urban centres to their villages hundreds of kilometres away, grabbed headlines.

**India moves towards one...**

Continued from page 1

It will help drive up investment in cold storages and modernization of the food supply chain, it said.

The government further said that while liberalizing the regulatory environment has also ensured that the interest of consumers is safeguarded.

It has been provided in the Amendment, that in situations such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity, such agricul-

tural foodstuff can be regulated. However, the installed capacity of a value chain participant and the export demand of an exporter will remain exempted from such stock limit imposition so as to ensure that investments in agriculture are not discouraged, it said. "The amendment announced will help both farmers and consumers while bringing in price stability. It will also prevent wastage of agri-produce that happens due to lack of storage facilities," it added.

**SC dismisses...**

Continued from page 1

The state government was represented by lawyer G N Reddy who said the high court order was against using flags' colours of political parties on government buildings including panchayat bhawans'. Recently, the high court at Vijayawada ordered removal of the colours that resemble those of political party flags on the government buildings within ten days. It had also ordered their re-painting.

**RTC city services...**

Continued from page 1

Normally, at least 33 lakh persons travel daily by city buses. It was felt that people are not keen on travelling on shared basis in autorickshaws in view of the risks involved in corona times.

Likewise, Metro Rail is likely to resume its operations from the third week of June. As the state and central governments have eased lockdown curbs, green light is likely to be issued for the

operation of Metro Rail.

Presently, three coaches of a Metro Rail train accommodate at least 1,000 commuters. Given the Corona threat, Metro trains are likely to be operated at 50-60 per cent occupancy so as to ensure physical distance among users. So, only 500 to 600 commuters may be allowed in each train. Circles will be drawn in the compartments to enable people to observe physical distance.

**Air India to operate to US, Canada from...**

Continued from page 1

"Under Mission VandeBharat, AI will be operating 75 flights from India to select destinations in USA and Canada from 9th to 30th June 2020. Bookings on these flights, ex India only, will tentatively be open from 1700 Hrs on 5th June 2020 only through Air India website," the national carrier said on its website.

Air India and its subsidiary, Air India Express, operated 64 flights under phase one of the mission. They plan to operate around 300 flights in the ongoing phase two of the mission to evacuate a total of 70,000 Indians stranded globally.

**Regulated farming is here to stay: CM KCR**

Continued from page 1

According to the Chief Minister, if farmers cultivate only crops that are in demand, agriculture would become profitable and farmers would never face a situation where they would not get good prices for their produce. Ultimately, the official machinery, with the support and cooperation of farmers, would make the regulated farming policy agrand success, with overall benefits for the farming community in the State, the Chief Minister opined.

The Chief Minister pointed out that though the country had achieved food security, emphasis on nutritional food is lacking. People are eating whatever they could, but not the food with right nutritional values. People should be encouraged to eat food that is rich in vitamins and proteins and the cropping pattern should reflect these fundamentals. Along with the life expectancy of people, their immune system should be strengthened so that they can fight diseases, the CM said.

**Highlights of CM's suggestions:**

- Officials should prepare exact estimates on the eating habits of people in the country and in the State. Identify which region, area in the country/state needs which

type of food. Find out which types of crops are in great demand in the world market. Based on this data, crops should be cultivated in the State. Don't limit this process to one year. This should be a continuous process. For this, the government is appointing Agriculture Products Marketing Committee. Experts and specialists in the field would be appointed on the Committee. The Committee will study the demand of agriculture products worldwide, marketing, pricing and related issues. It will recommend crops which could be cultivated profitably. So, cultivation should be done as per the suggestions of the committee. - There is a need to increase yield in the agriculture sector. There are several changes in cultivation methods. There should be scientific basis for the use of fertilisers and pesticides. Quality seeds should be sowed. Mechanization should increase in agriculture. Cultivation should be done in tune with the mechanization. The government will appoint an Agriculture Research Committee to study and make suitable recommendations. Cultivation methods should be done as suggested by this Committee. - Cotton is grown in vast extent in Telangana State.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES	
<b>GOLD</b>	₹ 49,180 (10 gm)
	₹ 400 ↓
<b>SILVER</b>	₹ 48,900 (1kg)
	₹ 1250 ↓
CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹235
Without Skin	₹266
Broiler at Farm	₹162
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	340
VIJAYAWADA	332
VISAKHAPATNAM	350
<b>RETAIL PRICE</b>	<b>₹3.40</b>

**Four doctors among 7 +ve cases...**

Continued from page 1

Over the past three days, they came in contact with over 150 patients, including elderly persons. However, Health Department officials are yet to track several of their contacts who had thronged the hospital from different parts of the state. Sources said that they could track mere 15 primary contacts and 5 secondary ones.

"The number of Covid-19 cases has increased enormously since May 16. Doctors on duty have been treating over 100 patients on a daily basis. We appeal to patients to immediately inform the nearest health centre if there are coronavirus symptoms. We

**TS @ 3020**

Continued from page 1

Two transfusions were given to each of the 5 patients. After the completion of therapy, all the 5 patients reported clinical improvement. P1311 has already been discharged, 3 are no longer oxygen-dependent, and P1647 is under intermittent dependency."

**Scientists identify...**

Continued from page 1

The researchers sequenced 64 genomes.

"Here is a fresh preprint on genome analysis of SARS-CoV2 spread in India. The results show a distinct cluster of virus population, uncharacterised thus far, which is prevalent in India - called the Clade A3i," the CCMB tweeted. This cluster seems to have originated from an outbreak in February 2020, and spread through India. This comprises 41 per cent of all SARS-CoV2 genomes from Indian samples, and 3.5 of global genomes submitted into public domain, it said.

The CCMB is a laboratory under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

**'Cancel exams' now rallying cry of...**

Continued from page 1

I feel that's not a risk worth taking at the moment. I am of the opinion that the government should consider this academic year as 'zero year', and conduct the exams only next year."

Last month the Telangana High Court (HC) had permitted the state government to hold SSC exams after the first week of June. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy directed the government to review the Covid-19 situation on June 3 to see if exams can be held from June 8.

"Let's not jump the gun, and

wait for what the High Court has to say about the matter," says S. Srinivas Reddy, honorary president of the Telangana Recognised Schools Managements Association (TRSMA). "10th standard examinations are public exams. It's not right that the government promotes all students without testing their abilities. The HC will review the situation and decide if the current coronavirus situation is fit for SSC examinations or not. However, I feel that no one should be promoted just like that." Meanwhile, OU and JNTU too are gearing up to conduct annual examinations for many courses during June.

**HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER  
Block 'C', District Commercial Complex, Tarnaka, Hyderabad - 500 007

**E-Procurement Tender Notice**

Tender Notice No. HMDA/DFW/CE/25/2019-20 (Recall) Date: 28.05.2020

Name of Work: Supply, Delivery, Assembly, Testing, Commissioning of 3 Bigga Floating Train Collectors including 2 years comprehensive Operation and Maintenance. 1) Last date / time for submission of bid: 18-06-2020 upto 3:30pm.

2) Officer Inviting Tender: Chief Engineer, HMDA, Block-C, 2nd Floor, HMDA Complex, Tarnaka, Hyderabad. For further details visit <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>

R.O. No: 024/PRD-AGENCY/ADVT/2020-21 Date: 03-06-2020

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer, HMDA

CRIME CORNER

Technician electrocuted while at work

A 30-year-old technician was electrocuted while attending to the maintenance work of a swimming pool at Sadgururupa Vertex, an apartment in Kukatpally Housing Board Colony, on Tuesday night. According to the police, the technician, identified as Bhoomesh, a resident of Gandipet, came into contact with an electric motor which was being used to draw water from the swimming pool. "He got electrocuted and succumbed to injuries on the spot. We booked a case under suspicious death and shifted the body to Osmania General Hospital for postmortem examination" said the KPHB police.

Harassed by man, wife ends life

Unable to bear the harassment from her husband and in-laws, a woman allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her maternal house near the MIG bus stop in Kukatpally Housing Board late on Tuesday. The victim was identified as Venkata Laxmi, 30. She was married to KR Venkatesh, a private employee from West Godavari of Andhra Pradesh in 2009 and the couple had 9-year-old daughter. According to the police, Venkatesh and his family members were harassing Venkata Laxmi for trivial reasons. Unable to bear the harassment, she returned to her maternal house in KPHB in 2012 along with their daughter. She has been staying with her parents and working for a private company since then. "Her family tried to work out a compromise between the couple several times, but the harassment from her husband and in-laws continued. A dowry harassment case too was registered at the KPHB police station in 2014 against her husband and in-laws," police said. On Tuesday morning, Venkata Laxmi's father N Durga Rao, a banana vendor went to work and Laxmi too went to work. She is suspected to have committed suicide in her bedroom after returning from work. Her father returned home in the night and found her dead. Based on his complaint, a case was booked against her husband and in-laws and is being investigated.

Smugglers resort to devious new ways to hoodwink cops

NAVEEN KUMAR ■ HYDERABAD

Smugglers are now resorting to vegetable transport vehicles to move drugs around the borders as they can masquerade their consignment among the essential services, claim excise officials who unearthed a racket with the new modus operandi.

The seizure was of the third such smuggling trip which happened in the past 15 days, while this time it was banana cluster, last consignment was sent hidden under ladies fingers batch, said N Anji Reddy, the Assistant Excise Superintendent of the Enforcement team, Hyderabad.

The contraband laden vehicle was en route to the Dhoolpet area, infamously known as the ganja hub of Hyderabad, was waylaid and seized by the officials of Excise Enforcement of Hyderabad on Monday. The officials seized 55 kilos of marijuana,



The drug trade is profitable as there is a huge margin and it is attracting several people from Dhoolpet, known as the ganja hub of Hyderabad into the trade

worth more than Rs 10 lakh in the local market, from the possession of three men.

The Dhoolpet Prohibition and Excise station, under which areas including Mangalhat, Seetarambagh, Jiyaguda, Jummat Bazaar, Upper Dhoolpet and Lower

Dhoolpet come, are notorious for its standoff with ganja smugglers. According to officials, the ganja is smuggled into the city from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in large quantities. "It is then supplied to clients in various parts of the city from Dhoolpet by fami-

lies and individuals," officials said. Apart from arresting the persons involved in sale of the contraband, cops are also detaining and counselling those who are coming to the area to buy ganja.

"The ganja is mostly procured by youngsters, mainly engineering and management students, IT company professionals, foreign students and also daily wagers in the city. The drug trade is profitable as there is a huge margin and it is attracting several people from Dhoolpet into the trade," officials said.

With stringent vigil on peddlers in Dhoolpet, Nanakramguda and other hot spots in the city, consumers and suppliers are also opting to smuggle the drugs themselves to make profit. "While 1 kg of the contraband costs up to Rs 20,000 in Dhoolpet, it is Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 per kg in Araku," sources said, adding that lockdown effect has put a stop to that in the part quarter.

No 'care' for emergency cases

Hospitals cite non-availability of ventilators, no vacancy of beds

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Gandhi Hospital doctors have been not backtracking in their combat against Coronavirus in spite of loss of personal life, while some private hospitals are refusing to treat emergency cases.

They cite non-availability of ventilators and no vacancy of beds as the reasons and refer the patients to Gandhi Hospital. These hospitals are not entertaining patients if they have cold, cough and fever. The emergency cases include kidney failure, diabetes, hypertension and others. If they did not get treatment on time, it would be a great risk for them.

If the number of Covid cases increase in future, the Gandhi Hospital will be full. Moreover, the emergency cases which the private hospitals refuse to treat are being referred to the Gandhi Hospital. If the patients referred by private hospitals have no Covid symptoms, they are being referred to Osmania Hospital if the number of out-



Medical staff in protective suits screening visitors at an emergency entrance of a private hospital in Hyderabad

The emergency cases which the private hospitals in Hyderabad refuse to treat are being referred to Gandhi Hospital

patients visiting the OP department of Osmania Hospital is any indication. Daily on an average 1100 to 1200 patients visit the OU out-patient department.

The medical officers in Gandhi Hospital work in three shifts. Gandhi Hospital doctors

who worked for 24 hours undergo quarantine for five days and report for work. Increasing Covid cases put pressure on nurses, doctors and class-IV employees. The medical experts suggest decreasing work load on Gandhi Hospital staff.

Vijaya Dairy mobile e-carts distributed to beneficiaries

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Wednesday flagged off 15 battery-run mobile outlets of Vijaya Dairy in the first phase at Vijaya Dairy headquarters in Lalapet after distributing them to beneficiaries.

The Telangana State Cooperative Dairy Development Federation, the producer and seller of Vijaya Telangana brand milk and milk products, has procured battery operated vehicles, e-carts that will take range of its products to the doorsteps of the consumers. Dairy chairman Loka Bhumu Reddy, managing director Srinivasa Rao and Tarnaka corporator Alakuntla Saraswati and others were also present.

The new outlets are flagged off to take the most popular Vijaya Dairy products closer to the people. There are plans to launch 100 such mobile outlets under the GHMC limits and 10 each in the erstwhile districts of Telangana. The target



Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav takes a closer look of Vijaya Dairy products on a mobile outlet on Wednesday

is to increase their number to 1,000 in future, he said.

The cost of each mobile outlet is Rs 2.25 lakh, out of which dairy and beneficiary bears it in 30:70 ratio.

The mobile outlets help increase Vijaya Dairy products sales besides helping the unemployed to find suitable employment.

He hinted at pressing into service 500 such mobile outlets

in highways, tourist places and near temples in a month.

Expressing the concern that Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu has for development of dairy in Telangana, the Minister said that KCR announced a bonus of Rs 4 per litre on procurement price of milk.

The government has a scheme to supply dairy animals on subsidy.

Kishan Reddy writes to CM over Amberpet flyover

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home and Secunderabad MP G Kishan Reddy requested Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu to personally intervene and expedite land acquisition for the proposed four-lane flyover at Amberpet crossroads on National Highway-202.

He said even two years after the foundation stone was laid, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) failed to acquire necessary land and transfer it to the contractor concerned.

In a letter to the Chief Minister on Wednesday, the Union Minister said the Central and the State governments jointly took up construction of the flyover to ease traffic on the 6 number route at Amberpet cross roads. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways laid the foundation stone for the flyover and also sanctioned Rs 76.33 crore for its construction.

"As the land acquisition is within the purview of the State government, the GHMC was expected to complete the task by paying compensation to the oustees and handover the land to the contractor concerned for taking up construction. However, there has been no action in this regard even after two years. I request you to personally intervene to complete the long-pending issue," he said.



ON A PEDESTAL



Mayor Dr Bontho Rammohan performs bhumi puja along with Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender and former MLA Marri Shashidhar Reddy to reinstate the statue of former Chief Minister late Marri Channa Reddy at Punjagutta trijunction on Wednesday.

Distress of teachers and a novel idea of an NGO

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The resumption of economic activity with easing of lockdown has provided a breather to some sections of professionals reeling under the lockdown for over two months but one section which is yet to see any hope are teachers of private schools.

With uncertainty continuing over re-opening of schools, there are no hopes of an early end to the hardships of thousands of teachers.

While teachers of government-run schools are not badly impacted as they were at least paid 50 per cent salaries and they are sure to get the deducted salaries in future, the teachers in private schools, especially those in small unaided schools are the worst affected.

Drawing meagre salaries between Rs 4,000 and Rs 12,000, it is a hand-to-mouth existence for many. Most of them have not received salaries for three months. While dignity held them back from reaching out for help, there were also instances



where some had to approach the NGOs for food ration to save themselves and their families from starvation.

The managements of some schools showed magnanimity to pay salaries for March and made part payment for April but teachers in majority of schools have not received salaries for three months.

With a salary of Rs 15,000, he is the only earning member of my family and has to also take care of an ailing father. With no salary since March, he had to approach a private financier to borrow on 5 per cent interest.

Syed Mohsin Ali and his wife work at Zahra High School together earning about Rs 15,000 per month. Ali's wife is afflicted with polio and they have a seven-month old child born premature.

23-yr-old boy marries minor girl, booked

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 16-year-old minor girl was rescued by an NGO from the city after she was married to a 23-year-old youth by her family in the Kandlakoya area near Gundlapochampally of Malkajigiri-Medchal in the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Achyuta Rao, the president of the child rights organization, Balala Hakkula Sangham, said that the incident took place at a temple in Hyderabad on June 1 at 1 pm. The 23-year-old man is reportedly a daily wage construction worker, whose family hails from neighboring Andhra Pradesh.

As their parents did not accept their relationship, they went to a temple and got married with the help of some other elders. She will be at rescue home till she becomes an adult," sources said.

The 24-year-old youngster was booked under section 376 of IPC besides relevant sections of the POCSO Act.

Protect OU lands, Guv tells registrar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor and Chancellor of Osmania University Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan interacted with registrar Prof Ch Gopal Reddy, controller of examinations Prof Sriram Venkatesh and ten other professors of Osmania University through videoconference on Wednesday. The university functionaries briefed the Governor about the activities of the university, various initiatives undertaken to improve quality access, revising the syllabi, utilisation of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) funds and others. The Governor enquired about academic, administrative aspects, such as infrastructure facilities, hostel facilities, var-



Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan interacts with registrar and other professors through videoconference on Wednesday.

ious courses, online classes, introduction of new courses, land disputes, faculty position, connecting with the alumni.

