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HYDERABAD, SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



sunday pioneer

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**'HOPEFULLY, GEORGE IS LOOKING DOWN
RIGHT NOW...': TRUMP SPARKS ROW**

President Donald Trump sparked controversy Friday, calling it a "great day" for George Floyd, the man whose death in custody last week unleashed nationwide protests over police brutality against African Americans. "We all saw what happened last week. We can't let that happen," Trump said of Floyd, who was killed as a white Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. "Hopefully, George is looking down right now and saying, 'This is a great thing that's happening for our country.' The remarks during a televised White House briefing came eleven days after Floyd's death and sparked confusion as to why Trump thought it was a great day for Floyd.

**AMARNATH YATRA 2020 WILL BE
FROM JULY 21 TO AUG 3**

This year's annual Amarnath Yatra to the Himalayan cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir will be of 15 days duration beginning on July 21 and ending on August 3. This was stated by the officials of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) that manages the affairs of the Yatra to the cave shrine situated at 3,880 metres above the sea level in J&K's Anantnag district. The 'Pratham Puja' for the Yatra was held here on Friday. The duration of the Yatra has been cut short this time because of the coronavirus pandemic.

**INDIA DEMANDS CHINA TO REMOVE ITS
TROOPS, STRUCTURES FROM PANGONG**

India and China military top brass began talks on Saturday to resolve the stand-off situation in Eastern Ladakh region and de-escalation of forces across the Line of Actual Control. The meeting is being held in Moldo on the Chinese side opposite Chushul. Indian military delegation is headed by the commander of Leh-based 14 Corp Lieutenant General Harinder Singh and the Chinese are led by Major General Liu Lin, Commander of South Xinjiang Military Region.

**GOVERNMENT DESTROYING ECONOMY,
THIS IS DEMON 2.0: RAHUL GANDHI**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused the government of destroying the country's economy by not providing cash assistance to the people and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), terming it as demonetisation 2.0. Taking to Twitter, the former Congress president said, "Government is actively destroying our economy by refusing to give cash support to people and MSMEs. This is Demon 2.0." Rahul, who is also an MP from Kerala's Wayanad has been demanding cash aid to the needy and MSMEs, for the past several days. He has also urged the government to provide Rs 7,500 cash assistance to the vulnerable sections for six months across the country.



CORONA ENTERS TELANGANA CMO

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Even as the Telangana State government has been battling to contain the spread of Covid-19, the dreaded virus has now entered the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

A CMO staffer working in the Metro Rail Bhavan tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday, sending the heart of the entire state administration into a tizzy. Recently, the employee's son, who had visited Maharashtra, tested positive for coronavirus. It is understood that the employee has contracted the virus from his son.

Employees in the CMO were immediately evacuated and the entire premises sanitized. The employees were asked not to report for work until further notice.

Dr Rajiv Sharma, Chief Advisor to Government of Telangana, as well as the Chairman of Telangana State Pollution Control Board have been directed to oversee the sanitisation efforts. Samples of around 30 employees of the CMO were taken to conduct corona tests. And the results show that all except one are negative to coronavirus.

■ A CMO staffer working in the Metro Rail Bhavan tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday

■ Employees in the CMO were immediately evacuated and the entire premises sanitized

Containment in the city gone for toss

HYDERABAD: Despite mounting Covid-19 cases, containment activity in the city has gone for a toss. So has the area under containment, going by the evolving definition. Officials monitoring Covid-19 activity say that containment has apparently not yielded the desired results, going by the mounting number of fresh cases. Sources pointed out that the activity of spraying is giving only psychological satisfaction that the area is sanitised. Once seasonal diseases break out, the

health dept staff have to reorient themselves to established activities. Officials point that at least they are aware of how to control the spread of seasonal diseases as there is a predefined mechanism, but not Coronavirus. Nonetheless, to satisfy ICMR guidelines, containment activity remains on paper. Furthermore, GHMC doesn't have enough money to take up further containment, barricading and providing supplies.

2

**NIMS OP &
IP services
shut for
three days**

3

206 cases and 10 deaths, TS sees biggest spike ever

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State witnessed its biggest jump in the number of coronavirus cases on Saturday, with 206 more testing positive, taking the total number of cases to 3,496. On Saturday, 10 Covid-19-related deaths were also reported -- the biggest so far in the state. The virus has killed 123 persons in the state. One of the deceased is 52-year-old male from Nagarkurnool, while the rest hailed from Hyderabad. Apart from one 70-year-old female from Mehdipatnam, the remaining 9 are males. Except one 74-year-old male and a 28-year-old male from Hyderabad, the remaining 7 men who succumbed to virus are in the age group 39-53 years-old.

Of the 206 cases reported on Saturday, 152 are from GHMC

area. Medchal and Rangareddy reported 18 and 10 cases respectively. While Nirmal and Yadadri reported five cases each, four cases were reported in Mahabubnagar. Two cases each were reported from Jagityal and Nagarkurnool, one case each was reported from Mahabubabad, Vikarabad, Jangaon, Gadwal, Nalgonda, Badravidri, Karimnagar and Mancherial.

2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Graduates and post-graduates rendered jobless by the Covid-19 crisis now have no hang-ups about taking up unskilled and labour-intensive jobs under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). They are in sizeable numbers among at least 35 lakh people across the country who have applied for MGNREGA since April 1 -- the highest for this decade.

In a village in Uttar Pradesh, about 150 km from the national capital, Roshan Kumar is looking for work under MGNREGS. The rural employment scheme has been scaled up in the state to accommodate around 30 lakh migrant families who have returned to the

state since the lockdown was announced to control the spread of coronavirus. Yet, it is not just the migrants who are looking for daily jobs under the scheme.

"I used to do a job and earn

decent money, but I was asked to leave after the lockdown."

said Kumar, who holds a MA degree. Roshan Kumar is among the graduates and post graduates who are willing to do labour-intensive jobs like digging ponds and laying rural roads -- a job done by unskilled labourers.

"I have a BBA degree but I have not got any decent work. Finally, I landed a job worth Rs 6,000-7,000 a month and then the lockdown happened and even that job went away. So, I returned to my village and my gram pradhan (village head) helped me get a MGNREGA job," says Satendra Kumar, who holds a BBA degree.

Surjit Kumar, MA graduate, adds that he was left with no other choice, but to take up the job. "I have a MA and a B.Ed degree and before I could look for a job the lockdown was imposed," he says.

Before the lockdown there were an average of 20 MGNREGS workers on a day. Now that number has gone up to over 100 a day, of which at least one-fifth are degree holders or those who lost their jobs in the lockdown.

2

Rare virus attacking white-skinned animals in TS

PNS ■ WANAPARTY

At least seven head of cattle have perished in the erstwhile Warangal district due to attack by a new type of virus that reportedly targets white-skinned animals.

Some veterinary authorities see a similarity between the new virus and cowpox. They suggest that it could be a variant of 'lumpy skin'.

Lumpy skin disease is an infectious disease in cattle caused by a virus of the family Poxviridae, also known as Neethling virus. The disease is characterized by fever, enlarged superficial lymph nodes and



multiple nodules on the skin and mucous membranes. Curiously, the virus reported in Warangal is attacking

only cattle with white skin. Hence, they are not able to immediately identify the virus. A team of Animal

Husbandry Department officials toured various parts of the state recently, gathered blood samples of affected animals, and sent them to laboratories for analysis.

The virus is new to the state. A few days ago, seven head of cattle, worth several lakhs of rupees, died at Ajakolli village of Madanapuram mandal in

Power bills not inflated, asserts MD of SPDCL

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited Managing Director Raghu Reddy has asserted that no mistakes were committed either in noting down meter reading or calculation of the power bill following lockdown. Referring to media reports on inflated power bills, he said "they are not true".

Addressing the media here on Saturday, he said that bills were being issued as per the existing tariff. Power charges for April and May had been

collected as per power bills paid by consumers during the corresponding months last year.

2


**'ALL AND
SUNDAY'**

It is time for the Telangana government to make a sincere appraisal of its strategy to fight the corona virus as cases are rising at a galloping pace ahead of Unlock 1.0 entering its second phase.

It cannot remain in denial mode any longer because cases as well as deaths are rising. The cumulative tally stands at 3,290 cases and 113 deaths, a clear indication of community transmission, phenomenon the government has all along been denying. It is welcome that Health Minister Eatala Rajender has announced an increase in testing.

The daily addition of 9,500-plus cases in India confirms what experts have been saying

TS must keep excuses aside and step up Covid-19 tests

The spike in cases in Mumbai and lately in Delhi and Chennai as well reinforces this theory but, quite distressingly, Telangana has slid to the bottom of the ladder with the TRS govt showing no urgency in checking rapid spread of the disease

Hyderabad.

Initially, TS held that random testing was not possible. Later, they maintained that Telangana was sticking to ICMR guidelines. Subsequently, they blocked ICMR-approved private laboratories from conducting tests on the ground that they were still drafting guidelines for testing.

The Indian Journal of Medical Research ranks Telangana poorly in its record

of contact testing. It tested a mere 14 contacts per confirmed case, against 40 in Kerala, 44 in Tamil Nadu, 54 in Andhra, and 93 in Karnataka. Such slackness is unacceptable amid reports suggesting that the strain of Covid-19 in Hyderabad is highly virulent.

Rapped by the Union Health Ministry, frowned upon by the High Court for its low testing rates, and slammed by the national media; TS has


S NAGESH KUMAR
Former Resident Editor,
The Hindu

and Petlaburj hospitals, are currently lying in hospitals for Covid-19 treatment after they performed surgeries on patients without getting them tested. By attributing the fresh cases to migrants and returnees, the Health Department's attitude is akin to the ostrich burying its head in the sand to escape reality - spread of the infection through community transmission.

In conversation with Dr. Sunit Singh, Professor of Molecular Biology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Benaras Hindu University, we tried to unravel the reasons why large-scale testing is so important. He says any lockdown can be successful only if it is accompanied by testing, contact tracing, and isolating. There is no other way to break the trans-

mission chain. "The virus will spike during June-July before flattening."

"It doesn't matter where the patient comes from so long as the testing is done on a high scale. Uttar Pradesh is doing a remarkable job in enforcing laws in areas marked as red and containment zones. We go in for testing in all cases where symptoms are akin to influenza. In asymptomatic cases of persons coming from places like Mumbai, we test everyone and quarantine the rest", Dr. Singh, who earlier worked in the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), said.

"Agree that random testing is impossible in India (4.10 million tests conducted so far, against 18.60 million in the US), but 'pool testing' must be

done. Samples of say 20 persons are taken and divided into four groups of five each. The samples of a group are mixed and RT-PCR tests done on each pool. If the sample of any pool gives a positive result, we test each individual. Testing is the only solution as the virus is going to circulate for two years", the scientist noted.

The ground reality is not what the Telangana government would like us to believe. India is moving towards fourth position in terms of deaths and third in cases. Going by the current rate of growth, India will have 5.64 lakh cases by June-end, leaving no scope for complacency by States. Covid-19 must be tackled now; excuses for not testing can come later.

SCENE IN RURAL TS

Business as usual despite rising cases

PV KONDAL RAO

■ WARANGAL

The rising number of Corona positive cases in the state seems to be showing no impact on the people. People across the districts are not following basic guidelines that include a mask-on policy, and not maintaining a minimum of six feet distance from each other while in public places. Adding to these, thousands of private vehicles are choking traffic at crucial junctions.

In the initial stages of lockdown 4, there was some sort of apprehensions among the public that easing lockdown at this crucial phase would lead to rise in number of cases. However, the people staying in rural areas are taking into consideration on the media bulletins and the declaration of green zones.

It may be recalled that



Thousands of private vehicles are choking traffic at crucial junctions

majority of the cases are being reported in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits. The virus is now fast spreading across the city. Earlier, the government used to designate specific areas as hotspots, but with the lockdown norms get-

ting relaxed and movement of people increasing, those living in all areas under Greater Hyderabad limits are now equally vulnerable to the virus.

Initially, not even a single tea stall was reopened in the villages but later the tea stall owners resumed their operations.

People across the districts are not following basic guidelines that include a 'mask-on' policy, and not maintaining a minimum of six feet distance

Even the breakfast points in make shift vehicles have resumed their operations much before the announcement of the state government about the June 8 deadline. Almost all shops have opened for business in rural areas across the state. Only few hotels in the cities like Warangal have not resumed their operations and since the food serving in the hotels was not permitted, the takeaway process is going on in

full swing. Corona fear, which swept villages during the first phase of lockdown have by now wiped out completely as the people have started their routine life in the rural areas. The farm activity for the Vaanakalaam has been initiated and the farmers took up the compost transportation process with full swing.

Since the sanitisation process during the tilling and compost spreading activity is required on a meticulous scale, the farmers were advised in each village to take precautions. As almost all the farm and allied works have resumed, the people feel the Corona by now has not shown any impact in the rural areas. However, the doctors and healthcare officials say the lapses in this regard would ultimately pose a serious threat and it may even lead to a disaster in the coming weeks.

150 positive cases under home isolation in state

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Several persons infected with coronavirus are kept under home isolation and are being treated at their respective homes.

According to a Senior official from Health department, about 150 patients who are largely asymptomatic are undergoing treatment at their houses.

According to the official, "Home isolation boosts the morale of the patient as he/she is not alone, but in the same

house as the family. At hospital apart from physical suffering, they endure mental trauma as they are away and isolated".

Whenever a patient tests positive, officials from health department go and check the house of the patient to see if it has a separate room with attached bathroom to facilitate home isolation.

After the patient is counselled and consent is taken, he/she is given a isolation kit. The isolation kit has masks, hand

sanitisers, multi vitamin tablets.

One family member is designated as caretaker, who will be attending to the needs of the patient. The caretakers are typically given HCQ to ensure they do not contract virus. Health department has setup a dedicated call center, wherein the home isolated patients are checked upon twice a day. There is a call center for such patients who can call the doctor and seek counselling or medical care. Official pointed that every alternate day medical teams are visiting patients home and checking temperature.

Containment in the city gone for ...

Continued from Page 1

An official monitoring the Covid activity said that even if an area is declared as containment zone, they are facing confrontation from others in the neighbourhood.

Even in the containment zones declared by GHMC, it is only one house that is contained. When they say 75 zones in Charminar circle, it is 75 houses or apartments, where people have been tested positive. Meanwhile, GHMC has reduced the number of containment zones, even though the cases in the city are increasing at a shocking rate.

About 75 are in Charminar circle, 40 in Secunderabad, 24 in LB Nagar, 22 in Kukatpally, 19 in Khairatabad as of June 1. This list keeps changing as the GHMC reduced the number of containment zones to 159 on June 3. When the cases are increasing, reducing the containment zones raises an eye-brow.

