



RAPID 90-MINUTE COVID-19 TEST SHOWN TO BE HIGHLY ACCURATE

Researchers have created a 90-minute high speed Covid-19 test which does not require a laboratory and can be performed in cartridges smaller than a mobile phone with high accuracy. The study, published in the journal The Lancet Microbe, revealed that the Lab-in-Cartridge rapid testing device, which can be performed at a patient's bedside, was shown to have over 94% sensitivity and 100% specificity. It means that it had a high level of accuracy and produced very few false negatives and no false positives. To perform the test, a paediatric-sized nose swab from a patient is inserted into the device, which then looks for traces of genetic material belonging to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid.



NOT CONTEMPT, BUT 'UNNECESSARY': HC ON ACTOR SURIYA'S NEET REMARK

Film star Suriya Sivakumar will not face a contempt case over his comments on the Madras High Court linked to the alleged suicide of three medical aspirants. The Madras High Court today called the actor's comments 'unnecessary and unwarranted' but ruled that there would be no contempt proceedings. "The utterances by the cine actor are unnecessary and unwarranted for being ignorant of the manner in which the entire judiciary of this state has served the interest of its citizens he state has been serving during this pandemic ...," the court said. High Court judge SM Balasubramaniam had said the actor was in contempt of court over his comments on four candidates of NEET who died by suicide recently in Tamil Nadu.



UK WARNS OF POSSIBLE SECOND LOCKDOWN AS CORONA CASES INCREASE

Britain's government Friday warned it could re-impose a national lockdown across England to counter the coronavirus pandemic, noting rates of hospitalisation are doubling every eight days. "We want to avoid a national lockdown, but we're prepared to do it if we need to," Health Secretary Matt Hancock told BBC television. "We're prepared to do what it takes both to protect lives and to protect livelihoods," he said, warning of more local measures to come after restrictions were placed on swathes of northeast England from Friday. Britain has been the worst-hit country in Europe by the pandemic, with the government registering nearly 42,000 deaths from Covid.



NASA PLANS PLANETARY MISSION TO VENUS AFTER EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LIFE

NASA is considering approving by next April up to two planetary science missions from four proposals under review, including one to Venus that scientists involved in the project said could help determine whether or not that planet harbors life. An international research team on Monday described evidence of potential microbes residing in the harshly acidic Venusian clouds: traces of phosphine, a gas that on Earth is produced by bacteria inhabiting oxygen-free environments. It provided strong potential evidence of life beyond Earth. The US space agency in February shortlisted four proposed missions that are now being reviewed by a NASA panel, two of which would involve robotic probes to Venus.



How Covid unleashed micro-governance

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KCR's Front plan gets 6-party boost

YSRCP, TDP decide to keep away

L VENKAT RAM REDDY ■ HYDERABAD

In these trying times, TRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao has a reason to smile.

KCR has a reason to smile as he has got the support of at least six regional parties in Parliament in his fight against the Centre's two options given to the States on GST compensation payout, rekindling hopes in him that his plans to revive the Federal Front would be easier to implement this time around than in 2018. This is perhaps the first time in recent memory that so many regional parties have joined hands against the Centre on one particular issue.

KCR has a reason to smile as these six regional parties participated in a protest led by the TRS in Parliament premises on Thursday. These regional parties included the Trinamool Congress that rules West Bengal, the DMK that is in the Opposition in Tamil Nadu, the Shiv Sena and NCP that are



part of the ruling combine in Maharashtra, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi and the Opposition Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh.

KCR has a reason to smile, having witnessed the changing political equations on Thursday, when a major regional party from Punjab — the Akali Dal — came out of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet fuelling speculations that the party would

also exit from the NDA.

However, the protest also brought to light how two major regional parties in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, the ruling YSRCP and main Opposition TDP, are averse to joining hands with KCR as both stayed away from TRS-organised dharna besides extending support to all the controversial Bills in Parliament that were opposed by States ruled by regional parties.

