

**ANALYSIS 7**  
GIVE BACK TO  
"CITY MAKERS"

**MONEY 8**  
SBI REPORTS FOUR-FOLD  
JUMP IN Q4 PROFIT

**SPORTS 12**  
LIVERPOOL COULD  
WIN TITLE AT ANFIELD

HYDERABAD, SATURDAY JUNE 6, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer



VIJAY HELPS OVER  
17K FAMILIES  
THROUGH HIS  
MIDDLE CLASS FUND

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## LORD BALAJI TEMPLE TO REOPEN FOR PUBLIC DARSHAN FROM JUNE 11

## MINISTER KTR RESPONDS TO MEERA CHOPRA'S CRY FOR HELP

## CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMS ON OCTOBER 4, ANNOUNCES UPSC

## NO NEW GOVT SCHEMES FOR A YEAR CENTRE CUTS BACK AMID COVID CRISIS

The famous hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara at nearby Tirumala will reopen for devotees from June 11 but with very limited numbers per day, more than 80 days after public darshan was stopped due to coronavirus pandemic, top temple officials said on Friday. Only 6,000 devotees per day as against the normal rush over 60,000 would be allowed entry and COVID-19 precautionary measures, including six feet distance between each other and wearing of face mask, would be strictly followed, officials of the TTD said. The ban on entry of devotees, enforced on March 20, was being lifted from June 11 and less than 500 people per hour would be permitted entry for 13 hours from dawn to dusk every day, they said.

Belagued Bollywood actress Meera Chopra turned in desperation to Telangana minister KT Rama Rao, and he didn't disappoint. For the past few days, the actress, who has worked in the Telugu film industry, has been facing trouble from irate fans of popular Telugu film star NTR or Jr. NTR. Responding to a tweet for help from Meera Chopra earlier on Friday, KTR, tweeted back: "Ma'm, I have requested @TelanganaDGP and @CPHydCity to take stern action as per law based on your complaint." The Bollywood actress, who has worked in the local film industry, has been at the receiving end from fans of Telugu film star NTR, who hails from the NTR clan.

The civil services preliminary examination 2020, postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, will be held on October 4, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced on Friday. It also said the personality test of the candidates selected through the last year's civil services preliminary and mains will resume from July 20. This year's preliminary test was earlier scheduled to be held on May 31, but was deferred due to the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus. Personnel Minister Jitendra Singh told PTI that the announcement of fresh date for the civil services exam would allay apprehensions in some quarters of it being cancelled.

No new government schemes will start for a year, the Finance Ministry said today, in a move to tighten spending amid rising coronavirus cases. All ministries have been told to stop sending requests for new schemes to the finance ministry. Spending will only be allowed in the PM Garib Kalyan Package and the announcements made under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package recently. "It may be appreciated that in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an unprecedented demand on public financial resources and a need to use resources prudently," a finance ministry note said.



Keeping the environment clean after Coronavirus passes

2

# Power charges hike in July

ERC declines extension of deadline for discoms to file ARRs

L VENKAT RAM REDDY  
HYDERABAD

In what appears to be a fait accompli, the Telangana State government is set to increase power charges from July.

The TS Electricity Regulatory Commission (TSERC) has declined any further extension of deadline for the two TS Discoms (TSSPDCL and TSNPDCL) to file the respective Aggregate Revenue Requirements (ARRs), along with proposals for revision of power charges.

The original deadline to file ARRs was November 30, 2019. However, the discoms secured multiple extensions till February 29, 2020 ostensibly because the Chief Minister did not give approval to hike power charges.

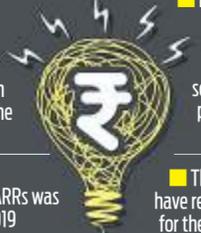
Now, with TSERC rejecting any more extensions, the discoms need to file ARRs, along with proposals seeking revision of power tariffs, this month. The government too is not left with any option, but to approve hike in power charges from July.

TS Electricity Regulatory Commission has declined any further extension of deadline for the two TS Discoms

Now, the discoms need to file ARRs, along with proposals seeking revision of power tariffs, this month

The original deadline to file ARRs was November 30, 2019

The power charges have remain unchanged for the past three years



## Power bills giving shock to consumers

HYDERABAD: Issue of stray, inflated power bills due to machine errors is passe. The entire system has now worsened so much that, after two months of suspended meter reading due to Covid-19, many people have started getting bills that run into several thousand rupees, delivering high-voltage shock. This shock is delivered even to those consumers whose houses were shut for practically the whole of the lockdown period and to those who happen to be staying in houses in which previous tenants had consumed more power.

The power charges have remain unchanged for the past three years. After the Telangana Rashtra Samiti government came to power in June 2014, it hiked power charges only once -- in 2016.



Govt only manufacturing jumlas and slogans: Cong

5

## Places of worship in the state set to reopen from June 8

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Endowments A Indrakiran Reddy on Friday reviewed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that would have to be in place by June 8, when shrines are set to reopen after the two-month-long lockdown, allowing darshan for devotees. All arrangements are being made to allow people to go to temples from June 8, except in containment zones, the minister added.

The Minister suggested forming queues with scope for observing physical distance, spraying of chemicals on shrine



All arrangements are being made to allow people to go to temples from June 8, except in containment zones said Minister Indrakiran

premise, and making available sanitisers at entrances. He appealed to devotees to wear masks and observe physical distance while going to shrines. Thermal screening of devotees will be done. Special stands equipped with sanitisers would be put up in temples. Devotees are not allowed to take bath in temple ponds.



Kiran Shaw named EY World Entrepreneur

8

## TODAY

**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Jyeshtha & Shukla Paksha Panchangam  
Tithi: Pralipada: 10:32 pm  
Nakshatram: Jyeshtha: 03:12 pm  
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)  
Rahukalam: 08:59 am - 10:37 am  
Yamagadam: 01:52 pm - 03:29 pm  
Varyyam: 10:51 pm - 12:23 am, 01:42 pm - 03:12 pm  
Gulika: 05:44 am - 07:22 am  
Good Time: (to start any important work)  
Amritakalam: 06:57 am - 08:27 am  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 am - 12:40 pm

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Partly cloudy  
Temp: 36/26  
Humidity: 47%  
Sunrise: 05:40  
Sunset: 06:48  
Current Weather Conditions Updated June 5, 2020 5:00 PM



## 48 km roads restored since lockdown in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has carried out repairs to 48 km of roads in Corporation limits from the time the Corona-induced lockdown was implemented spending Rs 22 crore.

This is apart from the maintenance works of 709 km of main roads taken up by agencies under the CRMP.

In 2019, as many as 1,968 works were taken up, including 928 km of road restoration works, at a cost of Rs 596 crore by the civic body. GHMC is gearing up for the monsoon by taking up de-silting of storm

water drains to ensure free flow of drains and nalas and prevent flooding of low-lying areas and inundation of roads that invariably lead to traffic jams soon after it rains in the city limits.

GHMC has taken up construction of injection bore wells at 44 major water stagnation points after obtaining feasibility report from JNTU as a mitigation measure to avoid water logging as well as improving the groundwater table.

Monsoon emergency teams are formed for attending the issues like inundation of low-lying areas, clearing of major water stagnations etc.

## India is now sixth worst hit by Covid

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With a jump of 70,000 Covid-19 infections in the past one week, including the 9,000+ reported at the time of filing of this report, India became the worst-hit nation in terms of overall case count, after the US, Brazil, Russia, the UK and Spain, overtaking Italy.

Going by the number of cases reported over the last week, it is poised to overtake Spain on Saturday.

## Now, land pooling to benefit owners

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Government on Friday took a policy decision with regard to execution of various land pooling projects by the HMDA, revising the ratio of share of the land owner to that of the HMDA and execute projects will enjoy full security and more benefits.

The HMDA will take care of the responsibility of obtaining

The state government introduced crucial changes in the land pooling rules. According to a GO No 83 issued by Arvind Kumar, Municipal Administration Principal Secretary, those who come forward to land pool land with the HMDA and execute projects will enjoy full security and more benefits.



The HMDA will take care of the responsibility of obtaining

all kinds of permissions for the project for which the land is pooled without causing financial problems for the landowners.

The HMDA would also bear the Nala charges as well as the land use conversion charges. It will also bear the cost of registration of the land.

Once the HMDA layout draft has been approved, house sites would be allotted to landowners which they can sell according as per their choice.

The HMDA is implementing the land pooling projects in 500 acres.

## MLC berths likely for Nayini, Karne

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

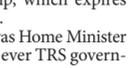
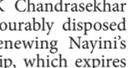
Former minister and TRS senior leader Nayini Narasimha Reddy and government whip Karne Prabhakar are likely to get MLC berths, while many party seniors are in the race for the third seat in the Legislative Council under the Governor's quota.

The State Cabinet has to recommend candidates to be appointed under the Governor's quota.

TRS leaders say that a decision is likely to be taken at the next meeting of the Cabinet.

As things stand, Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu is favourably disposed towards renewing Nayini's membership, which expires on June 19.

Nayini was Home Minister in the first-ever TRS government in the state.



## NO ONE TO SAY GOOD BYE!



Health workers carry the body of a man who died due to coronavirus on a make-shift trolley at a crematorium in New Delhi

## TS sees highest single-day jump in Covid-19 deaths

8 succumb to infection in 24 hrs ■ 143 more test positive

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State on Friday recorded its highest single-day spike in deaths due to Covid-19, with eight people succumbing to the virus. With this, the death toll due to Coronavirus in the state has gone up to 113. The deaths on Friday are predominantly from Hyderabad area.

Two patients referred by a private hospital to Gandhi Hospital succumbed to the virus. A 72-year-old male patient from Begum Bazar was brought dead from Care Hospital, Banjara Hills and he tested positive for corona virus. Another 57-year-old female resident of Kacheguda, referred by the hospital, succumbed to the virus. Three patients had Covid-19 apart from severe pneumonia.

2

## TS to increase testing

NAVEENA GHANATE  
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government, having faced brickbats from various sections over its low rate of Covid-19 testing, has finally decided to increase the testing capacity as part of efforts to contain the virus.

Health Minister Eatala Rajender said that in the coming days the number of tests to be conducted will be increased

3

Hospitals are built according to certain guidelines. Government hospitals won't have all single rooms; there will be wards. — EATALA RAJENDER, Health Minister

the state. "To increase the testing capacity, we have got all the support testing machines in all teaching hospitals," he told the media on Friday.

Eatala said, "Hospitals are built according to certain guidelines. Government hospitals won't have all single rooms; there will be wards. Some people are telling 25 people have two toilets in hospital. When all patients are positive, it is a baseless argument to say there was contamination at toilets."

2

## Drop in sale of beer in summer raises eyebrows

D RAMA MOHAN  
HYDERABAD

There has been a marked decrease in beer sales, despite the prioritized opening of liquor shops, scorching heat, and easing of lockdown, going by available figures.

Wine shops were allowed to resume sales on May 6. Since then, the value of sales of liquor and beer as on May 31 was put at Rs 1,864.95 crore, which includes beer component worth Rs 800 crore. On May 6, Rs 72 crore worth



On May 6, Rs 72 crore worth liquor was despatched from liquor depots. As the month ended, the average of sale of liquor was put at Rs 71 crore.

liquor was despatched from liquor depots.

As the month ended, the average of sale of liquor was put at Rs 71 crore. There has been

a noticeable increase in sales in every 10 days subsequently.

On May 16, the total sales of liquor and wine was put at Rs 100 crore. On May 26, liquor

worth Rs 140 crore was despatched to wine shops. It may be noted that the highest sales of liquor were reported on this day in May. On the last day of May, Rs 62 crore worth of liquor was sold.

The sales graph for May indicates that beer guzzlers are no longer as enthusiastic as they were before Covid-19 parched their throats.

Generally speaking, on an average one lakh cases of beer and 1.30 lakh cases of liquor per day are sold across the state.

3

# Keeping the environment clean after Coronavirus passes

The COVID-19 pandemic has had unintended effects - clean Ganga and clean air in Delhi within 30 days!

This 'miracle' was the result of closure of all sources of pollution at the same time. Is it possible to mimic these effects, without cessation of all economic activity?

Typically, problems in policy-making are described as a mismatch between an existing situation and the state as it should be.

Resolving the problem starts with a search for the causes for the mismatch followed by interventions to bridge the gap between the existing and desired situation. Ordinarily, interventions directly act on a few causes to control them. Interventions also generate after-effects. Let us consider the unintended

effects when road capacity is increased to reduce air pollution.

The reasoning is that a wider road (includes flyover) leads to smooth flow of traffic, which, in turn leads to less exhaust gas from automobiles and, thus, reduced air pollution. What is overlooked is the change in driving behaviour of car owners due to enhanced road capacity - wider roads induce people to start making certain trips that they would otherwise avoid during peak traffic times, or using alternative routes to get to work.

Less traffic on roads also attracts people, who were earlier using public transport, to start using their personal vehicles. In the medium-term, the improved road attracts builders to locate commercial activity on it and the increased

**This 'miracle' was the result of closure of all sources of pollution at the same time. Is it possible to mimic these effects, without cessation of all economic activity?**

construction activity adds to air pollution in the short-term. In the long-term, the new commercial activity leads to greater vehicular traffic.

We notice from the above example that the enhancement of road capacity and its counter-effects occur at different levels. Road widening is implemented at the local level (e.g. junction improvements) or at the city-level (e.g. flyovers); however, the induced effects (e.g. which route to take while going to work or market), is an individual or a household decision. Thus,

interventions in built environments at the local/city level have effects on individuals and households. The fact that interventions and their side effects occur at multiple levels (e.g. individual, household, local, city/district, state, national) is often ignored in conventional policy-making. The miracle of the lockdown was due to the simultaneous closure of polluting sources at multiple levels.

If pollution control has to be successful, then policies have to address causal factors operating at multiple levels.



**SAMEER SHARMA, IAS**

One way of doing this is to craft policies that are a blend of bottom-up and top-down initiatives. This is best accomplished by relying on the idea of subsidiarity. The idea of subsidiarity is founded on a process of 'reverse delegation'.

Reverse delegation starts with assigning all projects/programmes to the lowest level (individual/household or locality/ward). Only those, which the lowest level is unable to satisfactorily perform are "delegated" to the next level (e.g. village, city). This process of upward delegation is repeated at the next level and so on. Thus, subsidiarity is a step-wise process of gradually moving up the levels. This approach is a mix of top-down and bottom-up approaches because policy is made at the top, but priority for implementing projects/programmes is given to the lower levels.

It would be interesting to see an example of a project being conceived and implemented at the lower levels. If pollution caused by vehicles has to be controlled and the

starting point is the locality, then the first step would be to divide the local streets into two types of zones -- traffic and social.

In traffic zones, vehicles will enjoy precedence. In social zones, pedestrian movements, children's play and social activities will come before vehicle movement. In the city of Christiansfeld, Denmark social zones were created by removing traffic signals and road markings.

Pedestrians, buses, cars and trucks used eye contact to negotiate the junctions (much like Indian towns). One of the results was reduction in traffic jams. The reduced precedence given to motor vehicles in social zones would reduce pollution as well be aligned to the local context.

The learning from COVID-19 is that it is possible to tack-

le intractable issues connected to the environment. Ideally, this is achieved by closing all pollution generating activities. In reality, however, such a cessation of all activities at a single point of time is not possible. As the causative factors are distributed over several geographical levels, the idea of subsidiarity offers a tantalizing possibility to design and implement multi-level interventions starting from the smallest area (locality to ward to village/city, and so on).

In this way, it is possible to mimic the positive effects of COVID-19 on the environment.

*(Author is a PhD from USA and a DLitt from Kanchi University. The article is based on his research and practice and views are personal)*

## Artificial ripening of mangoes still rampant

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The artificial ripening of fruits using banned chemicals appears to be continuing unabated in Telangana this summer, despite several complaints over the years and the matter repeatedly coming up in the High Court. The usage of certain chemicals for the artificial ripening of fruits, especially mangoes, has become a major concern for citizens and officials alike this summer in Hyderabad.

The traders and commission agents have been allegedly using chemicals to ripen the mangoes artificially and secretly packing them in function halls hired in LB Nagar area and godowns near Koheda to export them to various states. The packaging process is going on rather clandestinely since there is no permission to reopen the markets.

Food safety authorities tested the fruits and found carbide in the artificial ripening of fruits. Consuming such mangoes is harmful, they said. The High Court's order on prohibiting the use of carbide has fallen on deaf ears. The traders are still ripening them using chemical powders. They use Ethalin powder to ripen mangoes in some hours. The powder is imported from China.

Gaddi Annaram agriculture market secretary Venkatesam said that sale of mangoes from



**The Central government has imposed a ban on the use of Calcium Carbide for the artificial ripening of fruits**

lorries was allowed in the market. He ruled out packaging mangoes on the premises of the market. The traders and commission agents have been packing mangoes at LB Nagar and other places that too in function halls secretly. He said that the mangoes should be ripened only as per the food security department rules. If anyone uses chemicals, action is imminent against them, he added. As per the FSSAI guidelines, "The industrial-grade Calcium Carbide, popularly known as 'masala' is often used by unscrupulous traders to release acetylene gas for artificial ripening of fruits like mango, banana, papaya etc. Calcium carbide contains traces of arsenic and phosphorus, which is harmful to humans and may cause dizzi-

ness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting, skin ulcer etc. The acetylene gas released from calcium carbide is equally harmful to handlers. Hence the use of this chemical for ripening of fruits has been banned in India since 2011." The Central government has imposed a ban on the use of Calcium Carbide for the artificial ripening of fruits. This has resulted in a switch by traders to alternatives as ethylene powder, as it is easily available in the local market and is inexpensive.

Use of ethylene, also called 'China powder', for ripening of fruits is illegal. The State government had in a circular prohibited artificial ripening of fruits, as it is dangerous to human life.

## Dengue claims life of IIT student

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A student from IIT Varanasi died of dengue here at a private hospital in Hyderabad. The deceased, Deekshitha, a native of Amarachintha in Wanaparthy district, is pursuing engineering first year in IIT -Varanasi. She secured 241st rank in the IIT-JEE.

## Singareni to review security measures

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) Chairman and MD N Sridhar directed officers to review the existing security measures and enhance them wherever needed at open cast mines under the SCCL. The management took a serious note of the

recent accident where four workers lost their lives in Godavari khani under Ramagundam region-3. The CMD, speaking with General Managers, Directors and advisors of all areas through a video conference from here on Friday, also asked them to start production from all new open cast mines.