'Self protection key to keep virus at bay'

PNS ■ WARANGAL URBAN

Police Commissioner V Ravinder visited the health checkup centre on the premises of the Police Commissionerate here on Saturday and got himself tested for Covid-19. He stressed on the importance of self-protection to save from the Covid-19. It may be mentioned here that the Director General of Police (DGP) had directed the officials to ensure tests for the police officials and other staff in order to protect themselves from the novel Coronavirus.

Following this, tests are being conducted for the police personnel under Warangal Police Commissionerate. As a part of this, each police station and each department were given a Pulse Oximeter to know the oxygen saturation and heart rate. Thermal screening and BP monitoring is also being conducted for policemen.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD	₹ 48,840 (10 gm)
₹ 10	↑
SILVER	₹ 48,500 (1kg)
₹ 50	↑

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹ 235
Without Skin	₹ 266
Broiler at Farm	₹ 162

EGG RATES ₹/KG

HYDERABAD	401
VIJAYAWADA	401
VISAKHAPATNAM	375
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹4.01

Jobless grads, PGs now...

Continued from Page 1

REGS job cards. The government will need a massive Rs 2.8 lakh crore if each card holder can get a guaranteed 100 days of work this year.

Says Economist Reetika Khera, "More budget is needed to ensure MGNREGS job cards get jobs. The government should ensure that every person who seeks work under the MGNREGA should get it".

About 14 crore people across the country have applied

Power bills not inflated...

Continued from Page 1

for MGNREGS jobs since April 1 -- the highest for this decade. Last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while detailing the fifth and final tranche of measures under the "Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" package, allocated an additional amount of Rs 40,000 crore under the MGNREGS, over and above the budget estimate of Rs 60,000 crore for the current financial year.

206 cases and 10 deaths...

Continued from Page 1

The Health Department, in its bulletin, said, "It is observed that there is a surge of cases in most of the districts across the state. In view of the surge, the public is requested to be alert and self-vigilant for any signs and symptoms of ILI OR Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI). In case of onset of any symptoms of ILI OR SARI, the public are requested to immediately contact the nearest government health facility without any delay".

Some farmers alleged that their cattle perished not

Rare virus attacking ...

Continued from Page 1

because of the virus, but due to the administration of excess dose of medicines by veterinarians. The Veterinary Officer administered several injections, including glucose. After three days, the cattle - six cows and a male calf - died.

This has scared people of this village and those in the vicinity at a time when they are reeling under the impact of corona virus.

Some farmers alleged that

ACB sleuths nab rev...

Continued from Page 1

"Reddy was caught red-handed when he was accepting a bribe amount of Rs. 1.50 lakh related to the same case. Officials said that the demand was for Rs 3 lakh and the recovered amount was the first installment. "Ravinder had demanded a bribe of Rs 3 lakh and accepted a bribe amount of Rs 1.50 lakh from Abdul Khalid. It was revealed during the investigation that he had further demanded Rs. 3 lakhs bribe for closing the two cases which were lodged in Banjara Hills Police Station against the complainant by settling the issue between both parties," the ACB officials said.

Subsequently, the Sub-Inspector in question, A Ravinder of Banjara Hills PS,

was caught red-handed when he was accepting a bribe amount of Rs. 1.50 lakh related to the same case. Officials said that the demand was for Rs 3 lakh and the recovered amount was the first installment. "Ravinder had demanded a bribe of Rs 3 lakh and accepted a bribe amount of Rs 1.50 lakh from Abdul Khalid. It was revealed during the investigation that he had further demanded Rs. 3 lakhs bribe for closing the two cases which were lodged in Banjara Hills Police Station against the complainant by settling the issue between both parties," the ACB officials said.

Indrakaran Reddy was addressing the officials through video conference mode from the Forest Department office here on Saturday as sixth phase of the Harita Haram programme is about to commence from June 20. He was enquiring with the Forest Department officials on the targets for the sixth phase and survival rate of the saplings planted in forest areas and 30-crore saplings outside the forest region.

Officials told the Minister that the survival rate of saplings is over 85 per cent wherever the Forest Department personnel planted the saplings. However, they told the Minister that the survival rate of saplings planted by other government departments in open places is very less.

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saplings planted so far. The state government is implementing the new Panchayat Raj Act stringently insisting on 85 per cent survival rate of the saplings planted, he said and asked the Forest Department personnel to take all precautions extended necessary technical support while planting saplings in villages and towns. PCCF R Sobha said that the Forest Department is also ensuring 85 per cent survival rate and holding the concerned forest official responsible if the survival rate drops below.

She told the Minister that the target for the sixth phase of the plantation drive is 20 crore outside the forests and 1.90 crore inside the forests. Targets district-wise and government department-wise have been fixed. The Forest Department personnel visited the village plant nurseries and explained the officials in panchayats on how to implement the plantation process, she told the Minister.

The Minister asked the forest officials to contact the village authorities and people's representatives when they visited the village nurseries. He advised the Forest Department personnel to wear green masks containing Harita Haram logo while planting saplings.

GREAT HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

EE procurement NIT No: 4/EE/Div-15/SBZ/GHMC/2020-21 Dt: 06-06-2020

Name of the work : Providing SS Room in Ram Nagar and Providing Chain Link Fencing in Gandhi Nagar, Raising of RCC walls and SWD drain and Repair & raising of catchments in Musheerabad Division - 15 Total Amount: Rs. 21.10 lakh Start Date: 08/06/2020 From 3:00PM Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bid : 10/06/2020 at 3:00 PM Sri. V. Narayana, Executive Engineer, Division-15, Circle-15, Musheerabad, Secunderabad, Zone GHMC, Call: 9704628121 Address of the Concerned: Executive Engineer, Div-15, SBZ, GHMC Abids, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Further details can be seen at E-procurement : www.tender.Hyderabad.gov.in Executive Engineer, Div-15, SBZ, GHMC

R.O. No.: 2143-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2020-21

GREAT HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

NIT No.: 8 Procurement Short Tender Notice NIT No: 31/E/H/UPCL/GHMC/2020-21 D: 06-06-2020

Name of the work / Products : PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS / EQUIPMENT FOR THE DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE FOR HANDLING THE SUMMER / MONSOON SEASON / EMERGENCY SITUATION(S), -REG, ECV (Rs. in lakhs): 14.90 Lakhs Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 15.06.2020 @ 05.00 PM. Start Date: 05.06.2020 @ 05.00 PM onwards. Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 15.06.2020 @ 05.00 PM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Office of the Executive Engineer (EVM) GHMC, 6th Floor, Buddha Bhawan, Hyderabad, Ph. No. 984990779. Further details can be seen at e-procurement : www.e-procurement.Telangana.gov.in EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EVM) Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

R.O. No.: 2141-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2020-21

GREAT HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION UPPAL DIVISION-2

NIT No.: 09 /E/H/DL/UPL/GHMC/2020-21

Nature of the

CRIME CORNER
Man held for abetting wife's suicide

HYDERABAD: The Malkajgiri Police arrested a man late on Thursday night, on charges of dowry harassment and abetting his wife to commit suicide after his wife was found hanging on Tuesday night. The arrested was identified as 27-year-old B Sai Charan, a private employee residing at Vasanthapur Colony, Neredmet, under Malkajgiri Police station limits. He was married to Sameena Banu (21), who was three months pregnant at the time of suicide on Tuesday, the police said. Banu's body was found hanging from the ceiling fan. Her family members filed a complaint alleging that she was being harassed by her husband for dowry because he had lost his job due to lockdown. Unable to bear the harassment, she committed suicide. Based on a complaint from Sameena's family, a case of dowry harassment and abetment to suicide under the IPC was booked against Sai Charan, who fled after the incident. Sai Charan was soon arrested and remanded.

Cyber-stalker arrested

HYDERABAD: The Cyber Crime Police of Rachakonda arrested a person who had posted derogatory content on social media through fake accounts against the individual. The arrested has been identified as 23-year-old Motha Praveen Kumar, a resident of Boduppal. During the course of investigation, based on the technical evidence, the accused was identified as Kumar. He had created fake Facebook accounts and started sending sexually explicit content messages and harassed the victim day and night with an intention to ask for sexual favours, the police said. The police registered a case. Police advised netizens not to accept any friend requests from unknown Facebook accounts and get victimised and inform the local Cyber Crime Police station about the fake accounts if received.

Juvenile arrested for burglary

HYDERABAD: Officials of the Balapur Police arrested a juvenile who was involved in a series of burglary offences on Saturday. The arrested juvenile is a 17-year-old boy from Shaheen Nagar in Balapur. Officials seized gold, silver and other jewellery apart from electronics. According to the police, the boy is addicted to gutkha, ganja and liquor. He used to work as a daily wage labour in his locality. Due to insufficient earnings, he by doing labour work the JCL boy decided to commit thefts in his locality. He was sent to a juvenile home earlier in a motorcycle theft case from Bhavani Nagar Police Station.

Five murders in 48 hours put police on their toes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Months after a dry spell of crime, Hyderabad witnessed five murders within a span of 48 hours, which took the area locals by surprise and spread panic among the people in old city. Four persons were murdered in Hyderabad on Friday in three separate instances and a fresh one was reported on late Saturday night in Cyberabad.

As per reports, At Rein Bazar, on Friday at around 5.25 pm, 25-year-old Mohammad Imran Khan was stabbed to death by four of his relatives in full view of the crowd at the market. The youth was intercepted near MS Wooden Works at Zafar Road and stabbed with daggers. He died on the spot, the Rein Bazar police said.

The brother of the deceased, Mohammad Irfan Khan, identified one of the attackers as his half-brother Mehtab. The cause for the attack is suspected to be a family dispute over the property of their father. Apart from Mehtab, police have also identified his associates Taleeb, Pasha and Chotu. All four were taken into custody and charged with a case of murder and conspiracy.

In the second case, which was reported under the Langar House police limits on Friday night, an SUV rammed into a two-wheeler in which two men, Mohammad and Abu were riding. Five men from the SUV attacked the duo as they fell on the road with weapons and hacked both men to death.

■ Four persons were murdered in Hyderabad on Friday in three separate instances

■ A fresh one was reported on late Saturday night in Cyberabad

■ Special teams have been formed to nab the killers and investigation is underway



"Unidentified men had smashed his head with a boulder. The case is being investigated and the motive is yet to be known" said the police.

The back to back murders have put the city police on their toes during the Covid-19 pandemic. Special teams have been formed to nab the accused and investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, netizens demanded a need for an official DCP in the South Zone area as the position has been officially vacant since months.

CCS DCP Avinash Mohanty had taken charge as an interim DCP of South Zone.

3 'detained' in double murder case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Langar Houz Police allegedly detained three persons who were involved in the double murder reported in front of Olive Hospital at Langar Houz late on Friday night. The deceased persons, Sheikh Mohammed, a history-sheeter from Golconda and his associate, Fayaz, were attacked with weapons and killed on the road on Friday night by a group of persons.

Speaking to the media, AR Srinivas, West Zone, DCP, said that the attackers followed the duo in a SUV. When they neared Olive Hospital, they crashed into the duo's two Wheeler from behind. After the victims fell on the road, the assailants attacked them with sharp weapons, killing them on the spot, said the official.

The police suspected that other persons might have fled the state. Sources said that old rivalry between the two gangs led to the incident. Efforts are on to nab the others who are reportedly involved.

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Anjani Kumar visited the spot and enquired about the incident.

Online classes worry middle class families

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Online education has been putting additional burden on middle class families who pay thousands of rupees towards tuition fee in private schools.

Private schools and colleges have been insisting on parents to buy tab or laptop or smart phones to enable the students attend online lessons.

Cursing Coronavirus, the parents have no alternative but to buy these expensive gadgets. Many middle class families have been borrowing money from others or buying these gadgets on EMIs.

In families where there are two or three children, the problem is more poignant.

Pending decision by the government in July last week on reopening of schools and colleges, the managements of private schools have decided to conduct online classes till then.

Many schools have already gone into the online mode.

For exam-

ple, a Malkajgiri-based private employee who draws Rs 18,000 per month bought laptop for Rs 20,000 from others for the benefit of his son who has been promoted to Class I.

Similarly, Buchchiah, a petty vendor of Katedan area on the city outskirts, has three children pursuing Class 10, Class 7 and 5 in a private school.

Last month, online classes have commenced for Class 10 students. So, he bought a tab worth Rs 15,000 by borrowing money from others. He also

has Wi-Fi connection. He

■ Private schools and colleges have been insisting on parents to buy tab or laptop or smart phones to enable the students attend online lessons

■ The UGC has issued directions to conduct 25% of the classes online

said that he had to buy one more tab as online classes are going to be started for Class 7 students too.

There are at least 30 lakh students pursuing education in private schools. According to a conservative estimate, parents of at least half of the students, 15 lakh, are going to buy laptops for them. If the cost of each laptop is put at Rs 20,000, the total expenditure would be at least Rs 3,000 crore. The figure increases further, if the budget schools in private sector also encourage students to undergo online lessons.

There are at least 23 lakh students

Intermediate course and above. Even if 50 per cent of them purchase laptops, an additional Rs 2,500 crore will be needed. The additional burden that will put an parents by online courses would be at least Rs 5,500 crore this year. The UGC has issued directions recently to conduct 25 per cent of the classes in the academic year 2020-21 online.

City buses may not hit the roads from June 8

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) will not resume its services in the city till the situation eases. Initially, the state government decided to run buses in Hyderabad from June 8.

It is said that the rising number of Corona cases in the state, especially in Greater Hyderabad limits, has forced the state government to take the decision. The state has been witnessing rise in number of positive cases with each passing day following the lockdown relaxations.

The development made the state government to rethink on its tentative thought of running city buses. Even Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar made it clear that it will take some time to run the buses in Hyderabad and inter-state buses as the positive cases are increasing manifold in the state.

Even the Andhra

Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC)

addressed a letter to TSRTC stating that it is ready to run inter-state buses. APSRTC also made it clear that will also allow TSRTC buses into Andhra Pradesh. Ajay Kumar said that city buses will ply in Hyderabad only after the situation eases. It may be recalled that the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation has been accorded permission to operate the buses across all the districts in the state except to the containment zones.

The decision comes after the Centre issued the guidelines permitting the state government to run buses within the state.

Haj applications can be cancelled

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Haj Committee has asked persons who had applied for Haj pilgrimage 2020 but now intends to cancel their pilgrimage plan, to fill in and submit the cancellation forms.

In a statement, B Shafullah, Telangana State Haj Committee executive officer, said that the Haj Committee of India has informed that Saudi Arabia authorities have so far not informed about Haj 2020 plan.

"The total amount will be refunded to those wishing to cancel their journey without any deductions by bank," he said. The cancellation form can be filled on www.hajcommittee.gov.in website and for more details, they can call on 040-23298793.

