

NATION 5
SP-SUPPORTED CANDIDATE TO
'EXPOSE' BSP-BJP TIES: AKHILESH

MONEY 6
AMAZON TELLS SEBI ITS PARTNER
FUTURE RETAIL IS MISLEADING PUBLIC

SPECIAL 7
WONDER
KIDS

CAPTAIN
COOL

VIJAYAWADA, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



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DELHI RECORDS COLDEST OCTOBER IN 58 YEARS: MET DEPARTMENT

The month of October was the coldest in 58 years in the national capital, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data. The mean minimum temperature in October this year was 17.2 degrees Celsius, the lowest since 1962, when it was 16.9 degrees Celsius, the IMD said. Normally, Delhi records a mean minimum temperature of 19.1 degrees Celsius in October. On Thursday, Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 12.5 degrees Celsius - the lowest in the month of October in 26 years. The last time Delhi recorded such a low temperature was in 1994. The national capital had recorded a low of 12.3 degrees Celsius on October 31, 1994, according to the IMD data.



'RAM NAAM SATYA JOURNEY': ADITYANATH'S 'LOVE JIHAD' WARNING

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today cited an Allahabad High Court order on religious conversion for marriage to raise the issue of "love jihad", and invoke "Ram naam satya" - a Hindu funeral chant - to issue a thinly-veiled threat to "those who... play with our sisters' respect". Yogi Adityanath, whose administration has been criticised for a spate of horrific crimes against women - including two separate instances of alleged rape against Dalit women in September - also repeated his plans for a "Mission Shakti" to "make sure all sisters and daughters are protected". Allahabad High Court has said religious conversion isn't necessary for marriage. The government will work to curb "love jihad". We will make a law," Adityanath said at a rally.



BJP'S 'FREE COVID VACCINE' POLL PROMISE NOT VIOLATION: EC

The BJP's poll promise in Bihar - to provide free coronavirus vaccines - does not violate the model code of conduct in force during Assembly elections in the state, the Election Commission said Saturday, responding to a RTI filed by activist Saket Gokhale. "...no violation of any of the provisions of Model Code of Conduct has been observed..." the poll body said in its reply, news agency PTI reported. Sources told PTI the Election Commission cited "Directive Principles of State Policy (as) enshrined in the Constitution..." to say "there can be no objection to the promise of welfare in an election manifesto". The trust of voters should be sought only on those promises that can actually be fulfilled, the poll body said in its second point.



TIME FOR CHANGE, CHINA CAN'T RELY ON OLD MODEL: XI JINPING

President Xi Jinping said on Saturday that China can no longer rely on its previous economic development model of depending on global exports and must build self-controlled, safe and reliable domestic production and supply system to ensure industrial and national security. The just-concluded plenary session of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), headed by Xi, adopted his proposals to make the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025). While the 14th five-year plan envisages a massive overhaul of the country's domestic market to boost consumption in order to reduce China's reliance on shrinking exports markets, the Vision 2035 visualises a long-term plan, reflecting the development vision of Xi.



Modi to babudom: Move from 'government to governance'

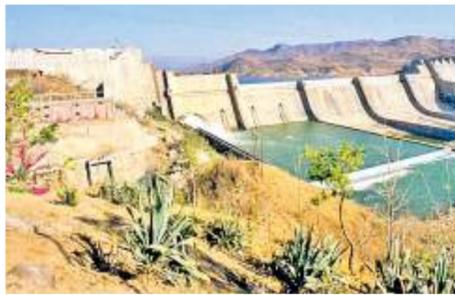
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Jagan asks PM to intervene, resolve Polavaram imbroglio

Naidu's letter accepting revised cost of project at 2014 price level is proving to be a stumbling block now: CM

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to release pending funds to ensure speedy completion of Polavaram project. This is part of Jagan's efforts to convince the Centre and remove the stumbling block in the form of a letter by former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu to the Prime Minister, in which the Andhra Pradesh government accepted the revised cost of the project at the price level as on April 1, 2014 and requested the Prime Minister to approve the revised cost.



The Pioneer had reported about the fallout of Naidu's letter in the edition dated October 30, 2020. In his letter made public on Saturday, Jagan reminded the Prime Minister that it's the duty and responsibility of the Centre to complete the State's lifetime project. He pointed out that Polavaram was taken up as a national project as per the promise made in the AP Reorganisation Act.

CORONA QUAGMIRE

AP's borrowings for first half of fiscal more than revenue: CAG

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government's borrowings for the first half of the 2020-21 fiscal far exceeded revenues and the revenue deficit touched a staggering Rs 45,472.77 crore, according to the state finance accounts released by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

It said the state borrowed Rs 55,169.84 crore from different sources in the first six months as against Rs 48,295.59 crore target for the entire fiscal. The revenue accruals, on the other hand, were just 27.73 percent at Rs 44,915.52 crore in the first half out of the targeted Rs 1,61,958.50 crore for the year.

AP's tax revenue during the April-September period was just Rs 29,936.39 crore, compared to Rs 41,904.25 crore during the corresponding period last year, the report, released on Friday, said.

Commercial Taxes Department rolls up its sleeves to fill coffers

With money hard to come by, the Commercial Taxes Department will launch a special drive to collect Rs 961 crore in additional revenue by the end of the year. Chief Commissioner of State Taxes Peeyush Kumar on Saturday said that the Commercial Taxes department has drawn a plan to bridge the gap between the targets and the revenue deficit occurred due to the economic slowdown, the added impact of Covid from March 2020.



"To fill the revenue gap and minimise the revenue deficit and also bring additional revenue to the State exchequer, a special drive is organised with an aim to collect additional revenue of Rs 961 crore during the three months period from October 2020 to December 2020."

Curve of mistrust peaks again in AP

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YSRCP to gather feedback on delivery of governance

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP leaders and activists would spread out across the state and meet the people for 10 days from November 6 onwards to gather feedback on the welfare schemes being implemented by the YS Jaganmohan Reddy government over the past one-and-a-half years.

"Commencement of this drive will coincide with three years of the Praja Sankalpa Yatra," said Government Advisor (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy on Saturday.

He said that remarkable changes, which would have otherwise taken three or four years to achieve, have been brought about in the state by the Chief Minister in the past one-and-a-half years.



Praja Sankalpa Yatra. The mass contact programme had given an insight to him of the plight of people. This was reflected in the manifesto which was translated into welfare schemes," Sajjala reminded.

He said that the YSRCP government has fulfilled about 90 per cent of the promises mentioned in the party's election manifesto. "Jagan has emerged as a trendsetter in working for social justice," Sajjala said.

He said that party leaders and cadre would be meeting people to get feedback on the implementation of the welfare schemes and how to provide better services.

Edu officials fine-tune norms ahead of reopening of schools

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Asserting that all precautions are being taken and that safety measures would be strictly adhered to as schools reopen from November 2, School Education Commissioner V China Veerabhadru said that the academic year 2020-21 has been extended up to April 30.

"As schools reopen in a phased manner, our officials are making changes right from day-to-day schedules to mid-day meals in order to adhere to safety protocols in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic,"



Veerabhadru told reporters here on Saturday.

'Original James Bond' Sean Connery dies at 90

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Legendary Scottish star Sean Connery, who became a global sensation as the first James Bond and featured in a string of cult hits in his five-decade-long career, has died. He was 90.

According to BBC, the actor passed away overnight in his sleep while in the Bahamas. He had been unwell for quite some time.

In the career spanning half a century, the actor featured in many critically-acclaimed and commercial blockbusters such as "The Hunt for Red October", "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade", "Murder on the Orient Express" and "The Rock".

A.P. STATE FORMATION DAY CELEBRATIONS..

1st November, 2020

Sri Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Andhra Pradesh

"Amarajeevi" Sri Potti Sriramulu

As we celebrate the Andhra Pradesh State Formation Day today, let us recall the supreme sacrifices of many great souls like 'Amarajeevi' Potti Sriramulu and rededicate ourselves to the development of State...

Yours
Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

SCHEMES ROLLED OUT BY JAGANANNA GOVERNMENT WITH DIVINE BLESSINGS & GOOD WISHES OF PEOPLE...

Jagananna "Amma Vodi"	Jagananna Vidya Deevena	Jagananna Vasathi Deevena	Jagananna Vidya Kanuka
Jagananna Goru Mudda	Mana Badi "NADU-NEDU"	English as Medium of Instruction	Dr. YSR Aarogyasri
Dr. YSR Aarogyasri	Dr. YSR Kanti Velugu	104-108 Ambulances	Govt. Hospitals "NADU-NEDU"
YSR Rythu Bharosa	YSR Rythu Bharosa Kendras	YSR Jala Kala	YSR Zero Interest scheme for Farmers
YSR Navasakam	YSR Pension Kanuka	YSR-Jagananna House Sites	YSR Aasara
YSR Zero Interest scheme for SHGs	YSR Sampurna Poshana	YSR Cheyutha	YSR Kapu Nestham
AP Disha Act	Liquor Control (Phase-wise)	YSR Nethanna Nestham	YSR Matsyakara Bharosa
Jagananna Chedodu	YSR Vahana Mithra	YSR Law Nestham	YSR Bima
ReSTART Package	Dr. YSR Navodayam	Jagananna YSR Badugu Vikasam	Village/Ward Secretariats Volunteer System
YSR Jala Yagnam	Outsourcing Corporation (APCOS)	RoFR Pattas for Girijans	56 B.C. Corporations

OBTUSE ANGLE

It is their new cut out for the Election Campaign..

B.P. GUPTA

'ALL AND SUNDRY'

Curve of mistrust peaks again in AP

The curve of confrontation between the A. P. State Election Commission and Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has once again hit a peak. In a 180-degree reversal of their roles, the Commission is intent on conducting elections to the local bodies while the YSR Congress will have none of it because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The SEC chief had deferred the elections in March when the Covid-19 cases were in single digits but amid ominous projections by epidemiologists about future spread of the virus. Now, he is making moves to hold the elections when the caseload has touched 8.20 lakh and the daily cases are hovering around 2,900. He had lent himself open to further criticism by writing a letter to the Centre targeting

back of its landslide win in 2019, ousted Ramesh Kumar and appointed a former High Court judge in his place. Ramesh Kumar was, however, restored to his position after government lost the ensuing court battles and received a rap from the Supreme Court about its motives.

The ruling party too has not covered itself with glory by attributing caste motives to Ramesh Kumar, accusing him of acting at the behest of TDP president Chandrababu Naidu and being overanxious to see his back

The Chief Minister and meeting BJP leaders Y. S. Chowdary and Kamineni Srinivas in a star hotel in Vijayawada, giving YSR Congress leaders a handle to circulate conspiracy theories. Normally, such meetings should not be a matter of controversy but for the allegation about the collusion between Ramesh Kumar and Srinivas.

covered itself with glory by attributing caste motives to Ramesh Kumar, accusing him of acting at the behest of TDP president Chandrababu Naidu and being overanxious to see his back. Its disquiet over holding elections citing the pandemic does not sound convincing not merely because of its U-turn on the matter. It has to answer for laxities during religious festivities like



S NAGESH KUMAR
Former Resident Editor,
The Hindu

the Bunni festival in Kurnool recently after banning it; Jagan's misreading of the corona threat by his statement that paracetamol was the only medication and the steps his government had taken to

redress complaints that the official machinery had prevented opposition candidates from filing nominations.

The YSRCP claims that it wants to save lives by postponing the elections, while the SEC wants to discharge its constitutional role under Article 243 by conducting them. These stands are not mutually contradictory as many would like to believe. The Kerala model has shown how panchayat raj institutions have lent strength to the fight against Covid-19 by effective implementation of Kudumbashree, a community organisation of neighbourhood groups of women. On the face of it, the government's stand that social distancing will go for a toss in a

statewide election cannot be faulted. Innovative ways have to be found to work round the problem. What is getting lost in the tussle between AP SEC and Jagan Mohan Reddy is the spirit in which the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments were passed three decades ago. The laudable objective behind these changes was to break away from the conventional planning process that did not involve citizens.

Another logic was that panchayats must not be conceived as extensions of the state governments but as units of self-governance. In the context of the current health pandemic, Entry 23 of the 11th schedule that reads as "health, sanitation, including hospitals, pri-

mary health centres and dispensaries is among the list of 29 subjects set out for devolution to panchayats.

Andhra Pradesh stands to lose Rs. 5,100 crore from the Centre under the 14th Finance Commission due to postponement of these elections. YSR leaders contend that they are ready to forego this amount if lives are saved, if the Covid-19 curve is flattened by deferring the elections. This is a silly argument as the money can be used for fighting the virus.

After the healthy turnout of voters in the first phase of polling in Bihar, the Election Commission described its decision to hold the polls as "a leap of faith and not a leap in the dark". Andhra too needs a leap of trust for bringing synergy between the SEC's duty to preserve the Constitutional norms and the Government's concern to safeguard people's lives. This is well within the realm of possibility.

'Original James Bond' Sean Connery dies at 90

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Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon mourned the veteran star's death, saying that the country has lost "one of her best loved sons". "Sean will be remembered best as James Bond - the classic 007 - but his roles were many & varied. He was a global legend but, first and foremost, a patriotic and proud Scot - his towering presence at the opening of @ScotParl in 1999 showed his love for the country of his birth," she tweeted. Connery was born on August 25, 1930, to a Catholic factory worker and a Protestant domestic cleaner. He left school at the age 13 with no qualifications and delivered milk, polished coffins and laid bricks, before joining the Royal Navy. But he was invalided out of the service with stomach ulcers only three years later.

Commercial Taxes department rolls up its...

Continued from Page 1

The target is allocated to divisions based on the potentiality, arrears, Professions Tax balances and GST Return and other balances," Peeyush Kumar said. "With our unstinted and concerted efforts, Rs 334.29 crore was achieved over and above the fixed target of Rs 332.55 crore for the month of October. Further an amount of Rs 295.16 crore and Rs 333.32 crore is set as target for the months of November 2020 and December 2020 respectively," the taxman said. He said that though the targets fixed are at higher side, habituated by fervency, the departmental officers are striving hard to achieve the targets set for coming two months.

AP neglects onion farming, consumers left teary-eyed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The failure of successive governments to encourage onion cultivation is now forcing people living in both the Telugu states to depend on Karnataka and Maharashtra for the essential spice in their cuisine.

Truth be told, there is hardly any encouragement, or infrastructure to store the onions, even if the vegetable is cultivated on a massive scale in the two Telugu States.

It's no secret that onions are pinching a hole in the pockets of consumers and this is being even more acutely felt in the festival season.

What hurts more is that daily, lorry loads of onions are being imported from Nasik to Telugu states. The light soil in undivided Ranga Reddy district, Medak, Nalgonda, Warangal and Mahbubnagar districts is suitable for cultivation of onions and an acre yields up to 150 tonnes.

In 2019, a kg of onions was sold at Rs 50 in September and October. As the officials did not plan on increasing cultivation, the vegetable is now being sold at Rs 100 kg.



Onions are cultivated in kharif and rabi in Mahbubnagar, Ranga Reddy, Kurnool and Kadapa districts of Telugu states. In Nizamabad district, the farmers raise white onions once they harvest paddy in the kharif.

The light soil in undivided Ranga Reddy district, Medak, Nalgonda, Warangal and Mahbubnagar districts is suitable for cultivation of onions and an acre yields up to 150 tonnes. Currently, onions are raised in 5,500 hectares in Telangana and 15,000 hectares in AP.

This is despite the fact that the KP variety — cultivated in Rayalaseema — commands high demand in Arab nations, while onions cultivated in Telangana are relished in Dubai and other countries. But the domestic cultivation of onions is not sufficient to meet the people's needs. As a result, the state is depending on imports.

The input cost is around Rs 60,000 per acre, meaning that if the MSP is Rs 10 a kg, the farmers would break even. Hybrid onion seeds are sold by seed companies at Rs 2,000 a kg. Earlier, the horticulture department used to give Rs 600 subsidy per kg of onion seeds. For inexplicable reasons, this is being denied to farmers for the last three years.

The horticulture department extends Rs 1.40 crore to those who build cold storage facilities. If the subsidy were to be suspended, onions can be cultivated in 25,000 acres, according to a senior official in the horticulture department who wished to remain anonymous.

Lack of proper plans to increase the area of cultivation under onion crop, lack of warehouse facility, lack of support price have been contributing to the shortage.

YSRCP to collect feedback...

Continued from Page 1

Sajjala pointed out that village secretariats have been set in place and village volunteers recruited to take governance to the doorsteps of the people.

"The government has turned the volunteers into facilitators who have been working on saturation basis in a transparent manner to take the government programmes to the poor and weaker sections. Over 50 lakh farmers have got input subsidy directly into their accounts through the Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) with the stroke of a computer button by the Chief Minister as part of the Rythu Bharosa programme," he said. All this has been done with a strong conviction by the

Chief Minister with a holistic view to give a larger picture of the governance, Sajjala said. Reverse tendering was introduced for effective work at lesser cost and 100 per cent transfer of money transparently.

"Naidu had messed up the whole system and left debts of hundreds of crores of rupees to the state. The opposition was going to court against any good thing that the government wanted to do whether it be providing housing to the poor or introducing the English medium at the primary school level," Sajjala stated. He said all the schemes were introduced with family and village as a unit, emphasising that the Chief Minister wanted the poor to become educated and come up in life

Edu officials fine-tune...

Continued from Page 1

He explained the steps being taken to ensure a safe environment in compliance with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the Government of India.

Although schools would start functioning from November 2 for Classes 9 and 10, the students will be attending on alternate day and classes will be held till noon. The officials made it clear that each classroom will be limited to only 16 students, following social distance protocols. "Wearing face masks, washing hands, and maintaining physical distance are mandatory which should be followed by every student as well as teachers. Every day the students will

be undergoing orientation on Covid precautions and the classes start from 9.15 am and will go on up to 1.45 pm, followed by midday meals. In the afternoon hours, the students will be taking online classes for those students, who didn't turn up for schools. The academic year 2020-21 is extended up to April 30, totalling 180 working days" said Veerabhadru.

The officials have also made alternative arrangements for students opting to stay at home and pursue online education, by bringing dedicated mobile apps like Aabyasa and Diksha, along with classes on Doordarshan and YouTube channels, based on the student's accessibility to the technology.

AP's borrowings for first half of fiscal...

Continued from Page 1

"It's obvious that the coronavirus-induced lockdown had a telling impact on the revenues and hence the steep decline in income," a senior official of the Finance department said. Since the revenues had fallen sharply, the government had to rely on borrowings heavily, he noted. Though various tax rates were increased in the last couple of months, they have not yet fully reflected in the revenues. "We may see some increase in the coming months," the official added.