**Doctor T Padma passes away at 97**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Famous Gynaecologist Dr T Padma passed away here on Friday. She was 97. Padma was also associated with the CKM Government Maternity Hospital in Warangal. She became a household name in Warangal for treating infertility cases successfully through oral medicines alone. Medical ethics was at the core of her being. A thorough professional, she was a role model to her innumerable students who are today at the helm of their medical professions. Dr Padma leaves behind her two daughters, granddaughters and great grand children. Chief Minister KChandrashekhar Rao also condoled the death of 97-year-old gynaecologist.

## Places of worship in the state...

Continued from page 1

They are not allowed into the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. Priests would not bless people putting sathagopam on their heads and there would be no distribution of prasad in the temple. However, devotees can buy prasad at outlets near the temples. As far as famous shrines are concerned, people can book online slots. He appealed to people in containment zones not to visit shrines. Those who are aged over 65 years and children below 10 years of age should not visit temples, he said. Endowments Commissioner Anil Kumar and others were present.

## SURPRISE VISITS

# CS lays emphasis on sanitation in villages

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a whirlwind tour, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar on Friday paid surprise visit to two gram panchayats in each of Kamareddy, Sangareddy and Vikarabad district to inspect the progress of works taken up in villages under Palle Pragathi programme. Panchayat Raj Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Panchayat Raj Commissioner Raghunandan Rao accompanied the Chief Secretary on his tour.

Acting on the directions of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, the Chief Secretary visited the villages to inspect the development works. Addressing gatherings in this connection, Somesh Kumar termed Palle Pragathi as the brainchild of the Chief Minister. In spite of shortage of funds due to Covid-19, the



Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar inspects a nursery in Sangareddy on Thursday

state government has been releasing Rs 308 crore every month to panchayats.

The Chief Secretary kicked off his tour first visiting Tirmanpalli in Sadasivpet mandal of Kamareddy district. Later, he visited Tirgul village of the same district. He inspected the taps fixed in

households under Mission Bhagiratha, saplings being grown in nurseries for planting during Harita Haram and inspected the proposed site for building Rythu Vedika. He enquired from officials present there about the crops to be grown in the district during vanakalam season.

Each village panchayat has been provided with a tractor, water tanker, burial ground and a nursery, which is unprecedented in the world. He appreciated the District Collectors, officials, sarpanches, MPPs for implementing the works very well. He said that instructions were issued to them to develop villages further. He told the officials to visit again the villages after three months.

Later, the Chief Secretary proceeded to Yeddumlaram village in Kandi Mandal of Sangareddy district. He also visited Guntapalli village of Kondapur mandal where he asked the officials concerned to be prepared to implement Harita Haram works in monsoon season. Currently, there are parks in towns and felt that it would be for them to have lung spaces in villages too.

## India is now sixth worst hit by...

Continued from page 1

To move to the fifth position. While Italy has recorded 2,34,000+ cases so far, Spain has registered 2,41,000+ infections.

India has seen, Covid-19 cases rising exponentially with a jump of nearly 70,000+ cases in the past one week, and medical experts feel that if the situation spirals out of control, the lockdown may have to be re-imposed.

India saw a record single-day jump of 9,851 coronavirus cases and 273 deaths on Friday, pushing the nationwide infection tally to 2,26,770 (9,010 cases reported till 10.30 pm on Friday taking the total to 2,35,732 and 6,642 deaths), according to the Union health ministry. There has been a record spike in cases for three consecutive days now.

Most countries like Spain, Germany, Italy and the UK, lifted their respective lockdowns and curbs when their

Covid-19 graphs either flattened or dipped, according to statistics shared on Twitter by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

India's Covid-19 curve has been steadily rising throughout the lockdown period with a massive spike in cases in the fourth phase of the lockdown that ended on May 31 and afterwards.

The fourth phase of the Coronavirus-triggered lockdown, which began on May 18, saw 85,974 Covid-19 cases till 8 am on Sunday, according to health ministry data.

Lockdown-1, which was first clamped on March 25 and spanned for 21 days, had registered 10,877 cases, while the second phase of the curbs that began on April 15 and stretched for 19 days till May 3, saw 31,094 cases.

The third phase of the lockdown that was in effect for 14 days ending on May 17, recorded 53,636 cases till 8 am of May 18.

## TS sees highest single-day jump...

Continued from page 1

In all, 143 persons tested positive for coronavirus on Friday. Of these, 116 are from GHMC area, while eight are from Rangareddy, five from Mahabubnagar and three from Warangal. Two patients each from Khammam, Adilabad, Medchal, Sangareddy, Karimnagar and 1 from Mancherial tested positive for virus.

With this, the total number of cases reported in the state has gone up to 3,290, including 2,842 locals from the state. As on date, 212 deportees who had tested positive for Covid-19 are being treated. Likewise, 206 migrants who had tested positive for Covid-19 are being treated. About 40 patients were discharged on Friday, taking the tally of those who have been discharged upon recovery to 1,627. The state has 1550 active cases.

## TS to increase testing

Continued from page 1

The Health Minister said that the government is going ahead with its agenda to protect the health staff. He said, "It is baseless to say that doctors got infected due to lack of masks or PPE kits. Even AIIMS doctors got corona; in Mumbai, also doctors got corona. Despite PPE, in unavoidable circumstances, even doctors will get". The government has provided all amenities in Gandhi, Petlaburj, Niloufer and Sultan Bazar hospitals, he added. Eatala said that cases have increased after the lockdown was eased. "We can postpone operations, but not delivery centers and every month we have to do 50,000 deliveries.

## Power charges hike in July

Continued from page 1

These proposals are now awaiting approval by the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister is expected to hold a meeting with officials of Discoms next week to finalise the extent of power tariff hike, following which the discoms will file ARRs, along with proposals for revision in power tariff, with TSERC.

Power tariff hike will have political implications. Yet, with elections to GHMC, Warangal, Khammam Corporation polls scheduled for February/ March 2021, the state government feels that July 2020 is the right time to hike power charges.

As per rules, discoms have to submit their ARRs before the end of November every year

for the subsequent financial year. The ERC will conduct public hearings on the discoms' proposals. The proposals, after being finalised in March, will be implemented from April 1.

The filing of the ARRs forms a crucial part of the proceedings of TSERC, which evaluates the financial requirements of the discoms as laid out in these documents. It may then approve the proposals for expenditure and revenue, that may include tariff changes, or reject them.

The approval process includes calling for objections from the public to the ARR proposals, holding public hearings, gathering responses to the hearings from the discoms after which the commission passes orders for tariff revision.

## Power bills giving shock to consumers

Continued from page 1

The bills, with 15 or 20 times the normal amounts, are rubbing salt into the wounds of consumers, many of whom are battling against odds with Covid-19-induced pay cuts, job losses this and that.

For instance, some consumers who used to pay Rs 180-200 a month towards electricity charges have now got bills with the monthly billing ranging from Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000. A consumer who usually pays Rs 500 as electricity bill has got a bill, asking him to cough up Rs 8,300.

Consumers are at a loss to know how the authorities could be so callous after hav-

ing assured them that non-reading of the meters would not affect their bills and that any extra money collected as part of the bill, with readings based on previous year's corresponding month consumption, would be duly adjusted in subsequent bills.

Due to the lockdown, many people have scraped their meagre savings to give a semblance of normalcy to home budgets. They practically have little or no money even for essentials, let alone pay for inflated bills under duress. There is utter confusion with regard to the billing as it is not uniform across the state.

A lecturer in Warangal, Sahiti, said that her family

consumes less than 200 units a month. The family's electricity bill always ranges between Rs 600 and 700. In January, the family got bill for Rs 719. In February, the bill amount was Rs 528, whereas in March the bill given was for Rs 600. The electricity department officials did not take meter reading and asked consumers to pay what they have paid in the corresponding month last year. Therefore, the family did not pay electricity bills for the lockdown period. The total consumption of electricity as recorded by meter reading was noted as 1163 units. The average meter reading arrived at was 387 units.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES	
<b>GOLD</b>	₹ 48,830 (10 gm)
	₹ 350 ↓
<b>SILVER</b>	₹ 48,450 (1kg)
	₹ 450 ↓
CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹235
Without Skin	₹266
Broiler at Farm	₹162
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	370
VIJAYAWADA	380
VISAKHAPATNAM	350
<b>RETAIL PRICE</b>	<b>₹3.70</b>

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**IRRIGATION CIRCLE NIZAMABAD**  
**TENDER NOTICE**

Tender was floated vide Tender Notice No's. 15/2020-21, Dt. 03-06-2020, for an amount of Rs. 322.87 Lakhs available from 04-06-2020 to 11-06-2020. Further details can be seen @ <http://tender.telangana.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer, I&CADD.,  
Irrigation Circle, Nizamabad

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**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**TRANSPORT (L.B. NAGARZONE)**

NIT No: EE(SWM&Tr)/58264/GHMC/2020-21/32 Date:05-06-2020  
Description: For 2 Nos. of Works Engaging of 1 No. Back hoe loader (JCB) & 1 No. Hitachi-200 of LB Nagar Zone. GHMC, Estimate Amount Rs. Lakhs: 7.02. Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 06-06-2020 @ 11.00 A.M. 09-06-2020 @ 11.00 A.M. Name & Address Officer Call No.: Sr. B. Narendra Goud, Executive Engineer, Hayath Nagar Circle-3 & Chief Transport Officer, L.B. Nagar Zone, GHMC (M): 98989 30608, octobnz@gmail.com, <http://www.procurement.telangana.gov.in>  
Executive Engineer  
Hayath Nagar Circle-3 & CTO (LBNZ), GHMC

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**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT, HYDERABAD**  
**E-Procurement Tender Notice (1st Call)**  
**NIT No. EE/03/2020 Dated 04.06.2020**

Tenders are invited for Development of Two (02) temples Rs. 68 Lakh in Nizamabad District through e-procurement. For more information visit <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Bid Downloading Starting Date: 06.06.2020. (Bid Download End Date (Submission)) 22.06.2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Endowments Department, Hyderabad

**CRIME CORNER**  
Body of man found in quarry

The body of an unidentified man was found in a quarry at Jagadgirigutta on Thursday night. Police suspect that the man killed himself by jumping into the quarry. Locals told the police that the man seemed to be depressed and used to spend most of time sitting on the hillock and moving around the quarry. According to the police, the deceased, aged around 30, is suspected to have jumped into the quarry, which had water in it, and committed suicide. A local villager who was passing by the quarry saw him drowning. He rushed to his rescue, but in vain, the police said. Passersby then called the police. The Jagadgirigutta Police reached the spot and with the help of expert swimmers retrieved the body. Efforts are on to identify him. A case has been registered and is being investigated.

**Man bludgeoned to death at Alijapur**

A man was murdered by unidentified persons at Alijapur in Golconda on Friday. Police investigating the murder suspect that previous enmity to be the reason behind the gruesome act. The victim was identified as Rahul Agarwal, a resident of Vijay Nagar Colony. According to the police, he was attacked with boulders by the assailants. He suffered multiple injuries and died on the spot. CLUES team, with a dog squad also visited the crime scene and are investigating.

**Plaint against cop for alleged false case**

A complaint has been filed against a Sub Inspector of Ramannapet police station for allegedly intervening in a land issue and for not registering a case. The Telangana State Human Rights Commission called for a report from the Commissioner of Rachakonda, Mahesh Bhagwat, in this regard. The complaint was lodged against the official, Chella Sailu, following his alleged intervention in a land issue at the instance of the respondent of the case, despite petitioner's land title was clear. The Commission called for a report from the Commissioner of Police of Rachakonda, which was to be submitted by August 4, 2020.

**TESTING TIMES**

**HC to decide on SSC exams today**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Friday directed the state government to consider the petitioners' suggestion that if any of the Class 10 student intends to appear for supplementary examination to be held in the month of August or September this year rather than appearing for regular SSC exam scheduled to be held from June 8 onwards, he or she should be considered as 'regular student' only.

It said that the state government could amend the existing laws for the purpose in the interest of students if necessary. A division bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice of the state Justice RS Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy directed the state government to furnish the list of 69 examination centres identified for the students who will be shifted from smaller schools to them to write the exam. It said that it would hear the matter on Saturday despite being a holiday by keeping in view of the interests of the students of the state. The court later posted the matter to Saturday for further hearing.

**Financial assistance**  
The HC took up the hearing



**The High Court said that it would hear the matter on Saturday despite being a holiday by keeping in view of the interests of the students of the state**

of a PIL filed seeking financial assistance of Rs.15,000 to every weaver or Rs.30,000 to every weaver family, which are unable to meet their day to day expenses during the ongoing lockdown in the state. It asked the government to file a detailed report on the total number of weavers in the state.

A division bench comprising the chief justice of the state Justice RS Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy passed the orders after hearing the arguments of the counsel for the petitioner. In his petition, the

petitioner Rapolu Bhaskar, who is also an advocate has said that the weaver were not in a position to pay for food and rents and medicines due to lack of money.

He also urged the HC to provide ration and groceries to the needy weavers in the entire state besides directing the state government to purchase the manufactured material, which is prepared by the weavers through cooperative societies by implementing a similar procedures like IKP centers of the state.

**POSITIVE RESULT**



As a result of sustained efforts in enforcement and education on the importance of usage of helmet by both the riders of two wheeler vehicles since last few months by Cyberabad Traffic Police, many two wheeler riders have started wearing helmets while riding and pillion also. This is an encouraging trend in law abiding nature of citizens which also helps in improving public safety on roads.

**BIE to counsel students via webinar**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With around 10 lakh students waiting for the intermediate exams results in the state, the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) is likely to declare the results on June 15 or 16. However, no official announcement has been made in this regard.

Meanwhile, the TSBIE officials have announced that a state webinar on career counselling will be conducted on June 11 from 3 pm onwards. Through this webinar, which is being conducted in association with Hindi Mahavidyalaya and The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the students will be informed about various career options.

**Spurious seeds racket busted; seven arrested**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Special Operations Team (SOT) of Shamshabad Zone along with the Shameerpet Police and agriculture officials busted spurious seed racket and apprehended seven persons who were allegedly selling them to farmers in Telangana and neighboring states.

Officials seized 2,500 kgs of spurious cotton seed (BG-III, HT) and maize seed weighing 7,000 kgs and others, all worth Rs 52 lakh, from their possession. The arrested were identified as Kalle Srinivas (47), Penthala Mahendhar (40), Mohammed Hussain (41), S Ramulu (37), C Venkatesh (24), C Venkat Reddy (29) and Rama Chandraiah (36). Two other persons, Mouleswar Reddy and Ramanjaneyulu are



Officials seized 2,500 kgs of spurious cotton seed (BG-III, HT) and maize seed weighing 7,000 kgs and others on Friday

absconding. After the BG-III cotton seeds were seized from his shop at Shameerpet, on credible information, his agents and other seeds were also seized. Police said that Srinivas also markets the spurious seed in the states of

Chattisgarh, Bihar and West Bengal through his known agents and sub dealers. The details of agents based at Sangareddy have been shared to the Sangareddy police and two cases have been registered.

**TS to modify TB machine for Covid-19 testing**

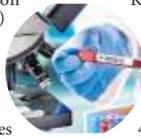
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana has decided to use the TB detecting machine aka Cartridge-based nucleic acid amplification test (CBNAAT) machines to test Covid patients. Health Minister Eatala Rajender said, "We have two CBNAAT machines which will be used for testing. With these the results can be achieved rapidly. We are trying to put it to use shortly," he said.

CBNAAT machine is typically used to detect tuberculosis. It is now being used for

COVID-19 testing after modifying the software for the cartridges which are provided by ICMR. Several states including Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana are reportedly putting using CBNAAT. The CBNAAT will help in quicker testing of COVID-19 samples as it will provide results in 45 minutes.

Eatala said that, "With these machines, the test results can be negative or positive within two hours itself. If it is negative, it will be shown immediately and if it is positive, we would need to test again".



**MLC berths likely for Nayini,...**

*Continued from page 1*

He was not accommodated in the second term of the TRS government. In the 2018 Assembly elections, Nayini worked hard to get party nomination for his son-in-law Srinivas Reddy from Musheerabad. But his efforts did not bear fruit. Nayini was disenchanted with the party for a while.

In this backdrop, everyone thought that Nayini would be sent to the Rajya Sabha. However, senior leader K Kesava Rao got that slot. So did former speaker of Assembly Suresh Reddy, but not Nayini.

As he is a senior member of the party and has been loyal to KCR from the beginning, it is

felt that the question of his getting MLC berth is only a matter of time. Under the prevailing situation, KCR may not set aside Nayini's case for MLC seat.

Three MLC seats are due to be filled this year under the Governor's quota. One is that of Nayini and the other is that of Karne Prabhakar, another KCR loyalist. The latter's term expires on August 17. Karne Prabhakar, who has been with the TRS from the beginning, has never crossed the party line. Moreover, he was made government whip in the Legislative Council recently. So, party insiders feel that renewal of his membership would be "automatic".

As far as the third seat is considered, the term of MLC

Sabhatw Ramulu, who quit TRS to join Congress, expired on March 2. He has legally challenged the complaint lodged against him by the TRS under the anti-defection law seeking to disqualify him as member of the Upper House. As his term has expired, irrespective of the court verdict, the third position can be filled by the TRS, constitutional experts say.

Many aspirants in TRS are in the race for the third MLC seat, including first Speaker of the Assembly Sirikonda Madhusudanacharya, former MPs Ponguleti Sudhakar, Srinivas Reddy, Sitaram Naik, TSIC Chairman G Balamallu, former MLC R Satyanarayana, Karimnagar ZP former chairperson Tula Uma and so on.

**TS finally admits Madhusudan death**

*Continued from page 1*

A division bench of the HC, comprising Chief Justice of the state Justice RS Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy, recorded the submission of the counsel for the state government and asked it to produce the evidence to prove its claim of communicating the information related to the death of the victim by June 9 of this month. It passed the orders while dealing with a writ petition filed by the wife of the victim Allampally Madhavi urging the HC to issue directions to the state government to produce her husband before the court. The High Court later adjourned the case till June 9 for further hearing.

**Family in quarantine, burglars see chance**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Burglars broke into the house of a family infected with the Coronavirus in Alwal and decamped with gold, gadgets, expensive watches and laptops. According to the police, the house belongs to an advocate, whose family was in a quarantine centre for weeks, and found out they had been robbed when they returned home a few days ago.

Sub Inspector Varaprasad from Alwal Police said that the advocate had earlier visited his mother, who was then admitted to a corporate hospital at Malakpet.

"After he returned home, he began exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19. Soon after which, he tested positive for the virus. Subsequently, his wife and two children were sent to a quarantine facility. The housemaid was also quarantined. When the family returned home after completing the quarantine period, they found that the door was broken and the house was ransacked," police said.