The Governor advised the Osmania University functionaries to see that the heritage structures and other infrastructure are protected and encourage new innovative courses.

She directed the officials to improve the syllabi and safeguard the university lands.

The Governor told the officials to see that the pass percentage is improved and utilise the very big resource of university alumni. The registrar has been asked to furnish complete details of land disputes relating to the University to Raj Bhavan, to take care of the issue by

effective handling of the disputes by taking expert legal advice.

The Governor assured that the issues relating to the university such as large vacancies of faculty positions, vacancies of non-teaching staff, land issues will be taken up positively with the government, and see that they are effectively addressed to.

Minor fire breaks out on terrace of City Civil Courts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the second incident reported in a week, a minor fire broke out on the terrace of the City Civil Courts at Chatta Bazaar on Wednesday morning.

According to the police, a few wooden sticks and garbage kept on the terrace of the court building caught fire. A fire tender from the Moghalpura fire station rushed to the spot and doused the fire.

No persons were injured in the mishap, said fire officials. On Saturday, a minor fire had broke out in the canteen in the court compound.



Vehicle in CM's convoy fined for overspeeding

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A car belonging to Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu was booked for overspeeding in Hyderabad. The Cyberabad Traffic Police issued a challan to a car, a white Land Cruiser, in CM KCR's convoy for overspeeding.

As per the challan record, on June 1, the vehicle was caught overspeeding in Hyderabad and a fine was slapped.

Police records show the vehicle already has three pending fines. On learning about the traffic violations of the vehicle, they have promptly paid the fine amount on Wednesday.

Spurious seed racket busted

PNS ■ MEDCHAL

Vigilance officials conducted a raid on Echo Agro Seeds godown on Wednesday and recovered spurious seeds worth Rs 31 lakh and found difference in the date of testing and packing of the seeds.

The spurious seeds seized were that of maize, sunflower and jowar.

The officials recovered 1,529 maize seeds packets worth Rs 12.24 lakh and 1,210 packets of sunflower seeds worth Rs 18.76 lakh.

The seized seeds were given to the agriculture officer and registered case against the manufacturers of spurious seeds under the Telangana Seeds Act and under the IPC.

DAVE BENNETT SILVERY

■ HYDERABAD

The National Commission for Women on Wednesday sought intervention from Telangana Police over threats of murder, gang rape and acid attack received by actress Meera Chopra.

Chopra approached the NCW on Twitter over the threats she has been receiving on social media.

"@NCWIndia @sharmarekha @hydcitypolice @Twitter please take action against these account holders. They are openly #slutshaming threatening of #gangrape, #acidattack, #murder. This cannot go unnoticed," Chopra said.

Responding, the NCW said the matter has been taken up with the Telangana Police and a case has been registered with their cyber cell.

According to the sources, actress Meera Chopra was the victim of rape and death threats by Jr NTR fans on



Wednesday following an interactive twitter session in which she said that she did not know who Junior NTR was.

The incident occurred after the actress began an interactive session on Twitter. During the session, a Twitter user asked the actress about Tollywood actor Junior NTR, to which she replied that she didn't know him and was not his fan.

Police officials identified the Twitter accounts and booked a case against them

In another tweet, the actress wrote, "Well I didn't know not being somebody's fan was a crime. I want to say this aloud to all the girls that if you are not a fan of @tarak9999, you could be raped, murdered, gangraped, your parents could be killed as tweeted by his fans. They are totally spoiling the name of their idol." (sic)

The actress then wrote to the Hyderabad Police tagging their accounts and seeking action attaching the screenshots of the abusive tweets. The tollywood actor's fans were using abusive hashtags. Many twitter users also questioned NTR's silence on the issue. Despite the horrendous nature of the tweets, tweets were also seen defending the tollywood actor.

# In two months, SCCL incurs Rs 1.4k-cr loss

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has incurred a loss of Rs 1,477.08 crore during the past two months due to lockdown conditions. The loss to SCCL was unheard of during the past two decades or so.

The loss of production in April and May is put at 44 per cent as only 62-lakh tonnes of coal could be mined as against the target of 1.19-crore tonnes. Another contributing factor for the SCCL to sustain losses is halting the coal production in underground mines from April 1. Though the coal mining commenced in them from May 21, the production of coal is not considerable.



**The loss of production in April and May is put at 44 per cent as only 62-lakh tonnes of coal could be mined as against the target of 1.19-crore tonnes**

The SCCL sells coal to thermal power stations in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. These states stopped coal purchase as they felt it not necessary to produce thermal power. The SCCL earns Rs 300 crore for every sale of one million tonnes of coal. But the coal sales dropped by five million tonnes during the past two months. The SCCL set a target to sell 7 crore tonnes of coal during 2020-21, which is 80 lakh tonnes more

# BJP seeks thorough probe in SCCL mishap

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP Telangana State president and Karimnagar MP Banti Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday demanded a detailed probe into the accident at Open Cast Mine of SCCL. He said the issue will be taken up with the Union Minister concerned seeking an inquiry by the Directorate General of Mines Safety.



**He demanded that compensation should be paid to the bereaved families immediately**

In a statement, Sanjay alleged that the Singareni management failed to ensure safety of workers with some officers colluding with the contractors for bribes. He alleged that the overburdened works were given to some TRS leaders who ignored all safety norms. He demanded that compensation should be paid to the bereaved families immediately, apart from providing job to one member of the family.

Moreover, the state government's only agenda is earning money but not workers' welfare, he lamented. Last month, in 11-A coal mine in Ramagundam division, a coal miner Sanjiv was found dead due to official negligence. His body was fished out 11 days after the incident. In another accident that took place in coal mine in Ramagundam, four workers were killed while fix-

ing powerful explosives. Rules to be implemented while fixing them were thrown to winds, he alleged. While blasting the coal mines, there should be experts nearby supervising the activities, but SCCL authorities failed to implement the rules, he alleged. The Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao, is neglecting the coal belt area which played a pivotal role in the movement for Telangana, he said. It was shameful that the CM chose not to respond on the accident leading to death of four coal miners, he said.

# Cong urges govt to waive water, power bills

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MLA Jagga Reddy on Wednesday urged the State government to exempt people from paying property tax in rural and urban areas for one year as all sections of society, especially the poor and middle classes, encountered problems during the lockdown period.



**DONATION POURS IN**  
Several rice millers, chemical factory managements belonging to Kodad Legislative segment have donated Rs 62 lakh for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support the measures taken by the state government to contain the spread of Coronavirus. MLA Bollam Malliah presented the cheque to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao at Pragathi Bhavan on Wednesday.

He said that he would address a letter to the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao requesting him to waive the property tax or exempt the people from paying the tax. Similarly, he said he would request the Chief Minister to waive power bills for six months.

Currently, the people are not in a position to pay EMIs on loans every month. Therefore, he wanted the government to come to their rescue by paying the EMIs on behalf of the people. Further, he advised the government against collecting water bill up to one year. Similarly, he suggested to the government to waive power bills for industries for six months.

# KCR's graph on performance is declining, claims Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Treasurer Guduru Narayana Reddy alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's graph on performance and popularity was on decline. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, Narayana Reddy said that the Chief Minister was confined to Pragathi

Bhavan enjoying a lavish lifestyle and taking very little interest in administration. Citing a recent survey done by a familiar national agency, he said that KCR ranked 16th among 31 Chief Ministers in the country in terms of performance-based popularity. He said KCR has scored a mere 54% in the survey. This percentage would've been much lower if the survey is done on local parameters, he

said. Narayana Reddy said that the survey's findings were very close to reality, if not exact. He said KCR has lost sense of accountability towards people.

"KCR apparently feels that he is not answerable to anyone for anything. He is neither listening to opposition parties nor answering questions from the media. The dictatorial attitude got embedded in his character to the extent that he is considering everyone who is questioning his decisions as his personal enemy."

# Minister puts Cong in a spot

PNS ■ HALIA

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Wednesday launched scathing attack on Congress leaders for staging protests on State Formation Day. Addressing media after taking part in the sensitisation programme on regulatory farming here on Wednesday, the Minister doubted whether Congress leaders cherish statehood to Telangana at all. On the day of statehood, people celebrate the occasion, but Congress leaders observed protests. During the Congress regime, Krishna waters share of the region was looted. He questioned whether the Somasila, Kandaleru and Brahmangari Matham projects were built during the undivided AP or not. The Minister dared the Congress and BJP to make public their stand on the GO. No 203, issued by the AP government. The TRS activities are limited to Telangana, he said questioning the Opposition on where is the need for the TRS to be in hand-in-glove with the AP political outfits.



# HC relief for Allipur farmers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a relief to 120 farmers of Allipur village of Chinna Kondur mandal in Siddipet district and Ananthagiri village of Ellanthakunta mandal in Rajanna Sircilla districts of the state, the Telangana High Court on Wednesday held that the petitioner were entitled to lump sum compensation for their lands as per section 31 A

of the Land Acquisition Act 2013. It asked the state government to complete process of re-determination of the compensation for lands structures and determination of the lump sum rehabilitation and re-settlement under the section to each of the all petitioners and make the payment to them within 3 months by taking into account the amount already

received by them. It also asked the state government to pay Rs 2,000 each of the 120 petitioners towards cost taking the total amount to Rs 2.4 lakh. A division bench comprising of Justice MS Ramachandra Rao and Justice K Lakshman passed the final orders while dealing with a batch of four writ petitions filed by the farmers between 2017 to 2019.

# BJP Kisan Morcha slams govt over regulated farming

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP Kisan Morcha on Wednesday objected to State Government taking agriculture into its hands through encouraging regulated agriculture and demanded it to conduct soil tests and give soil health cards to farmers utilising the Rs 125 crore released

by the Centre in 2014 for the purpose. They submitted a memorandum to agriculture joint director Sujata on Wednesday. The memorandum accused the TRS government of denying the benefits under Rytu Bandhu scheme, banking on which the TRS government rode to power for the second term.

# Leaders queue up to wish birthday boy Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS working president KTR wishes every important leader of the party on their birthdays. Wednesday happens to be the birthday of Finance Minister Harish Rao and KTR sent his special greetings to his 'Bava' (brother-in-law).



Minister KTR, ex-MP K Kavitha and Power Minister Jagadish Reddy wished Harish Rao on Twitter while sharing their pictures with the Finance Minister

"Many returns of the day to Hon'ble Finance Minister, the dynamic & workaholic @trsharish Garu who celebrates his birthday today. May you live a healthy, happy, peaceful & long life in public service bava. Always a pleasure working with you either on

political or Govt forums," Former Nizamabad MP Kavitha too wished Harish sharing an old picture. "Happy

Birthday Bava," wrote Kavitha. Meanwhile, Harish Rao has appealed to his followers to stay

away from birthday celebrations. He thanked them for their blessings and affection.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FORM-F Notification by the District Collector (See rule 7 (C)) Dt: 11.03.2020				
Whereas a notification was issued vide letter No.G/2758/2018, Dated: 11.03.2019 and published in the Shakshi Telugu Daily News Paper dated 16.06.2019 and The Pioneer agenda English Daily News Paper Dated: 16.06.2019 for acquisition of the land for formation Tail End Distributary D-82 of Package-29 under -29 under MGKLS Project in Singampally village of Amangal Mandal for public purpose.				
In response to the said notification, the following affected persons (land owner and others) have come forward to settle their claims through negotiation. The details of the willing affected persons are as follows.				
(1) Land Owners				
SINGAMPALLY VILLAGE				
Sl. No.	Name & Address of the person interested	Sy. No.	Extent (in Ac.Gts)	Remarks
1	Amanaganti Narendhar s/o Gajjalaiah	5/1/A	0.02	As per re-survey the lands are under acquisition hence proposed
2	Amanganti Venkataiah s/o Gajjalaiah	5/2/3	0.02	
3	Souta Krushnaiah s/o Anjaiah	7/A/1/A	0.04	
4	Souta Ilaiah s/o Anjaiah	7/A/1/AA	0.04	
5	Amanganti Pullaiah s/o Veeraiah	8/A/1	0.00/1/2	
6	Bodigala Jangaiah s/o Chinna Malliah	8/UU	0.01	
7	Bodigala Krupaiah s/o Moshiah	8/U/2	0.00/1/2	
8	Amanaganti Devamma w/o Gajjalaiah	8/A/2	0.00/1/2	
9	Amanganti Laxmaiah s/o Veeraiah	8/AA/2	0.00/1/2	
10	Amanganti Ramulu s/o Chandraiah	8/E/2	0.01	As per re-survey the lands are under acquisition, hence proposed
11	Amanganti Malliah s/o Chandraiah	8/E/2	0.01	
12	Amanganti Lachiah s/o Ramaiah	8/A/1	0.00/1/2	
13	Amanganti Muthaiah s/o Devaiah	8/A/3	0.00/1/2	
14	Bodigala Pedda Malliah s/o Pedda Venkaiah	8/EE	0.01/1/2	
15	Bodigala Samelu s/o Moshiah	8/U/1	0.00/1/2	
16	Amanganti Lachiah s/o Ramaiah	9/A/2	0.02	
17	Amanganti Devamma w/o Gajjalaiah	9/A/3	0.02	
18	Amanganti Muthaiah s/o Devaiah	9/A/4	0.09	
19	Bodigala Samelu s/o Moshiah	9/AA/1	0.09	
20	Bodigala Krupaiah s/o Moshiah	9/AA/2	0.09	
21	Gumpeni Narshimha s/o Ramaiah	11/1/AA/1	0.04	
22	Gumpeni Yadaiah s/o Ramaiah	11/1/A/6	0.04	
23	Souta Ilaiah s/o Anjaiah	11/2/AA	0.09	
24	Souta Krushnaiah s/o Anjaiah	11/2/A	0.08	
25	Chinthakindi Laxmaiah s/o Lalaiah	11/1/A/3	0.03	
26	Chinthakindi Veeraiah s/o Lalaiah	11/1/A/4	0.03	
27	Chinthakindi Sayanna s/o Lalaiah	11/1/A/5	0.03	
28	Chinthakindi Raju s/o Peddaiah	11/2	0.02	
29	Chinthakindi Shekhar s/o Peddaiah	11/1	0.01	
30	Chinthakindi Laxmaiah s/o Lalaiah	12/1/A/3/2	0.13	
31	Bavandipally Bharathamma w/o Bojjiah	12/A/3/1	0.06	
32	Bavandipally Indiramma w/o Narshimha	12/2/AA/1	0.05	
33	Bodhu Sravani w/o Srinivasulu	12/1/A/2/2	0.14	
34	Shapoori Mahesh Kumar s/o Shanthi Rao	12/1/A/2/1	0.14	
35	Bodhu Umadevi w/o Srinivasulu	12/A/3/2	0.14	
36	Yelagamoni Yadaiah s/o Anjaiah	13/1	0.05	
37	Yelagamoni Ganesh s/o Anjaiah	13/3/A	0.05	
38	Yelagamoni Krushnaiah s/o Anjaiah	13/4	0.05	
39	Yelagamoni Ramulu s/o Anjaiah	13/A/AA	0.05	
40	Amangari Indira w/o Sudheer Reddy	13/3/A	0.09	
41	Varikuppala Laxamma w/o Chinniah	105/A	0.03	
42	Varikuppala Laxmaiah s/o Chinniah	105/AA	0.03	
43	Varikuppala Sathya Narayan s/o Chinniah	105/E	0.03	
44	Varikuppala Parvathalu s/o Chinniah	105/EE	0.03	
45	Varikuppala Yadamma w/o Sathiah	106	0.10	
46	Gandikota Andalu w/o Anjaiah	107/AA/1	0.10	
47	Vangati Kavitha w/o Kondal Reddy	107/AA/2	0.10	
48	Gouni Sathiah s/o Bajaru	107/E/1	0.33	
49	Mekala Srinivasulu s/o Parvathalu	108/AA/E	0.14	
50	Mekala Manemma w/o Sathiah	108/AA/AA	0.15	
51	Mekala Narshimha s/o Parvathalu	108/AA/A	0.15	
52	Kandhadi Manjula w/o Ramesh	108/A/2/2/1	0.15	
53	Manne Mamatha w/o Surendhar	108/A/2/2/2	0.15	
54	Varikuppala Laxamma w/o Chinniah	109/A	0.07	
55	Varikuppala Laxmaiah s/o Chinniah	109/E	0.07	
56	Varikuppala Sathyanarayan s/o Chinniah	109/E	0.07	
57	Varikuppala Parvathalu s/o Chinniah	109/U	0.07	
58	Avidhala Ravikumar Goud s/o Sathiah	110/A/1	0.24	
59	Bandalgudam Anil Kumar Goud s/o Bikshapathi Goud	110/A/2	0.23	
60	Avidhala Ravikumar Goud s/o Sathiah	111/2/1/A	0.02	
61	Bandalgudam Anil Kumar Goud s/o Bikshapathi Goud	111/2/1/AA	0.03	
62	Bodigala Jangaiah s/o Pullaiah	111/2/1/E/1/1	0.14	
63	Bodigala Venkataiah s/o Pullaiah	111/2/1/E/1/2	0.14	0.33
64	Aerabolu Nageshwar Rao s/o Polaiah	114/1/2	1.03	
65	Yedally Vijendar Reddy s/o Rajireddy	114/1/3/1	0.05	
66	Chinthakindi Galamma w/o Venkataiah	114/1/3/2	0.16	
67	Varikuppala Alivelu w/o Yadaiah	115/AA/2	0.11	1.24
68	Derangula Kondal s/o Bojjiah	115/AA/1	0.11	
69	Derangula Naraiah s/o Ramaiah	115/E	0.12	
70	Derangula Shankaraiyah s/o Ramaiah	115/EE/1	0.11	
71	Derangula Chinna Kishtaiah s/o Ramaiah	115/A	0.12	
72	Puttagari Ramesh s/o Chandraiah	130/A/2	0.08	1.17
73	Puttagari Samelu s/o Chandraiah	130/A/4	0.08	0.08
74	Putta Suvarna w/o Sathiah	130/AA/3	0.08	
75	Gajja Venkataiah s/o Mogul	130/AA/1	0.11	
76	Oppu Madhavi w/o Venugopal	130/AA/5	0.06	
77	Gajja Jangaiah s/o Mogul	130/A	0.09	
78	Gajja Chandraiah s/o Mogul	130/A/1	0.09	
79	Koppu Mallesh s/o Ramulu	130/U	0.15	
80	Pole Yadaiah s/o Laxmaiah	131/A/1	0.23	1.34
81	Pole Krushnaiah s/o Laxmaiah	131/A/2	0.22	
82	Boddupally Krushnaiah s/o Kanakaiah	132/1	0.28	1.05
83	Donadhula Narshimha s/o Naraiah	132/2	0.15	
84	Donadhula Venkatesh s/o Naraiah	132/2/1	0.15	1.18
85	Penimilla Laxmaiah s/o Balaiah	132/2	0.07	0.07
86	Penimilla Bala maisaiah s/o Balaiah	132/2/1	0.07	0.14
87	Pittala Krushnaiah s/o Balaiah	134/AA/2	0.24	
88	Pittala Pentamma w/o Jangaiah	134/AA/A/1	0.15	
89	Pittala Ramaiah s/o Balaiah	134/A	0.24	
90	Appis Ramulu s/o Chandraiah	134/A/2	0.16	Sri Appis Ramulu s/o Chandraiah is not covered in Form-C. But his land is under Acquisition as such Proposed
91	Banadri Naramma w/o Papaiah	135/A	0.11	
92	Banadri Laxamma w/o Naraiah	135/AA	0.11	
93	Banadri Malamma w/o Krushnaiah	135/E	0.11	
94	Banadri Jangaiah s/o Yellaiah	135/EE	0.10	
95	Amanthuni Radha Kishan s/o Anantha Ramaiah	136/A/1	0.28	1.03
96	Devarakonda Kavitha w/o Balavibhakar	137/EE	0.28	0.28
97	Amanthuni Radha Kishan s/o Anantha Ramaiah	138/A	0.30	0.30
98	Chinthakindi Sailu s/o Laxmaiah	139/AA/1	0.12	0.30
99	Chinthakindi Ramulu s/o Laxmaiah	139/E/2	0.12	0.24
100	Bandari Sriniah s/o Kishtaiah	143/UU	0.11	
101	Bandari Balaiah s/o Kishtaiah	143/EE	0.12	
102	Bandari Sathiah s/o Kishtaiah	143/U	0.12	0.35
103	Gandikota Andalu w/o Anjaiah	159/AA/1/1	0.05	
104	Vangati Kavitha w/o Kondal Reddy	159/AA/1/2	0.05	0.10
105	Bandari Naramma w/o Papaiah	185/3/A	0.08	
106	Bandari Laxamma w/o Naraiah	185/3/AA	0.09	
107	Bandari Malamma w/o Krushnaiah	185/3/E	0.09	
108	Bandari Balaiah s/o Kishtaiah	185/1/1	0.03	
109	Bandari Sathiah s/o Kishtaiah	185/1/2	0.04	
110	Bandari Srinivasulu s/o Kishtaiah	185/1/3	0.04	0.37
111	Telugamalla Saramma w/o Krupnamdam	186/A/A	0.09	
112	Telugamalla Hemalatha w/o Devanamdam	186/A/3	0.09	
113	Telugamalla Jeeva Rathnam s/o Yacob	186/E	0.09	0.27
114	Amanaganti Yadaiah s/o Chandraiah	215/AA/2	0.13	
116	Amanaganti Narsimha s/o Chandraiah	215/AA/3	0.13	0.26
117	Bodigala Malliah s/o Venkataiah	217/3/A/2	0.34	
118	Amanaganti Sudhakar s/o Krushnaiah	217/1/AA/1	0.15	
119	Amanaganti Suresh s/o Krushnaiah	217/1/A/1	0.14	
120	Amanaganti Srisailem s/o Venkataiah	217/2/A/3/2	0.15	1.38
121	Amanaganti Yadaiah s/o Devaiah	218/2/1/2	0.07	As per re-survey the lands are under Acquisition, hence proposed
122	Amanaganti Chandra Moulis s/o Devaiah	218/2/1/4	0.07	
123	Amanaganti Narsimha s/o Devaiah	218/2/1/1	0.08	
124	Amanaganti Ramulu s/o Devaiah	218/2/1/3	0.07	
<b>Total Extent</b>				<b>30.26</b>
<b>Sd/- Tahsildar Amangal Mandal Officer, Kandukur Division</b>		<b>Sd/- Addl. District Collector, Rangareddy Dist.</b>		<b>Sd/- District Collector, Rangareddy Dist.</b>