The state, though, received Rs 13,678.79 crore in grants from the Centre, a substantial increase from Rs 9,230.20 crore during the corresponding period last year. With more freebie schemes launched this year, the revenue expenditure showed a sharp increase from Rs 23,397.69 crore during April-September 2019-20 to Rs 54,206.63 crore during the same period in the current year. The capital expenditure too showed a significant jump to Rs 9,331.90 crore this year, compared to Rs 3,338.59 crore last year, the report said.

Covid case fatality rate falls below 1.5 pc

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Covid-19 case fatality rate (CFR) fell below 1.5 per cent on Saturday, the Union health ministry said, crediting the Centre-led strategy of 'test, trace, track and treat' for keeping coronavirus-related deaths low and within manageable numbers.

Deaths per million population in the country stand at a very low level of 88, it said. The ministry said 23 states and union territories in the country have a CFR lower than the national average, while 65 per cent of the total deaths so far were recorded in five states.

A total 551 deaths were reported the previous day, according to the ministry. There is a steady and consistent



The Centre-led strategy of 'test, trace, track and treat' has focused on effective containment strategy, aggressive testing and standardised clinical management protocols based on a comprehensive Standard of Care approach which includes use of anticoagulants

and non-invasive oxygen, the statement said.

The effective implementation of the strategy by state and UT governments has resulted in early identification, prompt isolation and timely clinical management of hospitalised cases, it said.

"These have ensured that India's Covid mortality is kept low and within manageable numbers," it added.

The ministry said 65 per cent of the total deaths were recorded in five States — Maharashtra (36.04 pc), Karnataka (9.16 pc), Tamil Nadu (9.12 pc), Uttar Pradesh (5.76 pc) and West Bengal (5.58 pc).

Ten states and UTs — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh,

Delhi, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh — account for 85 per cent of the total deaths, it said.

Six states and UTs registered cumulative deaths below 100, whereas eight states and UTs registered deaths below 1,000, it added.

Sixteen states and UTs have recorded deaths below 10,000. India added 59,454 new recoveries the previous day, while 48,268 new infections were reported.

The total number of recoveries has crossed the 74-lakh mark (7,432,829). "Higher number of single-day recoveries is also reflected in the continuous increase in the national recovery rate, which is at present 91.34 per cent," the ministry underscored.

Covid tests cross 80 lakh mark in AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh on Saturday completed 80 lakh sample tests for coronavirus, which turned out a total of 8,23,348 positives so far.

The state also crossed the 1.50 lakh mark in tests per million with an overall positivity rate of 10.25 per cent.

In 24 hours ending 9 am on Saturday, 82,045 tests were done, yielding 2,783 fresh cases of Covid-19, the latest bulletin said. It said 3,708 patients had recovered from the infection while 14 more succumbed in 24 hours. The number of active cases

fell below the 25,000 mark to 24,575, after a total of 7,92,083 recoveries and 6,690 deaths.

The overall Covid-19 recovery rate improved to 96.20 per cent while the mortality rate remained stable at 0.81 per cent.

West Godavari and Krishna districts reported more than 400 new cases, while East Godavari, Guntur and Chittoor added between 300 and 400.

Four districts added between 100 and 200 more cases while four others reported less than 100 in 24 hours, it added. Kurnool added the lowest 34 cases.

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Police foil 'Jail Bharo & Chalo Guntur'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Police foiled the call for 'Jail Bharo and Chalo Guntur' on Saturday planned by the Opposition parties in protest against handcuffing of farmers. Police restricted the movement of TDP and other Opposition party leaders by putting them under house arrest. TDP leaders slammed the government for suppressing farmers and Dalits and objected to the house arrests of their party leaders.



Police obstruct the agitators in taking part in 'Jail Bharo and Chalo Guntur' call given by the Opposition, in Guntur on Saturday

The situation turned tense in Guntur when the leaders and activists belonging to the TDP, the CPI and other organisations tried to barge into the district jail.

Amaravati farmers JAC leader Puvvada Sudhakar, non-political JAC leader Mallikarjuna Rao, Amaravati women JAC leader Dr Rayapati Sailaja, AP Parirakshana Samiti convener Prof Guntupalli Srinivas, Congress leader Sunakara Padmasri, CPI State assistant secretary Muppalla Nageswara Rao and others squatted on the main road in front of district jail. The leaders alleged that the

The situation turned tense in Guntur when the leaders and activists belonging to the TDP, the CPI and other organisations tried to barge into the district jail

government was treating farmers as criminals for conducting peaceful protests, hence, police handcuffed farmers. They demanded unconditional release of farmers from jail and withdrawal of cases. Police swung into action and forcefully removed leaders and protestors

and took them into their custody and shifted them to Nallapadu police station. CPI State secretary K Ramakrishna and others rushed to Nallapadu police station and objected to the forcible arrest of women, farmers and demanded the release of arrested activists.

TDP LEADERS PUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST

VIJAYAWADA: TDP senior leader Yanamala Ramakrishnu flayed the government for 'ruthlessly suppressing' the 'Jail Bharo' agitation launched by Amaravati farmers and Dalits.

He condemned the house arrests of TDP leaders and former ministers across the State. The suppression of peaceful protests by the agitators was heinous and inhuman, which was not being seen anywhere else in the country. He said that everybody should condemn the unconstitutional and undemocratic activities of the government.

Dalit farmers were protesting democratically against the handcuffing and imprisonment of their fellow farmers.

Permission was asked much in advance but officials were hand-in-glove with the ruling party to thwart the Opposition protests.

TDP leader Varla Ramaiah objected to the police placing him under house arrest.

He deplored that the chaotic and archaic activities of the YSRCP regime were reaching a

new peak.

What people were seeing in Andhra Pradesh was not a Rule of Law but a 'Police Raj', which was trampling on all rights of people.

TDP leaders Nimmakayala Chinarajappa, Devineni Umamaheswara Rao, Nakka Anand Babu, Prathipati Pulla Rao, former MLAs Jyothula Nehru, Nettam Raghunath Ram and others were placed under house arrest. The police issued notices to them under CrPC Section 149. The Opposition parties took part in protests against the police for handcuffing Dalit farmers before shifting them to the jail.

Farmers were only stopping outsiders from entering the Amaravati capital city area. They were duly checking the photo identity cards of the outsiders coming in auto-rickshaws into Amaravati to take part in 'counter agitation' in favour of three capitals plan of Jagannathan Reddy. Because of this, cases were filed against Dalit farmers of Krishnapalem in capital city area and they were eventually jailed.

NAIDU INTERACTS WITH YOUNG MINDS OF IIT BOMBAY

Naidu underscores need for 'technopreneurs'

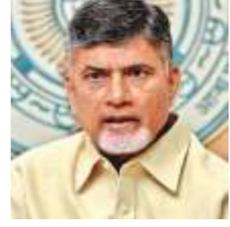
PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP National President N Chandrababu Naidu had an online interaction with the young brains of IIT Bombay when he gave a clarion call to the GenNext to imagine, visualise, adapt and innovate for bringing qualitative transformation in the country in the next 30 years.

He underscored the need for the budding technopreneurs and young managers to develop Vision-2050 for their personal growth and for the future growth of the nation by giving their individual and collective contributions.

Naidu delivered his enlightening address as a distinguished speaker at Alankar-2020, IIT Bombay's Global Leadership Summit organised with the theme 'Order in Chaos' by the Shailesh J Mehta School of Management.

He said that this enormous crisis could as well be turned into a beautiful opportunity if



■ The country's landscape was constantly changing. Seven decades ago, everybody was thinking of pre-independent and post-independent India. Later, the perception changed to pre-reforms and post-reforms

■ Now, everybody is looking at things as pre-Covid and post-Covid. In just a few months, the invisible virus changed the lives and lifestyles of one and all forever

■ Naidu said that the future would belong to those who meticulously follow the three takeaways, which are IT literacy, non-conventional energy and skill upgradation

individuals and families, States and countries work with vision and a meticulous execution of that vision. He said that the present generation would have to plan big and develop a 'mega mindset' with a broad world perspective, while at the same time, prioritising

tasks along their local, regional and global importance.

He told the budding managers that it was constant learning and relearning that inspired him to be an active participant and a dynamic change leader in today's knowledge economy.

Top NEET rankers' list released

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada, has released the Andhra Pradesh NEET top 25 rankers' list on Saturday.

G Chaitanya Sindhu secured the sixth rank, K Venkat 13th, B Manasa 16th, SKA Khadeer 18th, L Sekhar Satvik 20th, J Bala Sivarama Krishna 26th, D Sai Chakradhar 39th, T Swetha Gayatri 40th, Y Mahitha Reddy 54th, M Likhith Kumar Reddy 60th, G Srikanth Nikhilesh 71st and S Mahammad Jeelan 95th are among the top 25 rankers, who secured the ranks below 100.

As many as 43,977 candidates appeared from Andhra Pradesh while 35,270 candidates were qualified in the NEET examination.

The cut off score for general category is 147, for SC/ST/BC and candidates with disability is 113 and per-

The list of candidates, who appeared for NEET and secured 113 and above score, are placed on the university website

sons with disability (OC) is 129.

The list of candidates, who appeared from AP for NEET 2020 and secured 113 and above score, are placed on the university website <http://ntruhs.ap.nic.in>.

There are 29 colleges for medicine with 5,010 seats that include two minority medical colleges and Sri Padmavathi Medical College for Women (under SVIMS), Tirupati, and 16 Dental Colleges with 1,440 seats. Students are informed to look at the university website regularly for notifications for submissions of online applications and web counselling.

APAA former secy elected as AFI joint secretary

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Athletic Association (APAA) former secretary AV Raghavendra has been elected as the joint secretary of the Athletic Federation of India (AFI) in the annual general body meeting of the federation held in New Delhi on Saturday.

This is the highest position for an administrator from Andhra Pradesh post bifurcation. Present secretary of APAA Hyma has been elected as the Executive Committee member of the Federation and both were elected unanimously.

Raghavendra, working in Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway, is a product of Vijayawada Sports School and represented Krishna district and later Andhra Pradesh in 400 metres and 400 metres hurdles. He took part in several district, rural and state meets from 1990 to 1995. He



APAA former secretary AV Raghavendra



Secretary of APAA Hyma

won medals in rural meets.

He actively played a role in staging several junior national athletic meets and also senior national held at Acharya Nagarjuna University in 2017. He also organised two South Zone meets - one at ANU and the other at Kakinada.

As a manager, he went, along with Indian contingent to Asian meets at Doha (Qatar) and at Jakarta (Indonesia) in 2018. He also actively participated in seminars and workshops on dope tests and the perils of using the substance.

Another railway employee, Hyma was actively involved in athletics and took part in 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres and 4x100 relay. She took part in as many as 16 junior national meets in her 10 years career representing all age groups starting from under-14. She, on sports quota, joined the Indian Railways and represented railways in the national meets for four years. She became the secretary of APAA in 2018 and represented India in an Asian-level woman leadership seminar at Jakarta.

Ajit Singh Nagar residents get a whiff of fresh air

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

People staying in and around Ajith Singh Nagar dumping yard can get a breath of fresh air, thanks to the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, as segregation of waste has become a reality.

Thousands of tonnes of garbage, which had been piled up for more than 20 years in the dumping yard, is finally segregated and removed from 45 acres. As per the agreement with the VMC, the Tamil Nadu-based Zigma Global Environ Solutions, had completed its task and reclaimed the waste by installing a bio-mining plant in the dumping yard.

The VMC and Zigma Company signed the agreement more than two years ago for the removal of garbage



An aerial view of Ajit Singh Nagar dumping yard in Vijayawada

from the dumping yard by bio-mining, which segregates plastic, earth and other material. People living around Ajith Singh Nagar dumping yard have been suffering a lot until the recent past due to increasing ground water pollution, air pollution, bad odour caused due to the organic content decomposition, mosquito, fly menace and stagnant water near the dump.

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has built several hundred houses in Ajit Singh Nagar under the JNNURM. Several hundred houses are yet to be occupied by the beneficiaries.

"Out of the reclaimed land five acres will be converted two acres for waste to compost processing facility, five acres for farmers produce market and five acres for children's park,"

BJP seeks extension of Form 18 & 19 submission date

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

BJP State unit president Somu Veerajuu on Saturday addressed a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer requesting him to extend the time to file Form 18 and 19 by the eligible teacher voters.

In his letter, he stated that the party had received many complaints and requests to approach the electoral authorities to seek extension of the time for submission of Form 18 and 19 by the eligible teacher voters from the scheduled time of November 6.

Many of the complaints are related to restricted mobility

and lack of necessary facilities enabling them to submit the forms as eligible voters and the odd times prescribed by their administrations for their duties and also for other valid reasons.

"We examined this issue in depth, thanks to God there is a perceptible reduction in Covid-19 cases but the threat perception and anticipated second wave are very much frightening.

In the given circumstances, sufficient time, that is to say more period than normally given for presenting Form 18 and 19 by the eligible voters are not only advised but also necessary," he said.



Polavaram is Centre's project, says Minister for Irrigation

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The State government is only a facilitator and it's the Centre, which has to complete the Polavaram project, asserted Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources Anil Kumar Yadav.

Speaking to the media here on Saturday, the minister blamed the previous TDP government for messing up with the Polavaram project despite sharing power with the BJP. Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take the second revised estimates into account and narrated the sequence of events, the minister said.

Reiterating that Polavaram is a Central project and the State is working on behalf of the Union government, he said the previous government had bungled on the Polavaram issue, he said. Entire responsibility of Polavaram project is on the



Union government, including Rehabilitation and Resettlement, he reminded and blamed the TDP for neglecting the project by not tabling the revised estimates in the Central Cabinet meeting.

The State Bifurcation Act has clearly mentioned that the Polavaram will be constructed by the Union government as a national project. It was also agreed that the Centre should provide funds for irrigation, land acquisition and rehabilitation. However, due to the negligence of the previous govern-

■ Reiterating that Polavaram is a Central project and the State is working on behalf of the Union government, he said the previous government has bungled on the Polavaram issue, Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources Anil Kumar Yadav said

ment, the Polavaram project was landed in jeopardy.

He said that the previous government welcomed the package announced by the Union government and brought it under the package without considering cost escalation. Though the Union government had asked to submit the revised estimates of the project between 2014 and September 2016, the TDP government had failed to do so, which ultimately led to the current situation, he alleged.

AP FORMATION DAY TODAY

Governor foresees bright future for AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the eve of Andhra Pradesh Formation Day on November 1, Governor Biswa Bushan Harichandan said the State is blessed with abundant natural resources, fertile land, river basins, extensive canal system and conducive agro-climatic conditions.

He said apart from possessing the second longest coastline in the country and one of the largest producers of marine products, the State is also equipped with abundant human capital with huge potential, progressive attitude and high level of entrepreneurship aptitude.

Referring to the business-friendly policies and robust

physical, social and industrial infrastructure, the Governor said he is confident that Andhra Pradesh is poised to become one of country's best States in the future.

The government is committed to providing assured water supply for domestic, irrigation and industrial use and ensure supply of quality power to farmers as well as improving infrastructure right from Anganwadi centres to higher education institutions in the education sector as well as upgrading infrastructure from primary health care centres to super specialty hospitals in the health sector, he said.

He made a special mention of the implementation of Village Secretariat/Ward



Secretariat system, a first of its kind in the country, which enabled taking the administration to the doorstep of people with the convergence of government programmes and speedy delivery of pro-poor

■ Referring to the business-friendly policies and robust physical, social and industrial infrastructure, the Governor said he is confident that Andhra Pradesh is poised to become one of country's best States in the future

welfare benefits on an inclusive basis.

The Governor in his address highlighted 'Navaratnalu', the integrated welfare programme consisting of nine major welfare schemes aimed at development of all regions of the State and covering core sectors such

as agriculture, health, education, housing, welfare etc.

"All of us in the State have gone through the difficult situation posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has made an adverse impact on the economic growth and development," he said.

He hoped that patience and continuous perseverance towards the desired goals to fight the adverse situations created by this unprecedented calamity faced by mankind will pay off in the near future.

He cautioned that even though the situation is slowly improving, people should remain alert, not to lower the guard and strictly follow guidelines till a viable vaccine is made available for all.

DUBBAK BY-POLL

Candidates make last-ditch efforts

PNS ■ DUBBAKA

As campaign drew to a close for the by-polls in Dubbaka, the ruling TRS and opposition Congress and BJP are making all out efforts to woo the voters. The leaders of all three parties are crisscrossing the constituency, addressing rallies and conducting road shows. The TRS, which is sitting pretty to retain the seat, is ahead of its rivals in the campaign with Finance Minister T Harish Rao himself leading the charge with the target of ensuring the party's victory with a majority of one lakh votes. Harish Rao had been visiting the villages and addressing meetings much before the announcement of the poll schedule. He believes that both the Congress and the BJP are competing for the second place.

On the other hand, contestants are confident of winning the seat. While TRS nominee Solipeta Sujata is banking on the development and welfare programmes initiated by the TRS government, BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao is banking on the anti-establishment vote and a wave in favour of the BJP that is sweeping across the constituency as an undercurrent. Congress nominee Srinivas Reddy strongly believes that whatever development that took place in the constituency had taken place only during the Congress regime and exuding confidence that the people would



TRS, Congress and BJP leaders campaigning in Dubbaka Constituency on Saturday

not believe the TRS and the BJP.

In the 2018 elections, out of the 1,90,483 votes over 1,63,658 were polled. While the TRS candidate Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy was polled 89,112, Congress nominee Maddula Nageswar Reddy secured 26,691 votes. The BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao secured 22,595 votes. TRS nominee Solipeta Sujata, exuding confidence of TRS retaining the seat, said that the people has strong faith in the TRS and is hopeful of getting elected to the Assembly with a huge margin of votes.

Earlier, the constituency was rated as the backward region with people facing problems for drinking water and irrigation. In the new state of Telangana, her husband Solipeta ramalinga Reddy quenched the thirst of the people with the support from Chief Minister KCR. Bringing

Godavari water here is going to solve the irrigation problems of the region. The TRS government welfare and development schemes reached every household, she said assuring the electorate to develop the constituency further with support from minister T Harish Rao.

Congress nominee Cheruku Srinivas Reddy said that his father and former MLA Cheruku Mutyam Reddy developed the constituency during his regime. The voters of the constituency sent Mutyam Reddy four times to the Assembly. The very people are extending support to him as the true political heir to Mutyam Reddy, claims Srinivas Reddy. Moreover, the people would not believe in BJP and the TRS as they have strong faith in Congress. Ever since the election notification was issued, the Congress leadership has been camping in the constituency and working for his

electoral success, he added.

The welfare schemes introduced by YSR are still every green in the memory of the voters, he said adding that the Congress has a very strong vote bank in the constituency. The BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao has said that the people of Dubbaka have been seeking change of leadership as they were vexed with the TRS. The people are vexed with the TRS lies, he added. The people of Dubbaka played a crucial role in the struggle for the statehood of Telangana, but the fruits of development are trickling down to Sircilla, Gajwel and Siddipet. People who have seen development in the three constituencies would not vote for the TRS, he analysed. The Centre has been giving funds on a large scale for development of villages. Moreover, charishma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi would also work in Dubbaka.