Though KCR may have not really expected the TDP to extend support to the TRS due to political rivalry between him and N Chandrababu Naidu, the fact that the YSRCP is moving away from him and inching closer to the BJP may well have left a sour taste in his mouth. This is despite KCR extending a friendly hand to YSRCP supremo YS Jaganmohan Reddy before he was elected the Chief Minister of AP and also afterwards.

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Adityanath govt mulls ordinance against 'love jihad'

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'Missing' 12-year-old girl's body found near lake

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The body of a 12-year-old girl, who had gone 'missing' on Thursday evening, was found at Banda

Cheruvu under Neredmet Police Station limits on Friday, about two km from the spot along a drain into which she is believed to have fallen while cycling.

Although most people in the locality believe that she might have slipped into the drain and might have been washed away to the lake, there is another angle to her disappearance as one of the girl's friends reportedly told the police that she had seen a man following the girl who was then cycling near the drain.

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Three vaccine trials in advanced stage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Three of the nearly 30 coronavirus vaccine candidates in the country are in advanced stages of clinical trials, while four are in pre-clinical development stage, Science and Technology Ministry Harsh Vardhan said on Friday.

A high-level expert group is looking into matters related to vaccine distribution and immunisation, he said.

"Nationally, nearly 30 vaccine candidates are under development, by both industry and academia. These vaccines are in different stages of pre-clinical and clinical development of which three candidates are in advanced stage of Phase I/II/III trials and four are in advanced pre-clinical development stage," Vardhan said in a written response to a



question in the Lok Sabha.

The distribution and immunisation of the coronavirus vaccine are subject to availability, the minister said.

"Once available, the coronavirus vaccine distribution follows the same route as for the current practice of vaccines distribution under Universal Immunisation Program (UIP)," he added.



Lift onion export ban: Congress MP

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TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Ashwin (Adhik) & Shukla Paksha Panchangam

Tithi: Dwitithi: 09:09 am, Tritithi: 05:38 am (Next Day)

Nakshatram: Chitra: 01:20 am (Next Day)

Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)

Rahukalam: 09:08 am — 10:39 am

Yamagandam: 01:39 pm — 03:10 pm

Varjyam: 11:11 am — 12:36 pm

Gulika: 06:08 am — 07:38 am

Good Time: (to start any important work)

Anuritaalam: 07:41 pm — 09:05 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:45 am — 12:33 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Cloudy

Temp: 29/23

Humidity: 88%

Sunrise: 06:04 am

Sunset: 06:14 pm

Current Weather Conditions Updated September 18, 2020 5:00 PM

MLA Seethakka, Kisan Cong leaders held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The police arrested Congress MLA from Mulugu constituency, Dansari Anasuya, popularly known as 'Seethakka', when she tried to lay siege to Pragathi Bhavan along with leaders and activists of the Telangana Kisan Congress on Friday. Earlier, some jostling took place when women police personnel tried to arrest Seethakka. Even as Seethakka was warning the cops against touching her, the police personnel rounded her up. She was later shifted to a police station, along with leaders and activists of the Telangana Kisan Congress.

The Kisan Congress, as



per its plan to lay siege to Pragathi Bhavan, staged protests demanding the government to provide compensation to the farmers who had lost their crops due to heavy rains.

Continued on Page 2

Auto driver's bid to torch self at Pragati Bhavan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A person attempted to commit suicide by immolating himself in front of the Pragati Bhavan here on Friday as he was reportedly upset that there were no jobs for the unemployed in Telangana and that 2BHK houses were not being allotted to the homeless poor.

However, alert police personnel thwarted his attempt. As soon as he doused himself in diesel, cops present there splashed water on him and removed him from the spot, police said.

He was identified as Chander, an autorickshaw driver.

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Covid claimed lives of 41 docs in AP, 11 in TS

Centre says it has no data on fatalities; IMA releases list of medical martyrs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Infuriated at the Union Health Ministry's statement in Parliament that it did not maintain records of the number of doctors who succumbed to Covid-19, the Indian Medical Association on Friday released names of the frontline doctors who died of the virus.

As many as 41 doctors, mostly general practitioners working in both government and private hospitals, lost their life to the coronavirus in Andhra Pradesh, according to IMA.