# Trees and poles fall as 'Nisarga' makes landfall near Alibaug

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Cyclone 'Nisarga' has made landfall near Alibaug on Maharashtra coast with the wind speed of more than 110 kms per hour and heavy rainfall, leading to falling of many trees and electricity poles, a Raigad district official said.

The cyclone hit areas near Dive Agar in Shrivardhan, 87 kms away from Raigad, district collector Nidhi Choudhary said. "Due to the impact of the gusting winds, many trees and electric poles fell down in Shrivardhan as well as in Alibaug," the collector said.

She said 13,541 people have been shifted to safer places so far. "We have identified 62 villages in the radius of five kilometres near the coastline (in Raigad) and are taking extra precautions there," the collector said.

She appealed to people to stay indoors until Thursday morning for their own safety. As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the landfall process started around 12.30 pm near Alibaug, 95 kms from Mumbai. "The right side of the wall



**"We have identified 62 villages in the radius of five km near the coastline (in Raigad) and are taking extra precautions there," the collector said**

cloud passes through coastal region of Maharashtra, mainly the Raigad district. It will gradually enter into Mumbai and Thane districts during the next three hours," the IMD said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the collector said the fallen trees and electricity

supply poles will be removed in the next few days and replaced with new poles.

"Not only the coastal areas in Raigad, but residents of towns like Roha, Tala, Sudhagad, Khalapur, Mangaon, Panvel and Poladpur will also have to remain alert," she said.

## Cyclone Nisarga: 10 sailors rescued off Ratnagiri coast

At least 10 sailors were rescued from a ship, which was stranded off the coast of Ratnagiri in Maharashtra due to high tide and heavy rains in the wake of cyclonic storm Nisarga on Wednesday, an official said. The vessel with a crew of 10 was spotted from the Mirya Bunder area of Ratnagiri and efforts were made to bring it to the coast, the official said. However, the high tide coupled with heavy rains and rough winds pushed the ship towards the coast of Mirakwada, where the sailors were rescued safely, he said. Heavy rains pounded Ratnagiri as Cyclone Nisarga made its landfall on Wednesday. Roofs of several buildings in Ratnagiri, including a bank in Dapoli, were blown away by the rough winds, the official added.

# Three Jaish militants killed in Pulwama encounter



PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Security forces on Wednesday killed three Jaish-e-Mohammad's (JeM) top IED expert Abdul Rehman alias 'Fauji Bhai', who was an Afghan war veteran, besides two local militants during an encounter in Pulwama district of South Kashmir, police said. "The killing of Abdul Rehman alias Fauji Bhai alias Fauji Baba, a Pakistani national, is a big success for security forces as he was a master in assembling improvised explosive devices for JeM," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar told reporters here.

Kumar said the slain Jaish terrorist was active in south Kashmir since 2017 and had taken part in armed action against the allied forces in violence-ridden Afghanistan in the past.

The IGP claimed that Fauji Baba had managed to escape when security forces intercepted the IED laden car in Pulwama on May 28.

"We had promised you that day we will get him soon. Today we did. Whether he was involved in 2019 car bombing attack on CRPF convoy, I cannot say for sure but he was active in Pulwama at that time," he said in response to a

**"We have had major successes this year as we have eliminated top commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen Reyaz Naikoo and poster boy Junaid Sehrai, Lashkar chief Haider in Handwara and now Fauji Baba," the police said**

question. Asked if Fauji Baba was the nephew of Jaish chief Masood Azhar, Kumar said, "There is no confirmation of that. You are only running it (on TV channels)."

He said there were at least two more IED experts among the Jaish ranks in Kashmir, Walid Bhai and Lambu Bhai, and the security forces were working to get them too.

"We have had major successes this year as we have eliminated top commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen Reyaz Naikoo and poster boy Junaid Sehrai, Lashkar chief Haider in Handwara and now Fauji Baba," he added.

# First cyclone in 72 years makes landfall; trains rescheduled, thousands evacuated

Mumbai and neighbouring areas on Wednesday braced for Cyclone Nisarga as it slammed the coast with wind speeds of up to 120 kmph after tens of thousands of people in its path were evacuated, trains rescheduled, flights cancelled, fishermen ordered out of the seas and rescue workers put on standby.

Nisarga blew in from the Arabian Sea, making landfall at the coastal town Alibaug at around 12.30 pm and the process will finish by 4 pm, officials said. Already down on its knees from the raging COVID-19 pandemic, Mumbai will be hit by a cyclone for the first time in 72 years, Adam Soebel, a professor of atmospheric science at Columbia University in New York, tweeted.

Earlier, Soebel had said the last severe cyclone to hit Mumbai was 1891 but on Wednesday corrected to say the city was hit by a cyclone in 1948.

"It is likely to cross with an intensity of a severe cyclonic storm close to south of Alibaug," India Meteorological



Department (IMD) Mumbai's deputy director general of meteorology K S Hosalikar said.

"At that time, its speed is likely to be 100 kmph to 110 kmph," he added.

Steeped in colonial history, Alibaug is a quaint little town located about 110 km from Mumbai, and is dotted with sandy beaches, unpolluted air and several forts and temples. A speedboat from Mumbai to Mandwa jetty near Alibaug takes 20 minutes and is an easy option for those wishing to avoid the arduous road journey. It is also home to many Bollywood stars and

other rich people.

Nisarga, which is also expected to pummel the coastline of Gujarat besides Maharashtra, comes a week after Cyclone Amphan wreaked havoc in West Bengal.

Hosalikar said Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Palghar will be hit with winds of up to 100 kmph to 110 kmph. The IMD said the storm may also gust to 120 kmph. The winds will be accompanied by heavy to very heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of the state.

The department has forecast the storm will have an impact on areas in North

Maharashtra, Pune, Ahmednagar.

The department has said kuccha houses, trees, electric poles may fall as they may not be able to withstand the speed of the storm.

Pune-based Sucheta Nadkarny, 81, who lived in Mumbai suburb Vile Parle in 1948 said, "I remember huge trees in our area were uprooted and plants in our garden destroyed."

"I was 10 years old then and remember this because my mother was heartbroken as the plants she had lovingly nurtured were destroyed," Nadkarny said.

The state government authorities have already asked people in vulnerable areas to shift to safer places.

Bracing for the impact of what is being billed as the most severe cyclone to hit Mumbai, the Central Railway (CR) rescheduled special trains and many airlines also cancelled their Mumbai operations.

The CR has rescheduled, diverted and regulated some trains on Wednesday, an official said.



# K'taka CM directs shifting of some govt offices to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday directed authorities to identify state level government offices to be shifted from the city to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi within a month and execute it, with an aim to address regional imbalance.

He also "warned" that he would personally review functioning of offices from there before the next meeting, CMO said in a statement.

Yediyurappa held a meeting to review the functioning of Public Works, Ports and Inland Water Transport departments. Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, modelled on Vidhana Soudha, the state secretariat in Bengaluru, where legislature session is held once a year, was built as an assertion that Belagavi is an integral part of Karnataka.

Maharashtra claims Belagavi



should belong to it. Other than the session held once a year for about two weeks, the building remains mostly unutilised.

It has been long standing demand of the people of north Karnataka to shift some government offices to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, aimed at addressing regional imbalance, and for the benefit of citizens of the regions, who otherwise have to travel to

Bengaluru.

In 2018, then Congress-JDS coalition government in the state had given in principle approval to shift some government departments, boards and commissions to the north Karnataka region to address the alleged discrimination.

At the meeting, the Chief Minister also directed officials to complete the work on roads and bridges that was damaged during the floods last year.

# Flight with 153 Indians from Dubai lands at Chandigarh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A special Air India flight has brought back 153 stranded Indians from Dubai under the Centre's Vande Bharat Mission, Chandigarh international airport officials said on Wednesday.

The AI 1916 flight landed at the international airport on Tuesday night.

This was the third flight under the mission to land here. Earlier, 244 Indians were brought back through special flights from New York and Ukraine's capital Kiev.

Eighty of the passengers who landed on Tuesday here belonged to Punjab, the officials said.

Thirty-seven of them belonged to Himachal Pradesh; 13 from Haryana; 11 from Chandigarh; four each from Delhi and J-K; and two each from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

# HC asks Google to take down Saheb Biwi aur Gangster movie from YouTube

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has asked Google LLC to remove from Youtube the Hindi movie 'Saheb Biwi aur Gangster' which according to its co-producer has been uploaded illegally on the social media platform.

Justice Rajiv Shakdher in an interim order on Tuesday, directed Youtube to take down the movie within 48 hours, but its lawyer said that the platform has been taken over by US-based Google LLC which will comply with the direction.

The high court recorded the statement made by the lawyer appearing for Youtube and listed the matter for further hearing on July 9.

The order came on a lawsuit filed by the movie's co-producer, Rahul Mitra, who has claimed that Tigmanshu Dhulia, the other producer, has assigned to him all the rights



in the film.

In his plea, Mitra has contended that uploading of the subject movie on Youtube has degraded his rights.

He claimed that he was suffering a huge monetary loss as he is not in a position to sell rights in the movie to video streaming platforms like Amazon Prime Video and Netflix.

The high court issued notice to Youtube and Google LLC

seeking their response to the lawsuit. During the proceedings held via video conferencing, Youtube's lawyer told the court that it is only an intermediary and, therefore, cannot be held liable for uploading of the movie on its platform.

It also said that had the plaintiff specified the uniform resource locator or URL of the works in which he had rights, Youtube would have been in a position to take down the

**The order came on a lawsuit filed by the movie's co-producer, Rahul Mitra, who has claimed that Tigmanshu Dhulia, the other producer, has assigned to him all the rights in the film**

infringing material. Youtube said that the plaintiff ought to have impleaded in the suit the person or entity which uploaded the movie in question. The high court, thereafter, directed the plaintiff to make the movie uploader a defendant in the suit within five days. "Furthermore, having heard learned counsel for the parties, I am inclined to direct defendant No. 1 (Youtube) to take down the subject movie.



# Lockdown helped Delhi, says Sisodia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The complete lockdown has helped the Delhi government in strengthening the city's health infrastructure to effectively battle COVID-19, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

Addressing the "Cities Against COVID19 - Global Summit 2020" via video conference on Tuesday, he mentioned key measures adopted by the Delhi government to contain the spread of the dreaded virus. "As Delhi got its first COVID 19 positive case on March 2, it was very important to curb the spread of the disease. The total lockdown enabled us to spread awareness about the virus among the citizens and strengthen our health infrastructure to effectively battle the disease," he said.



# UP Congress delegation meets gov

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An Uttar Pradesh Congress delegation on Wednesday called upon Governor Anandiben Patel at the Raj Bhavan here to highlight the alleged inhuman way of the arrest and detention of the party's state unit chief Ajay Kumar Lallu.

Congress Legislative Party leader in UP Assembly Aradhana Mishra said, "A delegation of the UP Congress met the governor to highlight the arrest of state Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu, which was done because of the personal and political vendetta, and then a baseless case was registered against him." "He was arrested in an inhuman and non-respectable way, she added in her statement.

# Trump's expansionism

US wants to expand G7 by including India and Russia, hoping to encircle China. How will the two hold their own?