Public holiday declared in Dubbaka on Nov 3

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The government has declared November 3 as public holiday to all the workers and employees working in the shops and establishments in the area of Dubbaka constituency. Commissioner of Labour Neetu Prasad in an order said that the public holiday was declared under section 31 of Telangana Shops and Establishments Act 1988. "All concerned employers are therefore requested to allow their employees a public holiday on November 3, to exercise their franchise," the order said.

BJP cheated people with false promises, says Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Finance Minister T Harish Rao has accused the BJP of cheating Telangana with false promises over the years. Addressing the Yuva Garjana held at Bonala Kondapur in Chegunta mandal on Saturday, he stated that the BJP had passed the "one vote two states" resolution during BJP Kakinada meeting, he said that the TRS leaders had several times tendered their resignations to force the Union government to create Telangana State.

The TRS senior leader has said that neither Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy nor any other BJP leader tendered their resignation. Harish said that Kishan Reddy had refused to tender resignation and backed the Andhra leaders when the TRS leaders resigned to their posts. "Do such leaders really have the moral right to seek votes from people of Telangana?" Harish questioned. Recalling the participation of all sections of the people in the Telangana movement, Harish said that youth, students and every section of people have participated actively in the Telangana movement.

Stating that the people of Dubbaka Constituency understood the false propaganda, Harish maintained that the result was apparent as hordes of people of Dubbaka



The TRS senior leader has appealed to the constituency people to elect Solipeta Sujatha as an MLA to continue all the development in the Constituency

Constituency have joined TRS on Saturday. The TRS senior leader has appealed to the constituency people to elect Solipeta Sujatha as an MLA to continue all the development in the Constituency. He has further said that the Congress Party is not even offering any contest in Dubbaka by-election. Medak MP Kotla Prabhakar Reddy said that the BJP and Congress leaders are

busy in social media and are seen less among the people. He said that Congress and BJP leaders will not be seen after the elections. It's only the TRS government which works for the people, he said. While participating in a public meeting held at Narsing mandal head quarters in Dubbaka constituency, Harish Rao said that the TRS will be in power in the coming three years. Dubbaka will witness rapid development in the coming years, he said and added that the TRS government gave Rs 30,423 crore however, the Centre gave mere Rs 1,147 crore.

He alleged that the Centre is harassing the state by not giving Rs 11,180 crore. "The Centre will not give what the state deserves, however, they will give an impression that they are giving everything," he alleged. TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha said that she will strive hard for the development of the Dubbaka constituency similar to her husband late Ramalinga Reddy.



Only BJP is capable of taking on TRS: DK Aruna

PNS ■ DUBBAKA

BJP national vice-president DK Aruna on Saturday accused the TRS leaders of terrorising the BJP activists and exuding confidence that the BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao victory is certain in spite of gimmicks played by the TRS. She campaigned in favour of the BJP nominee in Aakaram and Gambhirpur villages of Dubbaka rural mandal along with the party nominee.

She said that the Congress was no longer popular as Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao bulldozed the party. Moreover, Rahul Gandhi is no longer seen among the people. Therefore, she said that the Congress party was given a decent burial. She said that the TPCC is fielding Srinivas Reddy to scuttle the winning chances of the BJP. But giving a vote to the Congress nominee would be useless. Only the BJP is capable of defeating the TRS, she said appealing to the people to give their vote to the lotus symbol of the BJP and send Raghunandan Rao to the State Legislative Assembly.

HIGH FIVE!



Nizamabad MLC K Kavitha shares a light moment with a girl in Hyderabad on Saturday. Ministers, legislators, TRS party leaders and activists called on the new MLC at her residence and extended greetings

TRS neglected Dubbaka, alleges Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that the TRS government not only neglected the Dubbaka Assembly constituency, but ignored Ramalinga Reddy who represented the segment for four terms. Addressing Congress leaders, in-charges and cadre of Dubbaka Assembly constituency through Zoom App and Facebook live on Saturday, Uttam said that the Congress campaign has been successful so far

and the party was able to reach all the voters in every polling booth. He claimed that the Congress party was getting overwhelming response from



the voters and its candidate Srinivas Reddy would register a comfortable victory in the by-elections to be held on November 3.

Uttam alleged that the TRS government completely neglected development of

Dubbaka constituency. He said Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Ministers Harish Rao and K.T. Rama Rao focussed on their constituencies Gajwel, Siddipet and Sircilla. But they never looked at adjoining Dubbaka

Assembly segment and did nothing for its development. He said Ramalinga Reddy was completely ignored by CM, Harish Rao and KTR. He himself admitted on the floor of the Assembly he was unable to develop Dubbaka due to lack of cooperation from the local authorities.

He said Ramalinga Reddy was never made a minister although he was a four-time MLA. Ridiculing Harish Rao's claims of his close association with late Ramalinga Reddy, he asked why Harish Rao did not resign from the cabinet to facilitate Ramalinga Reddy get a berth in the State cabinet. He said Harish Rao has no moral ground to seek votes from the people of Dubbaka.

'Dharani will end irregularities'

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy on Saturday said the state government has taken up initiatives to accord full rights on the agricultural and non-agricultural properties to its owners by putting an end to land disputes and illegal property transactions.

He was speaking after attending the swearing ceremony of Suryapet Agricultural Market Committee. Speaking on the occasion, Jagadish Reddy said that after taking to land records purification programme, the state government has launched Dharani portal, which would make the tampering and illegal transaction of properties by managing anybody.

Owners of the properties would have no need to worry about the protection of the immovable assets. It would also benefit the farmers as land disputes were a major



Power Minister Jagadish Reddy at a programme in Suryapet on Saturday

problem in the rural areas. The initiative of the state government would also benefit the farmers more than others, he maintained.

He pointed out that 65 per cent of the budgeted funds have been allocated for agriculture sector. He also referred to the execution of the Kaleswaram Project to benefit the farmers. The Dharani Portal was launched unthinkingly of the expenditure to identify clear title of the land owners. The Chief Minister knew about the

problems being faced by farmers in mutation of their lands, registration of lands, creation of fake documents for the lands and so on. The Telangana society is deeply indebted to KCR. Therefore, he wanted the farmers to be more united under the leadership of KCR, the Minister said. Suryapet Agriculture Market Committee Chairman Uppala Lalitha Anand, Vice Chairman Muddam Krishna Reddy and other director were assured charge on the occasion.

Revanth for inquiry into aid for flood-hit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC working president and Malkajgiri MP A Revanth Reddy on Saturday addressed an open letter to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao demanding the latter to order vigilance inquiry into the irregularities took place during the distribution of Rs 10,000 financial aid to the flood-affected people. In his letter, Revanth Reddy alleged that the 'pink eagles' ate major part of the aid. "After seeing your corporators and local leaders, I have a doubt whether they are humans or not. If the government has sincerity, it would have deposited the amount directly into the beneficiaries accounts," he said.

Bandi challenges CM for open debate

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and alleged that the latter has no interest in the victory of TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha. "KCR will make his son KT Rama Rao Chief Minister on the very next day of TRS candidate's defeat as it will automatically provide a chance to remove Harish Rao," he alleged.

While participating in campaign in Doultabad on Saturday, Bandi Sanjay alleged that KCR is dividing the people in the name of castes, sections and creating rifts among them. He claimed that the Centre gave Rs 208 crore to Dubbaka constituency and challenged KCR by stating that he

KCR will make KTR Chief Minister on the very next day of TRS candidate's defeat as it will provide an opportunity to remove Harish Rao, alleged BJP chief

is ready to hang himself if his claims are wrong. "I am ready for an open debate on Sunday. Is KCR ready for it?" he asked. He alleged KCR didn't pay tributes to Sardar Vallabhai Patel, who was the reason for the liberty of Telangana.

CM mourns Ramrao Maharaj's demise

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has mourned the death of Banjara Community spiritual head, Paura Devi Peeth Head Ramrao Maharaj. The Chief Minister commended that Sant Maharaj had taken up several programmes to bring in change and for the upliftment of Banjars. The Chief Minister said the Maharaj had made a place in the history for uniting and creating awareness among the Banjars. KCR said that the Telangana state government would continue the spirit of Ramrao Maharaj-ji. The Chief Minister conveyed his condolences to the Banjara community in the State.

1,445 new Covid cases in state

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana registered 1,445 more Coronavirus cases, taking its overall tally to 2.38 lakh, while 1,486 more Covid-19 patients recovered, officials said on Saturday.

Hyderabad accounted for highest 286 infections reported in the past 24 hours, followed by Medchal Malkajgiri district 122, Rangareddy 107, Nalgonda 102, Bhadrachalam 90, Khammam at 77, Karimnagar 65, Warangal Urban 53, Siddipet 43, Jagityal 35, Mehboobnagar 28, Sangareddy 27, and Rajanna Sircilla 26. Six more Covid-19 patients died in the southern



state, raising its death toll to 1,336. Telangana's Covid-19 fatality rate now stands at 0.56 per cent compared with India's 1.5 per cent. The recovery rate is 91.72 per cent, which is higher than the national average of 91.3 per cent.

Pensioners told to submit certificates for verification

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All the State government service pensioners/family pensioners and other government pensioners who are receiving pension through pension payment unit in twin cities have been asked to submit annual verification certificates from November 1 to March 31 through digital modes T-App folio, Mee Seva and Jeevan Praman due to Covid-19 and vulnerability to pensioners. They were requested to refrain from approaching the APPO branches for submitting life certificate for this AVC year in view of Covid-19, according to a press release.

400 Rythu Vedikas across State soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy said that 300 to 400 new Rythu Vedikas would be set up in the State in the coming days in addition to 2,601 that were already sanctioned. "Construction of 95 per cent of the sanctioned Rythu Vedikas was already completed and the remaining five per cent would be completed in four to five days," he said.

The Minister also said that the main objective behind setting up the Rythu Vedikas is to provide a platform for farmers to discuss the issues related to farming and marketing of their produce and finally help the farmers to earn profits. "The TRS government, apart from imple-



menting several pro-farmer schemes and waiving off farm loans, is constructing the Rythu Vedikas in all the agriculture extension officer's clusters in the State with a view to create awareness among farmers about all welfare schemes, subsidies avail-

able, etc.," he added. While the State government earmarked Rs 572.22 crore towards the construction cost, the cost of each Rythu Vedika is Rs 22 lakhs. The share of the agriculture department in the construction is Rs 312.12 crore, while

While the State government earmarked Rs 572.22 crore towards the construction cost, the cost of each Rythu Vedika is Rs 22 lakh.

the share of MNRGS is Rs 260.10 crore. According to the agriculture officials, Rythu Vedikas are first-of-its-kind in the country and in the world where a platform is being created for the farmers. The Rythu Vedikas will help in mobilising the farmers to organise themselves into groups for attaining their ultimate objective of getting the remunerative prices, better marketing facilities, higher productivity and ultimately making the agriculture profitable.

"The Rythu Vedika will serve as a platform to impart skills to the farmers, and help stabilise the income of farmers by providing the information on the institution finance and to ensure their continuance in farming. The Vedikas will also help in encouraging farmers to adopt innovative and modern agriculture practices and ensure flow of credit to the agriculture and allied sectors," said an official adding that they would help the farmers interact and share the knowledge.

Modi to babudom: Move from 'government to governance'

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday advised the probationary civil servants to take decisions in the national interest by following the mantra of "minimum government and maximum governance".

He also asked them to stay away from limelight and gobs beyond their routine jobs to establish their identity.

Modi was addressing the probationers through video-conference from Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district, where he paid tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity on his 145th birth anniversary earlier in the day.

"The turn at which the country stands today...the role of bureaucrats like you is of minimum government and maximum governance. You have to ensure that your interference in common people's lives is reduced and that they get empowered," he said. "I would also request that whatever decision a civil servant takes should



The turn at which the country stands today...the role of bureaucrats like you is of minimum govt and maximum governance. You have to ensure that your interference in common people's lives is reduced and that they get empowered, he said

be in the national interest and aimed at strengthening the unity and sovereignty of the country and keeping India's constitutional spirit high," he said. "Your area may be small, the limit of the department

under you may be small, but there should be national perspective in your decisions," he said. "A government does not run on policies alone. People for whom the policies are meant need to be involved."

PM launches seaplane service in Gujarat

Kevadiya (Guj), Oct 31 (PTI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. He inaugurated the service by boarding the twin-engine plane from pond-3 close to Sardar Sarovar Dam near here after taking part in the Ekta Diwas celebrations at the Statue of Unity on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 145th birth anniversary. Before boarding the plane, Modi spent some time at the water aerodrome at the pond and took details about the service and the aircraft from the crew as well as officials. The plane carrying Modi landed on the waters of Sabarmati Riverfront in

Ahmedabad in around 40 minutes after covering a distance of around 200 kms. Floating jetties and water aerodrome buildings were built at the riverfront and at pond-3 near Sardar Sarovar Dam to enable passengers to board and alight from the plane. After his arrival in Ahmedabad, Modi unveiled a plaque announcing the launch of the service from Saturday. Modi, who was on a two-day Gujarat visit from Friday, then left for the airport for his further journey. The service will be operated by SpiceJet's fully-owned subsidiary, Spice Shuttle. Daily two flights will be operated on the Ahmedabad-Kevadiya route from Saturday, the company said in a statement.

SP-supported candidate to 'expose' BSP-BJP ties: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday asserted that his party supported independent nominee Prakash Bajaj for the Rajya Sabha election to expose the understanding between the BJP and BSP.

"Those having socialist leanings decided to support the independent candidate for the Rajya Sabha so that people can come to know that the BJP and BSP are together," Akhilesh Yadav told reporters after an event held to pay tribute to Acharya Narendra Dev on his anniversary.

He alleged that the BJP can enter into an understanding with anyone and those who have an internal understanding need to be exposed.

In a dig at the BJP-led state government, Akhilesh Yadav enquired about the present state of the cleaning of river Gomti, a work started by his government. He also rued that there has been no expansion of the Lucknow metro project which his government had started. In a major twist to the



biennial Rajya Sabha elections, Prakash Bajaj had filed his nomination papers from Varanasi as an independent candidate on the last day for the filing with the Samajwadi Party's support. He had filed them minutes before the closing of the filing on Tuesday.

His nomination, however, was rejected during the scrutiny of papers the next day after a daylong drama in which seven BSP MLAs, including the four who had signed the nomination of their party candidate Ramji Gautam, gave an affidavit that their signatures had been forged. The seven MLAs, who are said to have met SP president

Akhilesh Yadav, were later suspended by BSP president Mayawati who also declared that her party would vote for any other political outfit, including the Bharatiya Janata Party to ensure the defeat of the Samajwadi Party in the upcoming elections to the Upper House of the Uttar Pradesh assembly and the Rajya Sabha.

She had also termed her decision to join hands with the Samajwadi Party ahead of the last year's general elections a "mistake", lamenting that she should not have withdrawn a 1995 case against Akhilesh's father Mulayam Singh Yadav.

INDIA CORNER

C'garh: CRPF jawan kills self with service rifle in Sukma

A 27-year-old jawan from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, police said on Saturday. Constable Kamla Kant Rohidas, belonging to CRPF's 223rd battalion, shot himself with an Insas rifle at his unit's headquarter in Dornapal police station area on Friday night, an official said. On hearing the gunshot, Rohidas' colleagues rushed to his barrack and found him lying in a pool of blood, following which he was taken to a local hospital, where he was declared brought dead, the official said. The deceased jawan was a native of Jharsuguda district in neighbouring Odisha, he said. "No suicide note was found at the spot, but prima facie, his WhatsApp messages suggest that he was disturbed over a love affair," the official said, adding that a case has been registered in this regard. The CRPF is extensively deployed in Sukma district for anti-Naxal operations.



Ramraoji Maharaj, spiritual leader of Banjara community, dead

Shri Sant Ramraoji Maharaj, a spiritual leader of the Banjara community, died at a private hospital here, sources close to him said on Saturday. The 84-year-old religious leader was undergoing treatment for the last one month and died around 11 on Friday night, they said. He was known for his work for creating awareness about superstition, promoting literacy, and his campaign against the dowry custom. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among political leaders who paid tributes to him. "Shri Ramrao Babu Maharaj ji will be remembered for his service to the society and rich spiritual knowledge. He worked tirelessly to alleviate poverty and human suffering," Modi tweeted. "I had the honour of meeting him a few months ago. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with his devotees. Om shanti," the prime minister said. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said Ramraoji Maharaj's death was an irreparable loss to entire society and not just the Banjara community.



90-year-old woman 'gang-raped' in Tripura

A 90-year-old woman has been allegedly gang-raped by two men in her house in Tripura, police said on Saturday. The incident took place at Barhaldi village in Kanchanpur subdivision of North Tripura district on October 24 but her relatives lodged a police complaint on October 29, a senior police officer said. The two men accused of raping the woman are absconding and a manhunt has been launched to nab them, Superintendent of Police Bhanupada Chakraborty said. "One of the accused used to call the woman 'grandmother', who was living alone in her house. On the night of the incident, he and another man broke into the house and raped the elderly woman," the officer said. The woman had fallen ill after the incident but she did not inform the police. When her relatives came to know of the incident, they lodged the complaint five days later, he said.



President, VP, Shah pay tributes to Sardar Patel

President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Home Minister Amit Shah paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary on Saturday, which is observed as the "National Unity Day". The top dignitaries paid their tributes to the first home minister of independent India at his statue located at Patel Chowk here. In a series of tweets in Hindi, Shah said the country's first home minister is an epitome of national unity and lives in the heart of every Indian. He said Sardar Patel united the nation post Independence, which was scattered in hundreds of princely states, and laid the foundation of today's strong India. "The country can never forget his great contribution, decisive leadership and unparalleled commitment towards the motherland," he said.



Choudhary: Voters will prefer Nitish's experience over Tejashwi

PNS ■ PATNA

A section of voters may have a sense of fatigue following the nearly 15-year rule of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, but people will still opt for his experience and "unblemished" track-record over the opposition alliance's chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav, Bihar JD(U) working President Ashok Choudhary has said. Speaking to PTI, Choudhary, a confidant of Kumar and a Dalit face of the party, also underlined the JD(U)'s opposition to any move to bring Lok Janshakti Party back in the ruling National Democratic Alliance after the Bihar polls, saying its president Chirag Paswan will

The Opposition is trying to create this perception that he is old... But he has delivered on every front, be it infrastructure, health, or education, he said

not be welcome after all he has said against Kumar. Downplaying the much talked about anti-incumbency factor against the chief minister, Choudhary, the Building Construction Department

Minister in the state, said his political rivals are creating such a narrative.