The association has demanded that the deceased doctors be acknowledged and treated as martyrs. Their fam-



ilies and children deserve solace from the national government, it said.

At least 12 out of these 41 doctors were below 60 years. The youngest martyr was a 27-year-old PG student from

Vijayawada, and the eldest was a 78-year-old doctor, also from Vijayawada.

As per the data released by the IMA, Tamil Nadu where 63 doctors succumbed to the infection, Karnataka with 42

and Andhra Pradesh with 41 are among the three states with most deaths of doctors. A total of 382 doctors have died due to Covid-19-related complications in 23 states and Union Territories, the IMA said.

While IMA considered Dr G Naresh Kumar as resident of Andhra Pradesh, he was a doctor in Kothagudem of Telangana state. This essentially meant that 41 doctors in AP and 11 in Telangana have succumbed to the coronavirus. Four of the deceased doctors in Telangana were below 60 years of age. The youngest doctor to succumb to the virus was 37-year-old Dr Naresh Kumar from Kothagudem.

Continued on Page 2

Oppn 'misleading, lying on farm bills': PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a forceful defence of the farm sector reform bills, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that they have brought "freedom" to farmers and given them a "protection shield", as he accused the opposition of standing with middlemen and "misleading" peasants by "lying" to them.

With opposition parties dubbing the three bills, passed by Lok Sabha and now to be tabled in Rajya Sabha, as "anti-farmers" and the BJP ally Shiromani Akali Dal quitting his government to protest them, Modi refuted their criticism, describ-



ing these proposed laws as "historic" and stating that they will unshackle farmers by allowing them to sell their produce anywhere at a better price.

Speaking at the virtual launch of several rail projects in Bihar,

Modi chose to speak at length on these bills, which have sparked protests by farmers in states like Punjab and Haryana, and sought to assuage concerns of the farming community by assuring them the government procurement of their produce will continue and so will the minimum support price (MSP). "This misinformation is now being spread that the government will not give MSP benefits to farmers. Manufactured claims are being made the government will no longer purchase wheat, rice and other grains. This is a blatant lie aimed at deceiving farmers," Modi said.

Monsoon withdrawal to begin next week: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Southwest Monsoon is likely to start withdrawing from west Rajasthan by the end of next week, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

Conditions are likely to become favourable in the next two days for the withdrawal of monsoon. North Indians plains are also witnessing above normal temperatures, it said.

"These are one of the weather patterns we see when conditions are ripe for monsoon withdrawal. From September 20 onwards, we don't see the possibility of monsoon rains in west Rajasthan," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said.

SHOPIAN ENCOUNTER

Army finds 'prima facie' evidence against its men

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

The Army has found "prima facie" evidence its troops "exceeded" powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act during an encounter in Kashmir's Shopian district in which three men were killed in July this year and has initiated disciplinary proceedings, officials said on Friday.

On July 18, the Army claimed three militants were killed in Amshipura village in the higher reaches of south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Committed to ethical conduct during anti-militancy operations, the Army initiated an inquiry after social media reports indicated the three men were from Rajouri district in Jammu and had gone missing at Amshipura,



said Col Rajesh Kalia, the defence spokesperson in Srinagar. The probe was completed in a record four weeks.

The families of the three men from Rajouri who worked as labourers in Shopian had also filed a police complaint.

In a brief statement, the Army said the Shopian operation contravened the dos and don'ts of the Chief of Army Staff approved by the Supreme Court.

Another road caves in Jubilee Hills

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Continual heavy rains across Hyderabad have not just brought to the fore potholes and craters, but also triggered road cave-in incidents.

In what happens to be the second major incident this week, a part of the Jubilee Hills road caved in on Friday morning. A stretch of the road at Venkatagiri in Jubilee Hills

caved in just after a heavy truck had passed. Onlookers said the truck had a narrow escape from being sucked into the pit.

Traffic officials immediately barricaded the stretch, resulting in traffic diversions.

Just on Wednesday, a portion of the road at Kusaiguda caved in due to heavy rains in the city.