At any other time, US President Donald Trump's call to expand the Group of Seven (G-7) would have been seen as reformatory considering it has gone past its sell-by date. Formed in the 1970s, its main objective was to ensure the supremacy of the Western democratic and liberal economic model in the Cold War era. But with emergent economies, China and Southeast Asian powers coalescing around G-20, it lost clout with only five of its members — the US, Germany, Japan, UK and France — figuring among the top seven global economies. Italy and Canada have been upstaged by China and India. So now Trump's move to invite India, Russia, South Korea and Australia into the club is not just about correcting geo-strategic realities of the contemporary world but to stifle China for the COVID-19 outbreak by encircling it with a comity of nations and diminishing its global dominance. And though he has been attempting this for quite some time, considering that both Russia and India didn't want to upset China too much given their market dependencies, the US President wants to make a show by postponing the summit to September, when hopefully the COVID-19 crisis abates. The intent is clear, capitalise on all reports emerging that China hid crucial information, play upon collective anxieties of affected nations and make them allies in the larger US design to isolate China. Already, he has gone ballistic with the World Health Organisation (WHO) for allowing itself to be taken in by China's versions of the truth, withdrawn the special status to Hong Kong in response to a new Chinese security law there and is limiting Chinese students above undergraduate level from enrolling in US institutions. It is also trying to cut off China from global supply chains, hoping to cripple it in the long run. In fact, soon after Trump's announcement, the UK Government said it wanted a group of 10 countries to develop its own 5G technology and reduce dependence on China's tech major Huawei.

For India, this is an opportunity to be a key player in the Western bloc. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established a rapport with Trump and the recent 25-minute phone conversation between the two did dwell on Chinese incursion in Ladakh with the US administration being sympathetic to India's predicament along the Himalayan border. Modi also took up race riots, hoping that the US hypocrisy on the violence would blunt the stereotypical edge of its propaganda on India's rights situation. But India needs to walk the line carefully without appearing to be endorsing a polarising move that runs counter to its multilateral worldviews. It has, therefore, rightly refused the US offer to mediate in Ladakh and upheld bilateral mechanisms. It cannot afford to be played by both China, which is into heavy duty posturing to intimidate us against being party to any anti-China narrative, or the US, which dangles trade tariffs now and then to get things done its way. Besides, India still doesn't have the manufacturing edge to cut off China and is dependent on its factory floors for sourcing. But India can certainly negotiate better for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, considering that it has surpassed France and the UK in terms of the GDP, both of which hold a permanent seat on the global panel. India has support from Brazil, too, as its President Emanuel Macron had invited Modi to the G-7 Summit at Biaritz last August as a special invitee. The entry of Russia, though it has given an in-principle nod to the idea, is also going to be complicated considering that it has grown closer to Beijing ever since Trump's predecessor Barack Obama expelled it from the original grouping following its takeover of Crimea. But Putin and Trump have an equation going and preliminary reports indicate that Moscow has shown its interest in accepting the invitation to attend the G-7 meet but will confirm only when the agenda is decided. Besides, it stayed away from joining the global defence of human rights in Hong Kong. This is one of the reasons why existing G7 members, particularly Canada, have reservations. But Trump is pushing Russia, without which it would be difficult to isolate or even censure Beijing. Australia, for example, features high on Trump's scale of preferences simply because it called for an impartial investigation into the Wuhan outbreak. Trump may want an expanded G-11 in this new age cold war with China but its success will depend on how the new hopefuls leverage their power.

# Elephantine problem

Laws make no sense if not enforced. And people will play with animals till we realise the right to co-existence



All of humanity needs to hang its head in shame for an inhuman deed that took place on May 27 in Malappuram, Kerala. A 15-year-old pregnant tusker, looking for food, strayed into a village where the trusting and unsuspecting creature was fed a pineapple stuffed with crackers. The fruit exploded in the elephant's mouth ripping off a part of its face and tongue. The poor pachyderm, despite being in intense pain, ran through the streets without harming a soul till it came to the river. It stood in the water for hours, defeating all attempts by the forest department to help it, before dying a slow and excruciating death, due to the injuries and asphyxia as water had gone into its lungs and trachea. Sadly, this is not the first incident of such unspeakable cruelty inflicted on animals in India. A similar incident had happened in Kollam with another elephant in April where the animal had eaten fruits laden with explosives and died a slow and painful death. So, the question is how is it that the perpetrators of such heinous crimes go unpunished when cruelty against animals is a cognisable offence under Section 428 and Section 429 of the Indian Penal Code and the country also has one of the strictest wildlife protection laws in the world? While some countries are now waking up to regulating trade in wildlife, India leads the prohibition on ivory trade. Some of the biggest triumphs for animal welfare here in the last decade saw the ban of dolphinariums in 2013, prohibition on animal testing for cosmetics in 2014, followed by a ban on the import of cosmetics tested on animals. India also prohibited the export of shark fins for use in soup and does not allow wild animals in circuses.

Yet we are confronted with heart-wrenching stories of depraved behaviour towards animals. For this to happen, we must make our law enforcement agencies aware about the rights of animals to be treated with kindness and dignity and about how grave an offence it is to subject an animal to cruelty. Punishment should be quick and stringent. Law enforcement agencies must not always wait for activist judges to lead the way in this regard. Plus, we, as a society must teach our children the basic truth that the world is meant to be shared by all God's creations and we must learn to live together with them. They have as much right to live on this planet as we do. In fact, animals form a vital part of the biodiversity and each creature has a role to play in the circle of life. If we disrupt that, we will have to bear the consequences of it.

# Liberal agenda in America

Like the White rioters, the Democrats and their media supports are also exploiting the most disadvantaged among their fellow Americans with hopes of winning the November polls



DOMINIC GREEN

There was no rest for the wicked on the seventh day. The shooting of police officers on Monday night in St Louis, Missouri and Los Angeles opens a new phase in the disorder that began in Minneapolis on May 26. On Monday, Terrence Floyd, the brother of George Floyd, the Minneapolis man murdered on camera by a police officer, called for calm. So did US President Donald Trump, incongruously waving a Bible in front of Washington DC's St John's church, where every President since 1815 has prayed and which rioters set on fire on Sunday night. But on Monday night, America's tragedy moved closer to catastrophe.

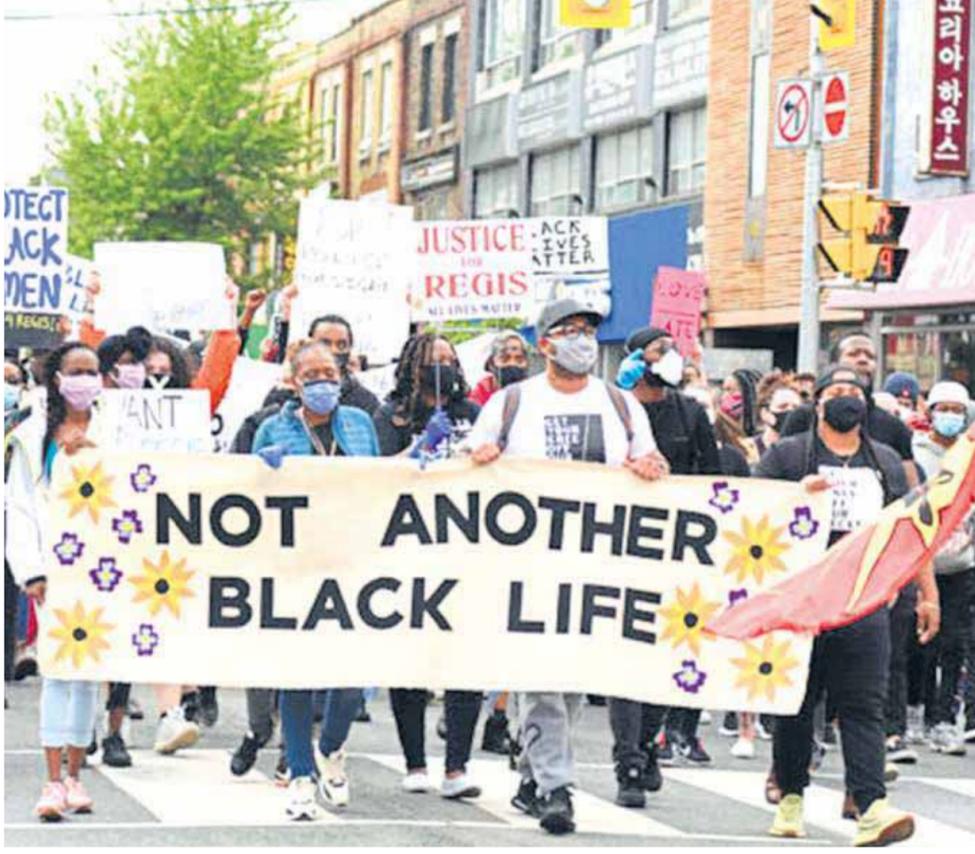
It's not just that race is the American agony and that African American men are disproportionately likely to be targeted by the police. A particular chain of events turned the initial protests in Minneapolis into nationwide protests, which turned into violent riots. Some filmed evidence appears to suggest that the crucial second phase of these events, the phase in which protests in poor and majority-Black neighbourhoods turned into confrontation with the police and assaults on civic symbols, was inflamed and exploited by the far Left.

This is why the violence must stop. Not just because lives and property are being lost. Not because it takes decades for an inner-city neighborhood to recover from an assault by its own residents. Not because it shreds the tendrils of racial amity that have grown since the civil rights reforms of the 1960s. But because the course of events has at crucial moments been directed by affluent Whites. And they know that the butcher's bill will not be delivered to their suburban communities.

The Americans have a name for this: White privilege. A few weeks ago, White men protested the COVID-19 shutdown by storming the Michigan statehouse in military fatigues and carrying assault weapons. The police allowed them to rampage around the Statehouse while White protesters shoved the police lines on the statehouse steps and no one was injured. Pass a fake \$20 bill as George Floyd did, however, and you risk a rapid escalation, which may end in injury or death.

The same inequality of risk attaches to the White grad student who dons the black hoodie of Antifa and throws fireworks and bottles at the police and the Black women and children, who standing on the porch of their home in Minneapolis, were shot at by the national guard as one of the guardsmen shouted "Light 'em up!"

It is inaccurate to say that all of Black America is on the streets. Fifty years of deindustrialisation and drugs have created a Black underclass but 50 years of civil rights and affirmative action have accelerated the growth of the Black middle class. In Atlanta, Georgia, the capital of the Black



middle class, initial protests did not lead to open-ended rioting.

The Mayor, who is White, ventured onto the streets and talked to protestors as equals. In a further instance of the civic responsibility that has been lacking in most Democratic-run States and cities, the local rapper, Killer Mike, the son of a police officer, issued an emotional plea "not to burn your house down."

This kind of plea works best if you have a house to burn down. It doesn't work on people who have no property and no prospects as in the heavily Black neighborhoods of western Philadelphia, where helicopter footage showed the police abandoning their cars to entirely Black mobs.

Nor does this appeal work on people who have the luxury of burning down other people's homes and businesses — and those people, the White rioters, are the ones who commandeered the initial protests and forced them towards violent confrontation.

Nearly half of the population of Washington, DC is Black. Yet some footage appears to show hardly any non-White

“NEARLY HALF OF THE POPULATION OF WASHINGTON, DC IS BLACK. YET, SOME FOOTAGE APPEARS TO SHOW HARDLY ANY NON-WHITE FACES AMONG THE MOB WHO ATTACKED POLICE OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE AND SET FIRE TO ST JOHN'S CHURCH”

faces among the mob who attacked police outside the White House and set fire to St John's church. Here in Boston, we saw an orderly march from a heavily Black neighbourhood to the city centre, led by church leaders. It was black-clad Whites who fought the police after the curfew. I observed teenagers from my suburban neighbourhood, students at Ivy League colleges and exclusive private schools, setting off in the black costume of Antifa.

"It happens most often that a people, which has supported without complaint, as if they were not felt, the most oppressive laws, violently throws them off as soon as their weight is lightened." Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of the French Revolution.

The radicalism of the American Left is rarefied and spoilt: More troubled by student loans and an absence of exciting jobs than failed schools and police violence. Antifa's revolution, like that of 1968 and most other Western revolutions, is a "revolution of rising expectations." The concerns of the young White men and

women, who are attacking the police, are not those of the young Black men who will be killed in the nights to come.

Most of the media endorse the radical Left's political costume drama. So do prominent figures on the Democratic Party's Left, like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Keith Ellison, the ex-Nation of Islam agitator who was second-in-charge of the Democratic National Committee and is now Minnesota's Attorney-General.

Like the White rioters, the Democrats and their media supports are also exploiting the most disadvantaged among their fellow Americans. They are exploiting the suffering of Black people in the hope of winning November's elections by painting Donald Trump as the second coming of George Wallace.

This strategy is unlikely to succeed. No candidate ever harmed his chances by running on a law and order ticket. Its greater failure is, however, moral.

(The writer is Life & Arts editor of The Spectator (US). Courtesy: The Dawn)

## SOUNDBITE

Some owners are looking to sell their franchises. I would be more than happy to provide financial and non-monetary support to keep the PSL alive and to thrive.



Former Pakistan pacer —Shoaib Akhtar

Boredom is the most common disease that afflicts all people. It is the root of a lot of mental, emotional and physical disorder. So I learned: To be bored or not, is a choice.



Actor —Milind Soman

China and India have a full-fledged border related mechanism and communication channel. We have capability to resolve this issue through dialogue and negotiations.



Chinese spokesperson —Zhao Lijian

There is no need to panic looking at the increasing number of COVID-19 cases. The Centre and State Governments have done the planning. We have increased testing.



MoS for Health —Ashwini Kumar Choubey

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Unjust act

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Boots on the street" (June 3). Massive protests have erupted in the US following the death of George Floyd after a police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes while he was handcuffed and his face pushed to the ground. The officer, Derek Chauvin, was responding to a call about an alleged counterfeit bill used at a store. He refused to relent even though Floyd cried out for help saying that he could not breathe. Chauvin was fired from his job the next day, along with three others.

It is true that racial discrimination is still prevalent all over the world. Racism has contaminated the idea of solidarity in the US, making it difficult for White people from the underprivileged sections of society to empathise with their compatriots from other races, even though they are threatened by the same social problems.

This incident is especially shocking, given the American ethos of being liberal towards African-Americans or people from diverse races. It is likely that the officer's actions were racially

### The better side of humanity

This refers to the editorial, "Boots on the street" (June 3). The social media was flooded with images of protests in the US against the killing of George Floyd that has engulfed the country. Horrific images of police using brutal force against peaceful protesters, looters and rioters causing wanton property damage and toxic insults being hurled with abandon emerged. Against this backdrop, one video from Houston, Texas, stood out. Instead of violence or hate, it showcased solidarity and understanding. The video was of a "prayer test" being held in Houston where parishioners of a local church gathered to join hands and pray to bring an end to the troubling events.

The gathering was held in Houston's 3rd Ward Cuney Homes where Floyd grew up, giving it an added significance. At one point during the "prayer test", the White attendees stood opposite to their Black counterparts and knelt down to ask forgiveness for "years and years of racism" from their brothers and sisters. The visuals were powerful, signalling a way out for a just future where stereotyping is replaced by compassion. The video quickly went viral, drawing praise from across the world for it showcased the better side of humanity. This does not mean that there were no doubters. Some saw the ges-



ture at the "prayer test" as pandering and called it cringe-worthy for the way it depicted White people asking for forgiveness for crimes of their ancestors. However, those who chose to call out the video for perpetuating inequality, did not have all the information as shortly after the White parishioners took a knee, their Black counterparts joined them, going down on their knees as well and participated in joint prayer. Though its undeniable that the US has a problem with systemic racism, incidents like these light the way to a better and a more just future.

Javvadi Lakshmana Rao Andhra Pradesh

motivated — many White Americans still believe in racial supremacy. The US Government is often found to denounce instances of discrimination in other countries but its own response to Floyd's death has

been rather tepid. Is the US regressing into the dark days when African-Americans were enslaved? This is indeed an affront to Abraham Lincoln.

TK Nandanani Kochi

ple are not maintaining social distance at market and public places. The dangers of the spread of infection from Delhi to regions in the NCR have increased significantly. Strict guidelines as issued by the Delhi Government to seal the border need to be taken by other State Governments. The Government has relaxed some rules after lockdown 4.0 but this does not mean that people should flout rules. Bypassing the rules will be harmful to all.

Yugal Kishore Sharma Faridabad

### Knee-jerk reaction

Sir — There has been a growing rhetoric on social media to boycott Chinese goods and apps. But a groundswell of anti-China opinion may not be enough to take on China for it has a good hold on the Indian market. A sudden ban will badly affect several sectors. We must enhance economic competitiveness and build capacity for innovation to make the shift.