Kalyanothsavam at Yellamma temple to be a low-key affair

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of the prevailing Coronavirus pandemic, the annual kalyanothsavam at the Balkampet Yellamma temple in the city will be held in the presence of only Vedic pandits and temple authorities on June 23.

Cinematography Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Saturday held a joint meeting with the temple committee representatives and officials of the Endowment Department, the GHMC, police and others, during which he pointed out that the kalyanthosavam of Goddess Yellamma is held on a grand scale with the participation of a large number of devotees every year.

However, given the prevailing conditions and following orders issued by the government, it has been decided to hold the kalyanam with participation of only Vedic pandits and temple authorities, he said. The Rathotsavam on the following day i.e., on June 24, will



also be held in the temple itself.

The Minister said the government would make arrangements for live telecast of the event for the devotees. Temple trustee Sai Baba Goud and other committee members said they would abide by the decisions taken by the government.

"We extend support to the government and also appeal to the devotees also to support," the Minister said.

Talasani said permanent sheds in front of the temple were being set up with help from donors.

Also, for the devotees, a multi-level vehicle parking facility was being built with a budget of Rs 5 crore apart from central lighting and dividers with greenery to come up on the white toppling road being built at a cost of around Rs 7 crore.

Students develop tools to fight Covid

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Students of Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology have designed and developed innovative equipments that promise to aid in the fight against corona-virus.

The equipments developed included a smart vapourised disinfectant cave, pedal driven sanitiser, drone sanitiser and money cure while few more concepts were being planned such as automatic hand sanitiser, thermal screening devices, robotic campus disinfectors.

While the vapourised disinfectant cave provides mist-based vaporiser disinfectant which could be installed at public places with a capacity of 10 persons in 1 minute, the pedal driven sanitiser includes sanitiser liquid spray using pedal driven mechanism without any skin contact, according to the press release said.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an unanticipated move, the Out Patient and In Patient services of 5 departments in NIMS will be shut for patients. Even during lockdown, these services were open. The decision was taken following doctors and health staff of NIMS testing positive for the virus.

All the passengers were serviced through the fully sanitised IIMT of the airport with all safety protocol in place.



About 24 doctors, nurses, Class-IV staff at tested positive for Coronavirus. The OP and IP services of Med Gastroenterology, Surgical Oncology, Urology, Cardiology and Surgical Oncology will not be available for three days.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad's top Urologist, with over 30 years of experience has been tested positive for Coronavirus. He is a consulting urologist at three Corporate Hospitals in the city. His wife, also a doctor has been tested negative. The source of virus is yet to be known.

Two chain snatchers held; booty recovered

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Zone Team of the Commissioner's Task Force along with the Abids Police apprehended two chain snatchers on Saturday. The arrested were identified as Mohd Amjad (29), an elevator service repair person from Bandlaguda and Mohd Shoaib (29), an air conditioner mechanic from Shah-Ali-Banda.

"After Amjad completed graduation, he was working in a private office and has been working as a lift mechanic since four years to support his family. Due to a bad circle, he became addicted to liquor, Ganja and consuming Nitrovit tablets. In 2019, he was jailed in a dacoity case from Shalibanda Police Station. After the remand period, he was released in June, 2019. Since then he was not working and was in dire need of money. During this period, Amjad met his old friend, Shoaib, who was earlier jailed in a bodily offence from Mailardipally police station. The duo decided to commit chain snatching to earn a quick buck," said Chakravarthy Gummi, Addl. DCP, Commissioner's Task Force, Hyderabad City.



The accused and (right) recovered gold chains weighing about 45 grams

Despite accused taking every precaution to hide their identity, cops were able to nab them based on CCTV footage

According to their plan, on May 30, the duo went on a motorcycle to Abids area after covering their faces with masks. They then snatched a mangalsutra from a woman's neck who was riding pillion on a two-wheeler and sped away from the spot.

128 Somalis stranded repatriated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As many as 128 Somalis who were stranded in the city were repatriated to their country from the RGIA. A relief charter flight of Daallo Airlines landed from Mogadishu (Somalia) via

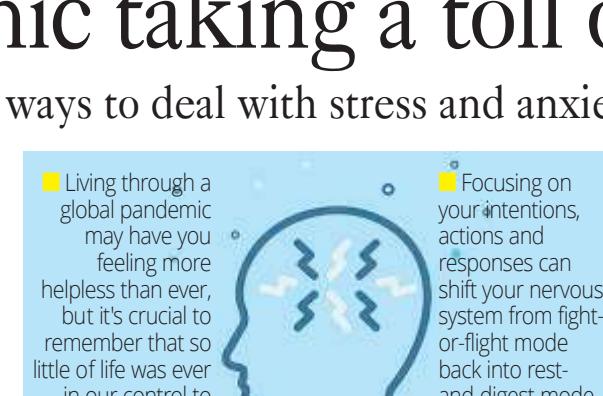
Muscat as a ferry flight on Saturday at 9.30 am and departed two hours later with the 128 passengers to Somalia via Muscat.

All the passengers were serviced through the fully sanitised IIMT of the airport with all safety protocol in place.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the news headlines ranging from Covid-19 pandemic to cyclones to other natural calamities hitting the common public, anxiety and stress is at an all time high. You might dismiss that problem in the grand scheme of things, but uncertainty can truly take a toll on your mental health. "Feeling helpless, scared, worried, avoidant or out of control are normal and expected reactions to sudden change, tragedy or overwhelming stressful experiences," said a clinical psychologist from Hyderabad.

added Dr Chandana S, a licenced marriage and family therapist. "Those issues can present as fogging, irritability, low energy or insomnia. Fortunately, there are ways to manage your emotions and feel more in control of your life



cial to remember that so little of life was ever in our control to begin with. Rather than dwelling on uncertainty, consider what is within your power. Any time you feel anxious, the medical professionals suggest asking yourself three questions: What is my intention at this moment? What actions would I like to take right now? How can I respond to this emotion?

"Focusing on your intentions, actions and responses can shift your nervous system from fight-or-flight mode back into rest-and-digest mode, say experts."

during the uncertainty of the pandemic, he said.

The basic step would be to identify what you can control in your own life. Living through a global pandemic may have you feeling more helpless than ever, but it's cru-

may no longer exist, but it's still important to establish a sense of normality in your day. Furthermore, a routine offers relief through predictability, which can yield to a sense of control. Contributing more on the subject, Dr. Angel Sunaina, a Psychologist, said that one should try to incorporate 'one activity that increases your sense of calm, wellness or stability.' "Think of cooking, meditating, listening to a podcast or coloring. Choose a time each day to engage in your activity and practice staying present. Being grounded and present in the moment reduces ruminating thoughts," she said. The final and most obvious step to take would be to curb social media usage.

Pandemic taking a toll on mental health

Experts suggest ways to deal with stress and anxiety during the 'Year of bad news'

**NAVEEN KUMAR
■ HYDERABAD**

With the news headlines ranging from Covid-19 pandemic to cyclones to other natural calamities hitting the common public, anxiety and stress is at an all time high. You might dismiss that problem in the grand scheme of things, but uncertainty can truly take a toll on your mental health. "Feeling helpless, scared, worried, avoidant or out of control are normal and expected reactions to sudden change, tragedy or overwhelming stressful experiences," said a clinical psychologist from Hyderabad.

Because of this, you may experience symptoms of anxiety, depression or burnout.

SHORT READS

Maharashtra failed to improve health infra: Pravin Darekar

THANE: BJP leader Pravin Darekar on Saturday alleged that the Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra government has failed to provide adequate health infrastructure to check the spread of coronavirus in the state. The Leader of Opposition in the state Legislative Council said CM Uddhav Thackeray has been accusing the BJP of playing politics on the issue to "hide the failure" of the state government. "Hospitals lack ventilators and oxygen supply system while the government is ramping up number of beds. Inadequate health facilities is a serious concern in the state which has seen a rise in corona virus cases," he told reporters in Bhivandi. Doctors, nurses and health workers are not available in hospitals, he said, adding that various departments of the state government "lacked in coordination".

Two held for recording and uploading police station video

VADODARA (GUJ): Two persons were arrested here in Gujarat on Saturday for allegedly shooting a video of interior of a police station and editing it in a "filmy style" before uploading on TikTok, a police officer said. The video was purportedly shot on April 16 when the accused Salman Pathan and Arif Sheikh were held by the police for violating the lockdown rules. They recorded the video of Sayajigunj police station here after they were released on bail on the same day (April 16) without the knowledge of police officials, said police station inspector S G Solanki. The duo added sound of a police siren in the background of the clip and uploaded it on TikTok, he said, adding that they were arrested after the video came to notice of a police official. They have been booked under section 66 (E) of the Information Technology Act for violating privacy of an area by recording and sharing image or video without consent, he said.

Govt sets up taskforce to examine maternal mortality rate

NEW DELHI: A taskforce has been set up by the government to examine matters pertaining to the age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering maternal mortality rate and improvement of nutritional levels, according to a statement by the WCD Ministry. The 10-member taskforce will be headed under the chairmanship of Jaya Jaitly. It will suggest suitable legislations or amendments in the existing laws to support its recommendations; and also work out a detailed roll-out plan with timelines to implement these recommendations, the WCD Ministry said in the statement. The taskforce will submit its report by July 31, it said.

Some pvt hospitals 'black-marketing of beds': Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday warned of strong action against some private hospitals allegedly refusing admission to COVID-19 patients and involving in "black-marketing" of beds, and said his government is going to issue an order stating that hospitals cannot deny treatment to such people.

The Delhi government will depute medical professionals at all hospitals who will update availability of beds for coronavirus patients at an official app and ensure admission of such patients, he said.

His government is going to issue an order that no hospitals will refuse admission to suspected COVID-19 patients and that it will be their responsibility to test and treat such persons, Kejriwal said in a virtual media briefing.

The chief minister also rubbished claims that COVID-19 tests have been stopped in Delhi, and asserted that the



number of tests conducted in the city is the highest in the country.

Most of the private hospitals in Delhi are good but some of them are demanding money for beds which is nothing but "black-marketing", Kejriwal said.

"We will take strong action against such hospitals and they cannot refuse patients. Some time will be needed to break the mafia who are indulging in it. These few hospitals have political approach but they should not be under the illusion that their political masters can save them," he said.

The government is talking to the owners of private hospitals to determine their problems in reserving 20 per cent of their beds for COVID-19 patients, he said.

Private hospitals are a critical part of the Delhi's health infrastructure and the Delhi government acknowledges their role, he added. "There are some private hospitals which are resorting to such means. First they say

"We will take strong action against such hospitals and they cannot refuse patients. Some time will be needed to break the mafia who are indulging in it. These few hospitals have political approach but they should not be under the illusion that their political masters can save them," he said.

— ARVIND KEJRIWAL,
Delhi Chief Minister

they don't have bed and when patients insist, they demand huge amount. Isn't this black-marketing of beds?" he asked.

The chief minister said the Delhi government launched an app on Tuesday for providing information on the availability of government and private hospital beds for COVID-19 patients.

Amit Shah's Bihar rally nothing but 'political vulturism': Tejashwi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day ahead of Amit Shah's virtual rally to sound BJP's poll bugle in Bihar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday said electioneering amidst the coronavirus crisis in the country is nothing but "political vulturism", and alleged that the saffron party was only interested in electoral victory even at the cost of human lives.

The Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly also accused the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government of meting out "step-motherly" treatment to migrant labourers and asserted that this would be a major issue in the assembly polls slated for later this year.

In an interview to PTI, Yadav said he is hopeful that all like-minded parties who are driven by the same ideology of pro-constitutional supremacy and pro-poor would come under one umbrella and fight the "divisive and a failed government of 15 years" in the state.

He also dismissed reports of cracks in the opposition alliance, saying that having



"contrarian views" is healthy for any democracy.

His remarks come a day before the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is set to observe "Garib Adhikar Diwas" that was announced to counter Shah's rally on June 7 in which the Home Minister will address the people of the state through video conferencing and Facebook live, given the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

The BJP will sound the poll bugle in Bihar with the virtual rally by the Union minister and party's senior leader Shah who will address the people of the state through video conferencing and Facebook live, given the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

ence and Facebook live, state BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal said, adding the party has set a target of roping in "at least one lakh people across the 243 assembly segments in Bihar" for the events besides those who may prefer to listen to the speech on the social networking site.

On party's 'Garib Adhikar Diwas' event, Yadav had tweeted that in this calamity, the government has kept the plate of farmers and labourers empty, so in retaliation to their insensitivity, on June 7, RJD will awaken the government by beating "thalis-katoras (plates-bowls)".

BFI involves boxers' parents in its online program

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After organising online classes for boxers during the nationwide lockdown, national federation BFI has involved parents of junior athletes in its E-pathshala program. Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has been educating the next generation of pugilists and their parents as a part of government's Khelo India initiative.

On completion of a month, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, SAI DG Sandip Pradhan, BFI President Ajay Singh and six-time World Champion Mary Kom were present for the online interaction, where more than 500 boxers from the remotest corners of India tuned in.

"Our young boxers are lucky because we never had the best boxing practices coming to our door and with parents also taking part in such daily fitness



activities, the boxers have a strong backing in their pursuit of the sport.

"I really enjoyed the feedback of the young boxers and their parents and I am hopeful of seeing these young stars shine in the future. I would like to compliment BFI and SAI for coming together and giving a new direction to our young boxers," said Rijiju. The elite coaches, led by Performance Director Santiago

Nieva and key officials from the National Centre of Excellence and BFI have been conducting high-level, visually demonstrative training programmes of international standard to guide the young stars with the right advice.

Stable patients should be allowed to use mobile phones in hospitals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An association of doctors working at the government hospitals in West Bengal has written to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, requesting her to allow use of mobile phones by non-critical COVID-19 patients in their wards as the ban on cell phone usage is causing mental stress for these people, an official said.

If a patient is "clinically stable", the person should be allowed to use mobile handsets, the Association of Health Service Doctors, a left-wing organisation, said in the letter.

Referring to the cremation of COVID-19 victims at an isolated place in the absence of family members, the association said the near ones should not be denied to pay their last respects.

Negligence in treating cases a serious issue: Ajit Pawar

PNS ■ PUNE

Stating that negligence during treatment of COVID-19 patients in private hospitals is a "serious issue", Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Saturday warned them of strict action for "unethical practices".

Addressing a review meeting on the COVID-19 situation with senior officials here, Pawar said, "negligence by private hospitals during treatment of infected patients is a serious issue".

"A strong action will be taken against such hospitals for any unethical practices," he said.

Speaking about reopening of schools in Maharashtra, the epicentre of coronavirus infection, Pawar said a decision will be taken soon with adequate precautionary measures to insulate students from the coronavirus impact.



Pawar also observed that many people are not following the lockdown norms in the state.

Maharashtra has launched phase-wise reopening of the economy and public activity under "Mission Begin Again" though the lockdown remains in force until June 30.