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Covid-19 has brought into focus the role of Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) in managing the pandemic in India. Wherever permitted, they have admirably enforced local lockdowns, mask-wearing in public places, and social distancing. This provides strong anecdotal evidence for the ideas developed by Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom. In her research in South Asia, Ostrom found that there are two types of rules operating in society - top-down rules in form mainly crafted by governments, and informal rules in use followed by the local people. It is the rules in use that explain the performance of the RWAs. In order to make the working of micro-governance units (including RWAs) more well-ordered, the rules in use should be identified and codified as rules in form. Some of the components to be included in the systemisation of

How Covid unleashed micro-governance

rules in use are discussed below.

OVERSIGHT
Two key functions that matter to local people are sanitation and street light maintenance. Sanitation would include worker attendance, street sweeping, trash collection and bin cleaning. The streetlight rectification report would also be reviewed every month. The RWAs would record their comments in a score card containing responses on a binary scale — satisfactory or unsatisfactory — and this would become the basis for monthly salary payment of workers and supervisors. Similarly, day-to-day administration of market and sports complexes' maintenance would be entrusted to

The RWAs would also identify beneficiaries for their eligibility. These would complement the traditional household surveys. A meeting of all residents would be held where the names of beneficiaries were read and the number supporting, opposing and having no opinion would be recorded in a matrix

a group consisting of RWAs, plus authorised lessees and regular users of sports complexes, respectively. Furthermore, the RWAs would be competent to inspect all public works at least once before completion of 50 percent of the work, in value, and again after completion of works. **EMPOWERMENT**
The RWAs would also identify beneficiaries for their eligibility. These would complement the traditional household surveys. A meeting of all residents would be held where the names of beneficiaries were read and the number supporting, opposing and having no opinion would be recorded in a matrix. This is expected to bring about a paradigm shift in the selection of the poor. The underlying idea is that we trust the local people and if they feel that a family requires help, perhaps that is the best decision.



DR. SAMEER SHARMA

One area of concern of all residents is the changes in land use and building regulations in residential areas (including Master Plan). The planned change would only be carried out if more than, say, 80 percent agree with the change. Connected to this is

the hazard posed by unauthorised construction in residential areas. The progress of building construction could be placed on the RWA social media platforms by the local town planning officers of the municipality.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION
Active participation is to translate differences to consensus, and "deliberative polling" offers one way to go about it. Active participation would consist of three stages: Stage 1 is an approximate statement of position by various stakeholders followed by a free-format debate. Stage 2 consists of defining issues, as precisely as possible. Stage 3 consists of voting on them. Admittedly, there could be side payments in exchange

for votes. There are several ways of curbing such happenings. One way is public disclosure of each vote with each person explaining why she took the particular position. One major issue is to give 'voice' to the silent, particularly if there are local inequalities in power, opportunity and resources. One way of getting around this could be to ensure that any resolution would fail if more than 20 percent of the members oppose it in deliberative polling. This would ensure that the less-endowed get a voice during decision-making. **FUNDS**
The RWAs should be given some funds, such as 20 percent of the total fund spent in the RWA area (subject to a

minimum guaranteed amount). The RWAs would prepare a list of all works, prioritise them, and the engineers would execute the works. Such financial decentralisation would lead to "real" empowerment of citizens. This is a list of some transformations that have the potential to lead to a major transformation in governance, because people tend to take an interest in affairs when their demands and preferences count. The duality created by rules in form and rules in use would be bridged by the monitoring and supervision opportunities given to citizens, and is expected to lead to a more self-regulated society. (Author has a PhD from USA and a D Litt from Kanchi University. The article is based on his research and practice and views are personal)