After a thorough search, they found that gold jewellery weighing 10 tolas, electronic gadgets and expensive wrist watches were stolen from the house.



**Chorus grows to postpone SSC examination in state**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the state gears up for the SSC examinations, to be held from June 8, various organisations have urged the government to postpone the same considering the Covid-19 situation. The Telangana Private Teachers' Forum urged the government to postpone or cancel class X examination.

"Students who are writing exams from the increasing number of Containment Zones might miss out on some examinations. Also, if students or teachers are exposed to Coronavirus during examinations, the subsequent examination at the examination center will be very difficult," said



Rambabu, Principal Secretary, TPTF Hyderabad District.

Meanwhile, Telangana Children's Rights Welfare Society said that the state can consider last year's marks of the student who will appear for Class X exams. "Keeping in mind the pandemic situation, the results of the student can be decided based on their perfor-

mance last year (in grade IX). They can also use the marks obtained by the students during the internal assessment and pre-finals conducted by the school this year. However, with around 10 lakh students appearing for the SSC, we feel the government shouldn't take the exams as the Coronavirus cases are increasing daily," they said.

**DRF launches contact number for assistance**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In case of any tree fall complaint or water logging or structure collapse incidents, citizens can now contact Disaster Response Force (DRF) over a dedicated contact number 040-29555500 for quick service and response.

This service will be in addition to the dial 100 service. DRF's dedicated contact number for lodging complaints became operational since Thursday evening. The dedicated contact number will have three lines and will be monitored round the clock by DRF personnel.

**Riding without rearview mirror proves costly!**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Riding a two-wheeler without rear view mirrors could be fatal, says police after study of over 176 deaths due to fatal accidents. In all these cases, the two-wheeler riders died as another vehicle rammed them from rear.



Under the limits of

Cyberabad Police commissionerate, on an average, at least nine accidents were reported per day claiming lives of at least 2-3 people. In fact, 55 per cent of the deceased include two-wheeler riders. In 70 per cent of the cases, one vehicle or the other collided the two-wheelers from the rear causing deaths.

The two-wheeler riders are shifting their lanes not noticing who is coming from behind as their bikes are not fitted with side mirrors. Taking a sudden turn either to right or to left or taking U-turn and overtaking vehicles is causing problems. As per the rules, two-wheelers should be fitted with side mirrors. The

people are removing them considering them to be useless. Some others are retaining only one mirror and removing the other one. Under the MV Act, the police are imposing a fine of Rs 100 if the vehicle is not fitted with side mirror. Under the Cyberabad commissionerate limits, up to 1.50 lakh e-challans were imposed. Use of side mirrors is being extensively campaigned through social media. Cyberabad Traffic DCP SM Vijay Kumar says that all these efforts are being made only for the safety and security of vehicle riders. The total number of road accidents reported last year 3,313 leading to causing injuries to 3,000 and deaths to 861.

**Telangana's prestigious projects go green**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department is playing a vital role in the development of green buildings in the state. On the occasion of World Environment Day, two iconic and visionary projects - Telangana Martyr's Memorial, and Hyderabad City Police Commissionerate Headquarters & Integrated Command & Control Centre - have been registered with Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), an initiative of the Confederation of Indian Industry. CII-IGBC is India's premier body for Green Building certification, and only council to be recognised by World Green Building Council.

According to Roads and Buildings Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy, "Telangana has emerged as best performing state in promoting inclusive



ASDFASDFSD

and sustainable economic growth. R&B Department has ensured that these two new and grand structures were built sustainably, with minimum impact

on the environment, resulting in energy savings of at least 30-50 per cent, and water consumption savings of about 20-30 per cent, compared to convention-

al buildings. DGP Mahender Reddy said this command control centre has been taken up as a prestigious project of the state with

**Two new iconic projects register with CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for integrating sustainability**

the co-operation of different Departments like Finance, Roads and Buildings etc. This is a unique and first project of its kind in the country. This project is a technology fusion centre and will be utilised by not only Police Department, but also other departments associated with the development of the state like Finance, Planning, Irrigation, R&B, Agriculture, Power, Revenue etc. Very soon this building will be ready for use.

**SCR ferried over 3L migrants so far**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Beginning with the first Shramik Special Train being rolled out from the zone on May 1, 2020, South Central Railway has run 235 Shramik specials and transported over 3 lakh migrant workers to their respective destinations till 5 June, 2020.

Out of 235 Shramik special trains, 146 services have been run from Telangana State to transport 1.87 lakh passengers while 71 trains were run from Andhra Pradesh to transport around 90,000 passengers and 18 trains were run from Maharashtra to transport around 24,000 passengers.

While the respective State government authorities handled the registration, identification and booking of passengers' trains, Railways has drawn a comprehensive plan so as to



ensure the total train operations are efficiently deployed to provide a hassle-free travel to all its passengers. Rail operations were scheduled with precision, ensuring due process of sanitisation of railway stations and trains thoroughly. Movement of the trains was continuously monitored, giving precedence to all aspects of safety and security throughout the journey. Railway officials took the lead to streamline boarding of

the passengers in the special trains after completion of the other formalities by the state government authorities.

Gajanan Mallya, General Manager, SCR complimented the hard work being rendered by the staff and officials involved in task of running Shramik special trains and expressed optimism that the team will continue to excel until the entire job is complete.

# TS, AP to submit DPRs of projects by June 10

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states on Friday agreed to submit DPRs of the new projects taken up by them on Godavari River for appraisal by GRMB/CWC and for sanction by the Apex Council as stipulated in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 before June 10, 2020.

This was the outcome of the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB's) ninth meeting held at Jalasoudha in Hyderabad on Friday.

However, Telangana state irrigation department principal secretary Rajat Kumar made it clear to the GRMB that the state didn't take up any new project on Godavari River and asked it not to consider Kaleswaram and Pranahita projects as new projects.

AP special chief secretary Adithyanath Das and engineer-in-chief Narayana Reddy however refused to say much to the media, except stating that the version of the GRMB chairman was their version.

It may be recalled that there is no dispute in projects across the River Godavari. However, AP lodged a complaint with the GRMB alleging that Kaleswaram, Seetharama, Devadula Phase-III, Thupakulagudem, Mission Bhagiratha projects did not have permission after Telangana had moved the KRMB against Pothreddipadu and Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme. AP also lodged a complaint with the GRMB asking the latter to stop the Chanaka Korata, Rajpet, Pimpard barrages construct-



## TS irrigation department principal secretary Rajat Kumar made it clear to the GRMB that the state didn't take up any new project on Godavari River

ing on Penganga river, Pakala Diversion Scheme from Ramappa Lake. GRMB chairman Chandrasekhar Iyyer said after the meeting that it was held in a cordial atmosphere. Chandrasekhar Iyyer, Rajat Kumar, Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Department Special Chief Secretary Adithyanath Das, and engineers-in-chief of the two states participated in the meeting.

After the meeting, Rajat Kumar said that the then Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy said in the Assembly that Telangana would get 967.14 tmc ft of water as per Bachawath Tribunal Award. Das and AP engineer-in-chief Narayana Reddy countered this claim by saying that Telangana's share in Godavari river is 967.14 tmc ft and not a drop more. They also asked the Telangana officials to show

the special allocations made to Telangana by the Bachawath Tribunal. Making it clear that Bachawath Tribunal allocations, the officials from AP argued that there was no special mention of allocation of waters to Telangana.

They also objected to Rajat Kumar's argument based on former Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy. "What is problem in utilising the allocated water? The tribunal also made it clear that the allocated Godavari water would be utilised from anywhere. We are taking up the projects in tune with the promised allocations. There is no need to doubt anyone in this regard. I said we will submit DPRs as KRMB and GRMB are seeking DPRs of the projects time and again," Rajat Kumar responded.



## KCR plummeted to 16th place: Komatireddy

PNS ■ YADADRI

Lok Sabha Member Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has charged the TRS government with harming more than rendering good to the people of the state. "Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao who boasts of putting the Telangana state ahead of other states slipped his position in a survey conducted and ranked 16th at the national level," he said.

On Gandhamalla reservoir, the officials said that there was no plan to execute it, but Alair MLA hoodwinked the electorate promising to get it built at the time of last elections. He demanded the MLA of Alair to resign from his seat for having cheated people making false promises to the people.

The projects conceived by the previous Congress could be executed by pumping few funds, but KCR has been misusing the public funds out of pomposity and blaming the Congress leaders for his faults, he lamented. Though the High Court passed strictures against the state government for low testing of corona cases, the state government is not conducting the tests, he alleged.

# NGT notice on KTR's alleged farmhouse

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chennai Bench on Friday served notice on TRS working president and IT Minister KT Ramarao with regard to the legality of a farmhouse at Janwada, in response to a complaint lodged by TPCC working president and Congress MP A Revanth Reddy.

The NGT has also set up a fact-finding committee, headed by Union Environment Ministry's Regional Office, and with Principal Secretary, Irrigation Department, Telangana PCB, GHMC, Water Works, HMDA, Rangareddy District Collector and Hyderabad Lakes and Water Bodies



Management as members, to examine whether the impugned construction is proper.

The NGT directed the Committee to submit its report within two months on the issues raised. The Committee would inter alia examine whether NGT judgment delivered in 2018 in regard to GO No. 111 case has been implemented in letter and spirit. The tribunal asked the committee to also make recommendations to solve

the problem.

The NGT posted the case to August 26 for the next hearing. In his complaint, Revanth Reddy alleged that KTR had constructed the farmhouse violating GO No.111. In this context, NGT served notices also on the Telangana government, and HMDA. It may be recalled that the police arrested Revanth Reddy when the latter tried to visit the farmhouse at Janwada on the sly on March 2, reportedly along with some media persons, alleging that KTR had constructed the luxurious farmhouse on the way to Gandipet tank in 25-acre piece of land which comes under GO No.111 in violation of central government's guidelines.

## GREEN CHALLENGE



TRS Rajya Sabha member J Santosh Kumar takes a selfie after planting a sapling on the occasion of World Environment Day, at Shamirpet on Friday

## Farmer electrocuted in Siddipet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A-62-year-old farmer was electrocuted while his son was injured seriously when they came in contact with live electric wires at Ramsagar pally village of Wargal Mandal on Friday. The victim was identified as Kitchugari Sathaiiah and the injured his son Narasimhulu. A case has been registered.

## Hyderabad airport wins ACI recognition

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has received the highest Platinum award in the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition 2020. The recognition was the outcome of the submissions shared this year focused on water management documenting approaches and others.

management practices. On World Environment Day, ACI Asia-Pacific announced the results of the region's annual Green Airports Recognition 2020. The recognition was the outcome of the submissions shared this year focused on water management documenting approaches and others.

# JAC leaders accuse CM of ignoring South TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Leaders of the OU JAC and South Telangana JAC have threatened Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy that they would not allow him to roam free in Telangana if the AP government did not stop its plans to draw additional water from Pothreddipadu project.

The JAC leaders charged Jaganmohan Reddy with looting the water belonging to Telangana state. Submitting a memorandum to KRMB Chairman Paramesh, the JAC leaders issued an ultimatum to Jaganmohan Reddy to annul the controversial GO No. 203. They expressed concern that

the GO will turn South Telangana into a desert.

"It high-time Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao strived hard for the development of South Telangana. If Godavari water is used to irrigate north Telangana and Krishna water is used to Rayalaseema region in Andhra, what would be the fate of the south Telangana?" they questioned.

Further, they wondered whether KCR is CM for north Telangana alone or CM to the whole state. Elected people's representatives are working like stooges to the CM, they alleged. KCR has been lying deliberately on irrigation issues, they lamented.

# Bandi blames govt for Covid spread

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Friday took potshots at the state government and questioned it to reveal as to how it will protect the common people when it failed to protect the doctors. Bandi blamed the state government for doctors testing positive for the virus.

"The state government didn't supply PPE Kits, N-95 masks to the doctors though the BJP raised the issue several times," Bandi Sanjay alleged. "BJP will protect the doctors if the state government makes it clear that it will not protect the doctors," he said.

"Releasing GOs for the sake of few individuals is



## The govt didn't supply PPE Kits, N-95 masks to docs though the BJP raised issue

nothing but stooping down. Employees Union leaders have become sycophants of the state government. There is no count to the GOs issued by the state government secretly. The Employees Union leaders are not raising their voice though the government cut the salaries of the employees. They mortgaged the rights of employees for their selfish interests," Bandi alleged.

## Protect OU lands, TJS chief to Guv

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TJS chief Prof M Kodandaram urged Governor Tamilisai Sounderajan to protect the Osmania University lands by using her discretion power. Kodandaram, along with CPI state secretary Chada Venkat Reddy submitted a memorandum to the Governor in this regard. Chada said that the Osmania University played a key role in freedom movement, armed struggle and statehood movement.

# 'Ready to serve Covid patients'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP MLA T Raja Singh Lodh on Friday requested Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to give permission to serve Covid-19 patients in Gandhi Hospital. In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Raja Singh said that he would like to bring to the notice of the Chief Minister that many relatives of Covid-19 patients have been complaining about the hospitality in Gandhi Hospital. Recently, a pregnant woman had



allegedly died due to the negligence of Gandhi Hospital doctors and staff. Her relatives alleged that the woman was not taken care of by the Gandhi Hospital doctors even though she was a pregnant. Raja Singh said that he likes to serve Covid-19 patients in the Gandhi Hospital and also monitor the situation there. There is no political interests and an ulterior motive in this request, he clarified saying that he is ready to spend 10-12 hours a day and do whatever is possible for him to serve the patients, he added.

# Raise red gram, says Jagadish

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Power Minister G Jagadish Reddy, his son Veman Reddy and a group of 150 farmers on Friday tilled land in Atmakur S village on the occasion of Yeruvaka Pournami. In undivided Andhra Pradesh, agriculture was destroyed in Telangana region, but it was put back on rails by KCR under the regime of the TRS in new state of Telangana, he said while addressing a gathering in the village.

It took for the TRS government six years to come out of the conditions prevailed during the rule of undivided AP, he said. He eulogised round the clock power supply to agriculture sector, Rythu Bandhu scheme to extend input subsidy, insurance cover for the farmers, bringing Godavari waters to the district as some of the achievements of the TRS



Power Minister tilling the land in Atmakur S village on Friday

regime. In undivided AP, the rulers never thought of building a project on river Godavari. That was why, the farmers could not celebrate Yeruvaka Pournami, he added. Not satisfied with the achievements, KCR is promoting regulated agriculture to enable

farmers to decide the price for their produce, he said. The farmers should raise only those crops that are in good demand so that he would be able to fix price for his produce, he said. He asked farmers to raise red gram which gives scope for earning more money with low input costs.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR :: MAHABUBNAGAR  
FORM - VII  
DECLARATION  
(see sub rule (1) of Rule-25 and section 19 (1) of the Act-30 of 2013)  
No. Rev-E20ALJE/23120'17 E-Section Dated: 28.05.2020  
Gazette No.28/2020 Date: 05.06.2020

Whereas it appears to the Government that a total extent of 200 Sq.Yards Mahabubnagar for public purpose of namely "for construction of New Collectorate Building (integrated District Office Complex) at Palkonda Vg.

Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring more or less 200.00 sq yards of standard measurement under acquisition for the purpose of the above said construction of new Collectorate Building in the village of Palkonda of Mahabubnagar Urban Mandal of Mahabubnagar district.

**Schedule-1**  
Village: PALKONDA Mandal : Mahabubnagar (Urban)  
District: Mahabubnagar

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of Title	Area under Acquisition (in ares)	Name & Address of person interested	North	South	East	West	Area (in ares)	Trees	Structures
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	273/15	Govt. Plot No. 23	200	1. T.S. Government Pq. By Tahsildar, Mahabubnagar (Urban) Mandal/ 2. Doreshetty Nirmala W/o. L. Veerender							
<b>TOTAL Area</b>					<b>200</b>						

This declaration is made after hearing persons interested and due enquiry as provided under Section 15 of the Act No.30 of 2013. No families likely to be resettled due to land acquisition. Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, extent such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired or not need. A Plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Mahabubnagar on any working day.

sd/- Revenue Divisional Officer Mahabubnagar  
sd/- Additional Collector Mahabubnagar  
sd/- District Collector Mahabubnagar  
DIPR R.O. No.: 166/LA/PP/ADVT/2020-21

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT  
NOTIFICATION  
(Under Section 11 of the Act where 10A Exemption is given) ( See rule 6/12)  
No. Rev-G10LAG/72/2017-G-Section Dated: 03.06.2020  
Gazette No. 21/2020 Date: 04.06.2020

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of Ac 14-28 Gts land is required in the Vallur village of Jachcherla Mandal, Mahabubnagar Division, Mahabubnagar District for construction of Udadapur Balancing Reservoir (Submergence Area) under Palamoor-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme for Public purpose.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Vallur village of Jachcherla Mandal, Mahabubnagar District, land measuring, more or less Ac 14.28 gts of standard measurement, whosedetail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition.