"The opposition is trying to create this perception that he is old... But he has delivered on every front, be it infrastructure, health, or education. People are happy. They also remember what Lalu Prasad did in the RJD's 15-year rule," he said.

Asked about the perceived "fatigue factor" against Kumar, he said, "(It) might be there as certain people may think there have been 15 years of Nitish Ji. But they will not have Tejashwi in his place." "He (Kumar) is experienced. As a Union minister first and then as CM, there has been no charge against him. He is unblemished," Choudhary added.

Man held in Rs 750 cr bank loan fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested a person in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged Rs 750 crore bank loan fraud committed by misusing credit facilities, the central probe agency said on Saturday.

It said Sai Chandrasekhar was arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on Friday following which a local court here sent him to seven days ED custody.

The money laundering case against Chandrasekhar pertains to a probe initiated by the agency against Virkaran Awasthy, Vinod Sirohi and KPMG India Pvt Ltd, it said in a statement. The PMLA case



was filed against them after studying an FIR registered by the economic offences wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police on the basis of a complaint received from Hassad Netherlands BV.



Police making scribes wait for long hours: media orgs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two prominent media organisations have claimed that some journalists are being frequently summoned to police stations in Delhi for interrogation in cases of arrests of their colleagues and made to wait for hours, seriously hampering their normal professional duties.

In a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Press Association and the Press Club of India also said that they have no intention to create any hurdle in the process of investigation but journalists should be contacted to interrogate in a mutually agreed and convenient date, time and the venue. "It was brought to our notice that some of the journalists are frequently summoned to the police stations for interrogation by the investigative agencies in connection with cases of arrests of fellow journalists. The two media bodies said the journalists were asked routine questions and let off in the night or after long hours, with directions to them to appear again.

Santosh Gangwar's family members test Covid positive

PNS ■ BAREILLY (UP)

Union Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said on Saturday that his wife and six other family members have tested positive for the novel coronavirus. The 71-year-old minister too underwent test for COVID-19 and his report came negative. Gangwar, who is the parliamentarian from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, told reporters here that his family members had recently gone to Delhi where they contracted the infection. All of them have been admitted to the ESI Hospital in Faridabad. The cook of the family has also taken ill and has been admitted to a hospital as a precautionary measure, he said. The union labour and employment minister said some officials of his ministry have also tested positive for the virus.

Raj's bills to negate impact of farm laws

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government on Saturday introduced three bills in the Assembly to negate the impact of the farm laws enacted by the Centre recently.

The move comes after the Punjab Assembly earlier this month adopted a resolution against the farm laws and unanimously passed four bills to counter the Centre's contentious legislations.

Rajasthan's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal introduced the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and



Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020 and the

Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020.

He also introduced the Code of Procedure (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020 on the

first day of the Assembly session.

A number of provisions to protect the interests of farmers, including sale or purchase of a crop under farming agreement on a price equal or greater than minimum support price and imprisonment of three to seven years for harassment of farmers, have been included in the bills.

The Congress leadership has suggested that states where it is in power should pass laws of their own to counter the central legislations that had triggered farmers' protests in several parts of the country.

Kamal Nath moves SC against EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath has moved the Supreme Court challenging Election Commission's decision to revoke his "star campaigner"

status for violations of the model code during campaign for the bye-polls in 28 assembly constituencies in the state.

Senior lawyer and Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha told PTI that the senior Congress leader has challenged the ECI's

decision on various grounds and an urgent hearing on the plea would be sought. The poll panel on Friday took note of alleged breach of "ethical and dignified behaviour" and revoked the "star campaigner" status of Congress leader.

TN Minister battling Covid-19 is critical

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister R Doraikkannu, battling COVID-19 pneumonia and on life support, is extremely critical, a hospital treating him said here on Saturday. The 72-year-old Minister's health has "suffered a significant deterioration in vital functions."

He is extremely critical despite being on maximal life support," Kavery Hospital's Executive Director Dr Aravindan Selvaraj said in a bulletin.

The hospital had said on Monday that the Minister was being treated for severe COVID pneumonia and its complications and maintaining the functions of his vital organs was challenging, considering his multiple comorbidities.

A CT scan had showed 90 per cent lung involvement vis-a-vis the infection and he was put on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) and ventilator.

Kavery hospital had said days ago that Doraikkannu, who was admitted with severe



breathlessness, tested positive for COVID-19. On October 13, the minister experienced unease when he was on his way to attend the funeral of Davusayammal, Chief Minister K Palaniswami's mother, who had died at the age of 93 at Salem.

Doraikkannu, who was travelling in his car, was rushed to the government medical college hospital in Villupuram and from there was shifted to Kavery hospital the same day.

Palaniswami and his Cabinet colleagues, including Health Minister C Vijaya baskar, had visited the hospital on October 25 to enquire about Doraikkannu's health.

In Lalu bastion, no walkover for Tejashwi

PNS ■ HAJIPUR

He is hopping from onerogion to another daily to drum up support for the Grand Alliance so that he could become the chief minister of Bihar, but winning his own seat won't be easy for Tejashwi Yadav who is up against an experienced BJP rival in Raghupur constituency.

A part of the Hajipur Lok Sabha seat, Raghupur assembly segment in Vaishali district will vote in the second phase on November 3.

The 31-year-old, the younger son of Lalu Prasad, had taken the electoral plunge from Raghupur in 2015, when he had barely reached the qualifying age of 25 for fighting polls.

He won the election and went on to become the deputy to Chief Minister Nitish



Kumar, whom he would call chacha (uncle) then, an expression of respect and alliance. But the alliance fell apart in 2017, and now Tejashwi is challenging his chacha for the top post. The Grand Alliance, spearheaded by the RJD and with the Congress and Left parties as its members, has already

announced Tejashwi as its CM candidate.

But from being a CM candidate to actually becoming the one depends on whether Tejashwi wins his won elections. Raghupur seat is a Yadav-dominated constituency across river Ganga which Lalu Prasad had won in 1995, 2000, and his wife Rabri Devi in 2005.

The 31-year-old, the younger son of Lalu Prasad, had taken the electoral plunge from Raghupur in 2015, when he had barely reached the qualifying age of 25 for fighting polls

Tejashwi's main rival now, the BJP's Satish Kumar, had emerged a giant killer, defeating Rabri Devi in 2010 state election.

Kumar, however, had lost to Tejashwi in 2015, when Tejashwi was a nominee of an alliance comprising his RJD, the JD (U) and the Congress, while the BJP had gone solo.



Marginal fall in petrol, diesel prices next week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Consumers can cheer as oil marketing companies (OMC) may actually bring down the retail prices of petrol and diesel in the coming week and provide relief to them ahead of Diwali. Oil sector experts said that with global oil prices under pressure from slowing demand in the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic sweeping through several countries in the West, crude prices have fallen in recent days and could fall further. If the trend holds, there could be positive gains for auto fuel consumers in India by way of a fall in the retail prices of petrol and diesel.

Amazon tells Sebi its partner Future Retail is misleading public

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amazon has complained to India's market regulator that its local partner Future Retail Ltd FRTLS misleads shareholders by incorrectly saying it was complying with its contractual obligations to the U.S. e-commerce giant, a letter seen by Reuters shows.

Amazon is locked in a bitter legal dispute with Future Group, which in August sold its retail assets to Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd for \$3.4 billion. The deal, Amazon alleges, breaches 2019 agreements by Future.

The tussle has strained Amazon's ties not just with Future Retail - one of India's top retailers - but also with Ambani, Asia's richest man, and his Reliance group, which is fast expanding its e-commerce business and threatening companies like Amazon.

Amazon last Sunday won an injunction to halt Future's deal



with Reliance from a Singapore arbitrator both sides had agreed to use in case of disputes. The Indian retailer then said in a news release it had complied with all agreements and "cannot be held back" by the arbitration proceedings.

In the letter to the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Ajay Tyagi on Wednesday, Amazon said Future's news release and stock exchange disclosures violated Indian regulations, urging the

regulator to investigate the matter and not approve the deal.

"Such a disclosure is against public interest, misleads public shareholders ... as well as perpetuates a fraud for the benefit of the Biyanis alone," Amazon letter said, referring to Future's promoter family led by Kishore Biyani.

A spokesman for Future Group and the Biyani family declined to comment. A Future group source denied Amazon's

Amazon is locked in a bitter legal dispute with Future Group, which in August sold its retail assets to Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd for \$3.4 billion. The deal, Amazon alleges, breaches 2019 agreements by Future

allegations, saying there was no question of any fraud or misleading the public or shareholders, without elaborating.

Amazon declined to comment on its letter, the contents of which have not previously been reported. Reliance and SEBI did not respond to requests for comment.

Amazon says the 2019 deal, in which it invested nearly \$200 million in a Future unit, had clauses saying the Indian group could not sell its retail assets to anyone on a "restricted persons" list, which included Reliance. Reliance, which in August bought Future's retail, wholesale and some other busi-

nesses, has said it plans to "enforce its rights and complete the (Future) transaction ... without any delay."

The faceoff comes as Jeff Bezos-led Amazon has already been battling tighter foreign investment rules and antitrust cases in India, which is one of its key growth markets where it has committed investments of \$6.5 billion.

Some Indian lawyers have argued the Singapore arbitrator's order in favour of Amazon is not automatically enforceable and would need ratification by an Indian court. But Amazon believes the order is binding, it told SEBI.

Nafed floats bids for supply of 15k tonnes of onions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cooperative Nafed on Saturday invited bids from importers for supply of 15,000 tonnes of red onions by November 20 in order to boost the domestic availability and check price rise.

The cooperative has asked bidders to supply 40 to 60 mm size of red onions from any country of origin at Rs 50 per kg by November 20. The bidding will close on November 4 and received bids will be opened on the next day, it said.

The shipments are to be delivered at Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Kandla ports, it added. "We have floated tenders for supply of 15,000 tonnes of imported red onions. This will help increase the domestic supply situation," Nafed Additional Managing Director S K Singh told PTL.

The bids will be evaluated based on volumes, quality and early date of shipment. Bidders have to supply fresh, well dried and cured onions, he added. To ensure better partici-



ipation in the tender, Singh said it has been decided to keep the minimum bid quantity lower at 1,000 tonnes (instead of 2,000 tonnes) which has to be supplied in multiple lots of 100 tonnes.

Since the buffer stock of onion, which Nafed manages on behalf of the government, is gradually getting depleted, the cooperative has been asked to augment domestic supplies with imported onions to continue with ongoing market intervention.

Last year, Nafed had not only imported on its own some quantities but also distributed onions imported by state-run MMTC.

Pvt-bound BPCL postpones key expansion projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Privatisation-bound PSU refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has delayed expansion plans for its refinery projects, pending its share sell off programme that will see government completely exiting from the company and handing over its management to a strategic investor.

BPCL has plans to expand its Bina refinery and take efficiency improvement measures at Mumbai refinery. But investment decisions on both the projects are now left for the new owners in the company that is expected to take control after the current bidding process ends, sources said that a senior BPCL official told analysts at a recent post results conference call.

The Bina Refinery expansion involves taking up its capacity from present 7.8 million tonne to 15 mt over next five years with an investment



of over Rs 30,000 crore. Plan is also to set up a petrochemicals unit with a 1.5 mtpa naphtha cracker.

With regard to Mumbai refinery the plan is to connect the unit with an ethylene cracker plant set up at an alternate location.

These expansion plan will now be kept on the back burner till clarity emerged over the company's new owners.

Government is selling its entire 53.29 per cent stake in

BPCL to a strategic investor to mobilise over Rs 50,000 crore as disinvestment receipt. This will help in containing country's rising fiscal deficit that is slated to exceed 8 per cent of GDP due to adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

The strategic sale process at this juncture has not been easy as initial bidding date under the process being already postponed on four occasions.

Mumbai airport handles over 18L passengers

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) handled over 18 lakh passengers, including international passengers under the Vande Bharat Mission and private charters, through 24,036 flights operated between June and September, the airport said on Friday.

Commercial air passenger services remained suspended between late-March and May 24. While domestic flights resumed from May 25, international operations continue to be grounded, owing to visa and travel restrictions put in place by various countries in the wake of the pandemic.

But, special international flights have been operating under the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under the bilateral 'air bubble' arrangements with selected countries since July.

In the June-September peri-



od, CSMIA witnessed a total of over 7,150 international air traffic movements (ATMs) with over 21 international airlines flying about 2,49,320 passengers to 26 destinations, the private airport operator said in a release.

During the same period, the airport registered over 16,886 ATMs in domestic operations with over 15,55,700 passengers flying to 53 destinations across the country through 10 domestic airlines, it said.

CSMIA has also observed a rising growth in both international and domestic air travel during this period, it said.

Just Dial Q2 net drops 38 pc to Rs 47 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Digital directory service firm Just Dial on Friday posted a 38 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 47.34 crore for the September quarter.

The company had registered a net profit of Rs 76.94 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

"The operations of the company were impacted, due to shutdown of offices following lockdown imposed by the government authorities to contain spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

"Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an impact on the revenue... which has been partially offset by major cost reduction, including reduction in employee benefits, advertising and sales promotion expenses etc," the company said in its financial report.

Amazon's Diwali sales off to a good start

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce giant Amazon has said its Prime Day sale in August in India witnessed a strong growth and Diwali sales are also off to a good start.

The US-based e-retailer saw its net sales increasing 37 per cent to USD 96.1 billion in the third quarter of 2020 from about USD 70 billion in the year-ago period. Its net income increased to USD 6.3 billion in the reported quarter from USD 2.1 billion in the year-ago period. International segment revenue was at USD 25.1 billion in the September 2020 quarter, while profits earned from the segment grew to USD 407 million. Amazon's international net sales stood at USD 18.3 billion in September 2019 quarter, and the segment registered a loss of USD 386

million.

"...we feel good about the level of investment that's continued and we see that we're committed to continuing that, even after the pandemic and including the international segment. Of course, there is India where we've had a very strong Prime Day and Diwali is off to a good start," Amazon Chief Financial Officer Brian Olsavsky said in an earnings call.

Amazon -- which competes with Walmart-owned Flipkart in the Indian market -- also faces competition from Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries that has been bolstering its position in the country's retail segment.

Sellers and brand partners experienced the biggest two days of sales in the festival's history, it added.

Nirmala wanted me out of Finance Ministry, says Garg

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Subhash Chandra Garg, the former finance secretary who was shunted out of the finance ministry within three weeks of Modi-2.0 government's first budget last year, on Saturday alleged that new Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman got him transferred out.

Garg, who took voluntary retirement soon after being moved from the finance ministry - where he handled the Department of Economic Affairs - to power ministry, said Sitharaman, unlike her predecessor Arun Jaitley, had "a very different personality and knowledge endowment".

Both Ministry of Finance and Sitharaman's office refused to comment on the blog Garg wrote on the day he said he would have in normal course



retired from the government service but for the VRS.

Garg said he "did not share a good and productive working relationship" with Sitharaman, who came to the finance ministry "with some pre-conceived notions about me".

"She did not seem to have confidence in me. She was not quite comfortable working with me as well," he said adding differences over surplus

RBI should give as dividend to the government and dealing with problems of non-banks had surfaced within months of her takeover.

"Serious difference also developed on some key issues like economic capital framework of RBI, a package for dealing with problems of non-banks, resolution of non-banks, partial credit guarantee scheme, capitalization of non-banks like IIFCL and other financial entities and the like.

"Very soon, not only had our personal relationship soured, but the official working relationship also became quite unproductive," he wrote.

Sitharaman wanted him out in June 2019, ahead of the July 5 budget presentation, he said but did not say why her request wasn't immediately accepted by the government.

Ather Energy opens full payment window

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Electric two-wheeler startup Ather Energy opened the full payment window for its 125-cc 450 Plus and 450X e-scooters for the customers in Bengaluru and Chennai from Saturday. Bookings for the rest of the cities will open before Diwali, the company said in a release.

Ather Energy has opened the full payment window for 450 Plus and 450X from October 31 and the scooters will be delivered within three weeks of payment, the company said. Along with the buyback scheme for 450X at Rs 85,000 and Rs 70,000 for 450 Plus at the end of three years, it had also announced cutting 450 Plus price by Rs 9,000 to almost Rs 1.40 lakh.

Yamaha ties up with Amazon India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two-wheeler maker India Yamaha Motor on Saturday said it has tied up with Amazon India to sell its range of apparels and accessories online.

This is for the first time in India that the company would sell its apparels and accessories online, India Yamaha Motor said in a statement.

With this move Yamaha customers and motorcyclists will be able to buy a wide range of accessories and apparels for both motorcycles and scooters in an easy and convenient way through Amazon India, it added.

37 pc engineers rue stretched working hours

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Even as the majority of engineers interviewed favour remote working, 37 per cent find work from home challenging mostly due to extended working hours, according to a survey.

Irrespective of their professional experience, a majority of respondents agreed being more comfortable with teleworking, with 64 per cent saying they find it easier to work remotely, while 36 per cent of respondents said they find it challenging, according to a survey by IP-driven incubation lab BridgeLabz. The survey was done online with over 1,000 BridgeLabz alumni from October 16 to 28. The respondents possessed different lev-



els of work experience in the categories of less than one year, a professional experience between 1 and 2 years and more than five years. "Trying to balance work at home" emerged as the most popular answer when probed about how they are trying to

cope up with work from home, the survey showed.

Out of the total, 58 per cent of the employees are simultaneously taking part in household chores to strike a healthy work-life balance to deal with the ongoing remote work effectively, it added.

Irrespective of their professional experience, a majority of respondents agreed being more comfortable with teleworking, with 64% saying they find it easier to work remotely, while 36 per cent of respondents said they find it challenging

About 22 per cent of respondents connect with peers, while the remaining 20 per cent take regular breaks to relax, it added. The survey further showed that extended work hours are the biggest obstacle for 37 per cent respondents during teleworking.

It is followed by frequently occurring technical errors and glitches (29 per cent), it noted.

It found that respondents with more than five years of

working experience faced more (40 per cent) technical issues compared to their counterparts. This may be attributed to an irrelevant skill set or lack of upskilling opportunities over the years that could have widened the skill gap for those job roles, it observed. Colleagues (20 per cent) and lack of concentration (13 per cent) were some of the other challenges reported by the employees, it said.

MONEY MATTERS

Chinese manufacturing expands in October but at slower pace

China's manufacturing activity expanded in October for the eighth straight month, though at a slightly slower rate than in September, the National Bureau of Statistics said Saturday. The Purchasing Managers Index stood at 51.4, down from 51.5 the previous month, the agency announced. A reading above 50 in the monthly survey of companies indicates expansion. The economy has gradually recovered since the index plunged to 35.7 in February during the peak of the coronavirus outbreak in China. The world's second largest economy grew 4.9% in the three months ending Sept. 30, the second straight quarter of growth. Manufacturing employment remained in negative territory with a reading of 49.3, a decline from 49.6 in September. China has struggled to get people back to work even as the pandemic has largely receded at home.