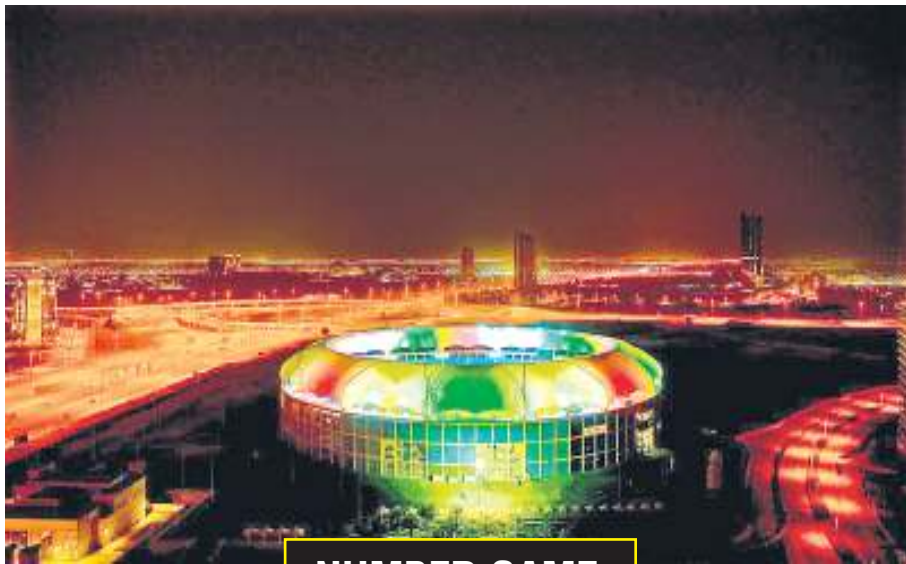
IPL 2020

Lights, camera, cricket!

Glitzy IPL marks start of Indian sporting events in Covid times

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's poker face, Virat Kohli's raw emotions and Rohit Sharma's effortless handling of his 'Galacticos' will be back to charm cricket fans across the globe with the Indian Premier League starting on Saturday, promising to be a happy distraction in a world scarred by COVID-19. Rohit's defending champions Mumbai Indians will be locking horns with Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in what is likely to be a fittingly exciting opening showdown. The tournament, which has been shifted to the UAE due to five million plus COVID cases in India, is a 'TV-only event', expected to be lapped up by all and sundry who crave for cricket and Bollywood in equal measure during prime time. Bollywood had its share of prime time in the past few months but rest assured, the next 53 days would belong to Dhoni's CSK, Kohli's RCB and Rohit's Mumbai Indians challenged by young pretenders comprising KL Rahul's KXIP and Shreyas Iyer's Delhi Capitals among others. IPL happening in foreign shores is not a new phenomenon, not even the shift to the Emirates but as Indian sports hits the restart button with the billion dollar cricketing extravaganza, the hugely popular event to be held closed doors in a bio-secure environment will be a new experience. David Warner or Chris Gayle's towering sixes welcomed by artificial crowd cheer will be the new normal and the deafening roars during Super Overs will be missing but no one can



NUMBER GAME

WITH IPL SET TO KICK OFF FROM SATURDAY, HERE IS A LOOK AT THE EVENT'S STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST EDITIONS...

■ Royal Challengers Bangalore holds the record of amassing the highest totals in IPL history, scoring 263-5 and 248-3 against now-defunct teams -- Pune Warriors and Gujarat Lions respectively in 2013 and 2016. CSK holds the third position in the list with a score of 246-5 against Rajasthan Royals in 2010

■ RCB is also the team with the lowest total in IPL, having been dismissed for 49 by Kolkata Knight Riders in 2017, while RR and DD are second and third in the list with totals of 58 and 66 against RCB and Mumbai Indians in 2009 and 2017

■ MI's 146-run win over DD in 2017 is the biggest in terms of runs' margin in IPL. RCB and KKR hold the second and third place with 144-run and 140-run wins over Gujarat Lions and RCB in 2016 and 2008

■ Eight matches have been decided on the basis of Super Over with KKR being involved in three such ties, while RR have won two Super Over matches -- the most in IPL. All eight teams participating in IPL 2020 have played at least one Super Over but Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders are yet to win one

■ The dubious record of conceding most extras in a match belongs to KKR, who gave away 28 against Deccan Chargers in 2008, followed by KXIP and CSK, who conceded 27 and 26 extras against RCB and MI in 2011 and 2009

■ Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli is the highest run-getter in IPL history, having amassed a total of 5,412 runs in the last 12 editions of the tournament. He is followed by Chennai Super Kings' Suresh Raina (5,368) and Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma (4,898)

complain as at least the show will go on in amid a devastat-

ing health crisis. When the IPL was partially held in UAE back

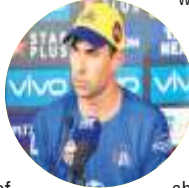
in 2014, KKR were the eventual champions.