"People who are experts in dividing the society should also provide details of the economic (package) breakup," Pawar added.

Akhilesh demands breakup of economic package

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday sought to know the breakup of the Rs 20 lakh crore consolidated economic package announced by the Centre for different sections of the society. "The government should say how much of the Rs 20 lakh crore 'mahapackage' is for the poor, how much is for the farmers, daily-wage labourers, small traders and vendors," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

"People who are experts in dividing the society should also provide details of the economic (package) breakup," Yadav added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had last month announced an economic relief package of Rs 20 lakh crore to make up for the loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and pitched for promoting local businesses.

UP Deputy CM calls 'Priyanka Twitter Vadra'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



Taking a swipe at Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Saturday said social media projects her as a "prominent national leader" but she could not even ensure victory of her brother and then party president Rahul Gandhi from Amethi in the 2019 parliamentary election.

Seeking to downplay the impact of Priyanka Gandhi in the state politics, Maurya said, "I do not take her seriously.... We have already named her 'Priyanka Twitter Vadra'. She only tweets for 2-3 days and the media remains busy and social media shows her as a prominent national leader."

"But everyone knows when she came to Uttar Pradesh to campaign for the Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections hoping that she would make her brother the prime minister, she could not even ensure his victory," he said.

Rahul Gandhi lost to Smriti Irani of the BJP in his pocket borough of Amethi in the 2019 elections.

Hotels, restaurants can re-open if norms are followed: CM

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Saturday said hotels and restaurants would be allowed to re-open, but the precautionary measures laid down by the Centre against coronavirus were mandatory.

The Chief Minister on Friday held a meeting with the tourism and transport department, also stakeholders, regarding revival of tourism in the state.

Hotels associations and transport companies have said they would follow the guidelines issued by the government, an official press release said here.

The Karnataka government had said it would go by the Centre's direction on opening

religious places of worship, shopping malls, hotels, restaurants and other hospitality services on June 8.

Buses, hotels and taxi owners association placed some demands at the meeting, the release said, adding that Yediyurappa informed them that he would examine their demands and take appropriate decisions.

The Chief Minister also released a handout regarding the guidelines that need to be followed as the tourism department is opening hotels, guest houses and tourist destinations.

Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, Tourism Minister C T Ravi and senior officials of the department participated in the meeting.

The government had, on Thursday, said safaris, trekking, jungle lodges and resorts in areas that fall outside the COVID-19 containment zones can re-open provided they adhere to social distancing, hygiene as issued by the governments.

Reduce syllabus by 30%, reopen schools with precautions: Sisodia to HRD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia pitched for a 30 per cent reduction in syllabus for all grades to make up for the loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and advocated reopening of schools with reasonable precautions.

In a letter written to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhrayan 'Nishank', Sisodia asserted that since people need to learn to live with coronavirus now, it would be better if the already existing learning spaces like schools, take up that role.

Noting that online learning can only complement learning in schools and not replace it,

he said, it would be a "historical blunder" if the "opportunity" is let to pass by not trusting schools with a bigger and bolder role, which is, to prepare children for better and responsible life and not just for a few lessons of their textbooks.

Online classes short-term response, need to make schools resilient to hurdles: Nilekani

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The rapid shift to teaching and learning activities online prompted by closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic is only a "short-term response" and we need to fundamentally reimagine schools as a resilient system which can function under continuous turbulence, according to Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani.

Classroom should not be the only location, teacher not the only facilitator and textbook not the only medium, is the roadmap laid by Nilekani for a "resilient" school system while delivering the keynote address at a virtual conference on Future of Schools: Overcoming COVID-19 challenges and beyond organised by Ashoka University.

The rapid shift to move everything online, zoom classes, teaching through smart phones, all of this is part of a short-term



response which was necessary but not sufficient. We need to fundamentally reimagine schools, build a resilient system strategically detailing how we are going to deal with the turbulence for next few years," said Nilekani, who is also co-founder of EkStep Foundation.

The foundation extends learning opportunities to Indian chil-

Smack worth Rs 4.5 crore seized in Shamli

PNS ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP)

Uttar Pradesh police seized smack worth Rs 4.5 crore and arrested two men on Saturday after intercepting a truck carrying watermelons at the border with Haryana in Bidoli check-post of Shamli district, police said.

The truck was travelling from Bareilly to Chandigarh, Superintendent of Police (SP) Vineet Jaiswal said, adding that a police team led by Jhunjhunu police station SHO P K Singh stopped it and found out the drug consignment hidden beneath the watermelons while searching the vehicle.

A case was registered against the driver Shahbaz and helper Danish under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested them.



Plea in Delhi HC for resumption of normal judicial work via videoconferencing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A plea has been moved before the Delhi High Court seeking resumption of normal judicial work in all courts in the national capital via videoconferencing and e-filing. In an administrative order issued on May 29, the high court had said it would only hear urgent matters via videoconferencing till June 14 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The order also applies to all district courts in the city.

The petition filed by advocate S B Tripathi has sought a direction to the high court administration to pass an order for resumption of normal judicial work via e-filing and videoconferencing. It has also sought setting aside of the May 29 administrative order of the court.

The two affected are judges of the district civil and sessions court in Alipore and are being treated at private medical establishments here, an official of the health department said Saturday.

Those who came in contact with the two judges were also asked to go for medical tests to confirm whether there is any confirmation or not. There are 4025 active cases of the contagion in West Bengal so far while the number of confirmed cases is 7,303.

CAPSULE


Yatra Online terminates merger pact with US-based Ebix Inc

New Delhi: Online travel company Yatra Online Inc said it is terminating pending merger agreement with the US-based software firm Ebix Inc and has filed a litigation seeking substantial damages from Ebix over breaches of the agreement. Ebix Inc had signed an agreement to acquire Yatra Online Inc, the parent company of online travel firm Yatra.com, for an enterprise value of USD 337.8 million (over Rs 2,300 crore) in 2019. The company, "has provided notice of termination of its pending merger agreement with Ebix Inc and filed litigation in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware over Ebix's breaches of the merger agreement," Yatra Online Inc said in a statement. Yatra Online Inc seeks to hold Ebix accountable for breaches of its representations, warranties and covenants in the merger agreement and an ancillary extension agreement, and seeks substantial damages, the statement added. "As detailed in the complaint, Ebix's conduct breached material terms of the agreements and frustrated Yatra's ability to close the transaction and obtain the benefit of Yatra's bargain for Yatra's stockholders," Yatra Online Inc said.


Sunil Kumar Bansal takes charge as DMD of IFCI

New Delhi: State-owned lender IFCI on Saturday said Sunil Kumar Bansal has taken charge as deputy managing director of the company. Prior to this, he was chief general manager with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Bansal served in NABARD at several positions and has vast experience of more than 35 years. IFCI said in a statement. He has cumulative 10 years board-level experience in organisations like SIDBI, NABCONS and NABVENTURES.



K'taka Bank reports Rs 285 cr fraud in four loan accounts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Private sector lender Karnataka Bank has reported to the RBI that it has been defrauded of over Rs 285 crore consequent to loans gone bad to four entities including DHFL.

A total of Rs 285.52 crore has been reported as fraud wherein the bank was one of the consortium lenders during 2009 to 2014 to Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL), Religare Finvest, Fedders Electric and Engineering Ltd and Leel Electricals Ltd. Karnataka Bank said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

The maximum is owed by DHFL at Rs 180.13 crore, followed by Religare Finvest Rs 43.44 crore, Fedders Electric Rs 41.30 crore and Leel Electricals Rs 20.65 crore.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT

'Covid-19 could be opportunity for India'

PNS ■ UNITED NATIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has presented challenges for several nations, could be an "opportunity" for India to speed up the health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat, especially with a focus on primary healthcare, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said.

WHO Director-General Ghebreyesus was responding to a question on the COVID-19 situation in India, where the number of coronavirus cases are increasing rapidly. India went past Italy on Friday to become the sixth worst-hit nation by the COVID-19 pandemic.

India saw a record single-day jump of 9,887 coronavirus cases and 294 deaths on Saturday, pushing the nationwide infection tally to 2,36,657 and the death toll to 6,642, according to the health ministry. "Of course COVID is very unfortunate and it's challenging for many nations but we need to look for opportunities too. For instance for India, this could be an opportunity to speed up Ayushman Bharat, especially with a focus on primary health



India can speed up health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat, especially with a focus on primary healthcare, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom said

care. I know there is a very strong commitment from the government to speed up the implementation of Ayushman Bharat and with primary healthcare and community engagement, I think we can really turn the tide," Ghebreyesus said during a press briefing in Geneva on Friday. Ayushman Bharat is the world's largest health insurance scheme and was launched by the Narendra Modi government in 2018. Last month, Modi

had said that the number of people who have benefited from the scheme crossed the one crore-mark. The scheme aims to cover more than 500 million beneficiaries and provide coverage of Rs 500,000 per family per year. Referring to the Ayushman Bharat scheme, Ghebreyesus added that "using and speeding up what has started could actually help in India and that's what WHO was very appreciative by the way when Ayushman Bharat started."



Aircraft parked at airport hit by step ladder amid strong winds

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro on Saturday said its board has given nod for reappointment of A M Naik as non-executive chairman of the company for a period of three years from October 1, 2020.

Naik's present tenure is scheduled to end on September 30, 2020, L&T said. Naik has been re-appointed as a non-executive chairman for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2020 and up to September 30, 2023, it said, adding Dip Kishore Sen has been reappointed as a whole-time director with effect from October 1, 2020 and up to April 7, 2023. Under Naik's leadership, L&T overcame multiple challenges and emerged stronger with a sharper focus on profitable growth.



ending on September 30, 2020," L&T said. Naik has been re-appointed as a non-executive chairman for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2020 and up to September 30, 2023, it said, adding Dip Kishore Sen has been reappointed as a whole-time director with effect from October 1, 2020 and up to April 7, 2023. Under Naik's leadership, L&T overcame multiple challenges and emerged stronger with a sharper focus on profitable growth.

Co-founder of Reddit Alexis quits board

PNS ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian has resigned from the tech firm's board and urged the company to replace him with a black candidate. The tech entrepreneur, who is white, is the husband of tennis legend Serena Williams.

Ohanian decided to quit after days of violent protests across the US over the killing of African-American George Floyd, a 46-year-old man who died in Minneapolis on May 25.

Arunachal sees 17pc drop in share of central taxes

PNS ■ ITANAGAR

Arunachal Pradesh's share in central taxes dropped by 17.81 per cent in the first two months of the current fiscal, adversely impacting the state's fight against COVID-19, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said. The share of the central taxes expected per month was Rs 985.83 crore, he said.

"The actual receipt for April and May 2020 was Rs 1,620.56 crore at an average of Rs 810.28 crore per month. There has been a shortfall of 17.81 per cent in the last two months, which, if maintained throughout the year, would lead to an overall deficit of Rs 2,457.67 crore," the

Anti-dumping duty on Malaysian calculators

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of electronic calculators from Malaysia for five years with a view to guard domestic players from cheap imports from that country.

After conducting a probe, the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) had recommended anti-dumping duty on electronic calculators from Malaysia.

"The anti-dumping duty imposed (USD 0.92 per piece)...shall be effective for a period of five years (unless revoked, amended or superseded earlier)," the department of revenue has said in a notification. In its findings of the probe, the DGTR had concluded that the product has been exported to India from Malaysia below its associated normal value, which is amounting to dumping and



After conducting a probe, the commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR had recommended duty on electronic calculators from Malaysia

the domestic industry has suffered material injury due to the dumping. While DGTR recommends the duty, the finance ministry will take the final call to impose the same.

Ajanta LLP had filed the application for imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports from Malaysia. Malaysia is a

key trading partner of India in the Southeast Asian region.

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The bilateral trade between the countries increased to USD 17.25 billion in 2018-19 from USD 14.71 billion in 2017-18.

In international trade parlance, dumping happens when a country or a firm exports an

medium to long-term growth prospects of the sector.

"Despite the near-term ambiguity, we remain confident of the medium to long-term growth prospects of the FMCG sector," HUL Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Mehta said in his address to shareholders in the company's annual report for 2019-20.

"There are many unknowns today and hence, the near-term outlook is extremely uncertain," he added.

Though the coronavirus and containment efforts have resulted in supply and demand disruptions, leading to a sharper growth deceleration, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) is confident about

medium to long-term growth prospects of the sector.

"The complexity and volatility continue to rise. In the last quarter of financial year 2019-20, we have seen an unprecedented global break-out of the COVID-19 pandemic leading to a humanitarian crisis, lockdown across many countries and a significant economic fallout," it said, adding, "In India, the economic impact of COVID-19 is trickling in on the backdrop of an already challenging macro-economic environment."

Mehta said various containment measures and the nationwide lockdown from March 25 caused disruptions across the company's value chain.



The FMCG major said that it is confident about its ability to manage the immediate crisis

Near-term outlook for FMCG sector extremely uncertain'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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Burqa avenger

From a burqa clad woman sanitising temples, to young souls distributing raksha kits and immunity boosters to frontline workers — people from all walks of life have come out during this pandemic to contribute to the welfare of humanity, says MUSBA HASHMI

Swords, shields, capes and magical powers are what folklore tells us about superheroes and warriors. But not all superheroes wear a cape. One just needs to have the eye for detail to find one. Clad in a *burqa*, mouth covered with a mask and a sanitising machine tied like a backpack, the 30-year-old Lucknow University graduate, Syed Uzma Parveen is making headlines and for all the right reasons.

A mother of two — Veer Abdul Hameed (1) and Wali Ullah (6), Parveen has been sanitising *golis*, *mohallas*, mosques and temples of Lucknow for the last two months now. However, she came in the limelight because of a video in which she is seen sanitising a temple. Social media and news channels were quick to appreciate Parveen and the video went viral.

The idea hit her when she realised that there is a dire need to disinfect the surroundings. "Day in and out we hear these debates on new channels about Hindu-Muslim, we need to realise that these topics are not at all important when we all are fighting a pandemic. It is not the right time to sit and scream about our ideologies but to come out in the open and do our bit. Temples and mosques are places of worship and people do visit them. That's how I thought of sanitising these places as well apart from the *mohallas*. I started two months back and since then there is no stopping me," Parveen, who has sanitised 38 *golis* till date, tells you.

Parveen started the work from her area, Saadatganj and then proceeded to the Sitaram temple in Faizullahganj. It was love for the country and its people that made her take up the cause and risk her life. "When someone in the family falls ill, we just don't let them be on their own. Such should be the case when it comes to our nation. Just when the country and its people need us, I cannot run away from my duty. My neighbours are like a family and it is my responsibility to ensure that our surroundings are clean and infection-free," she says.