Shambhavi Via email

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

# Chinese are the neo-imperialists

India should not do any appeasement of the Chinese as Chamberlain did towards Hitler but boldly confront them like Winston Churchill



MARKANDEY KATJU

The Chinese Army recently penetrated about four kilometres into Indian territory in the Galwan area of Ladakh. Many people in India may think that this incident was only due to some small misunderstanding about the border between the two countries but that is not so. The incident is part of a much larger imperialist design of the Chinese, so let me explain. In the 1930s-1940s, Nazi German imperialism was the real danger to the world and not British or French imperialism. This was because German imperialism was rising and expanding and hence was an aggressive imperialism while British and French imperialism were only defensive. While the latter two nations only wanted to hold on to their colonies, the Nazis wanted to conquer and enslave other countries. Hence the Nazis were the real danger to the world at that time. Similarly, today the real danger to the world is not from the US but from China, because the Chinese are on the road of aggressive expansionism in the world. With their massive industry seeking markets for its goods and with their huge \$3.2 trillion foreign exchange reserve hungrily seeking avenues for profitable investment, the Chinese are today aggressive imperialists and the greatest danger to the world. It is true that they are not expanding militarily like Nazi Germany at the moment but they are aggressively expanding economically by penetrating and undermining the economies of many countries of the world.

In the last decade, Chinese overseas investment has skyrocketed. Today the Chinese are almost everywhere, Asia, Africa, Latin America and of course the US and Europe. Their Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a network of roads, railways, oil pipelines, power grids, ports and other infrastructure projects connecting China with the world. It aims at improving infrastructure and connectivity between China and the rest of Eurasia in order to dominate it. China's focus is often on vital infrastructure like ports, for instance, Gwadar in Pakistan, Piraeus in Greece and Hambantota in Sri Lanka, the aim being to get a strategic foothold in these countries.

By selling goods at less than half the price at which the American or European manufacturer can afford to sell (in view of his higher labour cost), the Chinese have destroyed many American and European industries. Now the Chinese are seeking to capture the markets and raw materials in underdeveloped countries by dumping goods at very low prices so as to make the local products uncompetitive. Pakistan, for instance, is flooded with cheap Chinese goods.

While capturing foreign markets, the Chinese were carefully protecting their own industry by putting high tariffs. It has to be said to the credit of US President Donald Trump that he called the Chinese bluff and bluntly told the Chinese that this strategy won't do. You can't have 25 per cent tariff on import of automobiles into China when the US imposes a tariff of only 2.5 per cent for import of cars into its territory. Trump has imposed tariffs on several Chinese goods and has announced more in the future. To this, the Chinese announced retaliatory tariffs but that will hurt the Americans little. It is well-known that the Chinese have no business ethics and that is why many US and Chinese companies are reluctant to hire Chinese from mainland China as they often commit espionage and steal industrial secrets.

Let us now look at China's economic relations with India. As is well-known, India was a British colony till 1947 and the British policy was broadly to keep India unindustrialised. However, after independence, a certain degree of industrialisation took place in India and we started manufacturing goods which we had to earlier import.

Now the Chinese have, to a certain extent, penetrated our market at the expense of our domestic industries. An article entitled *How Chinese companies are beating India in its own backyard*, published in *The Economic Times*, gives some interesting details. Indo-Chinese trade is heavily skewed in favour of the Chinese. Indian exports to China are to the tune of \$16 billion, mainly of raw materials. But its imports from China are worth \$68 billion, mainly of value added goods like mobile phones, plastics, electrical goods, machinery and its parts. This is typical of the relation between a colony and an imperialist country. Chinese companies use aggressive pricing, State subsidies, protectionist policies and cheap financing. In certain industries, Chinese companies dominate the Indian market, for instance the telecom sector, 51 per cent of which has been captured by the Chinese. Indian homes are full of Chinese goods like fittings, lampshades, tubelights and so on. The Indian Government and the citizens of the country must seriously start opposing Chinese imperialism. To ignore this danger will be behaving like an ostrich, just like Neville Chamberlain who kept thinking that Adolf Hitler was no danger until it was almost too late. Apart from opposing the aggressive Chinese moves at the border, the Indian Government should ban the entry of Chinese goods into the market and get rid of Chinese firms from the country. India should not do any appeasement of the Chinese as Chamberlain did towards Hitler but boldly confront them like Winston Churchill. Appeasement only whets the appetite of the aggressor.

(The writer is a former Judge, Supreme Court of India)

YOU WON'T FIND IT (ACCUSATION THAT INDIA LOST DELIBERATELY TO ENGLAND) BECAUSE I HAVE NEVER SAID IT. IT'S TWISTING OF WORDS OR CLICK BAIT.

—ENGLAND ALL ROUNDER  
 BEN STOKES

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



THEY DID IT. I SAID IT AT THAT TIME AND EVERYONE FELT THE SAME. A PLAYER WHO CAN HIT A SIX OR A FOUR IS DEFENDING THE BALL, YOU JUST KNOW.

—FORMER PAKISTAN ALL ROUNDER  
 ABDUL RAZAQ

# Opening doors to prosperity

The changes announced in the rules of agriculture marketing might provide women and vulnerable sections easier access to markets but we need a wider social security net and modernisation



ARIJIT DAS

Given the agrarian crisis that the country had been going through, which got exacerbated by the pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced 11 measures to boost the farm sector, ranging from the amendment to the Essential Commodities Act to a ₹1 lakh crore fund to boost agriculture infrastructure. The changes announced in the rules of agriculture marketing might provide women and vulnerable sections easier access to markets.

The existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee or APMC Act was planned to protect the interests of the British Government, which wanted to ensure the supply of pure cotton at reasonable prices to the textile mills of Manchester. The first regulated market (Karanja) under the 'Hyderabad Residency Order' was established in 1886 and the first legislation was the Berar Cotton and Grain Market Act of 1887, which empowered a British Resident to declare any place in the assigned district as a market, for the sale and purchase of agricultural produce and constitute a committee to supervise the regulated markets. In 1928, the Royal Commission on Agriculture proposed a regulation of marketing practices and the establishment of regulated markets. The Government of India prepared a 'Model Bill' in 1938 and circulated it to all the Indian States. It became the guiding force for our APMC Act. So, it is not difficult to infer why the spirit of the APMC Act favours buyers rather than farmers. Of course, some would argue that it allows States to protect the farmers, as procurement is done under the supervision and surveillance of the State. But many mechanisms are available to protect the interests of farmers rather than being discriminatory against them.

The APMC Act designates a few patches as formal procurement centres. Currently, there are only 6,746 pockets in a vast country like ours and this allows limited buyers to purchase from farmers. This is a classic case of a State-backed oligopsonistic market structure, in which the number of buyers is small while the number of sellers is large. This gives enough power to buyers to pay the minimum price to farmers. Ironically, the maximum distance between a farmer and the *mandi* is five kilometres (km) but our field information suggests a minimum of 30-40 km travel for a farmer out to sell his produce. This means the APMC Act not only gives oligopsonistic power to buyers but also creates a geographical monopoly for them.

Further, the small number of APMCs and traders poses a challenge for farmers to sell their produce as they have to wait for days for their turn. This makes some sense for big farmers but not for small producers. Field data from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana shows a minimum of three to five man-day loss for small farmers.

**How the proposed changes will help:** An independent country should favour the marginalised and protect their interests. This proposed change in agri-marketing rules is a step in that direction. Hopefully, new rules will encourage big-aggregators and start-ups to use technology in a better way to procure directly from farmers. These channels may be existent in pockets but operate informally due to stringent market rules (procurement and cross-border trade). A big push is necessary to bring the changes on the ground.

“ MOST WOMEN, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS, ARE ENGAGED IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR AND DERIVE THEIR LIVELIHOOD FROM ACTIVITIES RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, HANDLOOMS AND ARTISANAL PRODUCTS. UNFORTUNATELY, THESE WOMEN REMAIN AT THE LOWEST END OF THE VALUE CHAIN, WITH THEIR SHARE IN EARNINGS BEING LOW OUT OF MARGINS WHICH ARE VERY MINUSCULE. IN THIS CONTEXT, THERE IS SCOPE TO INCREASE THEIR INCOME BY CONTINUING IN THE EXISTING ACTIVITY AND BECOMING ORGANISED AS A COLLECTIVE, SO AS TO POOL THEIR OUTPUT



The pandemic is an opportunity to deregulate agri-marketing effectively to ensure social distancing. A perfect model of social distancing could be doorstep collection of agri-produce or at least at the village/cluster level. As an experiment, local collection centres were set up in parts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra to procure agri-produce at the doorstep. These also acted as local storage and sorting facilities. All procurement activities were done by women farmers who were otherwise absent in post-harvest management. The process was iterated with *tur daal*. Calculations show that through this process small farmers save about ₹175 per 50 kg of tur or approximately 10 per cent of its price; which means a marginal farmer can gain up to 10 per cent from doorstep collection. A similar experiment was done in other parts of Maharashtra and other States like Telangana and Karnataka. The outcome in those areas was also on a similar line; of course with a little variation.

Farmers can also minimise wastage in the direct procurement system. For example, a year ago the India Development Foundation (IDF) studied a vegetable value chain in Siddipet in Telangana and found big savings when Big Basket and Reliance Fresh started procuring vegetables directly from the farmers for their shops in Hyderabad. Farmers used to get the order one-day in advance and usually pluck the exact amount and quality of vegetable demanded. These are some out-of-the-box experiments that reveal huge benefits for small and marginal farmers through local collection.

New marketing rules should encourage such initiatives which are resilient in the current context, efficient and pro-farmer.

**Gender aspect:** The rising participa-

tion of women in farm work in India — a phenomenon commonly referred to as the feminisation of agriculture — is a huge reality now. According to OXFAM 2018, the agriculture sector employs 80 per cent of all economically productive women in India. They comprise 33 per cent of the agricultural labour force and 48 per cent of self-employed farmers. Despite their large contribution, women continue to remain invisible in the rural economy of India. Our critical evaluation suggests that women are acting as non-paid workers in agriculture or any other traditional sector; be it handicraft or weaving. Men are in control when it comes to selling their products to *mandis*/APMCs or handicrafts to local traders.

A vast majority of women, particularly in rural areas, are engaged in the informal sector and derive their livelihood from activities relating to agriculture, handlooms and artisanal products. Unfortunately, these women remain at the lowest end of the value chain, with their share in earnings being low out of margins, which are even otherwise very minuscule. In this context, there is scope to increase their income by continuing in the existing activity and becoming organised as a collective, so as to pool their output.

Others can be helped by getting them involved in some productive activity that is or can be popularised in the locality, and then selling the output as a group of women producers.

Doorstep selling/localised procurement will be liberating for women farmers. It will open up an opportunity for women farmers to participate in the selling activity and directly deal with the buyers. Our experience shows that exposure to agri-marketing made women aware of the information inputs and

upgrades that could make their work more gainful. It made them receptive to new skills and knowledge on good agriculture practices and agri-markets. Communities witnessed that the traditionally-gendered division of agricultural work has changed. Women farmers are more confident, deciding on crop-related activities like the choice of crop, selection of fertiliser, taking loans or even children's education.

**Putting Women Self-Help Groups at the forefront:** SHGs are a great way of empowering women in villages. However, the sustainability of such groups is a challenge as limited contribution from women and frequent defaults make them fragile. SHGs are formed and get dissolved in a few years. Connecting these SHGs to value chains is a great way to sustain them in the long-run. With the changed law, the SHGs now can participate in selling activities effectively, directly contact end-buyers and get a five per cent hike in the value of their produce. This amount is enough to sustain them for most of the year. And more importantly, it will increase activities in SHGs, encouraging women to meet others regularly. It has been observed that once the SHGs are linked to value chains, beneficiaries actively participate in entrepreneurial activities and have a much better understanding of their profits and savings.

In the end, one must understand that changing marketing laws is not a panacea to all of our farm woes. Agriculture is a delicate area which needs continuous attention and care. Reforming a colonial-era marketing practice will definitely help the disadvantaged section of farmers but a wider social security and modernisation of agriculture is needed.

(The writer is Fellow, IDF. The views expressed are personal)

# Trump must create an alternative to the WHO

The US must also ensure that Beijing does not start its 'Health Aid Diplomacy' to fill the leadership vacuum



GAURIE DWIVEDI

US President Donald Trump, who has been a vocal and strident critic of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) handling of the Coronavirus epidemic and the deferential treatment it meted out to Beijing, finally made good on his threat recently and exited the 72-year-old global body the US had co-founded. The US' withdrawal will severely impact the overall functioning of the WHO and there has been concern over the timing of the President's decision as well.

First, it comes at a time when countries continue to see a huge upsurge in cases. Second, global efforts to discover a vaccine have

never been as united as they are right now. The US' efforts to fight or find a cure/drug/vaccine for the Coronavirus, not just on its own soil but around the world, need to further intensify after it chose to exit the WHO. In failing to do so, it will create a leadership vacuum that Beijing will exploit to further cement its position not just as a global alternative to the US but as it possible replacement.

China did so at the time of the initial outbreak when it sent PPEs to Europe, Africa, America, Asia including India, as part of Beijing's 'Mask Diplomacy' despite being accused of deliberately misleading the world. This public relations exercise was part of a larger design where even the pandemic was identified as an opportunity to score points for global supremacy, make big money by selling substandard medical equipment/PPE and cover up its failure to contain the outbreak.

Xi Jinping projected himself as the world's saviour by sending aid which was a complete eyewash dri-

ven by propaganda. In the first 35 days (March 1-April 5) of the outbreak in Europe, China exported medical equipment worth \$1.45 billion. These were commercial contracts that Chinese companies entered into with nations that were most severely hit by the virus.

Agencies like the USAID (United States Agency for International Development), which helped Africa fight the Ebola outbreak in 2016, are not around to help countries fight the Coronavirus this time. Caught up in a deep crisis itself, the US, for the first time since World War-II (WW-II), is not at the forefront of relief and aid measures.

Beijing's propaganda machinery — which aimed to position China as a benign global power, more so in poor CIS countries like Belarus — was helped by the US' virtual absence from the world stage during the pandemic. Beijing is aware that several countries may start viewing it as a friendly power, which would in turn reduce the resistance that Chinese corporations

like Huawei face and also provide fresh impetus to its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative initiative.

The US' exit from the WHO raises many questions. How significantly will the WHO's functioning be impacted due to reduced funds? Will the US' exit lead to a reform of the UN and its key agencies like the WHO? Is the announcement a precursor to setting up of an alternate organisation or will the US spearhead all its aid efforts independently? Will Beijing step in to fill the leadership gap left by the US?

The WHO — for all its noble causes, including eradication of polio and other diseases — has an overall budget of \$5.62 billion (2018-2019). Of this, 80 per cent comes from voluntary sources and only 17 per cent comes from assessed sources, with others accounting for the remaining three per cent. In 2019, the US' contribution was \$419 million, which includes \$119 million in assessed and \$300 million in voluntary contributions. The other top donors to the WHO are

the UK, Germany, Japan and the EU. China comes in at number 15.

The WHO reports that the US contribution of \$450 million represented nearly 16 per cent of its total revenue in the 2018-2019 biennium and almost a fifth of its programme budget. Compare this to the nearly \$12 billion annual budget of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — the US' leading federal agency for national public health that is working to save American lives. The CDC has over twice the budget of the WHO which has a charter to save all mankind from disease. Clearly, the WHO's role and scope, in spite of its exalted image as the world's leading health agency, is practically limited due to its existing funding constraints.

The US' withdrawal from the agency will impact its functioning to some extent but a part of the gap will be filled by other resources.

While the WHO may be further hamstrung in running its programmes across least developed

countries (LDCs) and the developing world, it can be expected to sustain itself, albeit with some interim constraints. This move by the Trump Government appears to be more of political posturing, since the President is set to face an election in five months. For the domestic audience, it is an unequivocal expression of displeasure by the US Government indicating that Trump will focus on policies that protect American interests.

The message to the UN is also clear that the US will not watch from the sidelines if its interests are either compromised or not fully addressed by multilateral agencies like the WHO. Reform and course correction is long due for the UN and its agencies and the US' exit from the WHO could be the trigger to undertake those tough reforms, including accountability and transparency from the organisation and its top bosses.

To ensure that the US, as the world's richest country, does not abdicate its responsibility towards

low income and poor countries, Trump should immediately announce substantial increase in resources of the USAID from the present \$2.7 billion to at least \$4 billion. Additional funds should be directed to LDCs in Africa that will be most significantly impacted due to any budget cuts in WHO projects. It will also ensure that the US will focus on providing aid directly to vulnerable and smaller nations and regain some of the leadership vacuum created since February. It will also ensure Beijing does not start its 'Health Aid Diplomacy'.

Another major fallout of Trump's announcement will be the urgent need for most countries to beef up their health infrastructure and create more capacity. It will be the first time since WW-II that low-income countries will have to almost exclusively rely on their internal strengths to tackle healthcare issues due to greater uncertainty around the WHO's future prospects.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

CAPSULE



**Steel Strips  
Wheels gets order  
for 8k wheels in  
US, EU markets**

**New Delhi:** Steel Strips Wheels Ltd on Wednesday said it has received orders worth 3.35 lakh euros for supply of over 8,000 wheels in the EU and US markets. The orders will be executed in June and July from its Chennai truck wheel plant, the company said in a regulatory filing. This marks the beginning of orders for new semester for this year indicating re-start of operations in EU and US post-COVID lockdown, it added. Additional orders for larger quantities are expected in coming weeks from several other regular customers, the company said. This order will support gradual production ramp-up at Chennai facility, it added.