**Schedule-1**  
Village: Vallur Mandal : Jachcherla  
District: Mahabubnagar

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of Title	Area under Acquisition (in ares)	Name & Address of person interested	North	South	East	West	Area (in ares)	Trees	Structures
1	6	Patta Dry	4.20	Yata Sagarani W/o Ramulu	7	198	5	16			
2	35	Patta Dry	2.10	V. Sugandha So. Nagappa	35	33	37	33			
3	65	Patta Dry	1.05	Venkateswara So. Prama Rao							
4	70	Patta Dry	0.29	Golla Sagarani W/o Jagappa	67	145	71	180			
5	89	Patta Dry	5.54	V. Bedyya So. Bikuram	145	87	108	100			
6	101	Patta Dry	0.02	Gopy So. Bikuram							
7	101	Patta Dry	0.02	Babji So. Bikuram							
8	101	Patta Dry	0.02	Ramchandra So. Bikuram	100	118	99	101			
9	101	Patta Dry	0.02	K. Chennamma So. Ushama							
10	101	Patta Dry	0.02	Chinna. Narasimulu So. Ushama							
11	321	Govt Land	1.30	Govt Land							
12	327	Patta Dry	0.01	H. Chennamma So. Ushama							
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>14.28</b>						

This notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No.30/2013), as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector & Revenue Divisional Officer, Mahabubnagar/EE PRLIS, Div-V, Jachcherla on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector-Cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize officer EE PRLIS and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector. Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector/Authorized officer.

sd/- Revenue Divisional Officer Mahabubnagar  
sd/- Additional Collector Mahabubnagar  
sd/- District Collector Mahabubnagar  
DIPR R.O. No.: 161/LA/PP/ADVT/2020-21

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT  
FORM-C  
(Under Section 11 of the where 10A Exemption is given) (See rule 6/12)  
No. Rev/G1-LAG/0009/2018-G-Section Dated: 03.06.2020  
Gazette No. 24/2020 Date: 04.06.2020

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector, Mahabubnagar that a total of Ac 2-28 gts land is required in the Yelkicherla (0.20) & Karivena villages (2.08) of Bhoothpur Mandal, Mahabubnagar Division, Mahabubnagar District for Karivena Balancing Reservoir SUBMERGENCE AREA under Palamoor-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation at Yelkicherla Village.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Yelkicherla & Karivena villages of Bhoothpura Mandal of Mahabubnagar District land measuring, more or less (2-28) acres viz. 1.092 hectare of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition

**Schedule-1**  
Yelkicherla village Bhoothpur Mandal

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of Title	Area under Acquisition (in ares)	Name & Address of person interested	North	South	East	West	Area (in ares)	Trees	Structures
1	330	Patta Dry	0.09	Marla So. Jaganmohan W/o. Ram Reddy	PLS	3301	PLS	Karivena Shivanu (S. to 28)			
2	330	Patta Dry	0.08	Marla So. Jaganmohan W/o. Ram Reddy	PLS	3301	PLS	Karivena Shivanu (S. to 28)			
3	330	Patta Dry	0.01	Pala Saranathi W/o. Jay Reddy	PLS	3301	PLS	Karivena Shivanu (S. to 28)			
4	330	Patta Dry	0.01	Pala Saranathi W/o. Jay Reddy	PLS	3301	PLS	Karivena Shivanu (S. to 28)			
5	330	Patta Dry	0.01	Pala Saranathi W/o. Jay Reddy	PLS	3301	PLS	Karivena Shivanu (S. to 28)			
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>0.20</b>						

Karivena village Bhoothpur Mandal

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of Title	Area under Acquisition (in ares)	Name & Address of person interested	North	South	East	West	Area (in ares)	Trees	Structures
1	326	Patta Dry	0.02	G. Rama Kondiah So. Mahesh	PLS	3301	Karivena Shivanu 2014				
2	326	Patta Dry	0.02	G. Rama Kondiah So. Mahesh	PLS	3301	Karivena Shivanu 2014				
3	326	Patta Dry	0.02	G. Kashaba So. Mahesh	PLS	3301	Karivena Shivanu 2014				
4	326	Patta Dry	0.02	Kanchana Mahesh W/o. Seshiah Patta Saranathi	PLS	3301	Karivena Shivanu 2014				
5	326	Patta Dry	0.02	G. Karivena Saranathi So. Mahesh	PLS	3301	Karivena Shivanu 2014				
6	326	Patta Dry	0.02	K. Balakrishna W/o. Chenniah	PLS	3301	Karivena Shivanu 2014				
7	326	Patta Dry	0.02	Kanchan Kondiah So. Pasa. Maruthula	PLS	3301	Karivena Shivanu 2014				
8	326	Patta Dry	0.02	H. Chennamma So. Ushama	PLS	3301	Karivena Shivanu 2014				
9	326	Patta Dry	0.01	Chinna. Narasimulu So. Ushama	PLS	3301	Karivena Shivanu 2014				
10	321	Govt Land	1.30	Govt Land	PLS	3301	3282	3214			
11	327	Patta Dry	0.01	H. Chennamma So. Ushama	PLS	3301	3214	3214			
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>2.08</b>						

This notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act no.30/2013), as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector & Revenue Divisional Officer, Mahabubnagar/EE PRLIS, Div-V, Jachcherla on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector-Cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize officer EE PRLIS and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector. Objection to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector/Authorized officer.

sd/- Revenue Divisional Officer Mahabubnagar  
sd/- Additional Collector Mahabubnagar  
sd/- District Collector Mahabubnagar  
DIPR R.O. No.: 156/LA/PP/ADVT/2020-21

SHORT READS



'Shramik Special' with 1,501 stranded migrants arrives in Dimapur

**DIMAPUR (NAGALAND):** A 'Shramik Special' train carrying 1,501 Nagaland residents stranded in Bengaluru due to the coronavirus lockdown arrived here on Friday, officials said. The train, which had departed from Bengaluru on June 2, reached the Dimapur railway station around 2 pm, they said. A total of 757 residents of Dimapur were transported to the Agri Expo site from where they will be sent to various quarantine centres following mandatory protocols, the officials said. The rest were screened by a medical team at the railway station and sent to their respective districts, they said. Food packets donated by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and his family were provided to all the returnees, the officials said.

PM's participation in Yoga programme in Leh doubtful: AYUSH

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi was to take part in an International Yoga Day programme on June 21 in Leh, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, his travel there is doubtful, the AYUSH ministry said on Friday. In March, ministry officials had said that Leh will be the venue for the main event for the International Yoga Day on June 21 and Prime Minister Modi will attend it. However, asked if the prime minister will participate in any Yoga Day event, AYUSH Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha said no public event will take place. "It is not yet decided, as to whether the prime minister will participate in a programme. Earlier, it was decided that he will go to Leh, but now due to the COVID-19 crisis, it is not yet decided whether he will go to Leh or not," the official said. The main event will be a big event, but it will be digital, he said.

Farmer's suicide in Muzaffarnagar triggers protest

**MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP):** A farmer committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh allegedly due to non-procurement of his sugarcane produce amid the coronavirus-induced lockdown, according to his family. The suicide triggered a protest by farmers on Friday who demanded that a case be registered against sugar mill officials for their failure to procure sugarcane from farmers. The angry farmers staged a road blockade and refused to cremate the body till their demands were met. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took up the matter and criticised the BJP government. "Seeing his sugarcane crop drying in the field and not getting the slip, a sugarcane farmer from Muzaffarnagar committed suicide...Imagine the plight of these sugarcane farmers' families not getting their dues during this financial crisis," she said and questioned the government's silence.

Why not consider Nalini's plea?: HC

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday asked the Tamil Nadu government whether it can consider on humanitarian grounds the request of life convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case to make video calls to their kin.



Nalini Sriharan and her husband Murugan, the convicts, wanted to make the calls to his mother and sister in Sri Lanka and London, but the state government was firm in refusing them to make such communication.

"Leave alone law, we would like to know from the government whether they (Nalini and Murugan) can be permitted to make the calls on humanitarian ground," a division bench of Justice N Kirubakaran and Justice R Hemalatha said and asked the state public prosecutor A Natarajan to get instructions from the government.

The issue pertains to a plea moved by S Padma, mother of Nalini, seeking direction to the prison authorities to permit her daughter and her husband Murugan to make video call to his mother and sister.

Murugan's father died in Sri Lanka in April last. Therefore, the couple wanted the authorities to permit them to make

video calls for at least 10 minutes daily. When the plea came up for hearing on Friday, the prosecutor reiterated the stand of the state that the duo cannot be permitted to make calls to a foreign country.

Natarajan further suggested the court on its own implead the Union home ministry as it would be the appropriate authority to take a decision.

Oposing the same, petitioners counsel A Radhakrishnan submitted that prisons are subject matter of the state government concerned and the Union home ministry has nothing to suggest in the issue.

Recording the submissions, the bench adjourned the hearing to June 12. Besides Nalini and her husband, the others convicted in the case are A G Perarivalan, Santhan, Jayakumar, Ravichandran and Robert Pyas.

RAHUL SAYS THIS IS 'FAILED LOCKDOWN'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Questioning the government's lockdown strategy to counter COVID-19, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi compared India's disease graph to other countries to say this is "what a failed lockdown looks like". Gandhi, who had earlier said that India is the only country to have relaxed the lockdown when COVID-19 cases are rising, also shared graphs of Spain, Germany, Italy and the UK, which had shown a decline in cases after the lockdowns.



"This is what a failed lockdown looks like," he said on Twitter, while taking a swipe at the government. The former Congress president had earlier too termed the lockdown in India as "failed" which has not helped see a decline in cases

"This is what a failed lockdown looks like," he said on Twitter, while taking a swipe at the government. The former Congress president had earlier too termed the lockdown in India as "failed" which has not helped see a decline in cases.

India has seen a steady rise in the number of cases ever since the lockdown has been relaxed since June 1.

India saw a record single-day jump of 9,851 coronavirus cases and 273 deaths on Friday, pushing the nationwide infection tally to 2,26,770 and the death toll to 6,348, according to the Union

health ministry. India stood seventh among the nations worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic after the US, Brazil, Russia, the UK, Spain and Italy.

Gandhi had earlier said that if the government functions haphazardly and takes ad-hoc measures during the non-lockdown period, the country will face a second

wave of coronavirus which will be "extremely devastating".

"We want to ask the government, what is their strategy as far as India's opening up is concerned and what precautions they are going to take, how are they thinking and how they are going to support the migrants and our states?" he had asked earlier.



Remote Arunachal district near China border cut-off

PNS ■ ITANAGAR

Road connectivity to the remote Shi-Yomi district in Arunachal Pradesh snapped after a bridge was washed away in the floods triggered by incessant rains over the last couple of days, officials said on Friday.

Shi-Yomi district, bordering China, was cut-off from the rest of the country after the RCC bridge (reinforced cement concrete) near Yapik village on the Aalo-Mechuka Road was washed away on Wednesday night, they said.

Transportation of people and essential commodities to the remote district would be badly affected as it is likely to take days to restore the bridge, the officials said, adding that

people travelling between Mechuka and Aalo were also left stranded.

Expressing serious concern over the incident, state Assembly Speaker Pasang D Sonu, who represents the district, has urged the Border Roads Organization (BRO) to restore the bridge on war footing.

In a letter to the chief engineer of Project Brahman of the BRO based at Pasighat in East Siang district, the speaker said the Aalo-Mechuka Road "is the key and strategic road for movement of people, transportation of essential commodities, life-saving drugs, construction material, and movement of defence personnel in the entire Shi-Yomi district".

Govt only manufacturing jumlas and slogans: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday dubbed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vocal for local" call and the economic stimulus package to make the country self-reliant as yet another jumla to divert the attention of the people from "real issues".

Addressing a virtual press conference, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal asked how can India become self-reliant till it creates innovation and intellectual property in its universities.

"This is an act of self-deception. This is another 'jumla' (rhetoric) that you sell to the people of the country," he said. "We are only manufacturing



'jumlas', statements and slogans. That is the only thing we make in India and we are masters at that under this government," he said, taking a swipe at the BJP-led government.

Similarly, his exhortation to industry to push 'Made in India, Made for the World', to expand globally, not be dependent on another country in the strategic sector, did not have a clear roadmap as to how this goal should be achieved, the former union minister said.

The Rs 20 lakh crore 'Atmanirbhar' package does not lead to expansion of government expenditure, as it includes measures already announced by RBI and the budget and amounts to less than 1 per cent of GDP, as against 10 per cent claimed by the government, he noted.

"The reality is that Modi's 'Atmanirbhar' idea is merely a slogan like innumerable others," Sibal said.

Govt staff must report to work once a week or face pay cut

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Friday said it was mandatory for government employees to be present in office once a week during the COVID-19 lockdown, failing which they will have to face salary cut.

As per a notification issued by additional chief secretary (finance) Manoj Saunik, all government departments have been asked to prepare a roster of officers and employees affiliated to them.

"All employees, except those on sanctioned leave or medical



leave, will need to be in office for one day in a week compulsorily," the order read.

Disciplinary action will be taken by department heads against those who leave the office without permission during the lockdown, it stated.

If an employee remains absent during the assigned day, he/she will lose pay for an entire week, it warned. However, in case an employee has to be present in the office for more than a day every week, his salary would be cut only on the days he remained absent, the notification said.

The order will come into effect from June 8. The coronavirus-triggered lockdown is in force till June 30. The notification was issued after it came to light that employees were not reporting to work during the lockdown and some had even left for their hometowns.

HC declines to interfere with Centre's order on air fare limits

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has declined to interfere with a central government order fixing minimum and maximum airfares of various sectors for three months till August 24, saying it was a policy decision and a "stop gap arrangement" during the Covid-19 crisis.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan further said that the May 21 order of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for a period of three months clearly stated that a minimum fare was fixed to restrict travel only to the performance of essential journeys.

"It ought to be kept in mind that, in the present circumstances when various restrictions have been placed on the airline operations, and maximum limit for air fare is given by the government, the minimum fare is also prescribed so as to strike a balance between the passengers as well as the



airlines agency," the bench said in its order delivered on Thursday.

The bench said that in the present situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the exercise of this power by the government "cannot be said to be arbitrary or unreasonable".

It further said that it has to be kept in mind that problems being faced during the pandemic are unique and requires experimental solutions.

"There cannot be any mathematical solution for a problem like this. Government has to be given a degree of free move-

ment in joints. We are, therefore, not going into the merits of this case," it said.

The observations of the bench came while disposing of a plea challenging the May 21 order of the ministry by Veer Vikrant Chauhan, who was aggrieved by the minimum cap on the air fare.

Chauhan, represented by advocate Vishal Gohri, had contended that there should be no minimum limit on airfare so that there would be competition between airlines and a much lesser ticket price would be available.

Woman IPS officers targeted with abusive, obscene content on Twitter; FIR lodged

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Some woman police officers posted at a premier training institute for bureaucrats in Mussoorie have been targeted with abusive and obscene content on Twitter prompting the authorities to approach the local police, officials said on Friday.

An FIR has been lodged by the police based on a complaint by the administration of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) and the investigation is underway, they said.

"Today some lady IPS officers have been targeted with abusive, derogatory and obscene content by certain twitter accounts. The academy strongly condemns this malicious and derogatory tweet and has lodged an FIR with Uttarakhand Police in this regard," the LBSNAA had said in a tweet on Thursday.

The news has evoked sharp reactions from the associations of Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Forest Service



"We all CAPFs officers condemn abusive posts and comments against lady IPS officer & demand strong legal action be taken against such perverted minds. Shame on such person," they said on twitter

(IFS) officers, demanding expeditious investigation into it to bring the culprits to book.

Besides them, all cadre officers of the central armed police forces (CAPFs) have also demanded strict action against such "perverted minds".

"We all CAPFs officers condemn abusive posts and comments against lady IPS officer & demand strong legal action be taken against such perverted minds. Shame on such person," they said on twitter.

"We strongly condemn the abusive & derogatory remarks on Twitter regarding lady IPS officers. We believe the con-

cerned police agencies will do thorough investigation to expeditiously bring culprits to book.

We solemnly resolve to protect the dignity of lady officers," the IPS (central) association tweeted. The IAS (central) association has asked Twitter to remove such posts and handles from its platform.

"We agree and condemn abusive posts and comments against #IPS officers and demand strong action be taken against such perverted minds. We have reported such handles and request @TwitterIndia to remove such posts and handles," it tweeted. The IFS officers association

also strongly condemned the abusive and derogatory remarks on social media against woman IPS officers. "Strong action must be taken against these cowards," it said.

Some senior IPS officers have also come in support of their colleagues in the matter.

"Each and every human deserves respect. Women especially because they are still considered second class citizens. We lady officers are on target because we stand for a cause and they can't digest it. Thanks for support. Smiling face with smiling eyes we will be more strong now," tweeted IPS officer Aslam Khan.

Good rainfall activity expected next week: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rainfall activity in central and south India is likely to pick up pace from next week due to a cyclonic circulation which is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal and aid in the progress of the monsoon, the India Meteorological Department said on Friday.

IMD director general Mrutunjay Mohapatra said a low pressure area is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal and move towards Odisha next week.

A low pressure is a cyclonic circulation and the first stage of any cyclone. However, it is not necessary that every low pressure intensifies into a cyclone.

"This will help advance monsoon and bring good rain-



fall during the next week," Mohapatra said.

Monsoon had hit Kerala on June 1 on its normal onset date. The IMD had earlier predicted that the monsoon would be delayed by four days, but Cyclone Nisarga helped push the monsoon to reach Kerala

on its normal onset date.

"Conditions are becoming favourable for further advancement of Southwest Monsoon into some more parts of central Arabian Sea, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, southwest and east central Bay of Bengal, entire

"Conditions are becoming favourable for further advancement of Southwest Monsoon into some more parts of central Arabian Sea, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, southwest and east central Bay of Bengal, entire southeast Bay of Bengal and some parts of west central Bay of Bengal during next 2 days," the IMD said.

According to the IMD, the country as a whole has received 9 per cent more rainfall than the normal since June 1. The north Indian plains will also witness rainfall due to a western disturbance, the IMD said.

A western disturbance is a cyclonic circulation that originates in the Mediterranean Sea. It crosses central Asia and brings in rains to hills and north Indian plains after it comes in contact with the Himalayas.

East Uttar Pradesh and east Rajasthan are also likely to witness rainfall, the IMD added.

BJP leader slaps official for indecent remarks against her; video goes viral

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A video showing Tik Tok star and BJP leader Sonali Phogat slapping a Market Committee official from Hisar and later beating him with a slipper for reportedly making derogatory remarks against her, went viral on social media on Friday.

In the video, the BJP leader from Adampur in Hisar is seen slapping the official and later hitting him with her slipper in full public view. Phogat and others present with her are not seen wearing masks in the video, even as the Haryana government has made it mandatory to wear masks in public in the wake of coronavirus pandemic.

Sharing the video on his



Twitter handle, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said, Exploits of the leaders of the Khattar government. The BJP leader from Adampur in Hisar is beating the Market Committee official like animals.

Is doing government job a crime? Will (Chief Minister)

Khattar take action? Will the media still remain silent? he tweeted.

The BJP leader, however, told media persons in Hisar that she had gone to meet the officials of the district Market Committee on Friday pertaining to some grievance of farmers.

She said an official was showing her the place in the Balsamand area of Hisar district where a shed could come up for the convenience of farmers when he started passing indecent and derogatory remarks against her.

Phogat claimed the official also made some comments against another woman official of the Market Committee and a woman minister in the Manohar Lal Khattar-led cabinet.

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Delhi reeling

Witnessing a surge in COVID cases, the Delhi Government has put in place new triage rules but this may not be enough



**I**ncreasing instances of potential Coronavirus patients lying for hours outside the hospital before admission or even dying before they see a doctor in Delhi are being shared on social media. This has grabbed media attention, too. Unfortunately, some are using such instances to score political points about Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's handling of the pandemic. But the fact remains that despite the national capital boasting about having the best urban healthcare infrastructure in the country, it is getting thoroughly overwhelmed. It would have been so no matter who or which party had been in power. With more than 25,000 cases, Delhi, like Mumbai, is seeing a surge given its dense population as a result of India's uneven development over the past seven decades. While the virus has started a conversation around public health and the lack of it all across the country, it will not take away the fact that despite Indian doctors and nurses being at the forefront of treatment across the world, Indian healthcare itself is all but a flaky shell.