MSD is fresh and determined after break, says CSK coach

His sabbatical from the game has done Mahendra Singh Dhoni a world of good. Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming said on Friday, asserting that the enigmatic skipper is 'mentally engaged and determined' to encounter the challenges of a 'tactically

different' IPL. Dhoni's CSK will take on Rohit Sharma's Mumbai Indians in the tournament opener on Saturday. Fleming, a former New Zealand captain, stressed that his team's experience of

winning big matches will come in handy during the next 53 days. Dhoni retired from international cricket last month after being on a break for over one year and when asked about the 39-year-old's



Mumbai Indians start favourites in opener against CSK

Mumbai Indians are traditional slow-starters in the IPL but on paper, they will be the favourites against Chennai Super Kings in the opening game in Abu Dhabi. MI looks the most prepared and set team with a scary batting line-up of Rohit, Quinton de Kock, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Hardik and Krunal Pandya, Kieron Pollard. Trent Boult and Nathan Coulter-Nile will complete their quota of foreigners. For CSK, the core has remained the same save for Suresh Raina, who was their worst performer last year and has pulled out citing personal reasons this year. His replacement Ruturaj Gaikwad remains in quarantine having tested COVID-19 positive at least five times. But there is Watson, Ambati Rayudu, Kedar Jadhav, Ravindra Jadeja, and Bravo, who have all won matches from hopeless situations. In case Curran is allowed to travel to Abu Dhabi, he could well be the pinch hitter at the top of the order.

preparedness for the IPL, Fleming said, "It has been no different. He's very fit and mentally, he's been very engaged and determined." "In some ways the break can work for the experienced and older players that we have. MS is fresh and ready to go," Fleming said.

KCR's Front plan gets 6...

Continued from Page 1

Prior to the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, KCR had mooted a non-Congress and a non-BJP Federal Front of regional parties, with the aim of capturing power at the Centre. However, the efforts did not materialise despite KCR touring various states to meet leaders of regional parties -- primarily due to lack of adequate time. KCR got busy with the early Assembly elections that he had opted for, about nine months before schedule. After retaining power in the December 2018 polls with a landslide, KCR had hardly two months to pursue his Federal Front as the Election

Commission issued schedule for 2019 Lok Sabha polls in March 2019. With all the parties, including the TRS, getting into poll mode, there was any chance left for KCR to tour other states or meet other leaders. KCR made plans to bring all regional parties together after Lok Sabha results were declared with the premise that neither the NDA nor the UPA would secure an absolute majority to form the government at the Centre. However, the Lok Sabha results in May 2019 dashed his hopes as NDA retained power with an absolute majority. Since then, KCR cast aside his Federal Front idea and confined his political activities to

Telangana. Now KCR has reinitiated his efforts recently to make his way into national politics and hand over the responsibility of heading the Telangana government to his son and heir apparent KT Rama Rao sometime around April / May 2021. By this time, elections to the GHMC, Khammam and Warangal municipal corporations and to the Legislative Council MLC would be completed. The TRS chief is confident of winning these polls hands down. At this juncture, major regional parties taking part in TRS-organised dharna against NDA government at Parliament came as a big boost to KCR as well as TRS.

Covid claimed lives of 41 docs in AP...