Disney World to lay off 11,000 amid pandemic

Walt Disney World says it plans to lay off more than 11,000 unionized workers because of the new coronavirus, bringing the total number of pandemic-related job casualties at the Florida resort to almost 18,000 positions. Disney World said in a letter to state and local leaders Thursday that the 11,350 union workers — mostly part-timers — will be laid off at the end of the year. Company officials previously had said that another 6,400 nonunion Disney employees in Florida would lose their jobs. Earlier this week, 720 Disney World actors and singers were laid off since many of the live entertainment shows at the Florida resort have gone dark, according to Actors' Equity association, the labour union representing the performers.



ICICI Bank Q2 net profit rises over 6-folds to Rs 4,251 crore

ICICI Bank on Saturday reported an over six-fold jump in its standalone net profit at Rs 4,251 crore for the second quarter ended September 2020. The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 655 crore during the same period of the previous fiscal year. Total income (standalone) in July-September 2020 stood at Rs 23,650.77 crore, up from Rs 22,759.52 crore in the same period a year earlier, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing. On asset front, there was an improvement with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) falling to 5.17 per cent of gross advances as of September 30, 2020, against 5.37 per cent a year ago. In value terms, gross NPAs or bad loans stood at Rs 38,989.19 crore as against Rs 45,638.79 crore. Net NPAs fell to 1 per cent (Rs 7,187.51 crore) from 1.60 per cent (Rs 10,916.40 crore).



Relaxo Footwears Q2 profit up 6.5% at Rs 75.10 crore

Relaxo Footwears Ltd on Saturday reported an increase of 6.46 per cent in its net profit at Rs 75.10 crore in the second quarter ended September 2020. It had posted a net profit of Rs 70.54 crore in the July-September quarter last fiscal, Relaxo Footwears said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations was down 7.38 per cent to Rs 575.87 crore during the period under review as against Rs 621.77 crore in the corresponding three months of the previous fiscal. Relaxo Footwears' total expenses were at Rs 480.56 crore, down 12.48 per cent, as against Rs 549.12 crore in Q2 FY2019-20. The company's operations are almost at pre-COVID levels and the liquidity position also is quite good, said Relaxo Footwears.





WONDER KIDS

From a 16-year-old Agra-based entrepreneur to a 14-year-old who has travelled to 24 countries to an eight-year-old who has developed a mobile app to help identify everyday objects, there is no bound to young talent. MUSBA HASHMI catches up with these young guns to bring you a report of their achievements

Age no bar

At the age of 16, he is an entrepreneur and an author. He started his career when he was as young as 10 and has already seen both highs and lows. Meet Agra-based Ojas Batra, Founder and CEO of Hive Group of Companies and author of *Teenage AF*, a book that will be the torchbearer to all the readers out there and help them to adapt, improvise and step forth in life.

Take us through your journey. How did you start your career at 10?

"When I was 10, I realised that school didn't make much sense to me, as what I was learning didn't have a lot of implementation and practical application and to a certain extent was outdated. That was the reason I started experimenting and exploring practical skills that had value and were needed in the real world. I experimented with different skills and freelanced to implement my skills and understand if it is meant for me or not. While I was doing this, I stumbled upon e-commerce, specifically dropshipping when I was 12 and I was allured towards the concept so I invested some of the money that I had made through freelancing in my first store. The store failed but I understood the workings and learned a lot about marketing and e-commerce," Batra tells you.

Even after the failure, Batra didn't lose hope. He learnt from the mistakes and thought to give it another try. "I opened my second store and it succeeded beyond my expectations. I ended up having 14 successful e-commerce and selling all of them, and I left dropshipping in 2019 as I realised that it's becoming a saturated market and it is not suitable in the long-term. While I was running my e-commerce stores, I also started an EdTech startup to give back to the student community, as not everyone has the opportunity to leave school and go out of their way and

experiment with skills. My startup helped these students learn skills that I experimented with, like web development, digital marketing, content creation, 3D and VFX at an affordable price while they engage in school studies," he explains.

This startup got acquired in less than a year in 2019. "I had the option to take an investment in exchange of 25 per cent equity, but I rejected that and offered the whole startup as I realised that even though the idea was good and we were profitable, I lacked the knowledge and skills required to scale the startup. That's why after getting my startup acquired, I went on to work with multiple startups and with corporates to understand operations and skills needed to scale a company. I also started my marketing agency —



Adventurers in mid-2019. Once I had enough confidence about skills to run and scale startups, I started Teen Hive and Skill Hive, which focuses on helping teenagers develop life skills, educate them about mental health, makes sure that they have the right mindset and help them build a career road map for themselves and helps individuals do trial and error with skills like web development, data analytics, digital marketing, content creation and others," he tells you.

Ask Batra what does it take to achieve so much at such a young age and he is quick to respond — acceptance of failure and self-believe.

"In order to achieve something at any point of your life, be it as a kid, a teenager or an adult, one needs to accept failure and learn from it. Self-believe, self-analysis, persistence towards your goal, the ability to make decisions and getting the best out of it is just as important. Also one should understand the difference between criticism and hatred and learn to take it sportingly," Batra says.

His success mantra, he says, has always been to explore things out of the comfort zone and keep challenging myself.

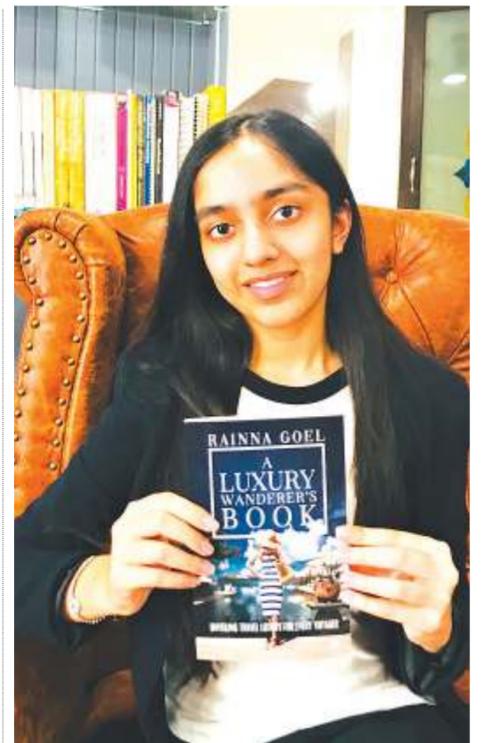
However, not every-

thing was as easy as it sounds in Batra's life. He had to struggle a lot.

"When I started my journey of learning and experimenting with skills, I had to learn everything myself with help from YouTube and Google as institutes were not willing to give admission to a ten-year-old, which ended up being a good thing as I learned the ability to do research and figure out things all by myself. I faced much criticism from my relatives, teachers and friends around, who thought that this is not my cup of tea and that my focus should be on studies at this age. This was something that made me question myself in the early days. Even when I started freelancing, I had to do many projects for free as the clients were not able to trust a 10-year-old to do their work. But I learnt from it as well. Today, I even suggest my students to do their first few projects for free to understand how things are implemented the right way. Another big challenge I faced was when I started my first company. When I hired employees, they wanted to run my company for me as they had issues working for a 14-year-old but that also gave me many learnings about why credibility matters," he tells you.

Not that Batra didn't feel like quitting. He just overcame all the fears and setbacks. "There were many instances when I felt like quitting. But I always had my parents by my side who told me to give it another try. I also realised that such situations are a significant part of entrepreneurship, and ups and downs will always be there, we just need to learn from them," he says.

He has a piece of advice for students who want to do something similar in life but are not sure of where to start from. "The important thing is that you start, not where you start, find out the skills that are needed in the world and make a list of five that you might be interested in. Start learning and implementing them, as it's all about trial and error. One last thing that I would like to mention that my mentor always says is that confusion is what leads to clarity," he tells you.



The world is her oyster

Once in a while we all must have dreamt of travelling around the world. But with age, the interest often fades away. But not for a Mumbai-based 15-year-old Rainna Goel, who is already a travel influencer, author and photographer.

"I began travelling when I was a toddler with my family for holidays during the summer and spring. That's how my love for travelling grew," she tells you.

Her first trip, she says, was to Dubai when she merely two years old. "I remember my first trip being to Dubai, UAE when I was one or two years old, the reason being a vacation. I couldn't remember much about it but it definitely added to my love for travelling and exploring the world," Goel, who has travelled to 24 countries, tells you.

Her most memorable trip, she says, was going for the Disney Cruise. "It was a cruise by Disney itself, taking us through the Scandinavian-Norwegian route. Since I was around 10, Disney always fascinated me, and being paired with travelling across seas, was the best part because as I said, exploring new destinations is something I absolutely love. It was truly a dream because Denmark and Norway were such tranquil and scintillating places," she tells you.

Taking her love for travelling to another level, Goel recently launched *A Luxury Wanderer's Book*, which is about understanding what luxury means to you, your preferred kind of travel. "The book takes you through destinations and places you've never even thought about. Right from hotels and being en vogue to going to your destination, this book covers it all," she says.

Having a travel blog for three years, writing a book was always on her cards. "I began writing my travel blog when I was 12. I showcase all my travel experiences through writing and pictures. My blog is titled *Travels A La Carte*. And having had a blog for three years, I always wanted to pen down

I REMEMBER MY FIRST TRIP, IT WAS A FAMILY VACATION IN DUBAI. I WAS ONE OR TWO YEARS OLD. I DON'T RECALL WHAT WE DID BUT IT LED TO MY LOVE FOR EXPLORING THE WORLD

a book. Hence, I stepped out of my comfort zone and inspired myself to come up with a because I was appreciated for my blog. Now, I finally had a topic I knew I was passionate about to write a book on, and so I did," she tells you.

The biggest lesson that she has learnt while travelling, she says, is to travel is to live. "I feel that every time I travel, I forget everything else and I feel like I am just living in the moment. Without this serene feeling, I don't think life is complete. And so, to travel most definitely is to live," Goel, who has recently been awarded Young Exuberant Traveller and A Budding Author by India Book of Records 2020 and nominated for the Young Author Award by The India Awaz 2020, says.

Her parents too has been extremely supportive and have always motivated her to do what she loves the most.

"I balance my time well by setting deadlines and allotting a certain amount of time to each of my chores. I prioritise the important things and balance the others. I really believe that if you want something then you automatically make time for it and because I consider writing, travelling and academics as things I love, I make time for them on my own. It doesn't feel like an added pressure at all," she tells you.

AT 8. SHE HAS AN APP OF HER OWN

If you thought that eight-year-olds are only good at making sand castles at the beach, then you are clearly mistaken. Meet Manya Singhal, a Class IV student of Suncity School, Gurguram, Haryana, who has developed a mobile application to help identify everyday objects.

The app, Pickaboo (available on Google Play Store), helps kids scan real-life objects to hear the name. The application takes a picture of the object and sends it to a Microsoft Image Processing API. Once the API returns the description, it is sent to a Translator API (based on language settings). The result is then sent to a Text to Speech Converter and a translator

engine that spells out the scanned object's name in five different languages including English, Hindi, Spanish, French and German.

"I got this idea by seeing my two-and-a-half-year-old sister who keeps on asking everyone about the objects that she comes across in daily life. And no one was patient enough to keep on repeating the names of the object until she learns to pronounce it. So I made this app to make her and other children feel independent," Singhal tells you.

It's been seven months since Singhal has been learning coding on WhiteHat Jr and the app is nothing but a result of implementation of the learnt skills.

"There were times when I



got stuck while making the app. Sometimes the design was not what was desired and sometimes the result was not perfect. That time, I took my teacher's help and solved the problem. Apart from this, there were no major problems, however the design was the most challenging part," she explains and tells you that there are a few features that she wants to add in the app. One of them being a more personalised touch to the app.

It took her around one month to make the app, the reason being it is in its simplest form. "I worked for about two hours a day on the app," she tells you.

Apart from technology, there are many things that interest Singhal. "I love doing

yoga, dance and reading books," she says.

A message that Singhal wants to give out to children of her age is that one should never try to pull down others. "There are many children who bully their classmates. Some even try to pull down others by telling them that they can't do a certain thing. Instead one should always motivate his classmates. This is the best quality one can have," she tells you.

Seeing Singhal excelling in her domain at such a young age, her parents, teachers and friends are already on cloud nine.

"Manya dedicatedly spends time teaching new things to her sister. While she loves that little routine of hers,

she was curious to create something that would not only help nurture a young child's exploratory nature but also make them self-sufficient, and the learning experience fun. We are proud of Manya for her perseverance to create this app. It's endearing that despite being a kid herself, she's trying to help other kids deal with real-life problems with the aid of technology. We will continue to encourage her to find such creative projects that contribute to her holistic development," Harsh and Shikha Singhal, Manya's parents, tell you.

Though there is no specific thing on Singhal's cards, but she is sure to make best use of technology and make her parents feel proud in future too.



TRUST IN DREAMS, FOR
IN THEM IS HIDDEN THE
GATE TO ETERNITY
—KAHLIL GIBRAN



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

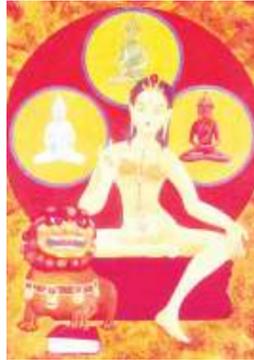
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week health will show positive changes. You will feel energetic. Your efforts regarding your health regimen are beginning to show results. You are filled with positive energy throughout the week. Those who have recovered from a serious ailment must follow-up with another check-up. On the career front, there is a wake-up call for you. You achieve success because of your creativity in a business project and gain victory by being persistent in a competitive situation. Those involved in competition are advised to keep an eye out for any fraud. On the personal front, it is important to feel free and unburdened to move ahead positively in personal aspects. This week you need to be expressive in a relationship.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This is the time when you are at your best — physically, mentally, and emotionally. Health vitality, and inner vibrancy fill you with energy and inspiration. Creative ideas will occupy your mind and make you shine. Mental peace is assured. On the career front, there could be a phase in your life which will ask to bring some desirable changes in your career. You might not be satisfied with your current job. Switching to a new job is likely. You may opt business, instead of a job. There is a possibility that you will face an uncontrolled loss of income. Do not avoid reality, if this comes about. On the personal front, you are likely to come across some analytical minds. You in a highly competitive phase. Make sure you don't engage in silly debates. Do not ignore your personal life.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Parrot Green
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will reap the results of your past efforts. Even if you are heavily stressed regarding your time and energy, take time to think positively. Remember that when you make a point to be generous — whether with time, energy, or money — that too is an investment in your future. On the career front, you may be inspired to start a new creative project. You see new potential in allowing your creativity to flow. If you are looking for a job, a suitable offer matching with your profile may surprise you. On the relationship front, if you are in love and decide to make that someone your life partner, take the approval of your parents. You will be able to maintain relations with your seniors at home and take their blessings.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you enjoy happiness, good health, and worldly pleasures. You tend to be enthusiastic. Consider carefully what others ask of you. You are inspired by everything around you. Connecting to Yoga, meditation, cosmic healing, learning new interests is on the cards. Regular walks or Yoga can be therapeutic for you this week. On the career front, some distractions are on the card. A rift over two choices may play on the mind. You must make choice between work and entertainment. It is a good time to check your priorities and responsibilities. You should act decisively for better work conditions and outputs. On the relationship front, avoid getting into moods and fads. Look hard at yourself as to whether you are being realistic with regards to love.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you may feel that your mind is working overtime. And 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 believe that what you say or what you do is right. Do not find faults in others. It is not that you don't care about others, but you connect to other people through an intellectual understanding rather than an emotional understanding. Career-wise, some good news is on the cards. Out of the blue opportunity in career may surprise you. On the personal front, fraud, clashes in love matters could be experienced this week. Lack of communication and understanding could be harmful at this point. Separation, divorce or similar situations could make you worried.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are a quiet and keen observer this week. Staying positive will change your perception about life. You feel healthier than ever. Spiritually, things will move along well, and you will be hopeful about the future. Professionally, you want your time and space and may spend time in isolation for a bit. If you are feeling exhausted and tired, now is the time to seek rest. Perhaps, the trauma of losing your job, financial and health worries, stress and conflict with your colleagues are overpowering you. You find most of the answers in your isolation, talking to yourself. Relationship-wise, the beginning of love, happiness and compassion is on the cards. Start of a new relationship, be it a friendship or a romance will bring a smile to your face.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you make efforts and enjoy the fruits of good health. If you are thinking on the lines of self-improvement, this is the best time to do so. Plan some creative work. Get busy to avoid stress. Take proper sleep, adequate rest, and a good diet. Do not hesitate to share your feelings with friends or ask for help from them. On the career front, this is a very good time to start planning long term, even if you are in your twenties. Get the career counselling; focus on your skills and potentials. Money is very likely to be headed for an upswing. On the relationship front, someone you care about may be away for a while. Existing relationship too may suffer due to lack of understanding. Conflict is likely to happen.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Health issues may crop up. You may face problems, one after another, on the health front. You need to get in touch with some health professional to understand why you are feeling this way and work to release yourself from these restrictions. Accept and surrender to your present circumstances. On the professional front, you are in mood to enjoy and want to have a blast. You may spend time to just pamper yourself and to feel good and look good. Money is not a problem. Earning will be good. This is a good time to work on home décor and spend on domestic luxury items. On the love front, messages of love and affection are likely to come your way. Your romantic aspirations are likely to get fulfilled, as you get closer to the one you secretly admire.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Running away from reality does not suit your personality. If dealing with a health problem, your health care practitioner may not be the best one to help. Consider other professionals for a review. Rejuvenate yourself in natural surroundings. Leave the stress behind. On the career front, you are ready to fix any unfinished business in your life. You are decisive and determined. You have reviewed and learnt from your past experiences. All the pieces of the puzzle of your life are finally coming together as one. On the personal front, you should listen to your mind than your heart. You find that your drive to make things happen is ignited. At home, your bossy attitude could make others irritated, and you may be left alone.