As such, India should have begun large-scale testing weeks ago when more testing kits were made available. While testing numbers have gradually increased now, given the country's population, it remains woefully inadequate. Those who want to be tested are denied one. Even those patients who need to go to a hospital for other emergency procedures are not being tested, either at admission or when discharged. The Delhi Government's decision to "triage" all those patients who show signs of COVID-19 symptoms will not be effective until more tests are done. This will also help it understand the future course of action. Should school yards and stadia be turned into treatment centres or not? To what extent should the lockdown be eased? Where should non-critical patients be sent? And if there is a substantial number of asymptomatic carriers, can Delhi or any other city consider opening up of malls and restaurants and add to a bursting bulge? There is a prevailing anxiety as doctors and virologists warn that public engagement should be minimal in the viral storm months of June and July. The fact of the matter is that in India and in other countries across the world, the response by Governments to the pandemic has been woeful. Of course, hindsight is 20-20 (ironically) but many things should have been and could have been done differently. One thing that can still be done differently and that should be done is to test, test and test to establish a pattern. At the same time data must be used to calibrate further actions. There will be many more cases in the next few days of people dying from the virus and many more tragic stories will be written about. The question that Kejriwal and, in fact, every other Chief Minister in India needs to ask is: When will these stories end? By July or by 2021?

## Cong crisis in Gujarat

Party loses more MLAs before Rajya Sabha polls, a steady slide since it won 81 Assembly seats in 2017



**T**he Congress, for all its attempts to appear as a responsible Opposition, is not quite being able to hold on to its own members and convince them of its leadership or its political capital. Just as the party was recovering from the exit of Gandhi loyalist and aspirant leader Jyotiraditya Scindia over a Rajya Sabha ticket, its MLAs in Gujarat have resigned in quick succession days before the Rajya Sabha polls. Two legislators, Akshay Patel and Jitu Chaudhary, resigned on Wednesday. And yesterday, it was Brijesh Merja, the MLA from Morbi constituency. The latter even gave up primary membership of the Congress. With

this, a total of eight Congress MLAs have resigned since March. Before the polls were announced, the Congress had 73 MLAs in the Gujarat Assembly and was looking to win two of the four seats. Now that looks remote. The ruling BJP, which has 103 MLAs in the Assembly, is now eyeing a third seat. What is sad is the Congress had put up a determined show against an ascendant BJP, winning 81 seats in the 2017 Assembly elections, notching up its best performance in the State in years. Although the BJP had won, the Congress did deliver a psychological blow back then. It was expected to consolidate after this booster shot but since then the party has only seen a steady stream of exits, losing 16 MLAs. It is all too easy to blame the BJP for poaching MLAs but then the ruling party has made no bones about Operation Lotus or its attempt to avenge and wrest the psychological edge the Congress had in 2017. Knowing this full well, the Congress should have been vigilant and proactive, considering it wanted to make Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home State, a prestige issue. Instead it rested easy on the verdict without realising that the BJP's mammoth Lok Sabha showing and its near decimation would require more groundwork in State units and at least holding on to them. The rural vote did work for the Gujarat Congress then but it didn't build on it by breaking into Thakor voters for instance or work on the aspirations of its MLAs.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi may be crafting an image change in the middle of a pandemic, appearing to contribute to the national revival effort by holding conversations and dialogues with eminent men friendly to him, but it's not reaping results on the ground. Particularly at a time when capable leaders of the Congress have proved their mettle as Chief Ministers in the battle against the disease spiral, be it Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot or Punjab's Amarinder Singh. It would have worked had he focussed on COVID-19 management in Gujarat, one of the worst-hit States, and done more on-the-grounds, like he did with migrants. Even his think tank-like advisories seem too tutored and self-serving than well-meaning. He may want to rebrand himself as a serious ideologue but webinars and conversations with public intellectuals will not help him if he wants to stay relevant in electoral politics. It is not that Gandhi hasn't tried to strip down his dynastic entitlements but he needs to be seen as a leader who has a grasp on issues. More importantly, he must make himself available to local units. Both the Scindia and Gujarat fiascos have shown that he needs to keep the party herd immune from political inducements. What Rahul and his strategists must do is to diminish the trust deficit in him as a deliverable leader, build on his natural strengths like when he did padayatras and entered people's homes and localise his appeal. The Congress is not short of advisors, he needs to show that he can be a leader of the masses, not of the podium.

# Learning in times of crisis

The COVID pandemic has impacted education the most, compelling nations to embrace e-learning. India needs to invest in infrastructure and put right policies in place



MJ WARSI

**N**ations across the world have taken different yet significant measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. The most immediate one taken by almost all countries was to cancel physical face-to-face teaching in schools and higher education institutions. All kinds of social and religious gatherings and public events, too, were banned. With a sudden shift from the classroom to e-learning, many wondered whether the adoption of online education would continue to persist post-pandemic and how such a shift would impact the education market.

Indeed, in India, too, physical classrooms have replaced online classes. The transition has mostly been smooth in private universities though public institutions are yet to adapt to the changes. This has led to widespread debates on the future course of classes — whether they should be conducted online or not. Realising the long-term impact of COVID-19, faculty members, too, are finding it hard to conduct online classes with ease. On the other hand, students have been left clinging on to their mobile phones, laptops and computer screens. What, however, is certain is that a post-COVID world must gear itself to adapt to some changes. Being physically present in a classroom may not be the only learning option anymore — not with the rise of the internet and new technologies, at least. As long as there is access to a computer with a robust internet connection, students can attend live sessions or watch pre-recorded classes. Does this mean that online education will soon replace classroom education? It should be kept in mind that even though there have been huge technological advancements, they aren't flawless. E-learning comes with its own set of challenges.

**Challenges and possibilities:** In the case of traditional classrooms, lack of engagement is problematic for teachers and students alike. Unlike online education, here, they cannot pause or rewind the classes in case they miss out certain chapters. On the other hand, online education is not as easy as speaking into the microphone at the one end and connecting a laptop or phone and listening on the other. There are other challenges with this form of education that have to be faced by both — faculty as well as students. While the former will have to put in extra labour to generate lectures, it will be difficult for the latter to make sense of it online. Then, how will this form of education compensate for the academic loss suffered by students? Practically speaking, there is no alternative to classroom activities.

Most important of all, even after so much digitisation, rural India will face unprecedented challenges due to poor connectivity and frequent power cuts that would affect the productivity of the classroom. Talking about access to electricity, according to Mission Antyodaya, a nation-



wide survey of villages conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2017-18, 16 per cent of India's households received one to eight hours of electricity daily, 33 per cent received 9-12 hours and only 47 per cent received more than 12 hours a day. Further, according to data collected by the National Sample Survey as part of the Survey on Education (2014), only 27 per cent of households in India have some member with access to internet. Access to internet does not necessarily mean that a household actually has internet at home.

While increasing ethernet connectivity should be the larger goal, in the short term, data on mobile phones must be subsidised. Device ownership, too, is a problem and for this, the Government must provide for cheap smartphones for students to get on with the business of teaching. Organisations such as the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), IGNOU and other such bodies offering distance education as well as the Government must assess current and future infrastructure requirements for digital age and bridge the gap.

But what if e-learning becomes the way of life for education? What would be the major issues and areas that

require introspection? And what does this mean for the students going forward?

Most universities are now offering web-based file-sharing services to their faculty members and research communities. However, there are several other ways to make multimedia resources accessible over the internet. Certainly, the most familiar one is YouTube, which though ubiquitous and easy-to-use, does present challenges to classroom use that must not be ignored. The most glaring one is the comments section. The instructor can take it for granted that some comments will not be suitable for projection on a classroom screen.

Similarly, advertisements found lining the video could be a problem, too. Regardless of the product being promoted, the classroom need not be turned to a search service in order to access multimedia resources. To avoid this, a number of web browser extensions are available that provide for an unfiltered viewing experience, hiding comments, menu side bus and advertisements from the view. A number of cloud-based tools, too, are available that allow files to be stored and shared across a remote host, which at the very least offer the instructor the flexibility to adapt. Foremost among these are Dropbox, which is a file hosting service that offers free

data storage across several operating platforms. Amazon cloud drive offers 5 GB of free storage and provides a straight forward web-based interface for uploading and retrieval of files. Similarly, Google Docs allows for the uploading of entire folders to the cloud, making remote storage of a set of organised files quite easy.

**Make the digital transition:** Technological prospects for classrooms have evolved in remarkable ways since the COVID-19 pandemic. We have witnessed the successful introduction of smartphones that are capable of running audio-visual clips and interactive language drills; tablets are now replacing the laptop as an essential classroom gear; and there has been a rich array of online dictionaries. Further, news media and unicode blogs are now searchable in original scripts; a sea of websites are dedicated towards the study and dissemination of literature. The worldwide popularity of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google classroom, Zoom, Cisco Webex and the user-centred design of web has addressed concerns of language use. Even mini tablets are now equipped with built-in digital camera. In fact, they allow students to use audio and video editing software immediately upon recording. All of these advancements offer promising

ways for the students to do their homework, going far beyond just a paper and pen.

The time has come for us to adapt to new and innovative teaching methods. So, what next? Most experts and researchers across academic institutions agree that there is a need to create standardised online education platforms. Besides students and teachers must be trained to get accustomed to using digital technologies. Others highlight the necessity to introspect on the nature of these platforms and how students must be taught using different online tools and methods while keeping accessibility and the challenges in mind.

To look for possibilities, there is lack of clarity among teachers and researchers about the plan of action, especially with respect to teaching, examination, results, internships and placements. Challenges are many that need to be overcome. Some students without reliable internet access and technology struggle to participate in digital learning. This gap is seen across countries. Education is going to be digital in the foreseeable future. We will be better prepared to handle it only with the right kind of infrastructure and policies in place. The Government must pay heed.

(The writer is a linguist, author and columnist)

## SOUNDBITE

We are only manufacturing jumbas, statements and slogans. That is the only thing we make in India and we are masters at that under this Government.



**Congress leader**  
—Kapil Sibal

People have had the time to introspect and understand that there is no planet B. This is the only world we have and it's our only chance at survival.



**Actor**  
—Bhumi Pednekar

Issues of human dignity will not abide standing on the sidelines. To the Black community — we see you. You matter and your lives matter.



**Apple CEO**  
—Tim Cook

In the context of China, they (the Congress) started finding fault without realising that China is a baggage left by Rahul Gandhi's great grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru.



**Union Minister**  
—Jitendra Singh

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Cowardly act

**Sir** — This refers to the editorial, "Elephantine problem" (June 4). It was heart-wrenching to know about the horrific death of a pregnant elephant in Kerala's Palakkad district after she ate a pineapple filled with firecrackers that was allegedly left by some locals. Amid the Corona crisis, one had expected that this would be the time for nature to reclaim its lost space. The death of a wild elephant in Kerala serves as a reminder that we humans have long forgotten what humanity is.

In Kerala, which boasts a literacy rate of 93.91 per cent, it is a practice for locals to use explosive-laced traps to get rid of wild animals, especially boars. And this wasn't the first time that such traps have claimed the life of an elephant here.

Though one arrest has been made in the present case, it is a travesty of justice that the maximum punishment for the murderers would be just seven years in jail. There's an urgent need to strengthen animal and wildlife protection laws, too.

**Tushar Anand Patna**

### A turning point for America

**G**eorge Floyd, an Afro-American, had been living in Minneapolis for several years after moving there from his native Houston, Texas. Handcuffed at gunpoint, he was pinned to the ground as the police officer, Derek Chauvin, kept his knee pressed hard on his neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds. "I can't breathe," he cried repeatedly but his cries fell on deaf ears. About six minutes into that period, Floyd fell silent. Why did Chauvin do the unthinkable? Years ago, Rohith Vemula, a Dalit PhD candidate at the University of Hyderabad, found himself ousted from the hostel and was forced to live in a tent. A distraught Vemula committed suicide. In the searing note he left behind, he said, his "birth was his fatal accident." Floyd was Black, born to parents of African origin in a racially divided America. His birth, too, "was his fatal accident."

Martin Luther King Jr, the redoubtable civil rights leader, reached Memphis, Tennessee on April 3, 1968, to support the striking African-American city sanitation workers, who were facing crass racial discrimination there. He was shot when standing in the hotel balcony the next day. Addressing an angry crowd, Senator Robert F Kennedy said, "For those of you who are Black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and mistrust of the injustice of such an act, against all White people, I would only say that I can also feel in my own heart the same kind



of feeling. I had a member of my family killed but he was killed by a White man." He was referring to his slain brother John F Kennedy. It calmed the crowd, albeit temporarily. Floyd was no Martin Luther King Jr. Yet, the killing in cold blood highlighted the deep-rooted prejudices persisting in American society. And for US President Donald Trump, Floyd's death "on the streets of Minneapolis" was just "a grave tragedy." His open threat to deploy the US military reservists of the National Guard against the angry anti-racism protesters to "dominate" the streets, was, by no means, a healer's touch. Perhaps, this may well be a defining moment for America's racial politics.

**Haridasan Rajan Kozhikode**

### Reconnect with nature

**Sir** — Coronavirus has elicited varying degrees of response from nation-states. Weeks after the

spread of the virus, it was more than evident that even countries with the best medical and public health infrastructure could find no match to this biological invad-

er. Containment through isolation was seen to be the lone weapon.

By virtue of the progress made in science, we may find a

cure for COVID-19 but like every other microbial onslaught till date, we have to pay a heavy price. When will mankind learn the universal tenet of simple living and high thinking as advocated by our rishis of yore?

**R Narayanan Navi Mumbai**

### Mired in confusion

**Sir** — This refers to the editorial, "Trump's expansionism" (June 4). US President Donald Trump's call to transform G-7 into G-11 lacks clarity. He has failed to convince nations on the need to upgrade the grouping. He has only said that it has become outdated. Besides, an analysis needs to be done on the failures of G-7. Given that the US would be going to polls in November, it remains unclear how this would shape up. India has taken the right step by showing willingness to attend the G-7 summit but it must be impartial as it has till now on international affairs.

**Manisha Via email**

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

FIRST COLUMN

## Firms need a new perspective

Business processes will change due to the pandemic and so should the way valuations of companies are done



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Coronavirus cases are rising exponentially in India even as the country is in the midst of unlocking the economy. With the Government allowing almost all sectors to restart, companies are faced with the new challenge of valuing their businesses as a consequence of the pandemic. Nothing is the same now. The financial markets, the economy, real estate and almost all sectors have seen major turbulence and the uncertainty will not end anytime soon. According to the 2020, *Brand Finance India 100* report, during the pandemic, the combined valuation of India's top 100 brands dropped by \$25 billion as compared to the start of this year. The uncertainty in future cash flows is now a hard reality. Organisations have to renew ways of measuring risks associated with the cash flow of their businesses as the categories of risk may have increased in the light of COVID-19.

The elements which are a part of the discount rates used in valuations, including the risk-free rate and unsystematic risks, may have changed, altering the way businesses approached valuations before the crisis. All business valuations are done on projections. However, in these unprecedented times, there is every chance that these projections might change. It has become difficult to quantify the short-term and long-term financial projections and the shape of economic recovery is also uncertain. It may be 'V' shaped, 'U' shaped or even 'W' shaped. Moreover, some industries may bounce back faster than the others. Even though governments across the world are providing economic stimulus, the fact remains that consumer demand may still be slow and may possibly see a paradigm shift in the long-term.

So, during these times, selecting a valuation model relevant to one's own business is imperative. All three valuation methods — income, market and asset — are available to business managers and analysts. However, in the present situation, some methods may be more appropriate as compared to others. For example, of the two income-based approaches that are used to value a company, one may be more appropriate than the other now. The first method, the Capitalisation of Cash Flow (CCF) method is used by mature firms, which are relatively stable in their growth expectation and cash flows. Under this method, the valuator assumes a steady growth rate, picks a single income stream and predicts future income based on historical numbers.

On the other hand, the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method is more flexible and allows for more variations in the future cash flows based on varying growth rates, changes in the interest rates of debt repayments and any other factors that may change in future and could affect cash flows. Given this rising economic uncertainty and market disruption, DCF, with its flexibility to allow modelling of performance of future years of a business individually, with varying growth rates and cash flows till businesses stabilise, may be a more useful method. This method will not be devoid of challenges as valuator may still have to consider multiple scenario analysis to capture the growing uncertainty in the next 18 to 24 months.

Organisations can value their business using other methods as well. However, additional considerations need to be applied in doing so. For example, if a company was using the market approach of valuation earlier, it needs to make relevant adjustments in the financial parameters now. It may not just use an average of the previous three or five-year period, as it may not be applicable in these uncertain times. So usage of previous years' financial metrics during these times needs more analysis and adjustments.

Cash flows and the ability of a business to continue its operations and generate cash flows are important for business valuation. In addition, cash balance and the rate at which money is being used by an organisation also determine its survival and ability to continue doing business. So any changes that help a firm to preserve capital and cash flows, now and in the near future, will help in the valuations as it can give a good idea of how long a company can survive in these turbulent times.

The longer-term prospects of any organisation are also important in assessing its value. However, every dark cloud has a silver lining and tough times help some companies to thrive or re-engineer themselves, like grocery and food delivery, manufacturers of PPE and digital businesses. These and similar other businesses by virtue of their relevance in these times, or because of timely reinvention, are actually booming during the outbreak. With world economies going through disruptions and maybe permanent changes in consumer behaviour, some companies would take advantage of the situation and do better than pre-pandemic times. Going forward, due to the unpredictability of the business environment and future cash flows, valuations cannot be done by just numbers. Stories of survival, tales of flexibility and the ability to either scale up or scale down at a short notice should be definitely part of valuations. Many things may not remain the same in the aftermath of the outbreak. Business processes will change and so should the way valuations of companies are done. (The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)

DELHI GOVERNMENT RE-TESTED 30 SAMPLES FROM RML HOSPITAL WHICH WERE DECLARED COVID-19 POSITIVE. THE RESULTS OF 12 SAMPLES WERE NEGATIVE. —AAP SPOKESPERSON RAGHAV CHADHA

POINT COUNTERPOINT



IT IS NOT RIGHT TO DO POLITICS OVER THE COVID-19 SITUATION IN DELHI AS IT WEAKENS THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DISEASE. —UNION HEALTH MINISTER HARSH VARDHAN

# Give back to 'city makers'

The absorption of jobless migrant workers in newer fiscal activities with dignity would significantly depend on the nature and type of Government policies put in place to jumpstart economies of cities



ARJUN KUMAR

Symmetric to global trends, COVID-19 has had multi-dimensional impacts on the Indian economy and society. Amid rising concerns over the lives and livelihoods of the poorer sections of the population due to the nationwide lockdown, the Government announced seemingly bold economic packages. However, with a few exceptions, lack of coordination in the official sphere at the ground level has had appalling consequences, especially on the millions of "city makers", the urban informal workers, who represent a significant share of the workforce and contribute in multiple ways to the economy.