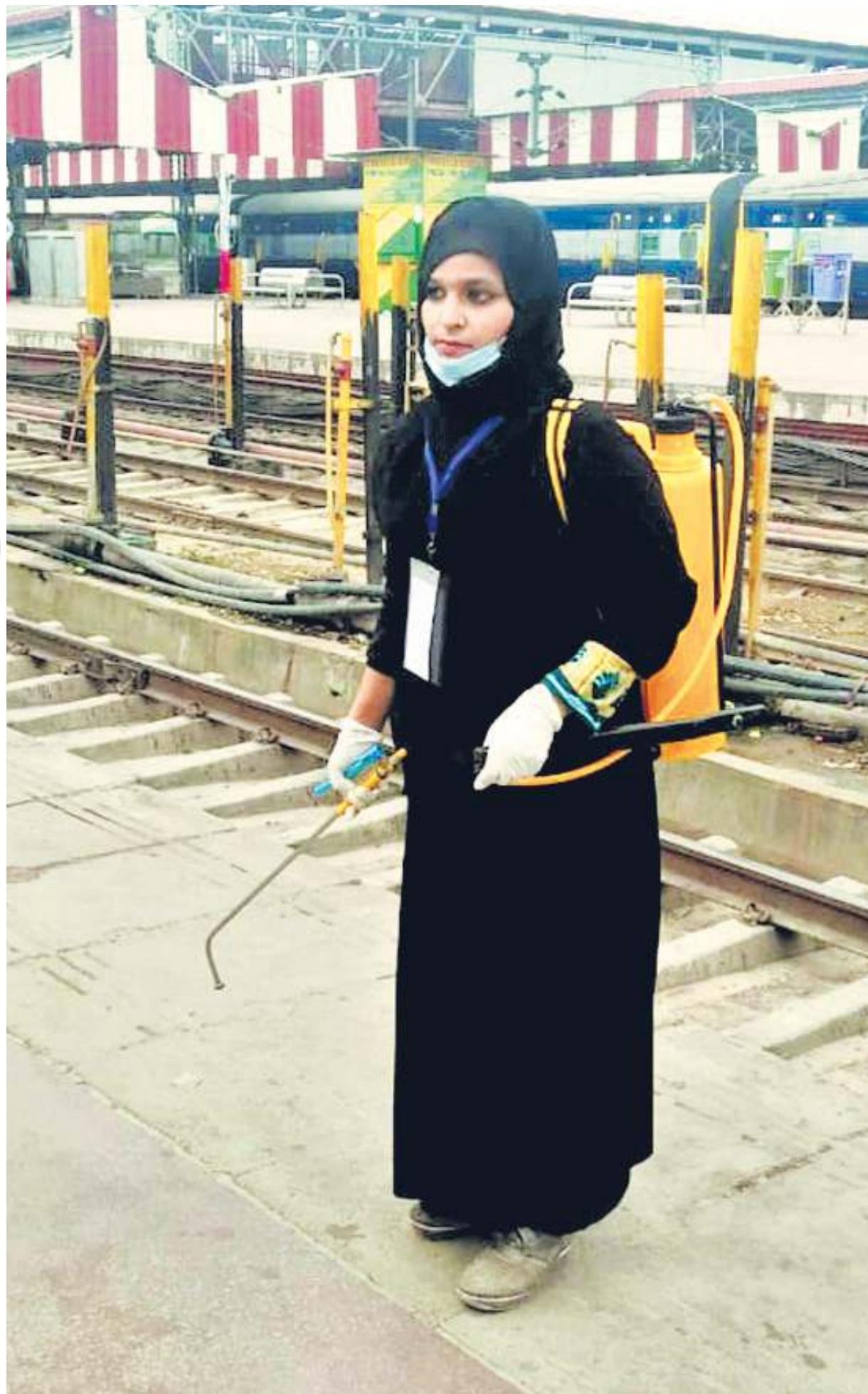
The social work that Parveen is doing is not once in a blue moon thing. She has been actively helping people in every possible way since her college days. "My inspiration has been my father, Syed Javed Hussain, who taught us to be kind. The life lessons that he gave us are engraved in our hearts," she says.

Recalling the first time when she helped someone, she says: "The sense of empathy aroused when I was 10. My family and I were off to some place. On our way, we saw an old man, helplessly lying on the road, covered in ragged clothes, in biting cold. Abba stopped the car, and he gave the old man a blanket and offered him some food. That kind of act my father inspired me to help people even more. During my college days, I used to offer people free rides on my Scooty. Whenever I used to see a student or elderly walking in the sun, I used to offer them a ride to their place," she tells you. Parveen's kind act inspired her friends to do something on similar grounds.

But not everything in the garden is rosy. Her idea of sanitising streets met with a lot of resistance from the family and society. "Initially, my idea of going out on streets, sanitising didn't sit well with my family. They told me that I should stop worrying about all this and look after the family. People around me, asked me: 'Sirf tum hi kyun karogi yeh kaam, koi aur kyun nahi?' To which I replied: 'Main hi kyun nahi?' So, they gave up and realised that I was firm in my decision. However, my husband, Saiful Hassan, never stopped me from doing the social work," Parveen tells you.

That was not all. Her neighbours started complaining about how she is roaming around sanitising streets and temples. "One day after another, my neighbours would tell my mother-in-law: 'Your daughter-in-law has no shame. She is out on the streets freely and doing a man's job' and that it will put a question mark on my character too," she tells you.

OUT OF ALL THE ABUSES, THE ONE THAT SHOCKED ME WAS OF A WOMAN WHO POSTED A VIDEO ON SOCIAL MEDIA, CALLING ME NAMES AND ABUSING IN EVERY POSSIBLE MANNER. IT AFFECTED ME A LOT. MORE SO, BECAUSE IT CAME FROM A WOMAN. BUT I PICKED MYSELF UP AND DECIDED TO NOT LOSE MOTIVATION BECAUSE OF A PERSON WHO IS HIDING BEHIND HER MOBILE PHONE AND SPEAKING RUBBISH



Despite all the hurdles and abuses that she faced daily, Parveen was determined to not give up. "Out of all the abuses, the one that shocked me was of a woman who posted a video on social media, calling me names and abusing in every possible manner. It affected me a lot. More so, because it came from a woman. But I picked myself up and decided to not lose motivation because of a person who is hiding behind her mobile phone and speaking rubbish," Parveen tells you.

The resistance was not only from family but also from the people who didn't want

a *burqa* clad to sanitise a *mandir*. "It is indeed an unusual sight, because not many times people have seen a woman in *burqa* outside a temple. Therefore, there were unusual stares from people but then I learnt to brave them. When I first went to sanitise the temple, a man sitting there told me to go back as there is no need to sanitise the area and that they will do it on their own. But then the *pujari* (priest) came out and told me that I was doing a humble job and no one has the audacity to stop me. He asked me to continue the humanitarian work that I was doing. Just a few

moments later, an old lady, of that my grandmother's age walked up to me and showered her blessings on me for what I was doing. All these sweet gestures encouraged me to do it all the way more," Parveen tells you.

But not all is lost in Parveen's story. After coming in the limelight, her mother-in-law and the rest of the family and neighbours appreciated the fact that the work she is doing is for a good cause. "When they saw my video on a news channel and my photos in newspapers, my neighbours congratulated me. They were

happy that I am making the society proud," Parveen tells you.

Managing family and work was a task for Parveen especially during Ramzaan. She used to wake up at 3 am, do *sehri*, offer *namaz* and then went on for sanitising the streets. "I did it throughout Ramzaan. I used to leave my house at around 5 am and return by 9 am. The reason being to not feel the heat while fasting. Then after an hour of rest, I used to get back to household chores," she says.

For a person who is fasting to carry a sanitising machine as heavy as 16 kg can be a Herculean task. "Yes, the machine is heavy and it was difficult to carry for such long hours. When I returned after sanitising places my back ached a lot, it still does but then I don't have an option but to carry it," she says. Parveen usually goes for the work alone, but sometimes her friends lend a helping hand.

Sanitisation is only one of the many things that Parveen is doing. There is much more in the list. "It all started when the lockdown was announced. Just two days into the period, and I came to know about people living in nearby areas who don't have enough money or ration to survive the lockdown. That's when I decided to distribute ration to each one of them. Then after few days, I came across the migrant labourers who were returning home, starving. I decided to help them as well," Parveen, who lives in a joint family, tells you.

Not only in Lucknow, Parveen is helping people in other cities as well. "We have created a Facebook group where the volunteers post about the needy. We try and help these people in every possible way," she tells you.

During the lockdown, Parveen also tried to make sure that people are following the guidelines. "When I went for sanitising streets, I saw people in groups violating the lockdown norms. I told them that by doing this they are not only putting their lives at risk but their family's too. Some were generous enough to understand while others retaliated and asked 'who am I to dictate them' and that I should focus my work. But their response never bothered me. I used to humbly tell them that it was my duty to stop them for their own safety, rest they are all by themselves," she tells you.

The cost of the humanitarian work that Parveen is doing daily, is the money that she saved for her children's education. "Till date ₹95,000 has been spent on sanitising and around ₹5 lakh on distributing ration. This is the money that I have saved all these years for my children's education. It was difficult for me to use it but then there was no one I could look up to for help. When I asked my son, who is six, that whether I could take the amount that I have saved for his education, he replied: 'Mummy, you go ahead. Education is important and we can earn the money back. But what is more important right now is that no one should stay hungry and that our surroundings remain infection-free.' Hearing that coming from a child was astonishing but then I am glad that my son, at such a young age, has a better understanding of things than most people," she says.

She tells you that it was a little frightening to be on the streets during such a time when stepping out of the house is not a good option. "It was and is a little scary but then someone needs to do the job. My children are young, that is more worrisome. But I take all the precautions and follow the preventive measures stringently. At all times, I wear a mask. And when I return home, I head straight to the washroom to have a bath before meeting my children," she tells you.

For her work, the Lucknow administration has awarded Parveen a Corona Warrior Certificate.

"This is not the end. Since, places are opening up, I am now disinfecting bus stands and railways stations and will continue to do so," Parveen, whose aim is to sanitise the complete city, tells you.



KEEPING THEM SAFE

While many of us have the privilege to adjust to the new normal by working from home and staying safe, the frontline warriors — the police officers — are walking an extra mile and working round the clock to ensure that we are safe and sound. There are many instances when the officers have gone out of the way to bring a smile on people's faces. A case in point is when a group of police officers in Punjab surprised a boy with a birthday cake and sang 'Happy Birthday.'

The officers are at the forefront of an invisible war and the need of the hour is to ensure their safety. To contribute to the cause, Rohit Shelatkar, vice-president, Meyer Vitabiotics in partnership with

Shelatkar's Grand Maratha Foundation have come forward to provide Mumbai Police with immunity boosting supplements.

"It gives us immense pleasure to support Mumbai Police who are working day and night to fight this pandemic. Wellman and Wellwoman tablets are scientifically researched and have proven to boost one's immunity. We want to thank the police personnel for their commitment to the cause and extend our care by providing them with the supplements," Shelatkar says.

The company will distribute over 45,000 units immunity boosting supplements. In addition, the company will also be distributing 46,000 packs of Vitamin D supplements to the entire force.

A THANK YOU FOR WARRIOR

Another unsung hero is helping the frontline health workers by providing them with raksha kits which includes sanitary pads, masks, gloves and sanitisers. Meet 26-year-old Shivang Tayal, Director, TSL Group from Hisar, Haryana.

"We started the *Rakshak ki Raksha* campaign at the end of March and since then we have provided raksha kits to more than 10,000 frontline workers which include Asha and anganwadi workers, ANMs, multi-purpose healthcare workers who work in villages to protect our communities," Tayal tells you.

Besides providing resources to COVID-19 hotspots, they are focusing on building capacity in rural India's under-resourced public health system. "After spending three years in New

York doing management consulting, I returned to India and then this pandemic happened. I realised what the country is going through and that there is a need to safeguard our healthline workers. That's how I came up with the campaign and started distributing raksha kits," Tayal, whose parents Mukul and Sumita supported him in the cause, tells you.

Tayal says this campaign is just a minor way to thank the frontline workers for their endless efforts. "I just want to thank all the COVID-19 warriors who are risking their lives and helping people in time of need. And I would request all the citizens to try and help these warriors in every way they can. To take care of their wellbeing is the least we could do in the recent times," he says.



BELIEVE IN YOUR INFINITE
POTENTIAL. YOUR ONLY
LIMITATIONS ARE THOSE YOU
SET UPON YOURSELF
— ROY T. BENNETT



**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

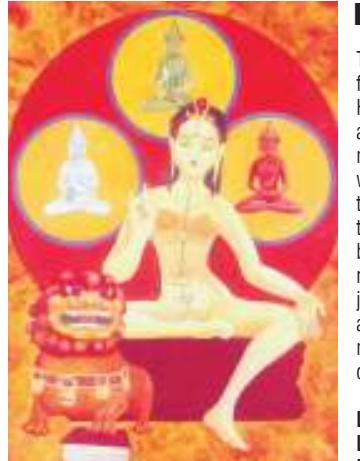
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Overall health remains good. You will feel energetic and enthusiastic. There is a need to bring about change in your nutrition. Adopt new approach and ideas. You are filled with positive energy through the week. Those who have recovered from serious ailment must do the follow-through. On the career front, if you are involved in any sort of competition, then you are advised to keep a close eye out for any cheating. The bottom line is basically to cover your tail. Make sure you are doing things the right way, and then you'll have nothing to worry about. You are not very vocal in a relationship. Express yourself to those you love by saying loving words. Your introvert and individual persona does not help you to get closer to the one you love.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week health will be good. This is the time when you feel at your best, physically, mentally and emotionally. Health, vitality and inner vibrancy will fill you with energy and inspiration. Some creative ideas will occupy your mind and shine you bright. Females who are on the family way, would feel healthier and nourished. Make sure you take out adequate time for relaxation. On the work front, this could be that phase in your life which begs you to bring some desirable changes in your career. You might not be satisfied with your current job. Switching to a new job is likely. Some of you may opt for business, instead of a job. Don't ignore your personal life. Your loved ones mean a lot to you. Take some time out and show your concern, let the heart speaks louder than the mind.