**Bharti Infratel appoints  
Pooja Jain as CFO**

**New Delhi:** Telecom infrastructure firm Bharti Infratel on Wednesday named Pooja Jain as chief financial officer of the company. The appointment is with effect from June 4, 2020, the company said in a regulatory filing. "...on the recommendation of HR, Nomination and Remuneration Committee and approval of Audit and Risk Management Committee, the board of directors of the company, in its meeting held today...has appointed Pooja Jain as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and key managerial personnel of the company with effect from June 4, 2020," it said.



**Pact for merger of  
Embassy Group's  
realty units with IBREL**

**New Delhi:** Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd (IBREL) on Wednesday said the agreement for proposed merger of Embassy Group's certain realty projects with itself is expected to be signed before July 15. In January, Mumbai-based IBREL announced its proposal of the merger of certain ongoing, completed and planned residential and commercial projects of Bengaluru-based Embassy Property Developments Pvt Ltd with Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd. "Lockdown restrictions imposed due to global spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) had impacted the progress of the merger process.

**Over 1L IDs of Indians  
for sale on dark web**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 1 lakh scanned copies of Indians' national IDs, including Aadhaar, PAN card and passport, have been put on dark web for sale, cyber intelligence firm Cyble said on Wednesday.

The leaked data seems to have originated from a third party and not from the government system, according to a report by Cyble. "We came across a non-reputed actor who is currently selling over 1 lakh Indian National IDs on the dark net. With such a low reputation, ideally, we would have skipped this; however, the samples shared by the actor intrigued our interest -- and also the volume. The actor is alleged to have access to over 1 lakh IDs from different places in India," Cyble said.

The personal data leaked by cyber criminals leads to various nefarious activities such as identity thefts, scams, and corporate espionage. Many criminals use the personal details in the IDs to win trust of the people over a phone call for fraudulent activities. The Cyble researchers acquired around 1,000 IDs from the seller and confirmed that the scanned IDs belong to Indians. "Preliminary analysis suggests that the data originated from a third party, and no indication or artefact is indicating



**The leaked data seems to have  
originated from a third party and not  
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to a report by Cyble**

that it came from a government system. At this point, Cyble researchers are still investigating this further -- we are hoping to share an update soon," Cyble said.

The scanned ID documents indicate that the data may have been leaked from a company's data base in the segment where they have to comply with 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) norms. "Cyble researchers have also learned about a surge in KYC and banking scams -- leaks such as this are often used by scammers to target individuals, especially elderly," Cyble said.

The cyber intelligence firm has recommended people to refrain from sharing personal information especially financial information over phone, email or SMS. "Regularly monitor your financial transaction, if you notice any suspicious transaction, contact your bank immediately," the company said.

In May, Cyble showed two instances where personal data of 7.65 crore Indians have been put on sale in the dark web. In one instance, the seller claimed to have sourced data of 4.75 crore Indians from online directory Truecaller and in other, the seller claimed to have sourced from job websites.

Truecaller, however, had denied the claim of breach in its database.



**Coal output falls 11%  
to 41 MT in May**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) reported 11.2 per cent decline in production at 41.43 million tonne in May.

The company had produced 46.69 million tonne of coal in May 2019. In a statement the PSU said "CIL as whole produced 41.43 million tonne (MT) of coal in May 2020." It further said amid a crimped demand for coal, in what would be an encouraging sign for CIL, coal offtake was up at 39.95 MT in May compared to 39.06 MT in April. Coal sales have expanded by 0.9 MT in May, it said. Overburden removal (OBR) growth for May 2020 "was 21 per cent at 124.59 M.Cu.M OBR removal, compared to year-ago month, as CIL laid aside an additional quantity of 21.52 M.Cu.M extraneous matter during the referred period," it said.

This bodes well for the state-owned coal mining behemoth as OBR is an

**The company had  
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Coal sales have  
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MT in May, said  
State-owned Coal  
India Ltd**

important performance parameter that removes top soil and lays bare the coal seams for future mining in opencast mines, it said. "This is a positive sign and secures options for our future coal output at short notice, once demands picks up," said an official of the company adding "all our coal producing subsidiaries have posted growth in OB removal during May'20 compared to the same month last year." Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic fuel output.

**EPFO updates  
KYC details of  
52 L members  
in Apr-May**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO has updated KYC details of its 52.62 lakh subscribers during the April-May period, according to a labour ministry statement. This update includes Aadhaar seeding for 39.97 lakh subscribers, mobile seeding (UAN activation) for 9.87 lakh subscribers and bank account seeding for 11.11 lakh subscribers.

The KYC (know your customer) is a one-time process which helps in identity verification of subscribers through linking of Universal Account Number (UAN) with KYC details. To extend the availability and reach of online services, which have become crucial in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) updated KYC data for its 52.62 lakh subscribers in the month of April and May 2020, the statement said. Further, to enable KYC seeding on such large scale, the EPFO has also undertaken massive exercise of rectifying the details of the subscribers even during the lockdown.



**Sensex jumps 284 pts; Nifty tops 10,000-mark**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Extending its winning streak to the sixth session, equity benchmark Sensex surged 284 points on Wednesday, led by gains in HDFC twins, ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank amid positive cues from global markets.

After hitting a peak of 34,488.69, the 30-share index ended 284.01 points or 0.84 per cent higher at 34,109.54. Similarly, the NSE Nifty jumped 82.45 points or 0.83 per cent to 10,061.55.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 5 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India, SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and ONGC.

On the other hand, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel and Maruti were among the laggards.

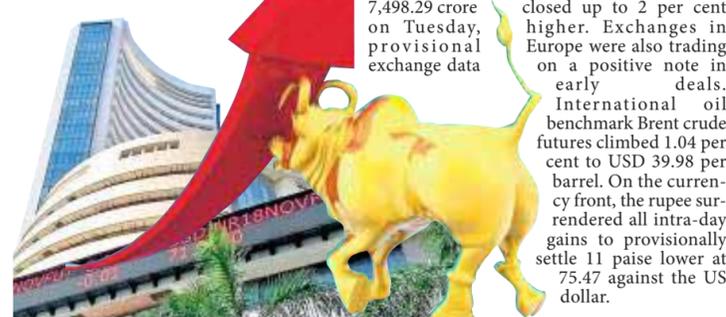
The bulls maintained their grip on the market as stocks surged led by massive foreign

fund inflows and positive global cues, analysts said. On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors bought equities worth Rs 7,498.29 crore on Tuesday, provisional exchange data

showed. Further, gradual reopening of economies the world over has fuelled bullish trend in global markets, they said.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul closed up to 2 per cent higher. Exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals.

International oil benchmark Brent crude futures climbed 1.04 per cent to USD 39.98 per barrel. On the currency front, the rupee surrendered all intra-day gains to provisionally settle 11 paise lower at 75.47 against the US dollar.



**Amara Raja  
Group  
announces  
pay cut**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Amara Raja Group a leading business conglomerates with interests spanning varied verticals on Wednesday announced pay deferrals to its employees at the junior and senior management level due to the impact of COVID-19 in the upcoming months.

Taking note of the extraordinary circumstances and the uncertainty in the business environment, Amara Raja Group Promoters holding the office of Managing Director in various businesses have voluntarily agreed for up to 50 per cent reduction in their total remuneration for the current fiscal, a press release from the group said.

The groups flagship company Amara Raja batteries Limited had 7,541 employees as on March 31, 2019 including employees hired on a temporary basis and the company spent Rs 345.23 crore towards salaries and other benefits, according to the company's annual report last year.

**A few employees test  
positive for COVID,  
confirms SAIL**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Steel major SAIL on Wednesday said a few of its employees working at the company's corporate office in the national capital have tested positive for COVID-19.

There are five employees whose coronavirus test results have come positive, a source said. "In the wake of rising COVID-19 infections in the country, a few employees at Corporate Office at Lodi Road, New Delhi have been tested Corona positive. This is the first case of confirmation at the company HQ since the outbreak of the pandemic," Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) said in a statement.

In a video message to all

employees across offices and plant sites, SAIL Chairman A K Chaudhary asked them to adhere to all safety measures and follow government advisories.

The infected employees, SAIL said, have been asked to home quarantine themselves. "A government-appointed agency has been engaged to do fumigation at SAIL's headquarters at Lodi Road, which is being carried out extensively for two days. The office has been closed for June 3 and 4 and the employees have been asked to work from home," the statement said. The company has also tied up with two private hospitals namely Max and Apollo in Delhi to facilitate testing of employees who require the same.



**Virendra Nath  
Datt given  
addl charge  
as NFL CMD**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned fertiliser firm NFL said Virendra Nath Datt has been given additional charge as chairman and managing director (CMD) of the company. Datt has been director (marketing) of the firm since October 2018. "Virendra Nath Datt, Director (Marketing), NFL has taken over the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director of the Company," NFL said in the statement. An MBA from Mahatma Dayanand University, Datt has over 35 years' experience with premier public sector enterprises such as GAIL and ONGC, besides the fertiliser industry. Prior to joining NFL, he was executive director in GAIL (India) where he handled all-India marketing operations of the company, in addition to corporate strategy, planning and advocacy.

He was also a director on the Board of Mahanagar Gas Ltd, Mumbai. Datt also had a 10-year stint with ONGC before joining GAIL in 1995. As director (marketing), NFL, Datt is credited with sustained growth in fertiliser sales of the company from 43 lakh tonnes in 2017-18 to 57 lakh tonnes in 2019-20, the statement said.

**Virus has been 'devastating' for African airlines**

PNS ■ KAMPALA

A "new baby" was born with the revival of Uganda Airlines, the country's president announced last year.

But now its four new jets sit idle, business suspended indefinitely because of coronavirus-related travel restrictions.

Questions are swirling in Africa and elsewhere over the financial wisdom of sustaining prestige carriers that often have a tiny share of an aviation market that sees no recovery in sight. African airlines had been piling on debt long before the pandemic but government bailouts allowed them to limp on for years.

Now, as sub-Saharan Africa faces its first recession in a quarter-century, some airlines will find it harder to survive.



That's despite growing global interest in the continent of 1.3 billion people. In some cases, local airlines are so important for pan-African business on a vast continent with historically poor infrastructure that their collapse would cripple speedy travel. In other cases, however, airlines have been seen as vanity projects for states that can hardly afford to support them.

Nowel Ngala, commercial director of Asky Airlines — a carrier launched in 2010 by a group of regional banks hoping to solve transport difficulties in central and West Africa — said the pandemic has been "very devastating" to the company, whose nine aircraft are grounded. Revenue losses are substan-

tial and there have been "serious impacts in terms of maintaining" the planes for when-ever business resumes.

The International Air Transport Association in April warned that African airlines could lose \$6 billion in passenger revenue compared to last year, and half of the region's 6 million jobs in aviation and related industries could be lost.

Air traffic this year is expected to fall by half, it said. "These estimates are based on a scenario of severe travel restrictions lasting for three months, with a gradual lifting of restrictions in domestic markets, followed by regional and intercontinental," the IATA said. That three-month period is already nearing an end, with no return to normal air travel in sight.

**Decoding Rs 20 L cr push: Mammoth package, miniscule stimulus**

The Coronavirus outbreak, first reported in Wuhan, China on 31 December, 2019, has severely impacted the Indian economy. The Covid-19 pandemic spread in India at a time when its economy was already dented by the downturn, reduced household spending, truncated private investment, and credit crunch. The International Monetary Fund has predicted that India's economic growth would slow to 1.9% in fiscal year 2020-21 -- the slowest pace in three decades. In April 2020, Moody's Investors Service forecast zero growth for India in the year, down from an estimated 4.8% in 2019-20.

On May 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a special economic stimulus package worth Rs 20 lakh crore to help revive the economy. This stimulus is part of PM Modi's vision of a self-reliant Indian in the wake of the economic bloodbath caused by Covid-19. The overall package of Rs 20,97,053 crore includes previously announced measures like the Rs. 1.7 lakh crore Pradhan Matri Garib Kalyan Package and the Rs 8.01 lakh crore liquidity injections by the Reserve Bank of India in February, March and April this year.

Although PM Modi's package is the fifth largest among those of G-20 economies in terms of spending as a percentage of GDP, it would tie with that of Hong Kong at the 19th place, as per data compiled by economist Ceyhan Elgin in the Covid-19 Economic Stimulus Index (CESI). Japan leads the list with its spending pegged at 21.1 per cent of GDP, followed by the United States (13.3 per cent), and Australia (10.8 per cent). Barclay's Chief India Economist Rahul Bajoria estimates the actual fiscal impact of Rs 20-lakh-crore stimulus package to be Rs 1.50 lakh

**Although PM's package is the fifth largest among those of G-20 economies in terms of spending as a percentage of GDP, it would tie with that of Hong Kong at the 19th place, as per data compiled by economist Ceyhan Elgin in the Covid-19 Economic Stimulus Index (CESI)**

crore or only 0.75 per cent of the GDP. According to Fitch Solutions, the package, worth about 10 per cent of India's GDP, in terms of spending as share of GDP, fails to address immediate concerns of the economy. The actual fiscal impact of the additional stimulus is only about 1 per cent of GDP as opposed to the claim of 10 per cent. Of all the new stimulus measures, only pension fund support, temporary tax cuts, farm infrastructure upgrades, free food provision for migrant workers, funds to safeguard rural employment and an emergency fund for post-harvest activities can be truly quantified as a fiscal stimulus. Many of the other measures such as regulatory changes and vague reform plans only target medium-term supply-side issues but fail to address immediate demand-side issues. The government can argue that the term loans will be given and working capital loans will be provided by banks through the package so that companies can use these to pay wages, buy raw material, and spur institutional demand. The government needs to understand that measures to infuse liquid-



DHANANJAY SINGH

ity acts on the supply side. What is the use of stimulating demand on the supply side when the need is to spur demand? Rural and urban consumption has fallen, according to every survey and every review. Rather than putting money in the hands of people and stimulating demand, the government is focussed on packaging its economic stimulus as a differen-

tiated policy to induce multiplier effect and empowering people.

Global securities research firm Sanford Bernstein has termed the economic revival package as a "lost opportunity". The Bernstein report calls the package aimless and is critical of the several generic announcements that should ideally have been part of a normal economic agenda. Industry leaders have recommended income support. Chairman of Wipro Limited Azim Premji has asked for Rs 7,000 to be paid to the poor for three months, while Chairman TVS Group Venu Srinivasan has suggested monthly assistance of at least Rs 5,000. They have also suggested release of minimum wages for 25 days per month to all poor urban residents for the period of the lockdown and at least for two months month following the end of the lockdown. Noble Laureate Abhijit Banerjee has

suggested direct cash transfer to the bottom 60 per cent population to help revive demand. Former finance minister P.Chidambaram, citing research by the University of Chicago and University of British Columbia, states that 89% people had zero weekly income during the lockdown. He has also asked for extend 'income support' to 13 crore poorest households by transferring Rs 7,500 or Rs 5,000 to each of the 13 crore households.

Keynesian macroeconomics argues that the solution to a recession is expansionary fiscal policy that shifts the aggregate demand curve to the right. Expansionary fiscal policy consists of tax cuts or increases in government spending designed to stimulate aggregate demand and move the economy out of recession. Modi's stimulus package is contrary to the Keynesian macroeconomics solution of

fiscal expansion that can spur consumption and demand. India is fighting Covid-19 on the health front and our farmers, migrant labourers, shopkeepers, salaried classes and small & medium industries are fighting it out on the economic front. The country is facing unprecedented economic crisis. Modi's stimulus package reflects long-term reforms economic agenda, but it fails to provide immediate fiscal relief and does not address immediate consumption and demand concerns.

The government needs to balance its long-term economic reforms agenda with immediate cash relief to help revive demand. The government is duty bound to serve and support its people now; else, it shall become a case of 'mammoth package and minuscule stimulus'.