Employed mostly in the unorganised sector and living in informal settlements in cities, they have borne the major brunt of the lockdown. They have no job contracts, no regular work, are often employed casually and are without any social safety nets to support them and their families during exigencies. Moreover, their livelihood opportunities are constrained by multiple barriers that include deplorable housing conditions, inadequacies of urban services, in-built socio-economic disparities relating to caste and gender and also the policies and practices of governments.

**The challenges during the lockdown:** An IMPRI survey to understand the impact of the lockdown on the lives of migrant workers revealed that almost three-fourth of the 3,121 respondents from over 50 cities of India were engaged in informal employment, i.e. daily wage work, petty trades/business and as temporary workers without any social security benefits. It was found that six out of 10 workers had lost their jobs during the lockdown, with unemployment being highest among the casual labourers and self-employed respondents. A whopping 74 per cent of the casual labourers lost their jobs while 67 per cent of the self-employed workers could not pursue their economic activities due to the lockdown.

The workers, who had no other option but to remain confined within their houses without any work, could neither realistically practise social distancing, nor could they afford it. The inability to earn during the shutdown translated into 54 per cent of the people being unable to pay rent for their accommodation.

The loss of jobs had a spillover impact on the education of children, too, as most city-makers send their offspring to Government schools. In the prevailing new normal of online teaching methods and reliance on digital modes of learning, education has become a distant dream for the children of migrant labourers because they have no smartphones for accessing such education, forget about computers.

With 88 per cent of the city makers depending on household income, savings, financial help from relatives and friends and so on, for meeting their health-related expenditure, this temporary job loss has added to their anxieties that any kind of health emergency, including COVID-19, would exacerbate.

**What they want:** Quite understandably, most people want to return to work and almost three-fourth of the respondents said that they would join the same job in which they were engaged prior to the lockdown, if possible. In other words, this loss of jobs or livelihood options was considered as a temporary phenomenon.

However, the absorption of jobless migrant workers in newer fiscal activities with dignity would significantly depend on the nature and type of Government policies put in place to jump-

“ IN THE US, A SUM OF \$300-\$400 IS BEING GIVEN WEEKLY TO THE UNEMPLOYED AS AN ALLOWANCE. THEREFORE, TO ENSURE A DIGNIFIED ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CAN AFFORD TO GIVE \$1 (ABOUT ₹75) A DAY TO EACH POOR PERSON. IF WE GIVE ₹2,000 PER MONTH ASSISTANCE TO 12 CRORE PEOPLE (THE BOTTOM QUARTILE POPULATION IN THE URBAN ECONOMIC LADDER), IT WILL TRANSLATE TO ₹24,000 CRORE A MONTH AND ₹72,000 CRORE FOR THREE MONTHS. THIS IS CERTAINLY DOABLE



start economies of cities. This can mostly be done by providing boosts to local businesses and small and micro-enterprises.

**The challenges:** A defining challenge for devising appropriate mitigating policies for the city makers is the lack of data about them both prior to and during any kind of emergency. So, preparedness and early action by the communities are essential. To benefit from any Central and State Government relief measures — both cash and non-cash — people must possess Government documents (ration card, Aadhaar card), bank account and be enrolled in different Government welfare schemes and so on.

The survey revealed that coverage of and eligibility for Government support programmes was a major concern, as evident from the possession status of various important documents by the respondents.

About 23 per cent of the respondents did not have ration cards, 32 per cent did not have zero-balance Jan Dhan bank accounts and on an average only one out of 10 respondents were covered under the Government of India's flagship public health as well as life insurance schemes — Ayushman Bharat, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima and PM Suraksha Bima Yojna.

About 65 per cent of the surveyed respondents were aware of the AarogyaSetu App and among them 62 per cent reported use of the app. Only 38 per cent respondents were aware of State WhatsApp helplines. For other apps and e-initiatives, the awareness levels of the respondents were very poor. Roughly about 20-30 per cent of the respondents were aware of State e-coupons for rations, State e-pass or other different State apps and use of these apps among them turned out to be even more pathetic.

Lack of access to smartphones and unstable internet connectivity were the major impediments in using the apps and portals.

Regarding their awareness on eligibility for Government support programmes, only 37 per cent of the respondents thought that they were eligible for benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (having an outlay of ₹20 lakh crore for the COVID-19 response). However, only 34 per cent of the respondents could avail benefits like cash transfers and free ration under this scheme.

**The solutions:** In the light of the above evidence, it becomes extremely important to think of precise policy improvements to tide over the crisis. To start with, the stringent Aadhaar-requirements for accessing different schemes must be relaxed for at least the next six months. Another option could be a job assurance programme that would give needy households livelihood security during health crises.

Essentially, the COVID-19 crisis requires extremely localised and coordinated responses. So, city governments and their elected representatives should decide on vigorous delivery of basic urban services that might be the most effective in their contexts. Financially-empowered city governments with clear functional domain and adequate institutional capacity can respond rapidly and contain the outbreak of COVID-19.

It is equally important to improve and expand the coverage of the Public Distribution System (PDS). Bridging the awareness gap regarding available Government support programmes, especially the PDS, through timely and reliable information and expanding the coverage of such programmes to the needy but non-registered segments via certain temporary forms of authentication as alternatives, can be very useful.

The last Economic Survey (2019-20) spoke of "Thalinoomics", which says that a good vegetarian and non-vegetarian platter costs a minimum of ₹25 minimum and ₹40, respectively. Therefore, in order to ensure that the

poorest sections of the population are able to fulfil their dietary requirements, each identified needy person must be provided with a dollar a day (around ₹2,000 per month).

Further, for everyone to be vigilant about the spread of COVID-19, digital literacy for children belonging to poor families, and smooth transfer of digital payment of welfare schemes, poor households should be provided an Android phone either for free or at a subsidised rate through PDS shops. In addition, the private sector (under the CSR component) should come forward and provide free SIM and data coupons to Below Poverty Line households. It is the most opportune time to ensure digital literacy among the people.

In the US, \$300-\$400 are being given weekly to the unemployed as an allowance. Therefore, to ensure a dignified assistance to the poor, the Government of India can afford to give \$1 (about ₹75) a day to each poor person. If we give ₹2,000 per month assistance to 12 crore people (the bottom quartile population in the urban economic ladder), it will translate to ₹24,000 crore a month and ₹72,000 crore for three months. This is certainly doable.

Moreover, if we can give an Android phone in a graded manner to around five crore people (prioritising the elderly, women and children going to Government schools) in the cities, it would amount to around ₹30,000 crore (cost per handset around ₹6,000). Overall, this would amount to ₹100,000 crore and would be crucial as India moves into the "unlock" phase. Such provisioning is certainly doable and would just need a reorientation of the Budget 2020-21. And to this, the ₹35 lakh crore worth of forex reserves could be rightly utilised to pay for the war against COVID-19, as it would help distribute the pain similar to the Keynesian tenets during World War-II and create a better society. (The writer is Director, IMPRI)

# Enlarge role of local govts in handling crisis

The lockdown exit plan will gradually give way to decentralised responsibilities to panchayats and municipalities. The sooner this shift takes place the better it will be



VN ALOK

Given the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government imposed a nationwide lockdown by invoking provisions of the National Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act). The law was enacted by invoking entry number 23, namely, "Social Security and Social Insurance; Employment and Unemployment" in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Hence, it empowers Union and State Governments to frame rules and issue

executive orders. In fact, the subject "disaster management" is not specifically mentioned in all the three lists of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, the Parliament exercised its power to enact a law on the subject.

Other entries like "Public Order" and "Public Health" were included in the State List when the Constitution was framed. Further, consequent upon the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution in 1993, "Public Health" found place in the 11th and 12th Schedules. As a result, panchayats and municipalities have been assigned civic powers to render "public health" to citizens in their respective jurisdictions.

Rightly so, as democratic and cooperative organisations at the local level are arguably the best to render preventive and prophylactic measures like inoculation and vaccination. The

main function of these local self-governments is to make the people understand what change or innovation benefits them, why it does so and how it can be introduced. It is for the community to participate in all the activities which lead to such change or innovation.

Panchayats and municipalities were brought into the statute book to promote better living for the community with the active participation of the community. Here, the word "community" means a local society in a geographical rural or urban area, cutting across caste, religious and economic differences.

Ironically, these key institutions have not found their rightful place in the DM Act. A passing reference is made to "local authorities" under Section 41 of the DM Act. As per the section, these panchayats, municipalities and cantonment boards are

mandated to carry out "relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities" only under the "directions of the District Authority." The DM Act stipulates, under Section 25, the setting up of a "District Disaster Management Authority" under the stewardship of a District Collector/Magistrate, who is assisted by the chairperson of the district council in the capacity of co-chairperson of the district authority.

Further, Section 31 of the DM Act provides for a "plan" by the district authority in consultation with local authorities subject to approval by the State. The provision is akin to Article 243 ZD, a mandatory constitutional provision, which envisages a district planning committee (DPC) for spatial planning, infrastructure development and environmental conservation.

States have given the provision of DPC in their respective Acts but seem to be reluctant to make them

operational. As a result, the process of decentralised planning is hampered and associated capacity-development is completely denied.

On the other hand, the DM Act is unambiguous in assigning powers to Union and State Governments. Section 62 of the Act stipulates extraordinary powers to the Centre by which any authority in Union Ministries, statutory bodies and State Governments is bound to take direction from the nodal Central Ministry. In addition, a national plan is drawn up under Section 11.

At the State level, under Section 14, a State Disaster Management Authority is required under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of the State. This authority is assisted by a State Executive Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State. The committee prepares the State Disaster Management Plan after following the

guidelines of the National Authority and a select consultation with the district and local authorities.

Penal provisions in Chapter 10 of the DM Act pave the way for security personnel to take coercive measures against offenders. However, medical professionals are not covered under this provision. Recent incidents of stone pelting and misbehaviour with doctors and nurses compelled the Government to introduce penal provisions protecting healthcare personnel and their property against violence. For the purpose, an Ordinance was promulgated on April 22 to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 in the light of the current pandemic. This could be a permanent provision to maintain the morale of the healthcare professional and discipline miscreants.

It may be observed that the pandemic till date is being controlled through centralised institutional

arrangements with remarkable cooperation of all State Governments and public servants and security forces have been enforcing the lockdown effectively. The lockdown exit plan will gradually give way to decentralised responsibilities to panchayats and municipalities. The sooner this shift takes place the better it will be.

The Government has prominently pronounced the role of local self-governments to combat COVID-19, which can only be prevented by changing human attitudes and behaviours. Local governments and the community are best placed to bring this change and inculcate social distancing on a sustainable basis. Hence, the role of local governments must be prominent, at least, in the DM Act.

(The writer is faculty, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

CAPSULE



**Sun Pharma initiates clinical trials for COVID-19 treatment drug**

**New Delhi:** Drug major Sun Pharmaceutical Industries on Friday said it has commenced phase-2 clinical trials on AQCH, a plant-derived drug, for potential treatment of COVID-19. The company received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for conducting the trials of the phytopharmaceutical drug in April this year, Sun Pharma said in a statement. "The clinical trials will be conducted across 12 centres in India on 210 patients. The treatment duration for patients will be 10 days. The results of the clinical trials are expected by October 2020," it added. Human safety study of AQCH has already been completed and the drug has been found safe at the recommended dose for phase-2 study, Sun Pharma said. "This is the first phytopharmaceutical drug approved for clinical trials by the DCGI as a potential treatment for COVID-19. AQCH has shown anti-SARS-CoV-2 effects in in-vitro studies conducted in collaboration with ICGEB, Italy," Sun Pharma MD Dilip Shangkhi said.

**Mahindra Finance**

**Mahindra Finance to raise up to Rs 86 cr via NCDs**

**New Delhi:** Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd (Mahindra Finance) on Friday said it will raise up to Rs 86 crore through issuance of debt securities. "A meeting of the duly authorised committee was held today, i.e. on 5th June, 2020, approving the allotment of 860 secured redeemable principal protected non-convertible market linked debentures (NCDs) aggregating to Rs 86 crore," the company said in a BSE filing. Face value of the NCDs will be Rs 10,00,000 each, aggregating to Rs 86 crore. The maturity tenure of the securities is 731 days from the deemed date of allotment, it added. Mahindra Finance stock traded at Rs 153.75 on the BSE, up 3.33 per cent over previous close.



**Kiran Shaw named EY World Entrepreneur**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been named EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 at a virtual award ceremony, the company said in a statement. She was selected from among 46 Entrepreneur of the Year country award winners from 41 countries and territories, it added. "I am truly honoured to receive the prestigious EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2020. At its core, entrepreneurship is about solving problems. The greatest opportunities often arise at the toughest times, and that's been my experience throughout my entrepreneurial journey," Mazumdar-Shaw said.

**SBI reports four-fold jump in Q4 profit**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The country's largest lender SBI on Friday reported over four-fold jump in standalone net profit at Rs 3,580.81 crore for March quarter 2019-20. State Bank of India (SBI) had registered a profit of Rs 838.4 crore during January-March period of 2018-19, the lender said in a regulatory filing. Income of the bank during March quarter of the last financial year rose to Rs 76,027.51 crore from Rs 75,670.5 crore in the same period of 2018-19, SBI said. On the asset front, gross non performing assets (NPAs) of the bank improved at 6.15 per cent of gross advances as on March 31, 2020 as against 7.53 per cent by the same period of 2019. Net NPA or bad loans stood at 2.23 per cent as on March



**State Bank of India (SBI) had registered a profit of Rs 838.4 crore during January-March period of 2018-19**

31, 2020 as compared to 3.01 per cent by the year-ago same period. SBI stock was trading at Rs 178.70 on the BSE, up 2.67 per cent from the previous close.

**Govt clear about privatisation of PSUs: Sanyal**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The government is clear and unapologetic about privatisation of public sector enterprises as part of reforms, Principal Economic Advisor Sanjeev Sanyal said on Friday. Last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that there will be a maximum of four public sector companies in strategic sectors while state-owned firms in other segments will eventually be privatised. This will be part of a new coherent Public Sector Enterprises Policy to be formulated to push reforms in central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), she had said while announcing the fifth and last tranche of over Rs 20 lakh crore 'Amtmanirbar Bharat Abhiyan' package.



**Sensex rallies 307 pts; SBI soars over 7 pc post Q4 show**

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 307 points on Friday, propelled by gains in index-heavy-weights HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and SBI. After hitting a high of 34,405.43, the 30-share index settled 306.54 points or 0.90 per cent higher at 34,287.24. Similarly, the NSE Nifty rose 113.05 points or 1.13 per cent to 10,142.15.

**After hitting a high of 34,405.43, the 30-share index settled 306.54 points or 0.90 per cent higher at 34,287.24**

State Bank of India (SBI) was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging around 8 per cent, after the country's largest lender reported an over four-fold jump in standalone net profit at Rs 3,580.81 crore for the March quarter. Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, NTPC, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank also ended with firm gains. On the other hand, TCS, HUL, Bajaj Auto and Infosys were among the laggards. Reliance Industries (RIL) succumbed to profit-booking, ending flat after touching its

one-year high in intra-day trade. The company announced sale of 1.85 per cent stake in its digital unit Jio Platforms to Abu Dhabi-based sovereign investor Mubadala for Rs 9,093.60 crore. According to traders, besides stock-specific action, persistent foreign fund inflows and positive cues from global markets led to bullish sentiment here. "The current week has been a good one for the global markets as major frontline markets posted a strong rally," said Sanjeev Zarbade, VP PCG Research, Kotak Securities.

**IMF asks Pak to freeze govt employees' salaries**

**PNS ■ ISLAMABAD**

The IMF has asked cash-strapped Pakistan to freeze salaries of government employees and adhere to the fiscal consolidation path by showing a nominal primary deficit in the new budget due to the unsustainable public debt that is set to hit 90 per cent of the total value of the national economy. Pakistan is finding it hard to concede to the two demands but the IMF is insisting that the country should continue to follow the fiscal consolidation path due to the high and unsustainable public debt, the Express Tribune reported on Friday. Owing to the prevailing tight fiscal situation, growing public debt and Pakistan's decision to seek debt relief from G-20 countries, the International Monetary Fund has asked Islamabad to freeze salaries of government employees, the daily reported, citing sources in the Ministry of Finance.

**Centre to pick 5 new blocks with all clearances for auction**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre has asked each state having mineral resources to identify at least five new mining projects for auction with pre-embedded clearance on a pilot basis with a view to expediting the sale process as well as operationalisation of the blocks. The Mines Ministry has released guidelines for the auction of mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances as it explores ways to address the key issue of delay in mining production due to lack of various approvals such as forest and environment permissions.



**The identified blocks would be auctioned along with other blocks without pre-embedded clearances**

The identified blocks would be auctioned along with other blocks without pre-embedded clearances. Under the guidelines, the Centre has asked states to set up a project monitoring unit (PMU) to complete the preparatory work for obtaining requisite clearances, approvals and related work. The unit would obtain all the clearances for starting a mining project. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month had announced various structural

reforms in the mining sector as part of the over Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus package to boost growth and job creation. She had announced the auction of 500 blocks and introduction of a seamless composite exploration-cum-mining-cum-production regime. In the guidelines on the auction of mining blocks,

the mines ministry said, "It has been decided that states should implement this mechanism on pilot basis in respect of identified mineral blocks, which could be auctioned with pre-embedded clearances... Each state should identify at least five mineral blocks for auction with pre-embedded clearance."

**Alkem Laboratories Q4 net profit up 12 pc at Rs 191.54 cr**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Drug firm Alkem Laboratories on Friday reported a 12.34 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 191.54 crore for the quarter ended on March 31, 2020. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 170.50 crore for the corresponding period of previous fiscal, Alkem Laboratories said in a BSE filing.



Revenue from operations also rose to Rs 2,048.99 crore for the quarter under consid-

eration as against Rs 1,853.03 crore for the same period year ago, it added. Net profit for the fiscal ended March 2020 stood at Rs 1,149.31 crore as against Rs 773.64 crore for 2018-19, Alkem Labs said. The company posted Rs 8,344.36 crore as revenue from operations for 2019-20. It was Rs 7,357.19 crore for the year ago fiscal, it added.