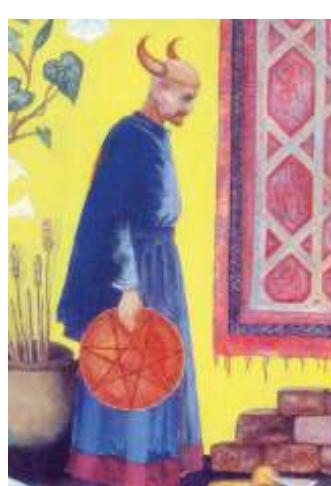
Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Camel brown
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will reap the results of your past efforts. You will be focused on the reality that life comes a full circle and that what goes around always, without fail, will come around. Remember that when you make a point to be generous, whether, with time, energy, or money, that too is an investment in your future. Professionally, you may be inspired to start a new creative project. You are at that point in your life where you feel comfortable with who you are and what you feel. You see new potential in allowing your creativity to flow. On the relationship front, if you are in love and decide to make him her life partner, take the approval of your parents. You will be able to maintain good relations with the seniors at home and take their blessings.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will enjoy happiness, good health and worldly pleasures. You tend to be enthusiastic and will carefully weigh what others ask you now. You will get inspired by everything around you. Connecting to yoga, meditation cosmic healing, learning new interests is indicated. Professionally, you will be torn between work and entertainment. This is the time to weigh your priorities and responsibilities. Make a decision in favour of better work conditions and output. If you wish for improved working conditions, stay away from tension and stress. Don't let negative forces bother you. On the personal front, look hard at yourself and analyse whether you are being realistic about love. Don't spend too much time in self-pity or wishing your life away.

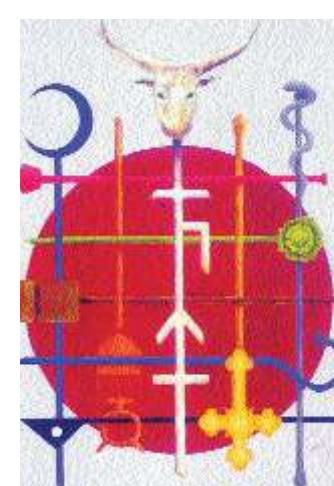
Lucky number 30
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you are extraordinarily active on a mental level. You find that your drive to make things happen is ignited. Your analytical and reasoning powers are very strong and you will not listen to others. You think what you say or what you do is right. Don't find faults in others. On the career front, some good news is on the cards. An out-of-the-blue opportunity may surprise you. Your focussed attitude will help you sail through difficult times. Avoid work politics. Deceit, clashes could be experienced this week in love matters. You could ruin the very things that you want the most such as close, intimate relationships with your friends and lover. Lack of communication and understanding could be harmful at this point.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you are a quiet and keen observer. A positive outlook will change your perception of life. You feel healthier than ever. Spiritually, things will move along well, and you will feel hopeful about the future. You may have to decide whether to put your energy into things, people, and situations that you are involved with. On the career front, you will want your time and space and may be in isolation for a while. You will feel exhausted. The trauma of losing your job, financial and health worries may overpower you. You find most of the answers in your isolation. This is not the time to make decisions. The beginning of love, happiness and compassion is on the cards. The start of a new relationship, be it a friendship or a romance will bring a smile on your face.

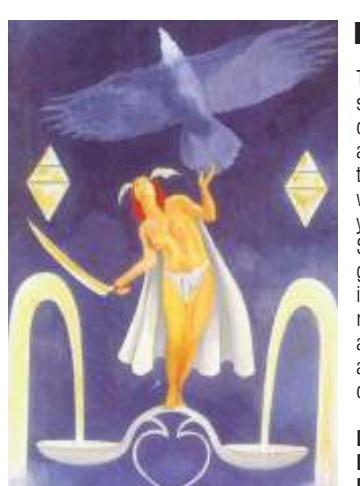
Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Self-improvement is on top of your mind. Plan some creative activity to stay busy and avoid stress. The tension you have been experiencing lately would ease. Don't hesitate to share your feelings with your trusted ones or ask for help from them. Professionally, this is a very good time to start planning long term. Where do you want to be in the coming five years? How will you make it happen? Focus on your skills and potentials. You have great expectation from life and are happy about the surprises it often brings. The investments you made in the past are likely to return with interest. An existing relationship may suffer due to lack of understanding. Think calmly and carefully about what your limitations are in a relationship.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you may restricted in your life. Health issues seem to be out of control. One after another problem may crop up on the health front. You need to analyse why you are feeling this way and work to release yourself from these restrictions. You need an emotional release from whatever it is that is making you feel stuck. Professionally, you are in mood for enjoyment and wish to have blast. Spend some time to pamper yourself, feel good and look good. Money is not a problem, earning will be good. This is a good time to look into home décor and consider renovation. On the relationship front, messages of love and affection are likely to come your way. If you are single, a new suitor with whom you have a lot in common may come into your life.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Running away from reality does not suit your personality. Those dealing with a health problem should consult a doctor. A change in environment will rejuvenate your health. Do not stress over unnecessary issues. On the career front, you are ready to confront any unfinished business in your life. You are decisive and determined. You have reviewed your past experiences and have learned from them. All the pieces of the puzzle of your life are finally coming together to form one. On the personal front, it is a good time to listen to your mind than your heart. You find that your drive to make things happen is ignited. At home, your domineering attitude could make others irritated, and you may be left alone. Listen more and say less.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This is a good week. You will encounter new experiences and warm people who will invite you into their world. Everything is starting to fall into place and you can be one with the situation. On the career front, an enhanced status, promotion or designation is on the cards. This week you are very sound and grounded therefore, you are likely to take important decision related to career or relationship. You are hardworking and focused. Expect some stressful moments this week. Abundance of energy and self-confidence will give you a boost to move ahead. On the personal front, you are charged up with extra energy. You have great clarity on a situation and can now argue your case out with the view to emerge victorious.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you can solve many problems with your wisdom. With your experience and maturity, you would be able to take hold of your life. Instead of being innovative, you need to adapt to the existing set of beliefs and systems. Any new theory will not suit you this week. You have to follow an orthodox approach. On the career front, you may be your own worst enemy. How you speak your mind is as important as what you say. There may be some unfairness at play at work. Be sure that your behaviour is impeccable. Try to cut unnecessary expenses. If you are already in a committed relationship the clear message is that trust is crucial. If you are feeling suspicious for some reason about your partner, make a point to talk about this even if it is difficult.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you will have to make some efforts to improve your health condition. You need more exercise under expert or nutritional guidance to make sure that you stay fit and are eating better. Take charge of your life. This can be a very creative time for you. Enjoy being with yourself and your childlike energy will help you enrich your life. This week, working environment will be friendly, consistent and this will increase your efficiency. You will enjoy working in a group and come out with productive results. You will be able to win the support of your senior. True love, balanced partnership, commitment, and all of the good are easily available for you. You could expect a genuine and long term relationship as the foundation of your love is very strong.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



Continuing from where we left last week, it comes out that 'Freewill' serves as a double-edged sword. If, on one hand, it binds you to fate, at the same time, it also enjoins you with the potential to come out of its limitations. What choice to make, remains the prerogative of 'ahamkara' (Ego consciousness). The paradox, however, is that we are all born with inherent desire and mind-trends, coming as they may as Karmic carryover from the past birth, which serves as the defining principle of mind. We are, thus, born with a preconditioned mind.

As a consequence, more often than not, 'ahamkara' is inclined to identify itself with indwelling desires, which it wishes to passionately pursue as the end game. Going through the run of life, 'ahamkara' also gets drawn towards tempting influences of the seeming world, and instinctively makes it as a dream destination. Taking them on their face value, 'ahamkara' doesn't allow time and space to look beyond for a better option if any. Nor, is it keen to invoke 'buddhi' (faculty of discriminate intelligence) for due diligence either. With such a narrow frame of vision, one fails

to have a holistic understanding of the living realities of life. One, thus, can't see things in the right perspective due, and therefore, fails to pick up the right lead. So, we end up helplessly fated.

The question now is: Is there any scope to come out of the binds of fate? If so, what is the way forward? Remember, the inherent limitations, with which we are born, don't grant us access to the full landscape of our mind. Consequently, the processing power of the mind gets compromised. The obvious calling, therefore, is to first service our empowerment tool, the mind — by clearing all clutter and inherent limitations. Following which, you may then be able to discriminate between 'what you want' and 'what is right'. Also, you could explore all options available with an open mind, free from all limitations whatsoever, to pick up the most appropriate lead. The next question would be: how to go about?

Awareness is the key. The first step called for in this direction is to look for an enlightened Guru, who may lead you through. Otherwise, you may end up being stuck to your mental mesh. The Guru will first give you exposure to the



construct, chemistry, and operating principles of mind. Remember, mind is the prime mover of a being. All actions out in the open, be it chasing a desired destination or respond and react to an external stimuli, originates in mind, which following processing translates into action. Even the imprints of all your inherent tendencies are there in the mind itself, in the form of thought-seeds. It is again following a mental process that could help purify the mind, so as to have access to its full landscape with its wholesome powers. Unless you become conversant with the working modalities of the instrument in use, it will not be possible to use it efficiently.

Be it known, Mind has three functional tools — *Buddhi*, *Ahamkara* and *Manasa*. *Buddhi* is the faculty of discriminate intelligence, intrinsic to which is the sense of dispassion. It analyses issues in hand in an unbiased manner, arrives at the right judgment, and accordingly guides how to act upon. But, *buddhi* can't act upon by itself unless directed by *ahamkara*. *Ahamkara* brings in the sense of 'I' consciousness, which makes you take the call of life, and own up for the consequences of all your doings. *Manasa* is the sense-driven mind, which with the

help of its perceptive instruments is supposed to collect outer field data. And then deliver them for due diligence to *buddhi*, which following due consideration directs *manasa* to accordingly act upon. *Manasa*, again as directed by *ahamkara*, puts into action usual functional mandates of mind. Guided by indwelling mind-trends, often *ahamkara* takes things on their face value, when it ignores *buddhi*, following which *manasa* acts on instinctive judgement, and with obvious consequences.

All these three coordinates are supposed to work in a coordinated way as a unified organism. If we remain alert enough to optimally use the functional coordinates of mind exactly as mandated, we shall be able to come out with our best. For, then, wholesome powers of mind shall be available. The paradox, however, is that stuck to the usual grinds of life, we often lose our sense of alert, and with obvious consequences.

To be continued...

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the pioneer

agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

The spirit of oneness

As we stand together to face a global pandemic, it is time to reflect within and embrace all humanity as one

10

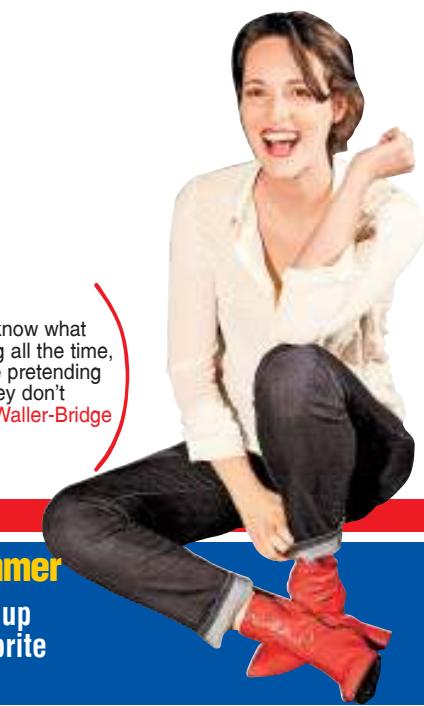


11

Mango-walnut delicacies for summer

With summer upon us, it is time to whip up delicious recipes using the season's favorite fruit, mangoes.

Women know what they're doing all the time, and they're pretending that they don't
— Phoebe Waller-Bridge



As queer citizens all over India join others across the world in celebrating a very atypical Pride Month, PARMESH SHAHANI reflects on how the world has changed so much between when the first edition of *Gay Bombay* came out in 2008 and now, when this revised edition is out. An edited excerpt:

WHAT DOES BEING GAY MEAN IN GAY BOMBAY?

Large numbers of Asian men and women continue to live within the 'traditional' spaces for gender or sex difference and to understand themselves and their lives in 'pre-gay' terms that often relate more to the pre-industrial rural pasts of their societies than to the post-modernizing urban present. However, there are also large numbers of men and women who are reacting against what they see as the historic constraint on homoeroticism in their respective societies and who are actively engaging in relocating homoeroticism from the shadows and the periphery, to the centre stage of their lives. (Jackson, 2000)

I encountered two opposing conceptions of homosexuality among my interviewees. One version equated homosexuality with being gay; this camp wished to assimilate and appropriate the term within the Indian context, recognizing fully well the unique set of circumstances within which this would take place. For them, social interaction was the key to building a sense of gay community in Bombay, but they recognized that cutting across class and gender norms may be a problem within these kinds of interactions. The other version of homosexuality I encountered questioned terms like gay and deemed them Western imports and negative influences and preferred to use gay as just one term, alongside indigenous terminology such as *kothi* or functional terms like 'MSM'. They were interested in social interaction across class norms, an assimilation of the various LBGT identities that exist in India and were also concerned with issues such as HIV/AIDS.

Proponents of both these views used the gay Bombay newsgroup as well as real world events like parties and meetings as a battleground for their respective ideologies. The archive facility of the Gay Bombay newsgroup provides a fascinating and rich look at their debates as they have played out through the volatile posts over the years.

However, this is not to suggest that these were the only two positions that my respondents adopted—as we have seen in Chapter 7, there existed a variety of other stances that were sandwiched between and around these two prominent takes on the nature of Indian homosexuality. Many of these included reconciliatory stances advocating a middle ground, which echoed Shivanand Khan's (2000) line of reasoning that 'to say gay is appropriate and right. But at the same time to denigrate or deny other frameworks of identities and choices is not...'.

Let us stop seeing a debate that pits those who work for gay rights and those who work in preventing HIV/AIDS, among men who have sex with men, against each other. Let us work together, whatever our own frameworks and priorities and recognize that in a region of over one billion people there is space for everyone to work out their destinies. (Khan, 2000)

Indeed I find it difficult to look at things in black or white after my experiences in the field. What people said often contradicted with what they did and people's views changed over the



OVERALL, I THINK THAT TO BE GAY IN GAY BOMBAY SIGNIFIES BEING GLOCAL; GAYNESS HERE STANDS FOR /INDIANIZED GAYNESS. SO, ONE MIGHT DANCE IN A WESTERN STYLE DISCO ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD, BUT ONE CAN ONLY MUNCH ON A POST-DANCE JALEBI IN INDIA

“ ”



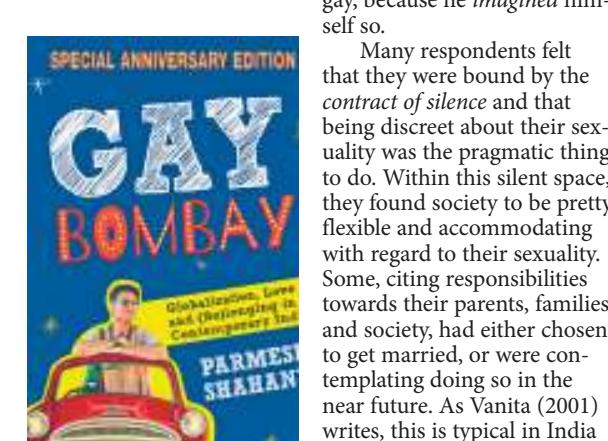
AUTHOR'S NOTE

"When the book first came out, it was anthropology but now I think it can be read as a slice of queer history. As you can see in this excerpt below, even 12 years ago, members of the group were contesting ideas around queerness and Indianness, and I read these discussions alongside the other rich activism that was happening in the country then, and also as precursors to the intersectional queer projects that have followed over the years. In the preface to this book's new edition I ask the question — what kind of world are we going to create together now that Section 377 is gone but we have a regressive Trans Act? How do we find the connectedness between trans rights, Dalit rights, Adivasi rights, and the rights of other minorities and move ahead together? Can we recognise that the #blacklivesmatter struggle that is going on all around the world, is also connected to our queer struggle? I am glad to see how many young queer projects in the country are about intersectionality. This Pride month, I sincerely hope that the queer movement in our country galvanises around the important issue of the regressive Trans Act, the same way as it did around 377. There are so many other laws that need to change in future. A lot of work ahead, and this pride month, I invite all our country's straight citizens to join us queers in creating a more inclusive India together."

course of my research. Take the case of Harbhajan to whom being gay was 'just sex, over and out' and who was also married to a woman who was aware of his sexual orientation. I observed him at several GB events and he was an intrinsic part of the organizing committees for these. It was clear that he experienced his sexuality as something much more than 'just sex'. He felt a part of the community and there was camaraderie between him and others. Or Bhuvan, who clearly told me that he was not willing to shout out in public about his sexuality. Two years later, he was one of the lead panelists at a CNN talk show, openly discussing his life as a gay man on television!