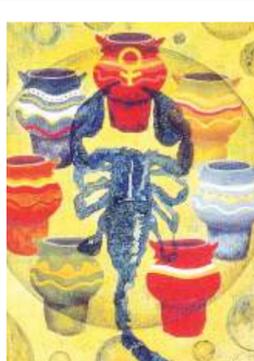
Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This is a good week. You will encounter new experiences and welcoming hosts who will embrace you and invite you into their world, no matter where you go. Everything will fall into place, and you can be one with the situation. Career-wise, an enhanced status, promotion or designation is on the cards. You can take important decision related to career or relationship, as you are very sound and grounded. You are hard-working and very focused. Expect some stressful moments today. Your abundance of energy and self-confidence will give you a boost to move ahead. On the personal front, you are charged with some extra energy. Mental force, intellectual and critical reasoning are at the peak. Romantic life remains satisfactory, but you can certainly do with some more excitement.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You can solve many problems with your wisdom. With your experience and maturity, you may be able to take hold of your life. Instead of being innovative, you need to adapt to the existing set of beliefs and systems that are already in place. Professionally, you may be your own worst enemy. Do not expect the entire system to change just because you believe it should be different. How you speak your mind is as important as what you say. Be sure that your behaviour is impeccable. Try to cut your expenses. Patience is the key to success. On the relationship front, if you're feeling suspicious for some reason about your partner, make a point to talk about this even if it's difficult. Being passive-aggressive is only going to make things worse.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You will have to make some efforts to improve your health situation. You need to exercise more under expert guidance or a nutritional expert to make sure that you are eating better. Nothing will change by wishing things were different. Take control. This can be a very creative time for you. Enjoy yourself and this play will deepen and enrich your life. Career-wise, the working environment will be friendly, consistent and that would increase your efficiency. You will enjoy working as a team and come out with productive results. You will be able to win the support of your seniors. On the relationship front, true love, commitment, and all the good things that most of us hope concerning love and relationship are easily available for you.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Astrology can be baffling

Late 2001, I entered the room of an astrologer friend. Finding him busy reading the astrological chart of somebody visiting him, I said sorry and then turned back. He stopped me from leaving and asked me for my opinion on the critical chart instead. The word critical somehow got registered firmly in my mind. So, my first attention was on looking at the criticality of the chart. After having a good look, I observed: "The person appears to be going through an unprecedented situation in life. I will not be surprised if he is faced with a criminal case of serious consequences. There seems to be a role of a woman in the whole episode, possibly his wife, who seems to have tacit support of his mother. Is somebody behind bars, I asked?"

The person who had come to seek guidance seemed baffled with such a quick observation. He looked curiously towards my astrologer friend, as if asking him whether he had shared the details with me. The astrologer friend instantly pointed out that no information had been shared. It appeared that the person could not believe his observation. He asked me: "What is the basis

of your observation?"

Well, it is very simple. Saturn the *lagna* sub-lord, representing the person concerned, is in the 5th house identified with love life. Saturn is opposite the Sun identified with government agencies as well as Venus, the planet reflecting a female and carnal desires. Cusp-wise Venus is in the 10th house identified with his profession, meaning that she would be someone associated with his works. Sun, incidentally is the 12th lord posited in the friend signifying 11th house. 12th being 8th from 5th implies that he would be put through an unprecedented situation because of some unforeseen happening to his girlfriend. Neptune in the 2nd house identified with family, is placed adverse to Saturn, Sun, mind signifying Moon and Venus. The obvious implication is that the girl's presence in his life was an embarrassment to his family members. Saturn aspects Jupiter, the 4th and 7th lord, respectively signifying the mother and wife, and which is placed adverse to Rahu and Mars. All put together makes him vulnerable to be confronted with unforeseen circumstances, difficult to withstand, when time becomes adverse.



The possibility of his wife and even his mother being involved in the process was there.

Let us now look at the transit. Saturn has moved to the 9th house, where from it extends its friendly aspect to the Sun and Venus. Remember, if planets are placed adverse to each other in the birth chart, whenever they become supportive to each other during transit, they join hands to create mischief. Incidentally, Mars in transit is passing through the 3rd house, opposite transit Saturn, its dire enemy, thus, creating ground for some criminal offence.

In the *dasha chakra*, he was running Mars *dasha* and Rahu *antardasha*. Mars being lord of 3rd house (one's own initiatives and dealings) and 8th house (great difficulties) remains the most disadvantageous planet for the Virgo born native. Mars is in the 12th house in his birth chart. It points to loss of reputation and unforeseen expenses, as well as serious difficulty to his love life, if any in existence. Mars is placed adverse to Rahu in the birth chart. Rahu occupies the constellation owned by Jupiter in the 7th house, which again is opposite Mars. It implies that the partner's fire will get so much enraged that she may

lose sense of reasons and direction. So, Mars — Rahu period had to put him through challenging situation. In progression chart, the *lagna* had touched Neptune of the birth chart, which was placed adverse to Venus which made him susceptible to be faced with unforeseen circumstances.

The person concerned was satisfied with my detailed explanation, which saved my astrologer friend the embarrassment of being charged with breach of trust. He then asked: "When do I get out of this shit?" "The situation may begin to ease out soon, most likely beginning October 12, when sub-sub period of Venus begins. For, Venus being lord of 2nd (union with family) occupies the constellation owned by Mercury in the 11th house identified with fulfilment of desires.

It was later revealed that his wife and mother could not digest his relationship with a lady colleague. Later his love mate was murdered. And his wife had been arrested on the charge of having conspired the brutal murder of that woman.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Maya: The ultimate illusion

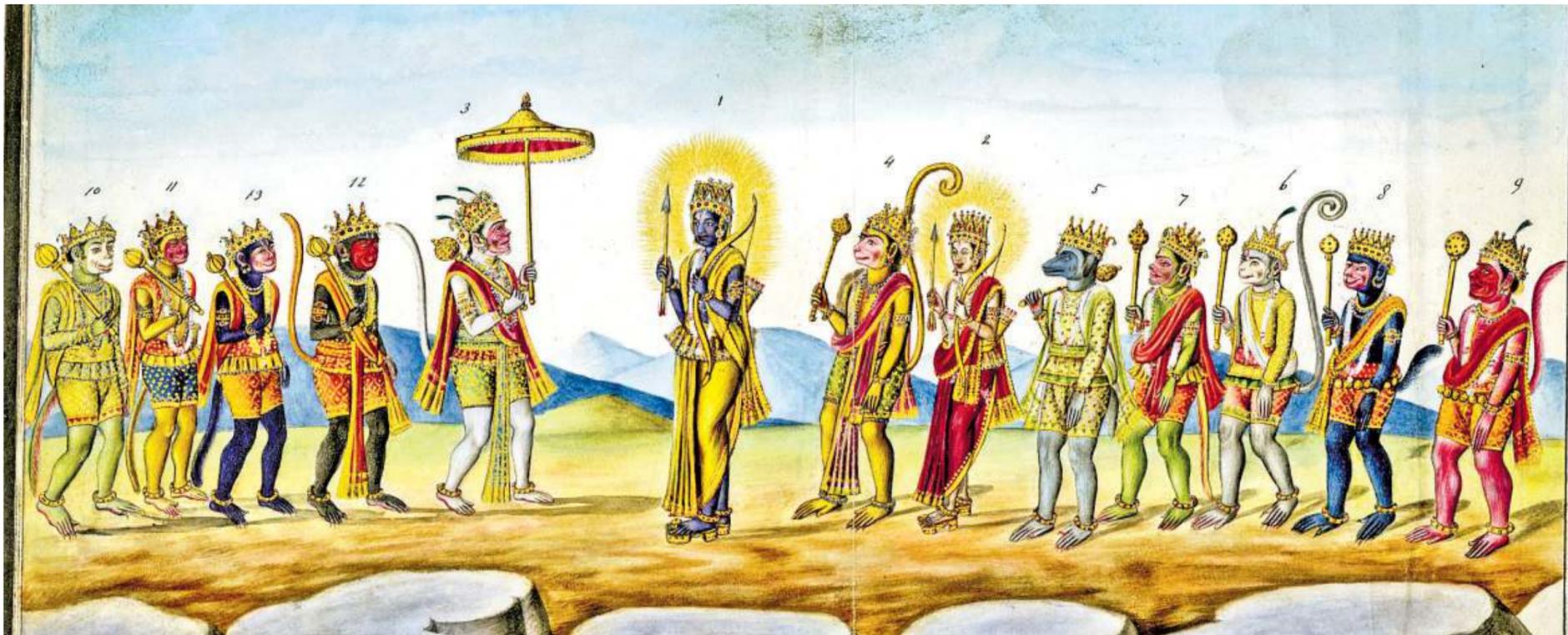
The essence of spirituality was summarised by Adi Shankaracharya in one page. Over time, we learnt to associate it with *maya*

10



Shabana Azmi's talent is wasted here

Whatever you're going through in your life, don't ever give up — Mariah Carey



BEING RAM: THE RELEVANCE OF THE RAMAYANA TODAY

Whether we choose to draw inspiration from Valmiki's original work or from Tulsidas's worshipful rendition, the fact is that the legend of prince Ram lives in us. It is kept alive because of our anxieties, writes MADHAVI S MAHADEVAN

Even with an abundance of religious festivals, thirty-six at a conservative estimate, *Vijaydashmi* or Dussehra has remained special. Marking the end of *Navratri*, it celebrates the victory of good over evil. A double victory — of the goddess Durga over the buffalo demon Mahishasura and of the legendary prince Ram over Raavan, the ten-headed king of Lanka. Anyone who has witnessed the burning of the enormous effigies of Raavan, his two *rakshasa* brothers, Kumbhakarna and Meghnad, cannot forget the high-octane drama that is a fitting finale to the preceding nine nights when one of the world's oldest epics, the *Ramayana*, is dramatised in parts of North India as the *Ramlila*.

Attributed to the sage Valmiki, composed between 200 BCE-200 CE, the *Ramayana* (Ram's Journey), a 24,000 verse poem in Sanskrit, is one of ancient India's principal literary works, a cornerstone of art and culture in, not just the subcontinent, but across Southeast Asia. The story, compressed, is about Ram, a righteous, dutiful prince, who struggles to rescue his wife Sita from the clutches of her abductor, Raavan.

Ram's difficulties, however, begin much earlier, on the eve of his coronation when, due to the machinations of his stepmother, he is exiled for fourteen years. The couple go to the forest accompanied by Ram's younger brother Lakshman. When both brothers spurn the overtures of the *rakshasi* Surpanakha, she incites her brother Raavan, the all-powerful king, who abducts Sita and imprisons her on his distant island kingdom. In his efforts to rescue Sita, Ram is helped by the armies of the monkey king Sugreev, and his minister Hanuman. A terrible battle follows, Raavan is killed. Reunited with Sita, Ram returns to Ayodhya to assume kingship.

While Valmiki planted the tree, the *Ramayana*, with over 300 transcriptions, has grown into a forest. Among its offshoots in the Gangetic plain is the *Ramcharitmanas*. Composed by the 16th century Vaishnava saint, Tulsidas, the *chaupais* (quatrain verses of poetry popular in the medieval period) in *Awadhi bhasha*, are still recited in Hindu homes. Whereas high literary quality marks Valmiki's work, the *Ramcharitmanas* is regarded as a 'holy book'; Ram occupies a pedestal as *maryada purushottam*, the man who practised righteousness to perfection.

While its piety has given comfort to many, the *Ramcharitmanas* has also inspired a colourful annual ritual, the *Ramlila*, a theatrical event of immense popularity that had its first performance, it is said, in Varanasi around 480 years ago. Later, as Hindu immigrants crossed overseas, the *Ramlila* tradition travelled to Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. Within India, although the *Ramayana*

has versions in several regional languages, *Ramlila* performances are almost exclusive to the north.

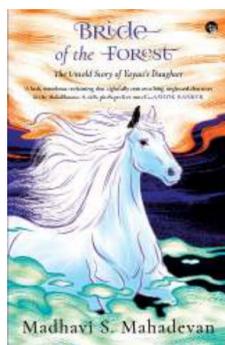
The story's episodic structure lends itself to enactment. Individual episodes bear titles like *Van Gaman* (Departure for the Forest), *Sita Apharan* (The Kidnapping of Sita), *Lanka Dahan* (The Burning of Lanka), *Raavan Vadh* (The Killing of Raavan). Though similar to the original, these amateur dramatisations can be a purist's worst nightmare come true. Using local talent for every aspect of the production — from lights and music to scripting, direction and acting — they frequently combine Bollywood style entertainment. Songs, dances and over-the-top dialogues are interspersed with reiterations of the messages of the *Ramcharitmanas*.

For instance, in the scene where Surpanakha makes overtures to Ram and Lakshman, she may sashay onstage to the song *Yeh mera dil pyaar ka diwana* (from the film *Don*). The next episode, showing the decadence of Lanka, may have the demon king, dressed in black and gold, quaffing wine and regaling his inebriated court with Urdu poetry. Zing is added to speech through rhyming, as when Hanuman proclaims his loyalty to Ram: *Hanuman aapka wafadaar hei, sahayata karne ko taiyaar hei*.

The didactic quality of the *Ramcharitmanas*, the razzmatazz of the *Ramlila* have contributed to the legend's popularity, but, in the last hundred years, movie-making has become instrumental in the spread of the meta-narrative. Dadasaheb Phalke who made India's first film, *Raja Harishchandra* (1913) also made *Lanka Dahan* (1917). However, the credit for, arguably, the most accomplished and, in their time, extremely successful screen adaptations of the epic belongs to Vijay Bhatt who made *Bharat Milap* (1942) and *Ram Rajya* (1943). The latter, supposedly, was one of the two films that Mahatma Gandhi ever watched. In recent times, the crown for record viewership goes to the televised version of the *Ramayana*, first aired in 1987 and, more recently, in April 2020 when it garnered, according to Doordarshan, 7.7 crore viewers. Following the re-tecast, the social media was inundated with memes and discussions, such as Manthara being voted the world's favourite villain, proving that the story is evergreen.

This begs the question: What does the legend of Ram offer modern audiences?

Among millennials, age bracket 25-40 years, the oldest were children when the 1987 telecast kept entire families glued to their TV sets. In subsequent years, as the country shed its socialist image and opted for more liberal economic policies, they entered the job market. Better educated than previous generations, internet-savvy, they have preferred the rapid growth promised by the private sector, irrespective of frequent job



WHAT MAKES THE RAMAYANA, IN PARTICULAR, INTERESTING IS THE WAY IT HUMANISES ITS HERO RAM: AS A MAN WHO, EVEN AT THE WORST OF TIMES, CHOOSES TO MAINTAIN HIS COMPOSURE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ACTS WITH INTELLIGENCE, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT. THE LIFE LESSONS ARE CUSTOM-MADE FOR INDIAN REALITIES, PREDICATED ON THE NOTION THAT THE LIFE YOU LIVE ISN'T ALWAYS THE ONE YOU WANT, BUT THE ONE YOU ARE GIVEN

changes, over the slow-but-stable progression of government employment. Leveraging technology in the pursuit of their professional and personal aspirations, they have focussed on creativity and value-addition. Economically better off than their parents, owning a home and a car has become de rigeur, as has been affording their children a more comfortable lifestyle.

While the family remains a core concern, millennials are aware that having more choices has improved their quality of life. However, they are wary of being trapped by the 'hedonic treadmill'. While increased awareness of the world has meant that they are more individualistic in their choices, there is a concern about the environment, a respect for diversity, a growing egalitarianism. Articulate on social media, they are ready, through collective power, to generate dissent over societal ills, to push for change.

However, as newer realities emerge, hope has given way to anxiety. The economic slowdown, hugely exacerbated by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, has already led (according to a CMIE report) to 21 million salaried job losses. In these circumstances, difficult decisions need to be taken. As disquiet builds up and a certain amount of introspection is inevitable, the legend of Ram becomes less about myth and more about examining the civilisational values it propagates.

Whether we choose to draw inspiration from Valmiki's original work or from Tulsidas's worshipful rendition, the fact is that the legend lives in us. Just as it nurtures us, it is kept alive because of our anxieties. As audiences of longstanding, we are in the narrative, seeing something of ourselves in its characters and something identifiable about them in us. What makes the *Ramayana*, in particular, interesting is the way it humanises its hero Ram: as a man who, even at the worst of times, chooses to maintain his composure and, consequently, acts with intelligence, courage and commitment. The life lessons are custom-made for Indian realities, predicated on the notion that the life you live isn't always the one you want, but the one you are given.

Ergo, opting to conduct oneself with dignity, decency and decorum is praiseworthy. It starts with the awareness of *dharma* — knowing what one's duty is to oneself, family and society. The advice, though not always simple, is sound: follow the path of truth and righteousness, work for unity within the family and in society, respect diverse cultures, use your judgement to filter good advice from bad, don't speak ill of others, keep your word, control your senses if you want to avoid sorrow, be compassionate. Understand that life can change its course in a split second; accept what you cannot control but do your best, via the right attitude and action, to deal with it. Finally, it is adversity that brings one closer to the Self.

While the wisdom of these tenets is respected, there are aspects of the legend that make millennials uncomfortable. (Devotees are different as they see all Ram's actions as godly acts.) There are three instances when Ram's behaviour appears questionable: the deceitful killing of Vali, the killing of the Shambuka, the *shudra* ascetic who performed *tapas* and the rejection of Sita. The last two appear in the seventh chapter of the *Ramayana*, *Uttara Kanda*, believed to be a later addition. Ram's treatment of Sita, in particular, is condemned. Nothing new in that: through folk narratives, women have always shown sympathy with Sita's pain.

However, millennials' views, focussed on the injustice, are gender neutral. Says Teesta, a thirty-five-year old Food Quality and Supply Chain Management professional, 'The *agni-pariksha* Sita had to undergo was uncalled for... synonymous with the disrespect and distrust of a man towards his wife. The foundation of any relationship is trust. Ram misjudged and misconstrued his wife to defeat this very basis. He is a man of principles, an ideal son and brother, but not perfect — not in today's context.'

Sanjay Rao, a thirty-year-old commercial pilot differs. 'He was the ideal man, but the people he ruled were not. It was they who made the allegations. As their king he had to take notice and act... though he sent Sita away to the forest, he remained constant to her, in an age when kings were allowed several wives.'

A third view is articulated by Tilak, a thirty-six year old investment banker: 'The trial-by-fire, though unpleasant, established Sita's blamelessness, but casting her away, because of a smear campaign, is unacceptable... She was pregnant at the time... If he felt that his credentials as a ruler were under a shadow, he could have considered stepping down, asked Bharat to continue, as he had been regent for fourteen years, or appointed Lakshman. That would have been more honourable and taught his people a well-deserved lesson.'

Epics are relevant for the questions they raise. While these don't change, every age finds new answers. Mythological time being immutable, we celebrate the victory of good over evil with every Dussehra, and welcome the victor home with every Diwali. Perhaps, as this year's *diyas* are lit, it's time to acknowledge that *Ram rajya* — a society built on virtues, morality and fairness — is what we create.

The writer is an author. She has recently published 'Bride of the Forest: The Untold Story of Yajati's Daughter' with Speaking Tiger Books



IF WE CHOOSE, WE CAN
LIVE IN A WORLD OF
COMFORTING ILLUSION
— NOAM CHOMSKY

THE ULTIMATE ILLUSION

The essence of spirituality was summarised by Adi Shankaracharya in one page. But, over time, we learnt to associate it with the word *maya*, says HINGORI

What is *maya*? Well the word literally means illusion, but what does it entail? The answer lies in the question when you realise that there is only one true reality. So, what is this reality? As stated countless times over in ancient scriptures and by sages, proved again by the intellectuals of today, what we perceive as reality and definite around us, isn't truly so. And if you believe this, then *maya* too is *maya*! It is a play of our mind.