(The author is Assistant Professor, IMT Hyderabad)

## Setting standards for SUSTAINABLE LIVING

When NITI Aayog said that 21 cities in India including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad will run out of groundwater by 2020, affecting around 100 million people, not many gave it much thought, forget action. But the residents of Gautami Enclave in Kondapur have emerged as an exemplary community in sustainable living, reports RACHEL DAMMALA



**B**e it COVID-19, global warming, fewer rains — the residents of Gautami Enclave are ready to face them all. The lockdown has brought about tough times in our lives here in the city, even though almost everything one needs is as close to us as possible. With finding it tough to fetch fresh vegetables to looking for water tankers (and also finding out if the workers are not carriers of COVID) to get to our apartments in these hot

summers, when water won't be sufficient for residents living in hundreds of apartments, challenges have just been piling up. Thus, one of the many lessons the lockdown taught us is sustainability. And one community that revels in a success story in such a time as this, are the residents of the Gautami Enclave in Kondapur. The community is known for its green living. The kind of life that residents in this apartment live is what most of us dream of living, with sustainable methods to conserve water and other resources, but fail to. What they started in 2011 is now reaping them results. Several green initiatives, including project Neer that called placing the rainwater

harvesting models, have made life simpler and easier for them. The colony, that has close to 4,000 people residing in it now, had started these initiatives, way before schemes like Harita Haram and others were brought to the table. "We adopted the old school method of 3Rs — Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. We encouraged flats to have their own water meters, which brought down water consumption to over 70 per cent. We reuse rainwater through our Rain Water Harvesting. And to recycle, tap water that came from kitchens, etc, would be recycled using grey water treatment, which not as easy as the first two steps. As a result of these schemes, we have reduced water tanker dependency. The colony has over around 90 rainwater harvesting pits, including injection pits. All these came, while the city was still waking up to



these methods," informs Vadlamudi Muralidhar, the founding president of Gautami Enclave Residents' Welfare Association (GERWA). And there's so much to learn from how they're keeping COVID-19 at bay. The colony has seven exit points and they have managed to close all gates and kept only one main entry and exit points open. All the 64 apartments are CCTV-monitored to ensure no gatherings take place. All this information is sent to the residents via their WhatsApp groups and emails, asking them to follow norms laid down by the government. "We have been educating our residents to ensure proper sanitisation, wearing of masks and gloves. Each building has 2 representatives of the

**THE COLONY, THAT HAS CLOSE TO 4,000 PEOPLE RESIDING IN IT NOW, HAD STARTED SEVERAL GREEN INITIATIVES, WAY BEFORE SCHEMES LIKE HARITA HARAM AND OTHERS WERE BROUGHT TO THE TABLE**

newspapers, allowed the milk vendors and others only after ensuring they follow the restrictions, sanitisation process, etc. The security guard alone delivers all these to the respective houses. We have two registered vegetable vendors from Raithu Bazaar who follows all the sanitisation process, come to our apartment only on Mondays and Thursday. We have also had the GHMC spray disinfectant in and around our colony twice until now." Kalpana Ramesh, better known as the 'Water lady' of Hyderabad and an environmentalist, is all praises for the community at Gautami Enclave. "They have been a model community in the city. At a time when most people don't care or even know where their water pipes are, how much leakage happens, how much water is actually used, the residents of this community have made significant and intentional efforts toward green living. Their Rain Water Harvesting project is laudable and shows how much change a community can make. Imagine the whole city being able to conserve water so well, we wouldn't have to worry about hot summers anymore," she says. Other methods that residents at Gautami Enclave follow include having e-waste bins and waste segregation, a need of the hour. And guess what, the profits of which go to the watchmen who oversee the correct segregation! So here's a model community every other apartment in Hyderabad and elsewhere can replicate.

## A lockdown humanity hero

**T**he number of Coronavirus positive cases have been rising steadily, despite the lockdown. During times such as these, several individuals have been doing their best to help the poor and needy, restoring people's faith in humanity. Financial consultant Kandamur Janaki Ram Sarma of Hyderabad, a professional whose clientele include Allu Entertainment LLP and Geetha Arts of Allu Aravind, Maxivision Eye Hospital of Dr. Kasu Prasad Reddy, Cinematica Digital Pvt. Ltd., Karvy Data Management Services Ltd., and many other corporates and HNI's, is one of those Good Samaritans who was moved to see migrant workers, beggars, and others wake up and sleep with hunger during the initial phase of the nationwide lockdown. Many poor were sleeping without food for dinner and waking up hungry during the initial phase of the lockdown. The service-minded, 61-year-old resident of the Armed Forces Officer's Cooperative Housing Society (AFOCHS) in Sainikpuri, couldn't venture out on his own as he was forced to stay indoors due to some health precautions. "I suffered a heart attack some time ago. And I didn't want to risk my



health during the outbreak. So I chose to support financially," he shares. The very thought of imagining people going to sleep hungry disturbed him. "I know the pain of hunger myself," he added. When he got to know about Project Bun, an initiative of Freemasons of Telangana, to provide 'Bun and Banana' so it could become a wholesome breakfast. Janaki Ram, a service-

minded person from his early childhood, has contributed Rs. 1,71,000 to the 'Project Bun' at different intervals between April 17 to May 20, besides many other charities like hosting Iftar for over 400 students of a Madrasa during this Ramadan. "Charity for me is spreading love through selfless service. I can't bear the sufferings of people. I don't mind sacrificing my comforts. Even if I have to take a loan to support a good cause, I don't mind. It gives me immense satisfaction," Janaki Ram Sarma explains. "Doing social service gives me the strength of a lion. It gives me a feel-good factor. I have total support from my family-spouse Shailaja, mother, son, and daughter," he informs. This is not Janaki Ram's first service to society. He had once provided a bus to a school of Imam-E-Zamana Mission, funded a bright student from the lower rungs of the society who wanted to pursue his overseas education, built a house for a poor family, etc. Being a financial consultant for over 30 years, he shares some of his financial wisdom. "The secret to personal money management is learning to be content. Spend less than you earn and you will be happy," he says.



## RAFTAAR & KRSNA SURPRISE FANS WITH 'CHAUKANNA'

**B**ollywood's cult singer and rapper Dilin Nair, aka Raftaar, has made the most of the lockdown period along with Krishna Kaul, better known by his stage name Krsna. The popular singer's new release titled *Chaukanna* featuring television heartthrob Karan Wahi for Rinku Rajgaru's latest *Hundred*, is topping the charts. With the entire nation under lockdown, these artists have been making use of virtual media in unimaginable ways. The song is inspired by the leading women of the show. It's a peppy number that perfectly navigates between the two contrasting personalities of Saumya (Lara Dutta) narrated by Raftaar and Netra (Rinku Rajguru) rapped by Krsna who, bring alive the perspective of character Mad-E (Karan Wahi) from the show. The rapping sensation Raftaar shared the first look on his social media handle. Talking about his new song, Raftaar says, "The inspiration for the song came from the dysfunctional jodi of Hundred. So, when a chance to create something *hatke* popped up, we got pretty pumped. *Chaukanna* is a peppy number with an effortless hummable tune. We hope it brings some sunshine in these gloomy times. Working with Krsna and Karan was effortless, and I can't believe we managed to pull this off virtually." Speaking more about the launch, Krsna adds, "Both Raftaar and I, wanted to champion a character from the show and create a song that everyone would enjoy. Actor Karan Wahi, who was last seen as the leading man in the blockbuster movie *Hate Story 4*, is excited about featuring in the song. "When people listen to this song, we want them to get into the vibe of it and dance their hearts out — that's where the real fun lies," he says.

## AVOID THE URGE OF YOUR EARLY MORNING SMOKE

**S**moking Is Injurious to Health. This is what we know and is written in every cigarette packet. Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in most countries across the world. Cigarette smoking damages nearly every organ in the body which includes lungs, heart, blood vessels, reproductive system, mouth, skin, eyes, and bones. The risk of developing lung cancer and head and neck cancer in those who smoke early in the morning is greater than those who smoke late in the day. Studies show that smoking within 30 min increases the cancer risk by 1.79 times which is more than one who smokes 60 mins after getting up from bed. So, now the question arises how to quit smoking as there are possibilities of physical and psychological cravings.

Physical cravings are your body's reaction towards nicotine withdrawal. Psychological cravings are triggered by events in your life by lighting up cigarette when you got to washroom, driving, socialising etc. These cravings last for few minutes say 5-10 minutes these cravings come off strongly and the rule of thumb is to deal with these cravings as they come one by one. Simply shift gears and do different at the moment. By doing this, you can divert your thought process and prevent physical and

psy-  
cho-  
logical  
dependence

**Dr Jayanta Thakuria, Sr. Consultant-Internal Medicine, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Faridabad shares few tips to divert your thoughts:**

Go for early morning walk and do meditation: It could be an early morning walk in the park or walk in a balcony or corridor if you are at home for at-least 5-10 min. You can also practice deep breathing exercises and do meditation to get rid of all the cravings

Call a Friend: Once you wake up early in the morning, call a friend and talk to him/her

for say 10-15 mins. This will help to divert your thoughts or urge to smoke.

Avoid smoking triggers: Throw away lighters and ash trays or any fancy things related to smoking. Drink plenty of water. Spend time with non-smoking friends. Think about your morning routine when and where you smoke, then change your morning schedule and avoid those triggers like reading newspapers, gardening etc. Change your driving route: If driving is related to your smoking, change the route. If you see someone smoking at the traffic signal, then switch on the music system and try to sing. Try to distract yourself as much as possible.

Change your meal routine: If your smoking habits are kind of related to some certain foods or snacks, change your meal routine. Always try to have a healthy meal and drink plenty of water to wash out toxins from your body.

Get an in-line support: If you are finding difficulty to quit smoking in your early days of quitting, get an online support group. Reading other people's stories about quitting smoking may motivate you to get rid of nicotine dependency.

Remain focussed on your goal: Make it a point to quit smoking and reaffirm your reasons of quitting. Stick to your goal and celebrate your victory over cessation of smoking

Last but not the least, take support from your family or your friends. Share your thoughts of quitting smoking and take their help to create a better version of yourself.



## Now, WEDDING solutions at your door

**H**ow does Unlock phase 1 work when we talk about weddings? Thousands of couples who have had to delay their nuptials due to the nationwide lockdown since March, are eagerly awaiting to tie knot. Seeking to help these couples BharatMatrimony recently launched a platform "HomeWeddings", helps to organise weddings at customers' homes for 50 guests, while following all lockdown rules and regulations laid down by the central and respective state governments. The platform on MatrimonyBazaar, provides the entire range of Covid-Safe wedding services right from catering to makeup including purohitis at your doorstep. The service can be availed by not just BharatMatrimony members but also non members.

Elaborating on the "HomeWeddings" concept, Venkataramani Suresh — Chief Business Officer — Marriage Services at Matrimony.com, explained, "The idea emerged from numerous discussions we had with couples who have finalised a match but are not able to get married due to the lockdown. We are offering our expert help to identify COVID 19-ready service providers free of cost. This is also an opportunity for service providers to connect with customers during these hard times. Through this we are also helping many MSMEs and SMEs in this industry who have been affected by the pandemic. Based on customer feedback, over 100 weddings per month will be organised through "Matrimony Bazaar's HomeWeddings."

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SERVICE INCLUDE:

**Service for Wedding at Your Home**  
The company's wedding experts will assist customers in finding the best caterers, makeup artists, decorators, purohitis and more! Customers don't have to step out. They can just stay in the comfort of their home and plan the entire wedding.

**COVID-safe hygiene protocols**  
The service providers on the platform are on the AarogyaSetu App. They follow COVID-safe measures like using alcohol-based sanitizers, face masks, shields, and gloves. Mandatory temperature checks are done by service providers for all the staff before every wedding event.

**Free Service**  
The service is free of cost!

It only serves as the bridge between customers and the service providers. The users will only pay the service providers for services availed.

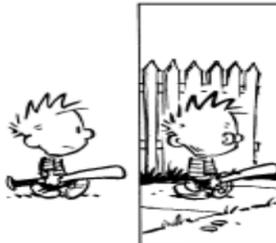
**Help from Wedding Experts**  
The company's wedding planning experts will understand customer requirements and help them find the service providers, including Pandits, Caterers, Decorators, Makeup artists and Photographers so that the wedding is arranged with adherence to the government regulations. Based on their preferences, customers will get quotes from the best COVID-safe wedding service providers near their location. Customers can finalise and book the wedding service providers that fit the budget and requirements. Stay home, stay safe and organise a wedding with family and friends!

### FUN

#### ARCHIE



#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



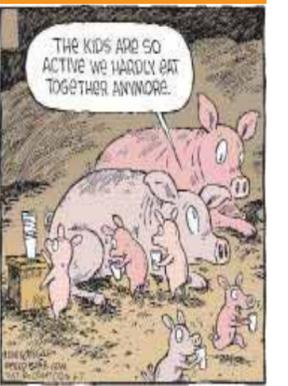
#### GARFIELD



#### REALITY CHECK



#### SPEED BUMP



#### CROSSWORD



#### NANCY



#### GINGER MEGGS



#### SUDOKU

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

**Yesterday's solution**

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

**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

- An eight-legged creature
- Small mark
- Opposite of succeed
- Well-mannered
- Largest
- A stringed instrument
- Floppy
- Uncommon
- An imaginary fire-breathing monster

#### DOWN

- Not in danger
- A frozen drip
- Twosome

#### SOLUTION

U	N	C	E	R	T	A	I	N
A	A	A	M					
V	I	N	E	S	R	E	A	H
I	N	T	O	G	A			
S	A	V	S	S	E	L	E	C
T	I	C	K	E	T			
E	H	A	D	N	E			
O	R	I	E	N	D	E		
N	C	A	I					
C	A	T	H	E	D	R	A	L

“Salman sir designed a small bit of a portion of mine and directed appropriate mannerisms to Prabhudheva sir,” says the Telugu actor Srinu in conversation with NAGARAJ GOUD

# ‘SALMAN SIR IS AN EXTREMELY COOL AND CHILLED OUT ACTOR’



**A**lthough he has filmed only for six days for Bollywood superstar Salman Khan-starrer *Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai*, directed by Prabhudheva, noted Telugu actor Nara Srinu admits to have had a whale of time shooting for it. “I play a role called Pakya who travels with one of the gangsters in the film. My path crosses with that of Salman sir who is on a mission. Most of my scenes in the film are with him. I even shot with Jackie Shroff sir for a small bit. The experience so far has been wonderful to say the least,” Srinu gushes speaking to *The Pioneer*.

Recalling his first day experience with Salman, he shares, “It was for the first

time I was seeing Salman sir on the sets. I was given a big scene and as I was new to the slang of Mumbai, he helped me with it while doing rehearsals. I could perform my sequence in the first take itself. Later, impressed with my skills, Salman sir designed a small bit of a portion of mine and directed appropriate mannerisms to Prabhudheva sir.”

For Srinu, who is making his Hindi debut with *Radhe*, Salman is “an extremely cool and chilled out actor”. “Recently, we’ve shot for an action sequence where he chases me on a bicycle. It was filmed from morning to evening, with Prabhu sir taking a good number of shots. After the shoot, Salman sir came to me and said ‘*Aur ek kareng kya?*’ (Shall we give

another take?) To that I was like, ‘*Nakko sir*’. I will be required for another three days of shooting and I was told that Prabhu sir is including me in a song as well,” the actor points out.

In Telugu, he will be next seen in *Red*, starring Ram. Wrapped up long back, the film was supposed to release in April but Covid-19 outbreak derailed the producer’s plans. “I play a constable who is slightly deaf but he behaves as if he hears everything. The laughter evokes out of it,” he notes, adding that his new assignments include Pawan Kalyan’s next two films — *Vakeel Saab* and an untitled film with Krish.

“I’ve landed an important role in *Krish garu*’s film. I need to sport a distinct look for it,” he concluded.

## KRITI SANON: Miss performing on stage

**A**mid lockdown, Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon says she misses the energy of performing on stage.

Kriti shared a video of herself performing on stage. In the video, she is seen dressed in a black choli paired with a hot-pink lehenga.

Kriti is seen dancing on Aishwarya Rai Bachchan’s popular dance numbers ‘*Kajra re*’ from the film ‘*Bunty Aur Babli*’, which

released in 2005. The song was picturised on Aishwarya, Amitabh Bachchan, and Abhishek Bachchan.

“Miss performing on stage... the energy, the music, the adrenaline, the coordination and the in-between hooting by the super energetic dancers that instantly pumps you up,” Kriti captioned the video.

She confessed her love for dancing as she used hashtags like “#dancingtherapeutic” and “#danceyour-heartout”.

Amid lockdown, Kriti is trying new skills like cooking and baking. Kriti, who was last seen on-screen playing Parvati Bai in ‘*Panipat*’, will next be seen in ‘*Mimi*’, a film revolving around the concept of surrogacy.

The film tells the tale of an aspiring actress who is a dancer in Mandawa and how she ends up being a surrogate for a couple. The film is directed by Laxman Utekar.



## Director Sujeeth to get engaged

**A**fter the lackluster *Saaho*, things seem to be moving great for director Sujeeth both on the professional and personal front. More than a month after bagging an elusive opportunity to direct Megastar Chiranjeevi for *Lucifer* Telugu remake, we have now learnt that he is soon going to enter marital bliss. The girl Pravallika is said to be a dentist by profession. Besides exploring film writing, she is also a famous name on TikTok platform, according to reports.

It is understood that Sujeeth and Pravallika know each other for a long time and decided to take their relationship to the next level with their parents consent. They considered getting engaged early this month but with the government extending lockdown to this month-end, they’ve decided to have formal engagement ceremony on June 10, following Covid-19 guidelines and keeping the guest count under 50.

Sujeeth, who has gone incommunicado with media after *Saaho*, failed to respond to our requests for a comment.