For the gay identified respondents, being gay signified different things to each of them. For some gay just represented their sexual desires, for others it was a political statement or a social identity. Many respondents felt that it was a state of being or a way of life, while some spoke of it as an emotional commitment to other men. For all of them, the common element about being gay was the imagination of themselves as gay, in whatever way they wished to articulate this imagination. It was fascinating

to meet someone like Nachiket, for example. He was married with kids, had never had sex with another man, but still described himself as gay, because he *imagined* himself so.



Many respondents felt that they were bound by the *contract of silence* and that being discreet about their sexuality was the pragmatic thing to do. Within this silent space, they found society to be pretty flexible and accommodating with regard to their sexuality. Some, citing responsibilities towards their parents, families and society, had either chosen to get married, or were contemplating doing so in the near future. As Vanita (2001) writes, this is typical in India — The parental family remains a major locus of social and emotional interaction for adults. There are few public places where people can comfortably interact, so friends are entertained at home and absorbed into the family or turned into fictive kin. The family is also the only form of social security and old age insurance available to most people. This means that heterosexual marriage and parenthood hold many attractions even for

homosexually inclined people. Many deal with the dilemma by marrying and then leading a double life.

For these married men, or soon to be married men, marriage did not indicate a change in their sexual identity. They were clear that their marriage was an obligation, but that their sexual gratification would continue to rest with men, even after marriage. There was very little sensitivity expressed towards the feelings or desires of women in these worldviews.

Other respondents were avoiding marriage and devising means to negotiate what was best for them. For some of these individuals, this meant coming out, for others it meant discreetly fighting for what they felt was important and making creative compromises to attain their goals. But for all respondents, there was a constant reflexivity—an acute consciousness of their thoughts and actions vis-a-vis their sexuality.

Overall, I think that to be gay in Gay Bombay signifies being *glocal*; gayness here stands for *Indianized* gayness. So, one might dance in a Western style disco anywhere else in the world, but one can only munch on a post-dance *jalebi* in India. My respondents wanted to selectively draw on a buffet of Indian and western influences in conjuring their own *thali* of gayness! Most of them, even those who had access to the El Dorado of *abroad*, still wanted to configure their gay experiences within an Indian matrix. As Cholan said, hanging out in the Castro was not important, but coming back home and being with his father was. Even for the younger Gul, travelling to America opened his eyes to *Queer as Folk* and gay strip bars, but he used the experience to be more confident in India.

Gay Bombay is certainly inspired by Western notions of what it means to be gay—its dance parties, PFLAG style meets, website and so on, have all drawn from Western experiences; but they have been customized, glocalized and made uniquely Indian, uniquely Gay Bombay. Thus, as I noted in Chapter 3, even though I talk about flows throughout this book, I do not want to diminish the agency of my respondents or their locatedness in Bombay itself. For Gay Bombay, as I have realized, place does matter and this is true both offline and online, where even though it is a *virtual* world, it is still a manifestation of Bombay and Indianness at large.

Excerpted with permission from *Gay Bombay: Globalization, Love and (Be)longing in Contemporary India (Special Anniversary Edition)*, by Parmesh Shahani — Vice President at Godrej Industries Ltd., SAGE Select, ₹595; Ebook (Kindle Edition): ₹435. The book is also available on Kobo and Google Play



HOWEVER DIFFICULT LIFE
MAY SEEM, THERE IS
ALWAYS SOMETHING YOU
CAN DO AND SUCCEED AT
—STEPHEN HAWKING

THE SPIRIT OF ONENESS

As we all stand together to face a global pandemic, it is time to reflect within and embrace all humanity as one, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH



Our world is in need of human unity. We are connected to each other through the silken thread of love, and that is the core of human existence. In our homes, families, societies and cities, there is a need to come together and embrace each other in the spirit of love, tolerance and oneness. Doing so can help bring about peace in our homes, our neighbourhoods, our communities and in the world at large.

How do we live human unity? It is not enough to tell others to practice unity and peace; we must live it ourselves if we want our words to be effective. Here are some ways that have proven effective in making unity a reality:

CLEAR OUR HEARTS

The first step is to make sure that

our hearts are clear of any hatred and prejudice for others who we think are different from us. We must develop true love in our hearts for all people. We must eliminate prejudice and discrimination from our heart and our mind. It is said that out of the abundance of our heart we speak.

If we feel hatred towards any group, we cannot hide it for long; it is bound to come out from our lips or show on our face. Our actions will speak even louder than our words. Thus, living human unity begins with clearing our hearts of any animosity towards others.

When we clean the chamber of our heart from any prejudice and ill will for others, then God can reside there. God is love. God is all-encompassing and embraces all creation as one family. That love will enter our heart when we keep it clear of any

AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, WE SHOULD INSPIRE THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE WORK TO MAKE DECISIONS AND TAKE ACTIONS THAT PROMOTE PEACE AND UNITY

negative thoughts towards others.

WATCH OUR WORDS

Next, we live human unity by making sure our words express appreciation and tolerance for all people. We need to watch our words lest we injure any heart. Do our words cause division or do they bring people together? Loving, caring words that make people feel comfortable bring people together. We need to become living examples of sweet and loving speech.

LIVE IT THROUGH OUR ACTIONS

Every day we are faced with choices. Are we going to take action that tears people apart or action that brings people together? In our jobs, we often have to work on committees or make decisions on policy. Do our voices promote policies that show

love and tolerance towards people, or do they perpetrate more prejudice and discrimination?

At every opportunity, we should inspire the people with whom we work to make decisions and take actions that promote peace and unity.

MEDITATION AND HUMAN UNITY

One of the most effective methods to make human unity a living reality in our own hearts is through meditation. Spending time daily in silent meditation helps us commune with our true self and the divine Power that created us.

Those moments are filled with bliss, peace and love. As we enter the inner sanctum of our hearts, we find that there is Light within us.

That Light is the Light of the Creator. The realisation dawns on us that the same Light that is within us is in all other human beings. We start to recognise that Light within others. Then the outer differences that separate us start to dissolve. We see one Light expressed by many different outer coverings, each beautiful in its own way. We start to see all life as one.

When we begin to have love for all, a transformation occurs within us. Our behaviour towards others changes. We become nonviolent in all our dealings. We begin to have understanding and compassion towards the idiosyncrasies and habits of others. We stop criticising people in our minds. First, we realise that they are bound by the shrouds of ignorance and illusion of this world. We know that deep within them is the soul, a part of God, that it is only their mind and their state of spiritual ignorance that causes them to behave the way they do. Secondly, we are so steeped in God's love and the bliss which permeates us that we do not want to be distracted from that rapturous state by petty thoughts of others.

Criticising others in our thoughts only pulls us away from the state of happiness that union with God brings. Since our thoughts will be filled with divine love of God, our words will become sweet and loving. We will not say anything unkind to anyone. People who come within our sphere will find only words love and kindness. We will become sensitive to the hearts of others and will wish them no harm. Finally, we will never do anything to physically harm anyone. We will not become violent with anyone. We will even have regard for the life of animals. When this happens, we will be truly living human unity in our own lives.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Rethinking public health



As the entire humanity reels under the pandemic impact, an important question crops up. Do we give public health the same kind of priority that Defence gets? In all probability, no. The global obsession with war preparedness is rather an ancient phenomenon that indicates our insecurity and inclination to be ready to repel any attack from an enemy known or unknown. Even a cursory review of human history since the ancient times would reveal that wars have killed millions causing wide spread devastation. The economic, social and psychological costs of war have been huge in enormity and wide in scale. But, so also have proved the epidemics, in their impact on human history. If we take into account the disruption and death caused by epidemics it could be more than what wars have done. Why, then, have the epidemics not accorded the same priority that wars get? Why our preparedness against epidemics does not reflect the same degree of concern? These questions may not be easy to answer as many would compare the budgets that are earmarked for defence and health. It is true that on this count many nations do show a tilt in favour of health. Nonetheless, there are some nations who are found wanting on this count as they put more money for defence than public health. But that, notwithstanding, budgetary allocation as a percentage of health is not the issue. That epidemics strike and disrupt irrespective of budgets is just one side of the story. The other and more important one is that preparedness is much more than mere allocation of funds. How much effort and planning goes in defence and how much in health is what makes the difference. So, despite allocating much more budget for health than defence, the US was in no less precarious position than Saudi Arabia and several others that had marked more funds for defence. This is the issue that needs to be resolved. But before that one important assertion. In many cases war and epidemic connection can also be seen if we take a closer look at many past major epidemics. Of course, there may be a few other variables, too, that would need to be examined, but some moderate degree of correlation can be found. The other significant pointer is the fact that epidemics have played more havoc at commercial hubs. All these factors need to be examined by the big data analysts who are busy finding out how many are going to die, when and where. To begin with the first lesson that governments all over the globe have to learn is that like equipping military to defend the borders, they need to equip the doctors and nurses to defend public health. Had there been a well-oiled health machinery and a battle-ready health army, many decisions that proved costly and painful could have been avoided. There is one more requirement. We must revive the idea of barefoot doctors, the concept that proved useful in the past but went out of practice. The paramedical personnel is a medically trained force, like the para military forces, that must be reared and trained for such exigencies. Nevertheless, this is not the last time that a pandemic has struck nations. Let good sense prevail so that we not only learn but practice the age old lesson that prevention is better than cure. And much less costly. Health is wealth, literally.

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Astrology & LGBTQ partners

The universe teaches acceptance of all that it embodies, says ACHARYA PRAVEEN CHAUHAN as he shares the leanings of planets in the ancient science

One form of Lord Shiva is Ardhanarishwara, one form of Lord Vishnu is also Mohini. In the Mahabharata, Lord Krishna transformed into a woman named Mohini and married Iravan for one night. In the Mahabharata, Arjuna took the form of Brihannala, when during their exile, Arjuna used to dress like a woman and teach dance to Uttara. Shikhandi gender change is probably an example of reassignment. In Konark Sun Temple, statues depicting homosexual relationships can also be seen. Impotence, homosexuality is an issue that has existed since the early period of human civilisation.

Let's understand this mystery from the eyes of Indian Vedic astrologers

According to Indian astrology, there is also a gender difference in the Navagraha. The planets are also divided on the basis of gender. The gender of the king of the planets, Sun, is male. The Moon is called the queen of planets and is considered a female. Commander Mars is a male planet. Devguru Jupiter is also considered male. Daityaguru Venus has been given the title of a woman. The prince of the planets Mercury is male but impotent. Saturn is referred to as female (impotent) and the shadow planet Rahu is male.

Mercury leans towards homosexuality. The reason behind this logic is that Mercury is considered a child planet and not fit for sexual activity. Saturn has a low libido due to physical deformity. Ketu (south node of the moon) is also marked impotent. Ketu has been ascribed the status of a monk planet, and it offers salvation away from indulgence.

Accordingly, the zodiac signs are also determined on the basis of gender. Aries, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius are considered male and Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, and Libra are female signs. Gemini, Capricorn, Sagittarius, and Pisces are considered im-



tent. In a chart, the seventh, eighth, and twelfth houses of the horoscope are associated with sexual organs.

Marriage is the most important sacrament of human life. In Hindu culture, the tradition of matching horoscopes of a bride and groom is prevalent even today. In this, the decisions are made on the basis of mutual equality, friendship, and the relationship between the birth planets and planetary constellations of a boy and a girl. But today, when a man comes to ask about his male partner or a woman, comes to ask about his female partner, which is called same-sex marriage, also known as gay marriage, then there is no such arrangement in the horoscope match making of Vedic astrology to answer their questions.

According to Vedic astrology, sexuality and homosexuality is mainly related to the Lagnesh (1st house), Panchamesh (5th house), Saptamesh (7th house), Ashtamesh (8th house) and Dwadash (12th house) house of horoscope. The role of Mercury is seen in the horoscope of gay people. Also, Venus and Ketu also have an influence on

them, thus it is noted that gay people are proficient in various arts and sciences.

Moreover, the Saptamesh (7th house) of the horoscope, Mars, and Venus signify the person's sexual desire, as well as the Dwadash Bhav (12th house) denotes that how much physical pleasure a person will get. Moon position reflects your mindset. Whereas Rahu and curved planets show how different two people are. Since Venus is also the planet of sexual desires, it increases sentimentality in a person due to its retrograde, and emotionality has its special significance in same-sex marriage.

I remember a book written by American author and relationship counselor John Gray named "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus" so where are the rest of us from? In my view, they came from the universe and they should be given equal treatment as we give to straight couples. The universe teaches acceptance and reverence of all that it embodies. It never discriminates. So why should we?

The writer is a Delhi-based Astrologer and Palmist and can be reached at info@astropraveen.com

Fear of coronavirus

Death is destined; the cause is unimportant, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI as he urges people to take care of themselves instead of living in fear

Hardly anyone can claim that the threat of Corona is not affecting them, especially since the most advanced nations with the best medical facilities are the worst hit. Affect it should but not terrorise as it is happening in many cases. Why? I'll explain.

This creation is God's own; He is the controller. It is His responsibility that the world functions properly. It appears to me, rather I am reasonably sure that the Lord has decided that the humanity has abandoned its responsibilities towards one another, climate, etc. Therefore, God had to act and He did in a very decisive way. Only God can bring about the changes in the way we live.