**Rupee settles on a flat note, slips 1p to 75.58 against dollar**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The rupee surrendered all intra-day gains to provisionally close on a flat note at 75.58 against the US dollar on Friday as investors looked for cues to move forward and take positions. Forex traders said positive domestic equities, sustained foreign fund flows, revival of business activities and weak US dollar supported the local unit, but there were still a slew of risks, including US-China trade tiff, that weighed on the currency. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened strong

at 75.38, but later pared gains and finally settled at 75.58 against the US dollar, down 1 paisa over its last close of 75.57. "The USD/INR spot has been trading in a very tight range 75-75.65 as investors await catalyst to move forward and take positions," said Rahul Gupta, Head of Research- Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services. Currently, the spot is in indecisive market and going forward the focus will be on Jio-Mubadala deal related dollar flows, US-China trade spat and whether there is a second wave of infection.

**MSMEs facing difficulties in accessing relief packages: SSI**

**PNS ■ BENGALURU**

MSMEs are seriously concerned about the implementation of the emergency COVID-19-related packages meant as relief for industry as they face innumerable difficulties in accessing benefits at the level of banks, according to Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA). For one, guidelines issued under the Emergency Credit Link Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) are not uniform and different banks have framed their own guidelines leading to confusion and hardship in making use of the schemes at a time when industries are in dire straits, KASSIA President R Raju said in a statement. The same confusion exists with regard to moratorium on



the repayment of installments and interest as well as other compliances. While some banks may be transparent and forthcoming, a number of others are unsure and place hurdles in the way of the MSME customers in accessing these benefits, he said. KASSIA has received a number of complaints and representations from its members about the difficulties in

accessing the schemes. "We, therefore, would like to seriously urge the government to immediately ensure that uniform guidelines are issued and followed by all the Banks and other institutions as otherwise a large number of MSMEs, accounting for approximately 30-35 per cent of the units, may have no option but to shut down for want of succour, Raju added.

**Calls for moratorium on import of natural rubber**

**PNS ■ COIMBATORE**

The United Planters Association of Southern India (UPASI) on Friday sought an immediate moratorium on natural rubber (NR) import for a minimum period of two years. The NR sector has been in a crisis due to the fall in prices over the last eight years. The prices have been far below production cost, the reason being unrestricted surge in cheap imports into the country from South-East Asian regions, UPASI president AL RM Nagappan said in a letter to the Union Commerce and Industry and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal. The spread of COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent



lockdown turned out to be a double whammy as NR production came to a grinding halt and the present situation is threatening the existence of the sector, he claimed. The opening stock of NR in the country, estimated at 3.4 lakh tonnes [as on April 1, 2020], roughly translates to six months of production, which further reiterates the need to declare a moratorium on import, he said.

**Atlas Cycles shuts ops at last unit**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Atlas Cycles - a name that became a synonym for bicycles in India - has shut its last manufacturing unit in Sahibabad, just outside the national capital, citing lack of funds to run the factory. Its CEO N P Singh Rana, however, insists the shutdown is only temporary, and the company will resume operations once it is able to raise around Rs 50 crore by selling surplus land. The company shut the factory on June 3, which ironically was also happened to be the World Bicycle Day. It laid off 431 remaining employees, though Rana insists they continue to be on the roll of the company and will be paid "lay-off wages" upon marking atten-



dance daily. While he did not elaborate on the payment to employees, "lay-off wages" typically equal to 50 per cent of basic salary and dearness allowance. The plant, the biggest in the country, started in 1989. It was

the last operational plant of the Atlas cycle with a monthly production of over two lakh bicycles. Employees claimed the unit was shut without notice. On Wednesday, a notice was pasted on the factory

**CEO N P Singh Rana, however, insists the shutdown is only temporary, and will resume ops**

gates that read: "... the company had been passing through a financial crisis for several years and had exhausted all its funds to keep the factory afloat. But now, there are no funds left. We are facing difficulty in arranging funds for our day-to-day operations. We are also unable to buy raw materials. In these conditions, the management is not in a position to operate the factory."

**PIO pharma boss banned for price-fixing in UK**

**PNS ■ LONDON**

An Indian-origin pharmaceutical industry chief has signed undertakings that ban him from holding a director role at any UK company for the next five years, in connection with his role in companies that were allegedly involved in illegal arrangements such as price-fixing of drugs. Amit Patel, a former director at the pharmaceutical companies Auden McKenzie and Amilco, was the subject of a UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) investigation, which concluded with the ban on Thursday. "Company directors have a responsibility to make sure their companies comply with

competition law. And the CMA is determined to protect the public from directors who fail to do so," said Michael Grenfell, the CMA's Executive Director of Enforcement. "Today's action should act as a warning to those in management positions - the CMA will not stand by when your firms break the law and take advantage of customers," he said. From September 2014 to May 2015, when Patel was director at Auden McKenzie, the CMA investigation found that Auden McKenzie and King Pharmaceuticals Ltd had shared out between them the supply of the drug nortriptyline to a large pharmaceutical wholesaler.

**Making workplaces healthier, greener**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

State-run EESL in partnership with US Agency for International Development's MAITREE program launched an initiative that will pioneer ways to make workplaces healthier and greener. Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency is aimed at accelerating the adoption of cost-effective energy efficiency measures as a standard practice within buildings, and specifically focuses on cooling. MAITREE is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Ministry of Power and USAID.

With men and women from the Telangana state police working on the frontline amid Coronavirus, *The Pioneer's* SHIKHA DUGGAL speaks to Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar, on his journey coming from a small town of Patna and taking a grand leap to the cosmopolitan city of Hyderabad. Anjani Kumar has also been conferred with the United Nations Peace Medal twice while he was serving with the UN at Bosnia in his '90s. An alumnus from St. Xavier's Patna, he tells us how has this city helped his occupation evolve over the years



## BIG CITY BRINGS BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES!

**C**an you share your association with Hyderabad?

My association with the city of Hyderabad dates back to 1990, when I joined the Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Police Academy. We were a group of 10 people who hailed to this city from Delhi University in pursuit of joining the civil services with a passion to serve our motherland. I still remember those gloomy days as the city was undergoing a curfew situation due to a communal agenda

and that became my very first exposure. The city of Hyderabad has been extremely nice to us both on professional and personal fronts, both my kids were born here and my wife has also devoted her services to the city from past few years.

**How's the city been treating you?**

Thirty years in this city, off and on, many times I was posted outside the city in rural areas too but my connection to the city never snapped. I have made some virtuous friends and maintained cordial relationships. The locals are very affectionate and warm here.

**Have you lived in other cities across the country? If so, how's Hyderabad different from others?**

I have lived in several cities from past 30 years, be it the capital territory, the gateway of Mughals Lucknow, the ancient city of Patna which is also my birthplace, the city that never sleeps Mumbai or the IT hub of Bangalore but this metropolis of Nawabs has been my best experience! A truly cosmopolitan city in its quintessence, its a complete amalgamation of cuisine, diverse cultures, historic places, moderate weather and good governance.

**One thing that comes in your mind when you think of this city?**

The city police trace back its origination in the



services amid lockdown. Deployed AI to detect face mask rule violators amid relaxations.

**What is it that your relatives or friends who visit you here like to take back and where do they want to visit when they come to Hyderabad?**

Most of my relatives loves visiting our city, they are fascinated by its architectural beauty! My dad is extremely fond of Hyderabad, feels the fabric of Hyderabad is tightly woven. The welcoming hospitality is what sets this city apart from others.

**What's Hyderabad to you?**

Hyderabad is my identity! I wouldn't mind saying that this city has given me a new birth. In fact, whenever I go abroad I am all gaga about my city. Very few people know that the title 'Hyderabad' is 400 years old but the continuity of its culture never dismantled. What's now called NH-44 was originally known as Kashi Rameshwaram road where pilgrims used to come from northern side and our Hyderabad used to serve as a meeting point. Hyderabad has always been a gateway for employees in their journey of progress. Even now when the novel Coronavirus outbreak continues, Telangana government is facilitating journey of migrant workers and that shows our friendliness.

**How's the Hyderabad city police ensuring progressive measures in order to develop the city?**

Provided tele counselling to aggrieved women and children. Due to the burning issue of jobs, Job Connect initiative was launched wherein an employment van goes around the city telling about opportunities and how to apply. Have put stricter checks to prevent cyber frauds and spreading of fake news. Launch of online pass for essential and emergency

**Can you share one of your fondest memories spent here?**

Whenever somebody asks me this, I recollect the time spent in Abids which was earlier a pivot for IPS trainees! Hyderabad has inched its way up in providing a good preparation fulcrum to aspiring civil candidates here. Another fond memory is my early morning distant walks with my peers all the way from Masab Tank police mess to Mehdiapatnam which is an unforgettable evocation.

**How's the city helping you in the career?**

The city police trace back its origination in the

Hyderabad is my identity! I wouldn't mind saying that this city has given me a new birth. In fact, whenever I go abroad I am all gaga about my city. Very few people know that the title 'Hyderabad' is 400 years old but the continuity of its culture never dismantled. What's now called NH-44 was originally known as Kashi Rameshwaram road where pilgrims used to come from northern side and our Hyderabad used to serve as a meeting point.



## HYDERABOND



The Coronavirus pandemic has shaken everyone across the world. While doctors, medicare staff, and the police are working hard to fight the pandemic, it is very important for the public to take care of themselves too. That can begin by consuming healthy food for a stronger immune system. Kids below 10 years and the elderly have to be more cautious and maintain a healthy diet to fight the virus. Chicken is something many say, will provide the body with required proteins and help maintain a better immune system. *The Pioneer's* K RAMYA SREE speaks to Anushka Baidur, Senior Dietician, Fortis Hospital, to find out ways to build a stronger immune system by eating chicken, other diets to follow, and more...

## Chicken to boost our immunity

**1) How can we build our immunity by eating chicken? What are the elements that chicken consists that helps boost the immunity of people across all age groups?**

Anushka Baidur: Our immune system has several components like antibodies and immune cells that depend on protein. Hence, protein is a quintessential requirement for our immune system. Chicken being a source of high-quality protein can, therefore, help in boosting one's

immunity. Apart from protein, chicken is also a good source of various other nutrients, like Retinol (an active form of Vitamin A) Vitamin B B3, Vitamin B9, Zinc, etc. that also have some or the other role to play in immune functioning.

**2) Is it advisable to consume chicken during summer since many feel chicken increases the amount of heat production in our body not knowing whether its a myth or a fact?**

Anushka Baidur: There is no scientific evidence stating that chicken intake should be avoided in the summer. Although one needs to take care that it is cooked well to eliminate any chances of stomach infection which can be more prevalent in the summer season.

**3) How much quantity of chicken is advisable to consume in a week and in what form?**

Anushka Baidur: The quantity and frequency of consumption in a week depends on a person's requirement and also activity level. An athlete or a person doing high-intensity workouts can take it more often than a sedentary person. Also as protein intake corresponds to a person's body weight, intake can vary from one person to another. Also, use healthier methods like boiling and grilling rather than deep fat frying.

**4) What are the benefits of having chicken?**

Anushka Baidur: Chicken is a source of high biological value pro-

tein. Adding chicken in the diet can help meet daily protein needs. It helps in faster wound healing due to its high protein and zinc content. Being a good source of niacin it boosts brain function, protects the skin from sun damage, and can ease symptoms of osteoarthritis. Moreover, a bowl of warm chicken soup is comforting and can alleviate cold symptoms as it may contain substances that have anti-inflammatory properties.

**5) If not chicken, what is the substitute food one can consume for their vegetarian diet?**

Anushka Baidur: Chicken is a good source of high biological value, which means it has all the essential amino acids present in it. Vegetarian foods do not have any such source, but a combination of cereal and pulse, e.g. rice and dal together will have all the essential amino acids, making it a complete protein. There are numerous protein sources even in the vegetarian diet like all dals, whole pulses like channa, rajma, green



**kids for a healthier immune system?**

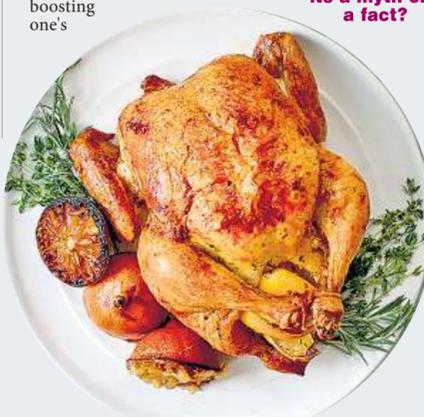
Anushka Baidur: A diet chart is always individualized and can vary from person to person. Hence, there is no 'one size fits all' diet chart even for kids. But for a healthier immunity include protein foods like eggs, chicken, fish, paneer, dal, and pulses, nuts, etc. in their daily diet. Kids can be given a concoction or kadha or kashaya made by boiling onions, tulsi leaves, ginger, and spices like pepper, cumin, coriander, turmeric with some added honey. Ensure adequate vegetable intake in forms acceptable by kids like a palak, methi or drumstick leaves paratha, mixed vegetable and protein cutlets, pasta or noodles made in a healthy way with plenty of added veggies. Nuts and dried fruits like almonds, pistachios, rains, dates, etc. can be eaten as such or made into milkshakes, chikkis, ladoos, etc. Include 2-3 servings of fruits daily. Maintain good hydration using water, buttermilk, coconut water, traditional beverages like kokum, and bael ka sharbat.

moong, soya milk, and milk products like paneer, nuts, tofu, etc. It is imperative for a vegetarian to include these sources in their daily diets.

**6) What is the best dish that goes along with chicken?**

Anushka Baidur: Chicken can be paired with wheat/ millet rotis, rice, or even with just a bowl of vegetable salad.

**7) Can you share the diet chart to be followed by**

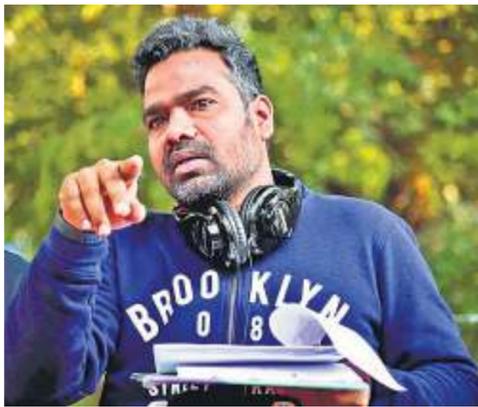






## Exploring the traits of

# TRUE LOVE



Debutant filmmaker Jonathan Edwards speaks to NAGARAJ GOUD about his journey to filmmaking, debut film *Amaram Akhilam Prema* backed by Sukumar, support from the industry and more

With pleasant visuals and a catchy number, the teaser of *Amaram Akhilam Prema* managed to strike a chord with everyone upon its release five months ago. The fact that it is backed by Sukumar means that there will be a general inquisitiveness around it as and when it opens. Debutant filmmaker Jonathan Edwards is pleased as punch with the response, saying that the film would've been released by now if not for the lockdown. Starting his career as a graphic designer, the director has set his sights on filmmaking goals when he was 13. He was heavily drawn towards the films of Martin Scorsese, Krzysztof Kielewski, Joel Coen, Mani Ratnam and Ram Gopal Varma. "After moving to Hyderabad from Bengaluru in 2006, I made my first short film by taking a loan from bank. I didn't know the basics of filmmaking back then but I had certain visuals in mind and I wanted to capture them. Sukumar sir happened to watch the film while he was travelling to Chennai. The actor who featured in it was a cabin crew member of Air India. Sir rang me sometime later and lauded the film, before asking to meet him personally. That's how my journey with him began," Jonathan, who is originally from Nellore, tells us fondly.

Jonathan followed his first short with more short films. In 2009, he toyed with the idea of shooting an indie film, *Prayanikudu*, a dark crime drama, with Canon 7D cameras. In fact, he was the first director to have shot a test video with those cameras — much before filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma embarked on making a feature film *Dongala Mutha* with them. *Prayanikudu* premiere was attended by Sukumar and P Rammohan, the latter of who produced content-rich cinema like *Astha Chemma*, *Golconda High School* and *Uyyala Jampala* among others. "Impressed with the short film, Rammohan garu offered me to direct *Tanu Nenu* and *Soggade Chinni Nayana*," the director reminisces.

After Sukumar, it was superstar Nagarajuna who changed Jonathan's life for good. "Post the screening of *Prayanikudu*, Nag garu spoke to me for 45 minutes and it was another turning point in my life. He said the film is a bit slow but liked the way it was shot. He felt that I have an artistic side to me but emphasised the need to think on commercial lines because of market factors. Till then I was more influenced by the cinema of foreign. His words had a deep impact on me. Later, I started exploring Telugu cinema more, particularly commercial cinema. Over time, I developed a pulse of com-

mercial cinema," he exults. Despite being busy as a filmmaker, Sukumar always remembered Jonathan, ringing him occasionally and even helping him with finances at times. "On Dec 31, 2015, sir rang me and said he has a producer and if I like the hero, I can go ahead with a film with my own story. I was in desperate need to do something at that point of time. And when I saw the hero Vijay Ram, I felt he was apt for the story idea I had and decided to take up the project," he shares, adding that later he would narrate story developments to Sukumar frequently to get his stamp of approval. "He didn't like the first narration of *Amaram Akhilam Prema*. He was disappointed so much so that he felt like giving a story of his own to me. I was almost in tears that day but asked him to give me a week's time to rework on it. He liked the second narration, but wanted me to change the second half of the story in a particular way. As we were struggling to crack his proposed change, we sat with him for 45 minutes one day and everything was set. From those 45 minutes, I learnt the art of screenplay from him. He wasn't teaching me per se but I was able to grasp it." While the film, shot in Hyderabad and Kakinada, took its own sweet time to be wrapped up due to some

financial woes, he mentions that it talks about true love and its characteristics. "It's about a girl (played by Shivshakti Sachdev) who is trying to mend her relationship with her father (Srikanth Iyengar) after she commits a blunder during her teenage, post which he stops speaking to her. The blunder makes her realize there is nothing called as love between a boy and a girl and that only parent's love towards their children is permanent. She later decides to pursue civils to fulfill her father's wish. Into his scenario, enters a male character (Vijay Ram) who falls for her and tries to woo her," he explains. The film has been produced by the VEVKDS Prasad who is one of Sukumar's closest friends. Prasad passed away in early April due to what is believed to be a heart stroke. Remembering his producer, Jonathan shares, "If things didn't go accordingly on sets, I would vent my frustration on Prasad *anna*. He would, however, never lose his cool and would say, 'I respect you and I know you well as a person. So I wouldn't get mad at you'. For his age, he was a bundle of energy, extremely passionate and would put in the hard yards. I've always told him, 'Anna if you've landed a good film years ago, you would've been a producer like Dil Raju,' he concludes.