The 'one reality' I spoke of can only be called so if it can be defined and if that definition remains constant. But, nothing is constant. Quantum physics explains this using the fourth dimension, time, which is ever changing. Since every object, molecule and atom is defined by at least four dimensions if not more, one of them being time, then everything is constantly changing, and nothing is ever really the same.

Let's dive deeper into the scriptures. They say there is only one true reality, although known by several names — the *Brahman*, the infinite consciousness or the consciousness supreme. It exists beyond the physical realm we perceive to be the truth. It experiences no emotions, nothing is right or wrong. Simply put, it is the state of nothingness. At this point, you are probably challenging the veracity of this idea of the 'reality' as you feel the mobile phone in your hand, hear the sounds of activity around you. The idea of 'nothingness' being reality seems ridiculous, but it truly isn't. Imagine you dozed off and found yourself dreaming of mountains and rivers, fresh green forests, the wind, people. In the dream, you were deeply engrossed in the conversations and pleasure, peace and excitement, the view, the sensations. When you wake up that dream dissolves and along with it every sensation. That is what *maya* is. The physical world we live in is really only a dream. We are merely reflections and mirages that have conversations; feel pain, anxiety, happiness and love; eventually only to 'wake up' to the reality that is nothingness. It is this state of illusion that the scriptures state we are living in.

A question arises here, why does it all feel so real if it isn't, and if it is just a dream, how are we all living the same one? This is a tricky concept to understand. There is a fitting quote I once read in the *Yog Vashisht*. "The world is a stage, the mind is its magical actor, the soul is a silent spectator watching the show in the light of its own intellect." The consciousness supreme is an infinite reality that remains absolutely still, neither expanding nor shrinking, while our minds are smaller, finite entities. The infinite reality reflects itself in



the finite entity creating the 'dream' we all live in. Since it is one supreme consciousness reflecting itself onto all our minds that creates the dream we see or the world we live in, each of us dreams the same dreams, so to say. Imagine you have an empty pot of clay. What does it contain? Nothing to some, and to some it holds air. What surrounds this pot? Again, nothing, or perhaps air. Now if you break this pot, the air within merges with that outside and you see no difference. The pot here is *Maya*. It separates the finite from the infinite creating an illusion that they are disjointed when in reality they are the same, they are one.

It may seem terrifying to abandon everything you've ever believed and accept that we are just characters of a dream; and that what we feel, we don't really feel and what we see, we don't really see. The question arises, how does one achieve this awakening?

As explained by Guru Vashisht, the path to this wisdom lies with the four gatekeepers at the entrance to the realm of freedom, *mukti* or *moksha*. These are self-control, self-enquiry, contentment and good company.

The quest for the eternal, unchanging freedom is achieved through the conquest of one's mind because in wis-

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dom there is self-control and peace. It is not attained by rites, rituals or pilgrimages. Self-control is the conquest of the mind where you can look within and accept yourself as you are, seeing the divinity within you. It is about being emotionless, without compromising on empathy. If there is peace and serenity, there will always be anger and the same goes for happiness and pain. Emotions can be compared with a saw. The best place to sit is at the centre on the fulcrum. It is indeed difficult for those who give in to temptations and lean towards their cravings. However, with the right effort and guidance this effort yields unparalleled results that cannot be experienced by only the five senses.

Self-enquiry or *gyan* is a process of clearing the ignorance and delusion. Once clear, they are unaffected by the going-ons in the world. You find peace and bliss — peace because nothing touches you and bliss because the heart experiences the truth. It is enquiry that gives freedom from delusion and detachment. There is no limit to the curiosity that unleashes when you look within and begin to recognise the divinity within you. The biggest question for which you seek an answer is "Who am I?" — You are the supreme

consciousness and the supreme consciousness is you. But this is a discussion for another time.

The company of righteous, wise and enlightened people expands the intellect helping you eschew ignorance and psychological distress. While it takes time to really understand the truth and even longer to realise it, stimulating conversations keep our minds open and receptive. It is said that *satsang* (good company) is superior to all forms of religious practices like charity, austerity, pilgrimage and the performance of religious rites.

It requires significant will and perseverance to achieve all four of the above gatekeepers. You will realise, the moment you embark on this path, that everything will start coming together for you, just as a frame of a jigsaw puzzle helps finding the pieces within it. Having said this, unfortunately these gatekeepers come with no guaranteed outcomes even though they assure your journey in the right direction — so in the absence of milestones, at least you will have a compass. This path is one of faith, perseverance and acceptance.

But the first step to achieving any of the gatekeepers is recognising the concept of *maya*. An easy way is this, you say: "Good morning, *maya*" every day as you begin your day, knowing that what follows will all exist within *maya*. As you go through your day, each time you receive a bout of awareness and remember that you are living in *maya*, say out loud, "oops, *maya* once again". Do this every time you find yourself wrapped in emotions too. As time goes by, and if you do this sincerely of course, you will find yourself aware of your existence being within *maya* about a hundred times a day, it becomes a habit, a part of your everyday life.

As it is for everything in life, you must believe in the realm beyond *maya* to be able to recognise it, there are no halfway houses. It is easier said than done. For all you know, it could be a bedtime story for children, born in another time. A story perhaps you may see it as, however it is far removed from fiction. Yet even in the scriptures they have factored in that those who are living in ignorance may discard the learning. And so I recommend you trust their experience and embark on your journey, then trust your instincts. Be aware of subtle shifts that may occur — perhaps some coincidences, sensations that defy conventional logic, perhaps behaviour shifts without any context or even a call out of the blue. Notice the patterns, make the connections between seemingly random events, and you will know that you are on the right path.

The writer is the author of Hingori Sutras series of spiritual books



HIDDENSOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

As we enter the last lap



Living with Coronavirus has been a part of our life for months now and despite many proposed solutions, the question how to deal with the pandemic still remains unanswered. But one thing that we all must realise is that this is certainly going to come to an end. And probably in the next few months. It is this hope that has to be nursed even if reports suggest that there is a second surge or a third surge or whatever. Yes, we have all reached the end of the tether and this is a worrisome trend. Already we are witnessing desperate steps being taken by many as anxieties are taking their toll on reason. Even the slightest trigger leads to explosion in many cases. What we need to remember is that though our patience is wearing out, that is the one thing we need today to survive in these difficult times. Even if our mind is getting wayward, there is need to exercise maximum patience. Mind is the issue and we have to tame the mind. Our predicament is like that of a long distance runner into his last lap. It is this last lap that creates maximum anxiety and coping with this anxiety is the most important requirement in order to win. If we let our patience wear out in the last lap and commit blunder out of sheer frustration, we stand to lose. This is what is happening. Out of sheer desperation, people are throwing all caution to winds. It has to be understood that maximum caution is needed in this last lap. The lifestyle disruption that stretched rather long has now reached the brink. While the festive season tempts us to venture out, the last round calls for extreme caution. The *mantra*, then should be to celebrate with care in the present times. As roads and streets are getting overcrowded, social distancing has gone for a toss. People are coming out in droves and masks seem to be a forgotten habit. This may prove dear. The protocols that we were following in the earlier days of the pandemic still need to be followed, rather, more so. Complacency may be dangerous. It is going to be a test of human patience. This patience comes from faith. Faith that we shall survive. It seems as if people are losing faith and embracing recklessness. It is not just a question of one's own life. It is putting life of others to jeopardy. The fight against coronavirus is a war of attrition and more than strategy, the resilience is needed. The battle can be won by default, that is to hang around doggedly. True, the present generation did not experience a situation like this, but that is no reason for not acquiring mental toughness. Our lifestyle changed drastically in the last few decades. As we outsourced everything, our metamorphosis from human beings to couch potatoes of television era to mouse potatoes of computer era and then to slouch potatoes of the social media is complete. A large section of humanity has forgotten the basic problem solving skills, the thinking mind has become a vestige. Even small problems appear big. It is time to reinvent, rather rediscover human potential and practice the art of hanging around in crisis. Patience in the wake of adversity is the best solution. Staying on the wicket was what good cricketers adopted when chips were down. Life, after all, is a test match, not a T-20. So play defensively, on the backfoot.

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Stop complaining, act now

There will always be stuff in life beyond one's control, that would divert and derail them from the goal. All one has to do is stay focused, says NANDAN GAUTAM

Krish looked hassled while filling the exit clearance form. It was his last working day in the organisation. I thought it was the pain of documentation that was troubling him.

"So Krish, what next?" I asked. "I don't have anything in hand. I am leaving because the manager and organisation did not bother to solve my problems," Krish said. His response was cold. I could sense frustration, anger and aggression in his tone as well as in his body language.

Significant learning that I have gained working as an HR Professional is to let

people talk their heart out. Krish, it turned out, had hundreds of points to complain about. For Krish, everything was wrong, everyone was wrong, but Krish himself.

This incident took me back to an important lesson I learned before my graduation. January of 2000, after my last paper for medical entrance (MBBS), I was sure that my dream of becoming a doctor would remain a dream. I was not going to make it this year too.

From the time I started preparations, I used to dread the competitive landscape of medical entrance. Two thousand-odd seats out of four lakh applicants; it was tough. "Ordinary people like me can never crack these exams," I used to tell myself. That day too, with my mind full of excuses, I came back home where an uncle, who happened to be a doctor himself, asked me about the exam. I vented out my frustrations, which was a long list. When I was done, my uncle asked me a question that changed my life. "Ketan, how many seats do you need?" he asked. "One," I responded.

"The go get it, stop giving yourself excuses," he said. That is when I understood that there will

always be stuff beyond my control. Things to divert me, derail me; but I have to stay focused. I should not care and spend energies on things outside my circle of influence. There is nothing, you or I can do to change the things beyond my circle of influence.

We tend to wait for that perfect moment when we wish that everything would fall in place. And when that happens, we will give it our best shot. That never happens. Look back at your life, you will get your answers.

Three years after this hit me, I completed my graduation with a gold medal, got through merit-based M.Sc courses and studied at one of the best B schools in India.

I changed, the way I looked at the world changed; so did the results. That is why perhaps I could relate with what Krish was undergoing. While he had his problem statement, I could see the answers lying within him. Krish was in the "Why me" zone. He had to shift to "How to" and "What next" for things to change. He just had to accept things that were outside his circle of influence and commit to focusing on what was within his circle of influence.

We all have been in this situation. Ask the following ques-

tions to yourself when stuck in a similar situation:

- What facts or signals have you been ignoring or turning a blind eye to? Did you reach where you are in a day or over-time?

- What could you have done differently when you first realised the problem?

- What new did you learn about yourself from the situation?

- What are you going to lose if you stay like this and don't change?

- What is that one thing you will do today? What will be that one small action you can take today to move forward?

Remember, you and only you are responsible for where you are in your career. Own up your current state, establish where you want to be, have an action plan. Results will follow!

Otherwise, you can choose to wait for that perfect moment when all the variable of the world will come into perfect alignment and make way for you to act and succeed.

Krish waited for sixteen years, how long are you going to wait?

The writer is an HR practitioner, a coach, an author, and a speaker

God is a friend, but...

Bhagwad Gita is an excellent guide to learn what kind of relationship one should have with God, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

God is our friend. Lord Krishna states this fact in the verse #5.24 of the *Bhagwad Gita*. However, we shouldn't make the same mistake as Arjuna did, for which he had to apologise profusely to the Lord. (11.42) How do we deal with our friends? Who do we choose as a friend? My understanding in this matter is to divide people in three categories. Those, who are superior to us should be treated with respect. Those equal to us should be treated as friends. And those inferior to us should be treated with compassion.

Based on this yardstick, God cannot be chosen as a friend, because, He is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient, whereas we are His parts. (15.7) Similarly, our dealings with our friends will leave much to be desired if we adopt the same attitude towards God. Arjuna had to seek forgiveness for joking with the Lord, the moment he realised who God actually was.

In fact, *Gita* is an excellent guide to learn what kind of relationship one should have with God. The very first requirement is to follow God's instructions. Personally, I find my nature to be a deterrent. Because I wish to become exceedingly dear to God. (12.20) I am trying to get linked with God in many ways. (14.26) I try to chant "Ram" throughout the day. When I am not chanting, I try to remember Him, which is quite frequent, because my life is centered around God.

I don't know if I have become a regular practitioner of yoga as described in the verse #9.22, but I am trying to get there. My wife and I have been worshipping God in His *Laddu Gopal* form for more than three decades. (9.29) We have a regular *pooja ghar* in our residence. We don't worship God as is done in a regular temple, which is quite elab-



orate, but we honour God and feel His presence. Regarding taking shelter with God as instructed by Lord Krishna in the verse #18.62, I am trying to follow God's instructions in the verse #18.65, in which He states that we should develop God consciousness, become His devotee, make sacrifices for Him and offer obeisance to Him.

I try to be as devoted to God (8.22) as my nature permits. Fighting my nature is a big battle for me, because changing my nature has not been easy. I believe that this is a common problem. There is a popular saying which goes like this: "Nature and signature don't change." They do if we are determined.

Lord Krishna has spoken about four kinds of virtuous people, who worship God (7.16) These are: a distressed person, an inquisitive man, a seeker of truth and a wise person. I find myself in all the four categories. In this "*dukhalaya*" (place of miseries) (8.15), there are plenty of occasions when I feel dis-

tressed. Sure enough I turn to God for guidance and help. Who else can do that better. Fortunately, I am never disappointed; My Lord does respond; He helps. I have plenty of material needs and who else other than God to turn to.

Being a writer, I need to learn more spiritual truths for which I surely have to turn to God; He gives me realisations. And after more than two decades of writing, I can consider myself somewhat of a wise man, whom God uses as an instrument, empowering me to write.

To sum it up, I can state with conviction that God is indeed a friend but not in the conventional sense; He is more like a well-wisher. This became clear to Arjuna, when Lord Krishna preached to him from the verse #18.64 to 18.72. Similarly, I am under no illusion that I can treat God as a friend. Being a part of God, I am more than happy to remain that only.

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HOME THEATRE

Shabana Azmi's talent is wasted here



KAALI KHUHI
Netflix
*ing: Shabana Azmi, Sanjeeda Sheikh, Riva Arora, Satyadeep Misra, Leela Samson, Hetvi Bhanushali
Rated: 5/10

Just because there is a ghost in the movie, it doesn't make it scary. Sadly, most horror films are based on two premises — either the things that go bump in the night are flesh eating ugly as sin, (remember Ramsay Brothers ghosts?), blood dripping creatures or the ghost is just out for revenge. In *Kaali Khuih*, it is the latter. This means that there are bodies that are falling left, right and centre and nothing else much.

It is another matter that Terrie Samundra, who has written and directed this one, has added a rather sad and horrible reason for this ghost to take revenge — female foeticide.

The positives here are the subject of the film, which is hard-hitting and the atmosphere that Samundra has

managed to create — a non-descript village in Punjab, the sprawling fields, the early morning mist, the heavy rains and a well that has non-existent water.

All this adds to the creepiness. Beyond this, there is nothing much here that will hold one's interest as the first half will leave one wondering what is happening.

It is only after 45 minutes into the film that one will get some clarity which makes one wonder why such a long build up?

Even Shabana Azmi's talents are wasted here. There is nothing much for her to do here but appear to be part scared about what is coming and part trying to appear that all is well in a village that has a horrible practice of throwing newborn girl child into a well.

Hence the title *Kaali Khuih*. Despite this, she is the one who holds the film together. Overall, a watchable movie.

— Shalini Saksena

Cute, sweet and fun

HOLIDATE
Netflix
*ing: Emma Roberts, Luke Bracey, Manish Dayal, Frances Fisher
Rated: 6/10

Are you the kind of person who loves to watch rom-coms with happily-ever after? If the answer is a resounding yes, then *Holidate* is a movie that is right up your alley even though we know how it is going to end. While there is nothing new that the movie has to offer — a single girl who is heart-broken and the family pushing her to date and parades a slew of eligible men — yet the way the movie progresses, it is sweet, cut and fun to watch even though we as Indians may not subscribe to the concept. Our mothers on the other hand, may have a totally different take on this.

Nothing gets you going like watching a romance film with clear undertones of comic timing even if there are a couple of moments that

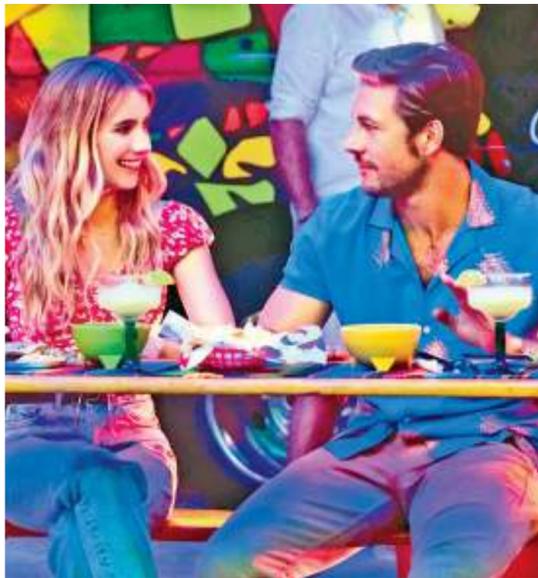
will make one cringe or blush given whether one is a prude or is open-minded.

Believe it or not, a romantic movie is definitely what we need in these testing times. *Holidate* will leave the viewer feeling warm and fuzzy however cliched the story may be.

Emma Roberts as Sloane is cute and shines here. However, one didn't have to show the other women around her to be weird or strange. Take an example: Her aunt, a cougar, who will go after any man even the man Sloane's mother has chosen has her intended. But however weird or strange these other women may be, they are fun to watch as they meander through the film. They add the fun element to the movie.

Luke Bracey, Jackson, plays the Hensworthy charm with aplomb to Roberts' aversion to crowds and dressing up. Together they look cute making this film watchable.

— Shalini Saksena



The horror is in your head



HIS HOUSE
Netflix
*ing: Wunmi Mosaku, Sope Dirisu, Matt Smith
Rated: 5.5/10

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you committed a crime and the evil followed you home and made a home for itself in your head? The result would be devastating and the guilt would eventually eat one alive and kill in the end. *His House* is not your typical horror movie where the ghost goes bump in the night to scare you away. This ghost has an agenda — an eye for an eye — death for death. And it all begins with the couple fleeing from war-torn Sudan and seeking asylum in Britain.

How does one win against the ghost that is in one's head? How does one move forward and live with what one did just so that he and his wife could flee and survive while many

from his village died? These are some of the questions that haunt the house where this couple lives. In that sense is it really the house that is haunted? Is the couple really the 'good people' like the husband keeps repeating so that they can stay in Britain and not be sent back?