What does God want? What has Him so upset? We, human beings, have been given free will for proper use. And what have we done? A lot many of us, who are reasonably well off have shown blatant disregard for others, climate etc. They are so much engrossed in unlimited sense gratification that no bar is too low for them. In spite of a very active protest by climate activists, mostly young who are rightfully protesting, world leaders have chosen to ignore their concern. These leaders seem to forget or do not realise that there is someone, who is the Master of the universe, and He has acted. We may blame someone for it, but the fact remains that it is God, who is active. And He will remain so till He has brought us to our senses. It will happen but not quite so soon. Habit changes take time. Till then, we, as individuals, must accept whatever is happening.

Yes, acceptance is the key. This is reality right now. No one can deny it. Don't fight it; focus on protecting yourself. You are safe if you do that. It does not matter if the person you come across is infected or not, as long as you

maintain your distance such that any discharge from another person cannot reach you, you should be safe, as safe as one can be. And, it is time to turn to God, who alone can give the feeling of security, because He is the controller. And as stated earlier, this will end when the Lord inspires a scientist or a group of them in finding a vaccine for it as well as drugs to cure this dreaded virus. Till then, take all the precautions, which are relevant.

Some of them are as follows. Social distancing is the bedrock on which this virus is to be avoided. Then, comes wearing masks. Wearing one is crucial but not as crucial as the one worn by the person is your close proximity, and if he or she is talking or sneezing as well. But your wearing a mask is critical for others. Therefore, everyone in public must wear a mask period. Hygiene of the highest standard should be practised. Sanitise whenever in doubt. Don't be lazy. Similarly, trust no one; treat every stranger as a suspect.

Before I end this article, let me put the matter of death due to Corona in the



proper perspective. No one is dying because of Corona; people are dying because it's their turn to die. Death is destined; the cause is unimportant. Life span of everyone is unrelated to any current event. It is fixed at the time of birth itself. Number of deaths due to Corona is a number only, and it should not scare anyone. Do you know that deaths due to road accidents in India was down to almost zero from 400 per day in the initial lockdown period? Even death due to Corona is in low percentage of people infected by it. Intelligent people do not fear death due to Corona but avoid suffering due to getting infected by taking the necessary precautions.

And, finally I will venture my personal opinion about this virus. Since God is involved, as is evident from its scale, it is to reset the style of living of the modern man. Good people need not fear; they will gain something. Yes, people have something to fear, i.e. those who are harming this climate, etc; they need to reset their lives.

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HEALTH CARE: ONE CUP (165 GRAMS) OF MANGO PROVIDES NEARLY 70% OF THE RDI FOR VITAMIN C — A WATER-SOLUBLE VITAMIN THAT AIDS YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM, HELPS YOUR BODY ABSORB IRON AND PROMOTES GROWTH AND REPAIR

MANGO-WALNUT DELICACIES FOR SUMMER



Walnut Mango Lassi Bowl

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 300gm of the flesh of a mango
- 800gm of natural, sugar-free yogurt

HOW TO MAKE:

- For this recipe by Chef Sabyasachi Gorai, grinds the mango together with half of California walnuts, yogurt, milk, ice cubes and the ground cardamom.
- If the mixture is too thick, you can add water or milk until the desired consistency is achieved.
- Pour the mango lassi into 4 bowls and decorate with the rest of the California walnuts, some of them grated, grated cocoa, sheets of mango and ground cardamom.

- 40 ml of milk
- 4 ice cubes
- 1/4 teaspoon of cardamom
- 60gm of California Walnuts

Walnut Falafel with Mango Pickles

WHAT YOU NEED FOR THE FALAFEL:

- 250gm dried green split peas
- 2 onions
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 small green chili pepper
- 1/2 bunch of coriander
- Salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 40gm California walnuts
- 50gm chickpea flour (alternatively wheat flour)
- Oil for frying

WHAT YOU NEED FOR THE PICKLES:

- 1 mango
- 1 small green chili pepper
- 2 teaspoon oil
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1-2 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 40gm walnuts

HOW TO MAKE:

- Soak peas overnight in cold water.
- For the falafel, peel and chop the onions and garlic.
- Rinse chili pepper and chop finely.
- Rinse the coriander, separate the leaves and chop finely.
- Drain the peas and then puree with the onions, chili pepper, garlic and turmeric in a blender.
- Season the mix with salt and stir in baking soda. Chop walnuts and roast them briefly. Then mix walnuts and flour with the peas to form balls from the dough.
- Heat



- the frying oil to 160 degree C and fry the balls for 3-5 minutes until golden brown.
- Let them dry on paper towels.
- For the pickles, peel the mango, remove the pulp from the stone and cut into dices. Wash the chili pepper and chop finely.
- Heat oil and saute the chili pepper briefly.
- Add turmeric and mango, then sprinkle with sugar and let it stew for about 1-2 minutes.
- Add vinegar and raise heat for a minute.
- Chop walnuts, toast them in a small pan and mix them with the pickles.
- Serve the falafel with the mango pickle.



Puneri Mastani

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 1 cup mango puree
- 1/2 cup ice cubes
- 3 cups curd
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup California walnut milk
- 1/2 cup mango ice-cream
- 4 tablespoons strawberry crush
- 4 tablespoons fresh mango diced

HOW TO MAKE:

- For this recipe by Chef Varun Inamdar, churn mango puree, walnut milk, sugar, ice cubes, curd and mango ice-cream till it is smooth in a blender.
- Reserve till further use.
- Take a few tall glasses and add a tablespoon each of strawberry crush at the base.
- Top with the chilled smoothie. Finally top with fresh diced mangoes. Serve chilled.

HOW TO MAKE WALNUT MILK AT HOME?

Soak a cup of untoasted walnuts for 2 hours in 2 cups of water. Strain and rinse walnuts well. Transfer to a blender with one cup cold water. Blend on high for a minute.

Strain through a muslin cloth till you get an almost dry powdery mass in the muslin cloth after pressing the milk.

Transfer in a glass jar and store in the refrigerator. This gives you 2 cups of home-pressed walnut milk.





VH in his youth days

Vuthpala Hanumantha Rao, simply known as VH, has been among the most prominent faces of the Congress in Telangana and is the party's senior-most leader in the state.

Coming from a BC background, VH started his political career amidst upper caste politicians like Kasu Brahmananda Reddy, Marri Chenna Reddy, Marri Jalagam Vengala Rao, PV Narasimha Rao, Kotla Vijaya-bhaskar Reddy, N Janardhan Reddy YS Reddy and Rajashekhar Reddy and others and has built his own niche. He was quite close to Indira Gandhi's sons Sanjay Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, who called him Hanuman and Hanmanth.

With the Congress on a back foot in Telangana, VH has been struggling to keep the party cadre together and toils day and night for the party. VH is credited with helping several leaders become PCC chiefs, Chief Ministers and Ministers, while he had been overlooked for plum posts, perhaps due to his outspoken and straightforward attitude. He speaks his heart and doesn't pause to think about the repercussions. Though he lives and breathes Congress, and puts the party before his own self, VH finds it very tough to even get an appointment of the party high command, finds

THE PIONEER in this heart-to-heart conversation with KOLISSETTY VENKATESHWARLU

THE LEADER WHO DEFINES LOYALTY

Early days

My parents - Vuthpala Laxmaiah and Rangamma - settled in Hyderabad from their native place Mahabubnagar after my father's transfer and settled in Amberpet Thahsil. I was born on June 16, 1948 and my parents named me Hanumantha Rao after Lord Hanuman as two brothers elder to me died of plague. I have five sisters and one brother - Ranganayakamma, Andalamma, Laxminarsamma, Sugunamma, Venkatesh and Shantha. I am youngest. I was suckled by my mother and then my eldest sister Ranganayakamma. I am still strong because I had the milk of my mother and sister.

Police officer as a father

My father was police officer in the Nizam's Police department. My father used to travel on horseback. My father used to visit Nanded, Aurangabad and other places in the Nizam's Dominions as part of his job. His last posting was Sherlingampally and that is where he retired. His sisters and mother used to shower too much love on him and allowed him to roam around with his friends instead of concentrating on studies. But my father was known for his integrity.

Integrity and politics

I have followed my father's integrity even in politics. My father refused to take 100 acres of land gifted by a landlord for surveying his 1,000+ acres as a police officer. My father also refused a 20-acre parcel of land purchased by my mother's father for us, saying "I am police officer and I have to go wherever they post me". I too imbibed that attitude and that is why I still live in a small house in Amberpet.

School days

My first school was the Girikabai Government Girls School which I used to attend along with my sister Shantha in 1953. I studied in it till Class IV along with my sister. Later, I joined t h e



Standing: daughters--Dr Praveena, Pranathi, Laxmi Prasanna, (son-in-laws) Rajender, Dr Sudhir, Srinivas.

Sitting: Granddaughters--Rithika, Rishika, VH's wife Chandrakala, AICC chief Sonia Gandhi, grandson Karthik and VH.

Making a name

One particular incident brought me fame in Amberpet. One of my friends named Narsimha Chary got a call from local big shot with regard to a love affair. Narsimha Chary took me along with him to meet this big shot. He started beating Narsimha Chary without asking any explanation. When I tried to stop him, his followers started beating me. I got angry and took bullock cart's 'gadagoya' and retaliated. This revolt made me hero in my area. People used to come to me and narrate their problems.

Tryst with T-movement

When the 1969 Telangana movement gathered steam, I was already very famous from Bibinagar to Chadhraghat and from Amberpet to Osmania University. One of the women activists, Shantha Srivatsava, introduced me to former Chief Minister Marri Chenna Reddy, who was already synonymous with Telangana movement. From then onwards I became close to Chenna Reddy though I was in touch with another former Chief Minister T Anjaiah.

Joining Congress

I took Seva Dal training in 1962 held at Bhongir under M Sathyanarayana Rao and Kamalamma. Later I worked as Seva Dal activist in AICC meeting held at Guntur in 1964.

I first visited Gandhi Bhavan when Law College NSUI president Laxminarayana Rao took me over there where a Youth Congress meeting was going on.

Hotel politics were famous in those days. I too followed hotel politics making my adda in Taj Mahal Hotel at Sultan Bazar from 1972 to 1974 without having any position in the party. I also raised my voice on one issue in the meeting held at Guntur in 1972 as a BC because there were no BCs present.

Meeting the Gandhis

I worked for Anjaiah whenever he contested for Musheerabad constituency. I became Youth Congress general secretary in 1976 and it is my first position in a political party. In 1979, I became Youth Congress president with the support of Sanjay Gandhi. Sanjay Gandhi also made me MLC in 1980 when I refused to contest as an MP from Hyderabad. KS Narayana won the election from Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency.

My introduction to Rajiv Gandhi took place interestingly after the demise of Sanjay Gandhi. I was having coffee in Coffee House at Connaught Place in Delhi when a reporter asked me whether Maneka Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi would fill the void left behind by Sanjay Gandhi. I and presidents of the Youth Congress from two other states said "hope of the nation is Rajiv Gandhi". The next day out comments were splashed over as big news in newspapers. The day after that, I went to meet Indira Gandhi and I introduced myself. She said 'You are Hanumantha Rao....Potherdhar inko baazu khada dhe' (Attender, take him aside). After completion of her Dharma Dharsan to the people, she came inside and immediately asked me to tell as to why you have given such statement. Then I said it is

made me APPCC president in 1990.

Helping YSR become PCC chief

I helped YS Rajasekhar Reddy become the PCC chief on the request of KVP Ramachandrarao. That time, Rajiv had asked me: "Why don't you become PCC Chief instead of suggesting YSR's name?". When I said I have no money, he told me that he would arrange money. But I firmly said no. Rajiv made YSR the PCC president on my suggestion even though 30 of the 41 MPs from the state opposed YSR's name alleging that his father was a factionist. They also sent a letter saying this to Indira Gandhi. Only I and Vijayabhaskar Reddy supported YSR's name. But KVP deceived me whenever YSR tried to help me. I got an opportunity to become a Minister in 2008 but KVP obstructed this by calling and threatening the high command not to create another power centre.

Belief in social justice

My only wish is social justice. I never joined politics to earn money. I will continue my journey on the path of my father. I lost my many chances in politics due to my attitude like bringing reservations for BCs in IITs and IIMs. Even today, I lose out in the party due to my attitude and increasing money power in politics.

Unable to meet Sonia Gandhi

Due to money politics, I am not getting an appointment to meet Sonia Gandhi though I was very close to Rajiv. There are many who are successfully managing the high command and obstructing me from meeting Sonia and Rahul Gandhi as they are aware of my nature and are afraid that I would expose them.

Family life

My wife Chandrakala is from Ibrahimbagh and her father Bashaiah Patel was a police officer then. I didn't take one acre of land as dowry. I have no son but I am blessed with three daughters - Prasanna Laxmi who is married to T Rajender and has a son Karthik, Pranathi married to R Srinivas and her children are Rithika and Sai Neeraj, Praveena is married to N Sudhir and her children are Rishika and Rithisha. My children aren't interested in politics. My wife has supported me all our married life as a housewife.

Never a local 'dada'

I never did dadagiri but helped people in trouble. Amberpet Shanker's father was known to me and Shanker still visits me. Shanker became a 'dada' after fighting his friends. I used to advise him not to do dadagiri. Now, Shanker is doing some business.

A fight over our playing sports in the Amberpet police grounds resulted in a fight with the cops and the then Chief Minister Chenna Reddy sanctioned a playground for the locality. I got a swimming pool built in that ground and named it after Rajiv Gandhi.

Love sports

My hobbies are watching films, spending time with friends and playing games. I used to bunk school and watch films in Deepak Mahal and Royal Talkies. I also love sports. I used to play Kabaddi and Volleyball. I didn't fall in love with anyone, I kept away from all such things.

No hangups about food

I eat anything available when I am on tour. I do not hesitate to eat even street food. I like guava fruit, ridge gourd and broad beans more than non-veg food.

Friendship that lasts

I still meet my childhood friends - Prathap Reddy, Srinivas, Ravinder, Jagannatha Rao, Narsimha Reddy, Partha Sarathi and many others during Sathyanaarayana Vratham.

During my college days I used to support someone or the other in college elections. I helped N Kiran Kumar Reddy win over P Sudhir Kumar in Nizam College.



POLITICAL PROFILE

VH first became a Minister in the Kotla Vijayabhaskar Reddy Cabinet in 1981 with the blessings of Indira Gandhi. He served as BC and Tribal Welfare Minister after becoming MLC in 1980.

Became a two-time Minister in Chennai Reddy Cabinet in 1989 getting the Sports and Youth, Cinematography portfolio after winning from Himayathnagar Assembly constituency over Ale Narendra for the first time.

Became Rajya Sabha member for the first time in 1992. Later became Rajya Sabha member for two terms from 2004-2016.



VH in his teens



VH's father Vuthpala Laxmaiah, VH and VH's wife Chandrakala and VH's mother Rangamma during their marriage (1972)