## Vijay Deverakonda helps over 17,000 families through his Middle Class Fund



Telugu superstar Vijay Deverakonda has reached out with essentials to over 17,000 middle class families amid the lockdown. Vijay took to Instagram and shared the "final report" of the work done in the past one month by his non-profitable organisation, The Deverakonda Foundation, which marked its origin in April 2019. The foundation, up till now, has successfully aided 17,723 middle-class families with their groceries and basic essentials, spending Rs 17,121,103, with the help of his

when I am 60 and you are 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, oops. This corona will also be a memory, it'll be a strange inci-

**WITH HIM ARE 8,515, WHOM HE CALLS HIS "MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY", AND "535 VOLUNTEERS", WHOM HE CALLS "ROWDIES"**

dent that scared us, shut us down, stopped us from shaking each other hands, hugging, where the sound of a cough seemed like an explosion..

"It'll be memory of something we as a world shared together, how many such memories do we have? Some will laugh thinking about it, some will become emotional thinking about how hard it was, most will do both.."

"And then, we will also remember how many, who were strangers, came together to help us like we were their own."

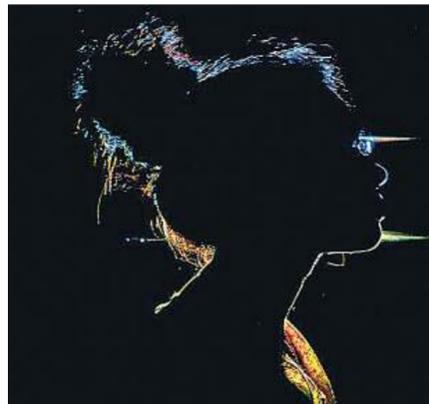
With him are 8,515, whom he calls his "middle class family", and "535 volunteers", whom he calls "rowdies".

Right now, Vijay shared, MCF is put on "rest mode", what with the onset of Lockdown 5.0, which comes with several relaxations.

"Today we put the MCF into Rest mode. As families get back into work, as the cities come back to life, as we spent all the funds we were given responsibility of."

Vijay in his letter added, "I say rest mode because the MCF is a support system that we have created for a lifetime, it will be activated, up and running if ever a situation calls for its need."

Middle Class Fund (MCF). Vijay also shared a letter for his "Middle Class Family". He wrote, "In 30 years from today,



## MARUTHI is a proud father

Filmmaker Maruthi is ecstatic and the reason for his happiness is attributed to his daughter Hiyah's feat. A passionate photographer, Hiyah's recent work-a picture captured with only cell phone light was liked by none other than *Shape of Water* and *John Wick 2* cinematographer Dan Laustse on Instagram. "My

daughter @Hiya2576 is super happy & says John wick DOP dan laustsen liked her photography on insta She captured the photo with cell phone light. Proud of my child," the director, whose son is a drummer, posted on Twitter on Friday along with the concerned photo.



## THALAIVI gets Rs 55 crore from streaming rights

With so many films going direct to OTT, bypassing traditional theatrical release, there was a buzz in sections of the media that Kangaana Ranauts much-anticipated film, *Thalaivi* might also take the same route. However, going by what the actress has to say about the issue in a pinkvilla.com report, it is clear that the film is cut out for a big-screen release. Asked about her opinion on the direct-to-OTT trend, and if she is okay with the idea, Kangaana said, "It depends. For example, a film like *Thalaivi* just can't release on digital because it is such a massive scale film, neither a movie like *Manikarnika* is a digital space film. But yes, films like *Panga*, *Judgemental Hai Kya* caters to that

audience. The way the film is made, it is very digital-friendly. They have recovered huge costs through digital itself. So, it depends. The *Pinkvilla* report also quoted her as saying, "For *Thalaivi*, it is a bilingual film. As a matter of fact, the film is sold to both Netflix and Amazon in both Hindi and Tamil for around Rs 55 crore. They also have satellite rights to sell for both languages and also distribution rights."

## Seerat Kapoor reveals positives of staying in

Actress Seerat Kapoor is looking at the bright side of the lockdown. "A change or two is very minuscule for the magnitude of this revolution. In disguise, the lockdown is gradually revealing to me my potential as a human being, in entirety," she said. "Well, on a personal front I am replenished with internal strength, derived from the quality of time that I have spent with my family. The diverse conversations at home have been enriching and its outlook will be carried into everything I do, moving forward," she added. Seerat is best known for working with superstar Nagarajuna in Telugu film *Raju Gari Gadhi 2* and Allu Sirish in *Okka Kshanam*. She will be next seen in the upcoming film, *Krishna and His Leela*.

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Premier League leaders Liverpool could claim a first title for 30 years at Anfield after the initial batch of fixtures of the restart was announced on Friday.



Jürgen Klopp's men, with a commanding 25-point lead at the top of the table, were just two wins away from clinching the title before coronavirus forced the suspension of football in March.

Liverpool's first match back is against Everton on June 21. The Merseyside derby is due to take place at Goodison Park, less than a mile from Anfield, but a venue has not been confirmed by the Premier League.

Crystal Palace will then visit Anfield three days later.

Wins in both of those matches would guarantee Liverpool's first English top-flight title since 1990.

But if Manchester City lose at home to Arsenal on June 17, the Reds would be champions if they beat Everton.

Liverpool City Council's safety advisory group will meet next week to make a decision on whether the game can go ahead at Goodison or should be moved to a neutral venue.

All remaining 92 Premier League games this season will be played behind closed doors, but there are fears that hosting the game in Liverpool could encourage supporters to congregate around stadiums.

Palace's trip to Anfield will kick off at 2015 local time (1915 GMT).



## LIVERPOOL COULD WIN TITLE AT ANFIELD

Premier League announce schedule for first three match days

The only other match that could be moved to a neutral venue from the first three rounds of fixtures is Liverpool's visit to City on July 2.

The mayor of Liverpool, Joe Anderson, voiced fears that "there would be many thousands of people who would

turn up outside Anfield" on the day Liverpool's long wait for a league title was ended.

That has been disputed by the club, who said they have engaged with supporters' groups to make sure social-distancing guidelines are followed.

Aston Villa will host

Sheffield United in the first match of *Project Restart*, followed by Arsenal's trip to City on June 17.

Manchester United's visit to Tottenham will spearhead the first full round of matches spread over four days from June 19 to 22.

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said: "We know it won't be the same without our loyal supporters in stadiums but, together with our broadcast partners, we are able to ensure fans can watch or listen to each match live from home."

"I am delighted we are able to take another positive step towards the season returning in just under two weeks' time," he added.

## Werner close to Chelsea move



AFP ■ LONDON

Chelsea are closing in on a deal to sign striker Timo Werner from RB Leipzig, British media reported on Thursday.

The 24-year-old had been thought to be attracting interest from Premier League champions-elect Liverpool but it appears Chelsea have in fact met the German's reported release clause of some £53 million (\$67 million).

Were Chelsea to bring Werner to Stamford Bridge it would be a major feather in the cap of the west London club.

For the past year there has been speculation linking Werner with a move to Anfield but time appears to be running out for the Reds, with the forward's release clause expiring on June 15 — two days before the Premier League is set to restart.

The Germany international has scored 31 goals for Leipzig in all competitions.

Chelsea have already agreed a deal to sign Ajax winger Hakim Ziyech.

## Barca confident Messi can face Mallorca

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi has sustained a "minor" thigh injury, but Barcelona remain confident he will be fit for the team's first game back against Mallorca on June 13, the club said on Friday.

Messi has not trained with the rest of the squad since Tuesday after working separately in the gym on both Wednesday and Friday, while on Thursday all the players were given the day off.

Barcelona said Messi should return to training "in a few days' time", but his absence raises doubts over his fitness ahead of the trip to Mallorca.

Like all La Liga teams, Barca will have had only 10 days to train together when competitive matches resume on June 11, following the



three-month break due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Leo Messi has a minor right quadriceps injury and trained in isolation, doing specific exercises to avoid unne-

cessary risks with just eight days remaining before Barca finally get back to playing matches," a club statement read.

"He should be able to rejoin his team-mates in a few days' time."

Messi has endured an injury-interrupted season. The 32-year-old was out for six weeks between August and September with a calf injury and then at the end of September missed another week with a problem in his left thigh.

Barca added the team will train on the pitch at Camp Nou on Saturday as coach Quique Setien "works to get his players ready for the return to football, but with games being played behind closed doors."

## India to host 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Football Confederation has awarded the hosting rights of the 2022 Women's Asian Cup to India for the first time since 1979.

In a letter to the All India Football Federation, Dato Windsor John, General Secretary, AFC wrote: "The Committee awarded the hosting rights of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 Finals to the All India Football Federation."

The tournament will likely be held in the second half of the year. In the 1979 edition, India had finished as runners-up.

"I need to thank the Asian Football Confederation for finding us suitable to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022," AIF President, Praful Patel said. "The tournament will galvanise the aspiring women players and bring in a holistic social revolution as far as women's football in the country is concerned," he added.

## AIFF invites bids for new I-League clubs

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Friday invited bids for new clubs who would take part in the Hero I-League from 2020-21.

The bids have been invited from non-Hero I-League cities and includes names of several cities like New Delhi, Ranchi, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bhopal, Lucknow and Ahmedabad, amongst others, according to an AIFF media release.

Prospective owners will be

able to purchase the invitation to tender from the Football House in Delhi between June 10 and June 20 upon payment of ₹4 lakh.

The previous season of the I-League saw 11 clubs, including AIFF's developmental outfit Indian Arrows, take part in the competition.

However, champions Mohun Bagan are set to merge with ATK and will play in the Indian Super League (ISL) next season.

## Coppa Italia semis on June 12-13

MILAN: Italian football will resume with the second legs of the Italian Cup semifinals on June 12 and 13.

Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora announced on Thursday that the competition can resume one day earlier than previously scheduled.

While league officials had

not yet officially released the schedule, Juventus is expected to host AC Milan on June 12 followed by Napoli vs Inter Milan a day later.

Juventus and Milan drew 1-1 in the first leg while Napoli beat Inter 1-0. The final is scheduled for June 17.



## SA 'not far away' from a WC win: Phehlukwayo

IANS ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa cricketer Andile Phehlukwayo believes Proteas aren't too far away from ending their World Cup drought despite their woeful performance in the showpiece event in England and Wales last year.

South Africa managed to win just three matches out of nine and crashed out in the league stage itself with just seven points.

Phehlukwayo, who was part of the South Africa World Cup squad in 2019, feels the younger generation is hungry to perform on the biggest stage and that might turn their fortunes around at the multi-national ICC events in the future.

"I really believe it will happen. Maybe it didn't look like it at the 2019 World Cup, where we really didn't look after situations that on normal occasions we would take care of, but if you look at the current generation, it's a lot of new players who are really hungry to perform," Phehlukwayo was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"Even in our current rebuilding phase, we have managed to beat strong teams who already have their formula set. It's all about the mindset. Our brand is work in progress but we all know where we want to be. We are fully committed."

The 24-year-old considers himself to be an all-rounder, despite him doing better with the ball in recent times. In 58 ODIs, he has managed to score just 563 runs while he has scalped 69 wickets. In 27 T20Is, he has scored just 92 runs but picked 35 wickets.

"I believe I'm a genuine all-rounder because I can win games with bat or ball, but I understand that those arguments about the kind of player someone is would look at the stats," Phehlukwayo said.



This is to clarify that I have never believed in any kind of disparity, be it on the basis of caste, colour, creed or gender. I have given and continue to spend my life for the welfare of people. I believe in the dignity of life and respect each individual without exception.

I understand that while I was having a conversation with my friends, I was misunderstood, which was unwarranted. However, as a responsible Indian I want to say that if I have unintentionally hurt anybody's sentiments or feelings, I would like to express regret for the same.

My love for India and all its people is eternal

Former India star Yuvraj Singh on Friday apologised for making a casteist remark against Yuzvendra Chahal during an Instagram chat, saying he "unintentionally" hurt public sentiments. It was during one of the Instagram Live sessions with Indian vice-captain Rohit Sharma that Yuvraj made the offensive comment about Chahal while talking about his regular social media posts. In fact, an advocate from Hisar filed a police complaint against India's twin World Cup hero, who was forced to issue an apology on his Twitter page. The veteran of 304 ODIs, 58 T20Is and 40 Tests also clarified that he has "never believed" in any kind of discrimination.

## Cricket is nothing without diversity: ICC

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council on Friday said "cricket is nothing without diversity" as racism remained a topic of global debate following the death of African-American George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The ICC on Friday posted a 90-second video clip of the final moments of England's 2019 World Cup victory with Barbados-born Jofra Archer bowling the thrilling Super Over against New Zealand.

"Without diversity, cricket is nothing. Without diversity, you don't get the full picture," read ICC's message on Twitter.

The England team that won the ODI World Cup had an Irishman captain (Eoin Morgan) at the helm. The best performer was a New Zealand born all-rounder (Ben Stokes), spinners were of Pakistani origin (Moeen Ali & Adil Rashid) and the innings got a headstart from an opener of South African heritage (Jason Roy).

In fact, Morgan after World Cup triumph spoke about how the team found unity in diversity which became the secret of its success.

"It actually epitomises our team. Quite diverse backgrounds and cultures and guys grow up in different countries and to actually find

humour in the situation we were in at times was pretty cool," Morgan had said back then, referring to the Super Over bowled by Archer.

World's leading cricketers including West Indians Chris Gayle and two-time World T20 winning skipper Darren Sammy have spoken about racism in the game.

Sammy had even urged the ICC to come out in support of the black cricketers. "Right now, if the cricket world not standing against the injustice against people of color after seeing that last video of that foot down the next of my brother you are also part of the problem," Sammy had said on Tuesday.

## ICC should wait for a 'suitable time' to host T20 WC: Akram

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan pace legend Wasim Akram cannot visualise a T20 World Cup happening behind closed doors and believes the ICC should wait for a "suitable time" to host the big-ticket event after the Covid-19 pandemic subsides.

"Personally, I don't think it's a good idea. I mean, how could you have a cricket World Cup without spectators," Akram told *The News* on Thursday.

"A World Cup is all about big crowds, spectators coming from all parts of the globe to support their teams. It's all about atmosphere and you cannot get it behind closed doors," he said.

"So I believe that they (ICC) should wait for a more suitable time and once this pandemic subsides and restrictions are eased then we can have a proper World Cup," he said.

## Burns expecting 'stiff test' against WI

LONDON: England is bracing up for a "stiff test" in the three-match series against the West Indies next month, according to opener Rory Burns who is wary of the visiting team's potent pace attack.

"They've got a lot of good cricketers there and it's going to be a stiff test no matter who comes," Burns said on the *Sky Sports* podcast *The Cricket Show*.



had handed Joe Root's men a 2-1 defeat when England travelled to the Caribbean last year. "The last time we played each other, they won, so they're no slouches certainly," Burns said.

"Their bowling attack caused us a lot of problems. They're very skilful; they've got some pace. I remember walking around on the pitch of the first Test and seeing their bowlers going and thought, 'this is going to be quite tasty!'"

## PCB to seek Govt clearance for prep camp

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will seek Government clearance before setting up a training camp for its players to prepare for the tour of England in July amid the rising threat of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Top PCB officials are busy formulating a plan to make the training camp possible at a time when the cases and deaths from Covid-19 are on the rise in Pakistan.

"Different plans are being looked at but the most important thing is that the board will have to get the final nod from the Government before it goes ahead with the tour to England or even the training camp," an official in the board said.

The High Performance Centre in Lahore where the board is planning to keep the players and officials does not have the capacity to house 20 players at one time and this is causing a big



problem for the officials. "Head coach and chief selector, Misbah-ul-Haq understandably wants at least 25 players in the training camp

and a list is being finalised but before it is announced the board wants to create a proper bio-secure environment at the high performance centre so that everyone is safe from Covid-19," the official said.

The players and officials, once they move into the high performance centre, will not be allowed to go out or meet anyone including their family members because of the bio-security measures.

A reliable source in the board said some players had told Misbah that they would prefer to have a short training camp in Lahore.

"Some players are reluctant to stay away for a three-week period in Lahore and then again for more than two months in the UK," the source said.

The board has said that it has left it on the players to decide whether they want to tour England or not and if anyone makes himself unavailable, there will not be any disciplinary action.

## Mortaza hurt by 'rush to push' him out



DHAKA: Former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza has accused the country's cricket board of trying to push him into retirement after a couple of underwhelming series, claiming that he was even offered a farewell match.

Mortaza said he has been left hurt by the "lack of respect" towards his achievements.

"Honestly speaking, it seemed that there was a rush to bid me farewell and it was certainly hurting," Mortaza told *Cricbuzz*.

"Firstly, they had to arrange a match to bid me farewell and it was not a normal match — a normal bilateral series is something and arranging a special match in a hurry is something else," he said without divulging when exactly

the game was offered to him. "Secondly, they were prepared to spend BDT (Bangladesh Taka) 2 crore for that match. From an ethical point of view it is not right considering our first-class cricket players are not getting paid enough," he added.

The 36-year-old, one of the most popular captains in Bangladesh cricket history, had a horrible 2019 World Cup where he got only one wicket in the entire tournament.

Recently coach Russell Domingo had said that Mortaza is not in his plans going forward.

"All of a sudden there was this rush to push me (out). All I know is that I have given my life to cricket even though I was torn apart and bleeding inside," Mortaza said.

"I have played cricket by giving my life and maybe I could not become such a great player. But at least I expect some kind of respect."

He didn't want to divulge the details but Mortaza admitted that he thought of hanging up his boots after Bangladesh's last World Cup game against Pakistan at the Lords.

"I wanted to retire after the last game in the World Cup but it did not happen. I don't want to go into the details of why I didn't do it there but I had put forward my intention (of retiring) in England."



## Tokyo to skip one-year Olympic countdown

TOKYO: Tokyo will scrap events marking a year to go until the postponed 2020 Olympic Games, organisers said on Friday, citing the "current economic situation" caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Games have been pushed back until July 23, 2021 because of the disease outbreak, though it remains unclear whether even that delay will be sufficient.

Last year, the city and organisers held a series of events to mark the one-year countdown, including unveiling the newly designed medals.

But given the global crisis, organisers ruled out a similar celebration.

"In view of the current economic situation, Tokyo 2020 will not be holding any events to mark the new one year to go milestone for the Games," the organisers said.

"But we will consider what we can do to show our solidarity with the people."

The confirmation came after reports in the Japanese media that organisers would scrap the event, fearing it was inappropriate given the global pandemic and the ongoing risk of infection inside Japan.