His House explores all these questions with the haunting and horror explodes around the husband. He does his best to blend in — wears grays, eats with fork and knife instead of hands and insists he is home here in Britain. All the while, the wife wants to go back to Sudan even at the cost of letting the ghost take her husband in exchange for the little girl she lost.

Do the couple manage to overcome their differences? Are they finally at peace with themselves? Has ghost been vanquished? Watch this one.

— Shalini Saksena

TELLY TALE

MANISH KHANNA GOES BALD

Zee TV has presented several successful shows over the past 27 years and won its audience over with out-of-the-box and extraordinary content. Now, yet another compelling narrative is set to take the channel's audience on a trip full of fantasy with the second season of its immensely successful and intriguing show *Brahmarakshas*. Produced by Balaji Telefilms, the show will feature popular television actress Nikki Sharma alongside Pearl V. Puri essaying the lead characters of the show. Featuring alongside them will be the popular TV actor Manish Khanna, who is yet again all set to stun viewers with his impressive dedication towards his work and performance in a new role.

Essaying the character of a *tantric*, Manish is a notable name in the television industry and is known for playing varied positive as well as negative characters across a span of shows. Last seen essaying the negative character of Dushyant in *Kumkum Bhagya*, the actor has once again bagged another grey role, the preparations for which seem to be quite high and intense. Bowing to the needs and demands of his character, Manish decided to spot a clean bald look in order to bring out the best of his role.



Talking about the preparations that went in, the actor said: "My character has an evil shade to it which we felt was very necessary to depict in my appearance. From beards to moustaches to different wigs, we must have tried something like 15-20 looks before I finally decided to just drop the whole extra effort and go completely bald. And that worked very well! In fact, the appearance was much scarier than we imagined, and it perfectly reflects the character. I am quite content with this decision because I believe that adding fake touches to one's look doesn't showcase authenticity. Moreover, I feel they cause a hindrance to my performance as well and currently I am extremely comfortable shooting with this look."

While Manish is all set to once again channel the evildoer within him for his new role, *Brahmarakshas 2* will depict the journey of an ordinary young girl — Kalindi, whose destiny gets entwined with an evil force and a drastic twist of fate has her drawing all her inner strength to combat the wicked *Brahmarakshas*. Set against the backdrop of Songadh, while the latter garners its strength from kidnapping brides on the day of their wedding and casting a dark spell over the town, Kalindi's only source of strength is her love for her partner, Angad (played by Pearl V. Puri). As she navigates and manoeuvres her way through the world of evil and her own ordinary life, Kalindi finds herself fighting a tough battle to protect the people she truly cares for!

DAYA BEN ON INDIA'S BEST DANCER

Sony Entertainment Television's dance reality show has raised the dance competition quotient high with exceptional dance performances, especially with the finale getting closer. This weekend will be



super fun with Taarak Mehta special episode where the whole cast of *Taarak Mehta Ka Oltah Chashma* will be seen enjoying the performances as well as celebrating 3000 episodes of the show. While Daya Ben was definitely missed, after looking at the performance of Rutuja Junnarkar and choreographer Ashish Patil on the song *Baby Doll*, everyone was surprised with Rutuja's next to real portrayal of Daya Ben!

Rutuja Junnarkar who hails from Pune stunned everyone when she performed her act as Daya Ben. Jethalal aka Dilip Joshi was left speechless, he said: "For a second I thought that Disha ji (Daya Ben) was dancing here. The way she entered the stage and danced, it was exactly how Disha Vakhani enacts. From the outfit and small nuances that they kept in mind during their performance, I really believed that Disha ji is performing here."

Asit Kumarr Modi who was so impressed with the performance, said: "Kya expression hai! Jab expression ke saath dance hota hai to bohot mazza aata hai. Jo garba ke saath saath aapne beech main alag alag steps kiye hain, jo aksar humari daya Bhabhi karti hain... kuch karte karte alag jagah par beh jaati hain. Main aaj is manch se ek cheez leke jaana chahta hu — aap ye Daya Bhabhi (Rutuja) ko humare show main de dijiye!" Amidst huge fanfare

and applause, Asit Modi continued: "Humare Disha Vakhani ne jo mehnat ki thi ye kirdaar ke liye, aur aaj bhi hum sab mehsos kar rahe hain, unki kami humare show main, toh agar kabhi bhi aisa laga, to main aap se (Rutuja) gujarish karunga... kya lagta hai jetha bhai?" To which Dilip Joshi was quick to respond: "Full marks! Chalo ek chota audition le hi lo... mauka bhi hai aur dastoor bhi!"

Geeta Kapur said: "I was about to ask Ashish after the act why did he not bring Rutuja on the stage as I only saw Daya Bhabhi dancing. Daya's character is very important and strongly played by Disha Vakhani, her body language, the way she brought out her jaw to get into the character, she is not like that but she literally put life into that character. I still love the fact that she has gone to her *maayke* and has not yet come back and till date *aapne unki jagah kisi ko nahi di. Aur agar aap ye offer kar rahe hai Rutuja ko*, then I am very grateful. Rutuja, *aapki mehnat zaroor rang layegi. Yeh mehnat na*, has to pay off some day."

On Asit Kumarr Modi's request, since the entire team has been waiting for an opportunity to see *garba* played by Jethalal and Daya Ben, Rutuja and Dilip Joshi obliged and set the stage on fire with their *garba* performance on *Chogada*!

RAJVEER IS THE NEW NEEL

Zee TV's popular fiction drama, *Qurbaan Hua*, has been entertaining audiences with interesting twists and turns in the life of Neel and Chahat, who have tied the nuptial knot with vested interests arising out of fierce loyalty to their respective families. While Neel wants to get to Chahat's father — Dr Baiq, the gynaecologist he holds responsible for his pregnant sister's death, Chahat is convinced she can get to the bottom of the case and clear her father's name by being a part of Neel's family.

In the upcoming episodes of the show, viewers are in for a shocking twist. While Chahat will be seen keeping the *Karwa Chauth* fast for Neel, Neel will meet with an accident in a factory wherein a splash of Lava will burn his face and parts of his body. Everybody will assume that they have lost Neel forever, but audiences will discover that Neel is rescued in the nick of time and having undergone multiple cosmetic surgeries, will emerge as a man of altered appearance. Consequently, actor Rajveer Singh will step into the shoes of Karan Jotwani as Neel.

Ecstatic to join the show as the male lead, Rajveer said: "I am extremely excited, as this is the kind of role I haven't explored before. Taking over a well-established character comes with a fair share of responsibilities and of course the pressure to live up to the image of the character built by the previous actor. Joining an already established show leaves me with enough to research and learn about my character and the dynamics he shares with various other characters. So, I will use that to my advantage and bring a sense of freshness to the character. This is my first project after the lockdown so I am looking forward to my new avatar and I do hope the fans of the show will like and accept me as their new Neel."

'I was born to be an artist'

EISHA SINGH, who played the lead in the first episode of the new season of *Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya*, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her role, how she got into acting and upcoming projects

■ What is your role in *Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya*?

I play Preet a girl who is already engaged. She enjoys life and loves her parents a lot. She is independent in her thinking and wants to fulfill her father's dream of opening franchises of his restaurant across India. That way she is very ambitious.

■ How is this different from Zara Siddiqui in *Ishq Subhan Allah* on Zee TV?

The main obvious difference of course is that Zara is from a Muslim family. Preet belongs to a Punjabi family. Zara is all about fighting for Muslim women's rights. Preet is more focused on realising her dad's dream.

■ What were some of the things that you had to prepare for in *Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya*?

I am not the kind to prepare for the character in advance. I read the script and go to the sets and go with my instincts on what feels right when I am finally in front of the camera. Also, for Preet, I didn't have much time to prepare. She has these layers that unravel which I learnt as the episode progressed. I had a different perspective on my character. The director and writer have a different one. So, the best thing was not to prep in advance. On the sets, once a scene was explained to me, I would close my eyes and think how she would behave and go with it and built my character.

■ What got you interested in acting?

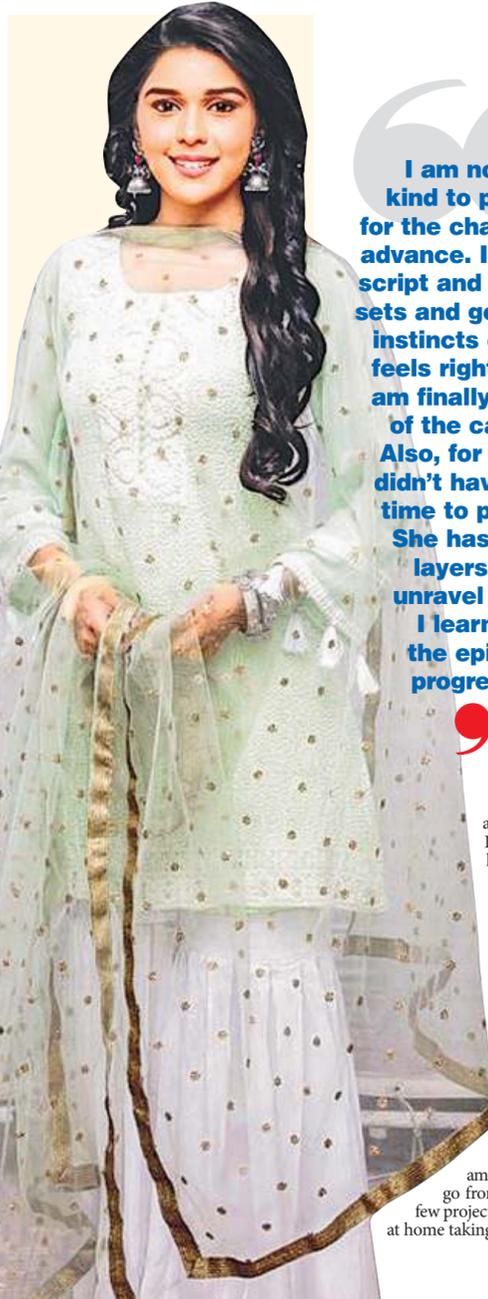
It was not one thing. I knew from the very beginning that I would not be able to do a 9 am to 5 pm job. I was born to act. Being an artist, I can live so many personalities. I can play so many professions. I am the tailor of my life. If I am playing Zara or Preet, I am me, Eisha yet I am not. I am playing someone else. I can experiment with different things in my life through my characters. I don't always have to be me. I can do so much more as an actor.

■ Did you think that Dhaani of *Ishq Ka Rang Safed* would become so popular?

Not at all. I was 16 when I gave the audition for the show. I played a 20-year-old widow in the show and how she dealt with people who continuously targeted her because I was a widow. I was not sure whether people would accept me in this role. I too was not convinced whether I would be able to do justice to this role. But luckily for me everything fell into place. People loved Dhaani. I too learnt a lot along the way.

■ Was it tough to play a widow at such a young age?

It was extremely tough. I had no idea about the struggles of a widow. My maternal grandmother was a widow but she was in her 70s. I had no clue what young widows go through and how society looks at them and treats them. But when I actually got to play Dhaani did I realise the harsh reality of life



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and would cry when I would hear the real-life horror stories of these young women who have every right to live a colourful life but the society doesn't let them and puts so many restrictions on them — can't eat certain kinds of food, can't laugh or have dreams and ambitions.

■ What next?

I want to know the same. I am not sure where I will go from here. There are a few projects. But for now, I am at home taking a break.



With son-in-law Dr. Anoop, daughter Neeta, wife Jamuna, son Nitin and daughter-in-law Kshamitha

CAPTAIN COOL

People who took coaching there would definitely get through MBBS. At that time, the Indravelli incident happened and I was under that influence; so, I left it and came back. I didn't get through in the examination. I had studied hard but lost it by a few marks. There were no private colleges then. Maybe I would have got through if such facilities were there. Now, as Health and Family Welfare Minister, I am able to mingle with them easily. I always believe that in whichever role we are in, any department, we should respect it, get involved in it, and make a mark.

Influenced by elder brother

I was largely influenced by my elder brother Sammayya, who was active in unions, more than my parents. I was born into a middle-class family with an agricultural background in Kamalapur and studied there up to VIII Class. It was during the Emergency that my brother faced challenges when most of his associates were being jailed or shot. So, they came to Hyderabad and noticed that the place was good. When he settled, they brought us here. I studied in Keshav Memorial School up to X Class then went to Aliya College and later to Saifabad Science College for my degree. I used to live in government hostels. As for my association with unions, there used to be debates, brawls, death threats -- everything was part and parcel of it.

Wanted to be a doctor

I wanted to become a doctor; so, I went to Guntur to study in Ravi Tutorials, which was famous at that time.

Love marriage

I married Jamuna whom I knew since my school days. It was a love marriage. Initially there was resistance from her family, but our bonding has been strong ever since for more than three decades now. I gave up union activity after witnessing a lot of conflicts, ideological changes, disrespect and the like in 1986. Then I decided to move on and start business. I never looked back. Until I decided to set up poultry business, I was largely confined to fighting and agitations.

Poultry biz not lucky lottery

When I was in PDSU, I was in charge of our activities in medical colleges. At that time, I used to discuss poultry business with people. Poultry is slightly at a higher level than agriculture -- there is no way to deceive people by adulteration, this and that. It is dependent purely on efficiency in all aspects. It is not like lucky lottery or real estate type revenue and is related to agriculture. So, I ventured into it. Even in business there were ups and down. Even though poultry business was dominated by Andhra People, I didn't face any region-based discrimination.

Succeeded by choice

Even after becoming an entrepreneur in the 90s, I used to be part of associations. Whenever there were movements, I used to participate. In 2002, when I decided to join politics, there was no resistance from family. My wife was also students union leader; so, she stood by my decision. When I contested for the first time from Kamalapur, I was confident that I would win the elections and it has been that way ever since. Never I felt that I would lose any election because it is my choice. Our Chief Minister (K Chandrasekhar Rao) often says, "If you have to succeed in something, it shouldn't be by chance, it should be by choice".

Didn't want to be Karimnagar district in charge

Generally in politics people fight for positions. But when KCR asked me to be Karimnagar district in-charge, I was hesitant. I was a new MLA. There were big wigs in that district and I wasn't sure of my strength. I was a young guy and had apprehensions like how I will handle. But KCR convinced me. That position gave me nice elevation, increased

my self-confidence, and brought me respect. It was a step for me to come into the public eye and the second step was becoming TRS floor leader.

Day in and out with KCR

I campaigned along with KCR in 2006 when he was contesting from Karimnagar. We were able to sustain the Telangana sentiment and inspire people. I remember, our party president at that time at Karimnagar clock tower said, "Na chermam olchi cheppulu kutinchi-na, Karimnagar prajala runam terchukolenu (I can never repay the faith reposed in me by the people of Karimnagar). That was a moment for me. We are together day in and day out; so, there are many moments with him. Prior to Telangana formation, when we were in Delhi, we used to go to the lowest level of people to get our work done. We used to feel happy just looking at a small scrolling on TV related to Telangana.

Presenting budget in hall where TS was insulted

I will always remember the day when the Telangana Separation Bill, 2014 was introduced in the Assembly and the words that I spoke on that day. That was a very big responsibility for me. Another gratifying moment is as Telangana's first Finance Minister, I presented the first budget. In the same hall, where they said they won't even give Rs 1 for Telangana, I presented the budget. I am not an economist, but as the first Finance Minister with our CM we laid a nice foundation for the state.

Anxiety as captain of health department

This year there has been a certain level of anxiety due to the coronavirus pandemic. As Minister who is responsible for people's health, there will be angst. Every minute has been testing time. But 6-7 months into it, when we look at cases and treatment, death rate, and recovery, there is some relief and it is now sort of less fearful. Naturally, as I am captain of this department; if people are safe, I will be fine. Initially there was a lot of hue and cry about beds, kits, doctors' availability, medicines and oxygen. Now there is little respite. But when we think of how the situation could be in the coming days, there is certainly nervousness.

Family confined me to a different floor

There is no secret to being Covid-free. In my case, I strictly follow the protocol given by our government doctors. HCQ tablet, immune system development -- zincovit, multivitamin, C and D3 vitamin, I took it regularly. I do steam inhalation at home. People like me cannot get scared and sleep at home, we have to be at frontline. I had to be strong even when everyone around me was infected -- be it driver, cook, public representatives, officials -- Everybody was infected. Initially there was tension among family that I'll get infected and will infect them. They dedicated a floor for me in my house and nobody used to come. But as time passed by, the fear subsided and now we are living together.

Soft-spoken politicians are the future

Being a soft-spoken leader is certainly an advantage in politics and it has helped me to reach where I am. There is a loud physique attributed to politicians -- someone who can scare others. But in my opinion -- a political leader should be able to change the future of people with tactfulness, commitment and honesty. People who have these qualities are political leaders, not background or people who can murder. Trend is changing and whenever politicians with these qualities come in, this country will develop. I don't like people criticising just for the sake of it. It does hurt when Opposition does baseless allegations. They have to cross verify and talk about it only if needed.

Open forum at home

I have a son Nitin and daughter Neeta, both are married. My son is into business and married to Kshamitha, who is into interior designing. My daughter is a doctor and recently married a doctor -- Dr Anoop. My wife takes care of my family completely. Unlike conventional political leaders' children, mine turned out to be completely systematic and disciplined. At home, we all sit together and it is like an open forum about all topics and there is no place for positions etc.

From aspiring to be a doctor in his youth to helping Telangana's Health and Family Welfare Department as Minister, Eatala Rajender has come a long way. As captain of the department which has been stretched to its limits due to Covid-19 pandemic, Eatala, with exemplary courage and patience, and at great personal risk, has steered Telangana State in a remarkably cool manner.



With Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao

In an interview with *The Pioneer*, Rajender, known for winning over people with his mild manners, recalls his journey from being a students' union leader to becoming the first Finance Minister of Telangana. In a candid conversation with Naveena Ghanate, Eatala shares how he ventured into poultry business, dealt with coronavirus in these trying days, and, amidst all this, manages to maintain work-life balance.



With wife Jamuna



With Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and his wife Shoba at daughter Neeta's wedding with Dr Anoop



With daughter Neeta and daughter-in-law Kshamitha



In prime of life



When I contested for the first time from Kamalapur, I was confident that I would win the elections and it has been that way ever since. Never I felt that I would lose any election because it is my choice not chance

QUICK BITES

- Favourite food** - spinach
- Favourite Color** - white
- Movies** - I don't watch movies at all
- Book you read recently** - Shakthi Suthralu
- Are you religious** - No and I will never believe
- Coffee or tea** - Buttermilk

- Strength** - Self confidence
- Weakness** - sometimes I overspeak
- Describe yourself** - Everything is possible if you are determined
- What do you like in other person** - I like people who want others to grow
- Exercise regime** - I do gym for about 1 hr.
- Holiday spot** - I don't go on holidays, my life has routine and I like it that way
- Any favourite spot in TS** - I like entire Telangana. I like to be close nature