## Sonali Bendre: I am not my child’s friend

**A**ctress Sonali Bendre prefers to be a friendly parent than being a friend to her 14-year-old son.

“I am not my child’s friend and don’t think I need to be. I am his parent and why can’t I be a friendly parent and have a great time together. There are certain things he will speak with his father, with his aunts, with his friends, with his grandparents, there needs to be an outlet for healthy relationships,” she said.

“I tell my kid ‘you know technology more than I do, but however grown-up you might be, your brain is not fully formed and might not be able to process the emotional part of it’, and that’s where parents come in. It’s an investment in communication and it always pays off,” she added.

Further talking about her relationship with her son, Sonali said, “I have never lied to my kid, I might dress up the truth

but have never lied. If I expect my child to be truthful, I need to be true to him. Only reason why you don’t want to be completely truthful is

**SHE SAYS, “I’VE NEVER LIED TO MY KID, I MIGHT DRESS UP THE TRUTH BUT HAVE NEVER LIED. IF I EXPECT MY CHILD TO BE TRUTHFUL, I NEED TO BE TRUE TO HIM.”**

because when they are young they will analyse it and comprehend it in a manner and you don’t want it to be ‘so big’ that the child will be scarred. So to make it a bit lighter you give them a version of truth.”

She opened up about her son during an episode of the JioSaavn podcast *Raising Parents*.



## Nani is hopeful about June

**T**elugu star Nani in a new post on social media seems hopeful about June.

Nani took to Instagram, where he shared a selfie. In the image, he cuts a smiling, dapper frame in a white T-shirt and jacket paired with a baseball cap.

He wrote: “June” with finger crossed emoji.

Nani had recently shared a throwback photograph on Instagram, taken from an old camera and said that nothing matches the old world charm.

The black and white picture was taken from an old Minolta SRT 101.

Nani made his debut in 2008 with the hit film *Ashta Chamma*. He was then seen in films like *Ride*, *Bheemili Kabaddi Jattu*, *Ala Modalaindi*, *Pilla Zamindar*, *Eega*, *Yeto Vellipoyindhi Manasu*, *Yevade Subramanyam*, *Bhale Bhale Magadivoy*, *Middle Class Abbayi* and *Jersey*.

*Eega* became an all-India hit when it was released in Hindi as *Makkhi*.

In 2018, Nani hosted *Bigg Boss Telugu 2*. He currently awaits the release of his next *V*, an action thriller film directed by Mohan Krishna Indraganti.

The film also stars Sudheer Babu, Nivetha Thomas, and Aditi Rao Hydari.



## LOSER DIRECTOR IS ON CLOUD NINE

**D**irector Abhilash Reddy is elated with the response his second show, *Loser*, fronted by Priyadarshi Pulikonda, has garnered and is continuing to do so. General viewers’ aside, industry too has showered praise on it. The likes of Indraganti Mohana Krishna, Maruthi, Adivi Sesh, Kalyani Malik and Raghu Kunche spoke about it highly on their

social media pages. “Vamshi Paidipally *garu* too had good words to say about it to Shashank (who played first bowler Wilson in the show). I will be meeting the director next week,” Reddy informs, adding the show has also helped *Zee5 app* to add two lakh more subscribers within 10 days of it dropping on the streaming app.

Reddy is firm in his resolve to make his next as a feature film. “I’m in talks with multiple producers

but nothing is finalized. I have actors but I need a good production house to back it up. Also, I believe in a strong story and the success of *Loser* has only helped me to understand its importance further. As far as shows are concerned, I want to associate with the writing part so that some other youngster or my friends can direct them. I write regularly, so it shouldn’t be a problem to generate new content,” he states. — NG



# 3 WI players refuse to tour Eng

## Hetmyer, Keemo and Darren Bravo will not participate in three-match Test series as Caribbean squad also include 11 reserves



West Indies batsman Shimron Hetmyer and all-rounder Keemo Paul

PTI ■ ST JOHN'S

Three West Indies players – Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer and Keemo Paul – on Wednesday refused to tour England for next month's proposed three-match Test series, which will be conducted in a bio-secure environment to combat Covid-19 threat. Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced a 14-man squad for the

series, which is expected to mark resumption of international cricket if it gets the final approval from the UK Government. "Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer and Keemo Paul all declined the invitation to travel to England for the tour and CWI fully respects their decision to choose to do so," Cricket West Indies said in a statement. "As previously stated, CWI will

not hold this decision against these players when considering future selection," it added.

The specific reasons for their withdrawal were not given by CWI. The West Indies squad will live, train and play in a "bio-secure" environment during the seven weeks of the tour, as part of the "comprehensive" medical and operations plans to ensure player and staff safety. "The bio-secure protocols will restrict movement in and out of the venues, so the selection panel has also named a list of reserve players who will travel to train and help prepare the Test squad and ensure replacements are available in case of any injury," said CWI.

The touring party, which will be tested for Covid-19 this week, is scheduled to fly to England on a chartered flight on June 8.

The two newcomers to the Test squad are middle-order batsman Nkrumah Bonner and fast bowler Chemar Holder.

The 22-year-old Holder, who is not related to West Indies captain Jason Holder, was the leading fast bowler in the national championship with 36 wickets in eight matches at 18.91 each, and was part of the ICC Under-19 World Cup winning side in 2016.

Bonner, 31, is in line to make his Test debut after being one of the leading batsmen in the 2020 West Indies Championship with 523 runs in seven matches at an average of 58.11.

"The new cricketing environment will take some getting used to

However, being in England and working together for four weeks before the first Test will give the squad the opportunity to get acclimatized and hopefully, mentally and technically adjusted to the demands of the new environment," said lead selector Roger Harper.

"Playing in July could be a blessing as the weather is likely to be warmer which will allow the squad more of an opportunity to play its best cricket."

### THE SQUAD

Jason Holder, K Brathwaite, Shai Hope, Shane Dowrich, Roston Chase, Shemar Brooks, Rakheem Cornwall, Nkrumah Bonner, Alzarri Joseph, Chemar Holder, John Campbell, Raymon Reifer, Kemar Roach, J Blackwood.

Reserves: Sunil Ambris, Joshua Da Silva, S Gabriel, Keon Harding, Kyle Mayers, Preston McSweeney, M Mindley, Shane Moseley, Anderson Phillip, O Thomas, Jomel Warrican.

## Root backs Stokes for interim captaincy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

England skipper Joe Root might have to skip the opening Test against West Indies if it coincides with the impending birth of his second child with vice-captain Ben Stokes taking over the mantle.

In fact, Root has backed Stokes, whom he believes will be a "fantastic captain".

"I think if Ben was captain he would be fantastic. One of his great qualities as vice-captain and as a leader is that he sets the example, the way he goes about his training, how he wants to bowl in difficult circumstances, the way he stands up in different scenarios with the bat," Root said.

"He drags people with him and gets the best out of the players around him. I think that's a great quality to have as a leader and something he can take into captaincy if he was to get the opportunity. I could see him doing a very good job."

Root said Stokes can be a huge success not only in short term but even if he is given the job for long term.

"People will always look up to him and want to play for him, whether captain or not. But especially as captain he'll have people wanting to play for him and short-term he'd be a huge success. Until you get the opportunity to do it longer, you just never know, it might be a huge success. I wouldn't put it past him," he said.



## Learnt about handling difficult situations from Kohli: Kuldeep

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

He is Virat Kohli's go-to-man in limited-overs cricket when the team needs a wicket. While the modern era has seen batsmen take spinners to the cleaners in the shorter formats of the game, left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav rarely fails to answer his skippers call. Interestingly, Kuldeep says he has learnt a lot about handling pressure situations from the skipper.

Speaking about how does he handle the role of a wicket-taker when batsmen are known to take on the spinners and runs are bound to be leaked? The 25-year-old Kuldeep says that the confidence the skipper shows in him is vital and also that he takes a leaf or two out of Kohli's book when it comes to handling pressure.

"If your captain believes in you, giving your best on the field becomes easy. From Virat, we learn a lot of things like how to manage difficult situations. He never fails to motivate young players. I remember when I was new in the team he backed me a lot. In fact, now also, he is always there for me. He always appreciates your skills and we have a great tuning together. The best quality of Virat is that he also understands the team and its player's well which makes our job easy on field," he pointed.

## Teams need to be careful about injury management: Pathan

MUMBAI: Former pacer Irfan Pathan believes the Indian team management will have to focus on the bowlers and be "extremely careful" with regard to injury management once the players hit the ground after the coronavirus-forced hiatus.

Players in India haven't been able to practise since March 25 due to the country-wide lockdown. It was pacer Shardul Thakur who became the first Indian team member to resume training after he bowled in the nets in

Palghar last month.

Pathan feels that any team, including an IPL one, will have to be careful with the bowlers, who would be more prone to injury having been out of action for more than two months.

"Injury management is the most important thing. We will have to focus on all the bowlers," Pathan, who has played 29 Tests and 120 ODIs for India, said on Star Sports show *Cricket Connected*.

The ICC also recently came up with specific

guidelines for bowlers, suggesting that teams would need to exercise caution over bowlers' workloads to avoid a serious injury like stress fracture of the spine as players get ready to resume training.

"In a squad of 15, every team has 4 to 6 bowlers. Be it an IPL team, Indian team or any international or domestic team, we will have to be extremely careful about injury management as our boys have been out of action for a while," he said. PTI

## 'Play around pitch to maintain balance b/w bat & ball'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Spin great and ICC Cricket Committee chairman Anil Kumble on Wednesday reiterated the panel's reluctance to allow use of artificial substances on the ball despite the saliva ban, saying the balance between bat and ball can be maintained by "playing around" with the pitches.

"So in cricket you have the surface that you can play around with and bring about a balance between the bat and ball," said Kumble at a FICCI webinar.

The bowlers will miss using saliva the most in Test cricket as it aids them in generating both conventional and reverse swing. "You can still probably leave grass on the surface or even have two spinners, let's get spinners back in the game in a Test, because one day game or a T20 you are not really worried about shining the ball. It's Test match that we are talking about," said the former India captain.



"And in a Test match why not get two spinners to play in Australia, two in England, which doesn't happen often."

Like he had said right after recommending saliva ban as an interim measure, Kumble reiterated that allowing use of artificial substances would have taken the creativity out of the game.

"We've been very strict about substances that have been used on the ball. That was

something that we felt, the creativity was something that we should not (tinker with)," he said.

Kumble, however, admitted that it would be hard for players to adjust to not using saliva.

"Although it is second nature in cricket, and that's something that players will find it hard to manage. And that's why I believe that at training, they'd like to start slowly because

it's not just about coming back and playing cricket in a match," he said.

"It's also about coming back from two and a half months of being locked up... And especially if you're a bowler, you need to have those bowling overs under your belt before you start competing."

"So, it's important that you slowly and gradually come back into sort of normalcy that you can and the advantage that cricket has over other sports is that there's an element of adjustable variance in the pitch, which not many sports have," he added.

Kumble said the committee's recommendations focused on resumption of cricket at the earliest. "...I know there's been a lot of debate about shining the ball but the idea was to kickstart cricket, play the sport, and then I'm sure things will fall in place. Yes, there will be some challenges. You have to go one game at a time."

**PRANNOY HS**  
@PRANNOYHSPIRI

If you ever want your name in the Awards list, make sure you have people who will get your name to the list. Performance is least considered in our country. Sad state of our county but can't help it. Let go and just play until you can. #arjunaawards

6:12 pm · 17 Aug 19

#arjunaawards Same old story. Guy who has Medals in Cwg and Asian Championships not even recommended by Association. And guy who was not there on any of these major events recommended #waah #thiscountryisajoke

9:28 pm · 02 Jun 20

Livid at not being nominated for the Arjuna award for the second consecutive year, Indian shuttler H S Prannoy took to Twitter to express his displeasure over Badminton Association of India decision

## Afghanistan training camp likely in Kabul

KABUL: Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Wednesday held discussions with skipper Asghar Afghan and head coach Lance Klusener to discuss the possible resumption of cricket in the country.

The ACB is looking to host a training camp later this month in Kabul and stated they will be following all necessary Government and World Health Organisation protocols.

"ACB leadership held a video conference with Head Coach Lance Klusener, Chief Selector Andy Moles, Skipper Asghar Afghan and some ACB officials as they discussed the training camp in June which shall be held in Kabul as per guidelines by WHO and Ministry of Public Health," the Board tweeted.

## Son enjoyed 'tough' military service

LONDON: Tottenham forward Son Heung-min says he enjoyed the "tough" challenge of his three-week spell doing military service in South Korea.

Son completed his mandatory training last month while Spurs waited for the Premier League season to resume. "It was a good experience," he told *Spurs TV*. "I couldn't say everything that

I've done but I really enjoyed it. The three weeks were tough but I tried to enjoy it."

He added: "The first day, we don't know each other so it's a bit weird but soon we got to know each other. We spent every day together in one room, 10 people. We were very close, working

together, we helped each other so the time was fantastic."

Son was out injured for the final weeks before the League was suspended and cannot wait to get going when the season restarts.

"I'm physically fine, I'm working really, really hard to be at my maximum level and it's nearly there," he said. "Everyone is back, everyone is in good shape. Everyone wants to play again and everyone is motivated," he added. AFP



## Germany won't punish players for Floyd protests

FRANKFURT: The German football federation will not punish players who protest against the killing of George Floyd and racism.

Several players in Germany have made statements with gestures or messages on their clothing since Floyd died on May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee for several minutes on his neck.

The federation, known as the DFB, on Wednesday said it opposed punishing any players because it believes their anti-racism messages match the federation's own principles.

"The DFB has made a strong stand against any form of racism, discrimination or violence and stands for tolerance, openness and diversity, values which are also anchored in the DFB's statutes," federation president Fritz Keller said in a statement.

"Therefore the players' actions have our respect and our understanding."

The statement named four players who protested during last weekend's games — Achraf Hakimi, Jadon Sancho, Weston McKennie and Marcus Thuram — but made clear the same approach would apply to any future protests.

Germany's approach has the backing of FIFA. The governing body of world football said on Tuesday that such demonstrations "deserve an applause and not a punishment." AFP

## Fitness level has dipped a bit: Neeraj

NEW DELHI: There is a stark difference between what ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is used to while training and what he is doing now.

However, he is just happy to be back outside even though for now it is without a javelin, an equipment that he has gained mastery over in his career but one that he could not do much with during the last two months.

"It was certainly a matter of great happiness," Neeraj said when asked about how he felt when he got the news of the resumption of outdoor training. "This is the reason why we are here at the camp, to train. So when that was not an option there was not much to do. For now we are looking to get back to the way we used to train before all this."

"It's not good for an athlete to be away from training for



too long. For the past two months I was doing some exercise to maintain core fitness but couldn't really do anything holding a javelin. Now hopefully we can slowly get back to our routine."

The 22-year-old is one of several elite athletes who were holed up in the hostels of the

National Institute of Sport (NIS) in Patiala throughout the time that the lockdown had been imposed.

Outdoor training for athletes at NIS started on Monday but they are yet to be allowed to use their equipment. Neeraj however is not too bothered by that as he has to rebuild strength before going full steam.

"(Training) starts around 6.30am and for now we are not spending more than two hours. Slowly we will increase the intensity," he said.

"My fitness levels have dipped a bit in these last two months. I have to get my elbow and shoulders back to full strength again and then only will I get back to the heavy training I used to do before."

"The coaches haven't really taken a measure of exactly how much difference has come

in the body. Maybe there could be a fitness test taken some time in the future but I don't really know when. My weight has not really changed much it's just a few crucial muscles that need strengthening."

AFI had said last month that it is looking to resume the domestic calendar in September and Prez Adille Sumariwalla has made it clear that no foreign training camps will be held for any athlete this year. Neeraj said that with no competitions in the horizons, there is no rush to get back to training with full intensity.

"The thing is there are no competitions happening in the near future so we don't need to rush with anything. This year at least until November there won't be anything. There is no scope of going outside of course, for any training or competitions," he said. IANS

## Advantage for Real, Barca when La Liga restarts

NEW DELHI: Former England star Steve McManaman feels that big clubs like Real Madrid and Barcelona, which feature top players and have big squads, will do better than others when the La Liga restarts next week behind closed doors amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lionel Messi's Barcelona and Real Madrid are at first and second position respectively in the 20-team standings after 27 matches each with two points separating them.

"The schedule is tight with just 5-6 weeks and so the teams with quality players and big squads, which have better player back-ups, will do better. Barcelona and Real Madrid have these and it is a very close race between the two at the top," McManaman said during virtual press conference.



McManaman also said that the three months break due to the Covid-19 pandemic has also given time to some top players in Barcelona and Real Madrid to recover from their injuries.

"Those injured (in Barcelona and Real Madrid) are back. Everybody seemed to be fit and so they will benefit from the three months of break. I hope Real Madrid win the La Liga," said the former

England midfielder, who won 37 international caps between 1994 and 2001.

While former Spain and Barcelona midfielder Luis Garcia, said the players should avoid getting injured in the initial matches.

"The players had three months without playing and so they should not get injured in the first couple of matches. But the most important thing is their safety," he said. PTI