Continued from Page 1

Telangana stands in 11th position when it comes to number of doctors who succumbed to coronavirus. In its letter to the Centre, the IMA said that no country has lost as many doctors and healthcare workers to the pandemic as India. "Mortality rate of doctors fighting the pandemic was four times that of ordinary citizens and of private practitioners eight times as much." The IMA statement also said that "To feign that data on death of doctors doesn't merit the attention of the nation is abominable. If the Government doesn't maintain the statistics of total number of doctors and healthcare workers infected by Covid-19 and the statistics of how many of them sacrificed their life due to the pandemic, it loses the moral authority to administer the Epidemic Act, 1897, and the Disaster Management Act. This also exposes the hypocrisy of calling them Corona Warriors on one hand and denying them and their families the status and benefits of martyrdom". The doctor fraternity in AP

also expressed its anguish over the attitude of the Union government towards healthcare professionals and frontline warriors. "Health is a state subject. Such data is not maintained at Central level by the ministry of health and family welfare," Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had said in a written reply in Parliament. The IMA, infuriated by this reply, released a list of 382 healthcare workers who succumbed to Covid-19. "This amounts to (an) abdication of duty and abandonment of the national heroes who have stood up for our people," the IMA said in its statement. "IMA finds it strange that after having formulated an unfriendly partial insurance scheme for the bereaved families to struggle with the ignominy of the government disowning them altogether stares at them," it said. According to experts, if the government says it doesn't have data regarding Covid-19 deaths, then it may delay releasing ex gratia to the families of these martyrs. The Central government has offered compensation of Rs 50 lakh to the kin of health workers who die of coronavirus.

Seethakka...

Continued from Page 1

Addressing the gathering, Seethakka alleged that the government did not discuss farmers' issues in the Legislative Assembly during the monsoon session, which concluded on September 16. The government did not allow even the opposition parties to speak on farmers' issues in the House, she alleged, while describing the TRS government as "anti-farmer". She alleged that the police resorted to lathicharge and illegal arrests when Congress leaders tried to highlight the problems on Friday. "The Chief Minister is stating that he will not give compensation to farmers and has made it clear that only Rythu Bandu will be given to the farmers. No section of people is happy under TRS rule," she remarked.

Another road...

Continued from Page 1

According to the officials who inspected the site, the road caved in due to poor sewerage network. Work to restore that road has commenced. An official said that the road would be restored by night on Friday. As per IMD, the city witnessed 32.4 mm rainfall on Thursday.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES	
GOLD	
₹ 53,960 (10 gm)	↓
SILVER	
₹ 69,000 (1kg)	₹ 0
CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹191
Without Skin	₹218
Broiler at Farm	₹132
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	480
VIJAYAWADA	501
WISAKHAPATNAM	502
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.80

'Missing' 12-year-old girl's...

Continued from Page 1

The parents of the minor girl approached the Neredmet police on Thursday at around 8 pm, after searching for her at places, including her school at Kakatiya Nagar, in vain. They then lodged a complaint regarding their missing daughter, a fifth class student. The parents were then of the view that their daughter could have fallen into the drain. According to the police, the minor girl's mother, Sukanya Kapuria, employed in a private firm, had returned home around 6:45 pm on Thursday. When she enquired with her husband, Abhijit Kapuria, about the whereabouts of their daughter, he informed her that their child was riding her cycle outside the house. Sukanya did not

find her daughter outside the house. She came to know from her daughter's friends, that the girl had gone from near their house to the end of the lane on her cycle. Upon receiving the complaint, the Neredmet police informed the GHMC Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams and started search operations. The girl's body was found on Friday afternoon at Banda cheruvu. After the body was fished out, Sukanya Kapuria, who could not believe that her daughter is no more, was seen trying to wake up her daughter. The girl's disbelieving father too was seen requesting the authorities to call the doctor. The body was later shifted to Osmania General Hospital for autopsy.

Auto driver's bid to torch self at Pragati Bhavan

Continued from Page 1

Chander claimed to have attempted self-immolation in front of the State Legislative Assembly in 2010 for the sake of statehood to Telangana. He told some TV channels that he was protesting non-fulfilment of promises with regard to jobs and housing made for separate Telangana. The police took Chander into custody. Even otherwise, the police were on their toes on Friday as the Congress' Kisan wing had given a call to lay siege to Pragati Bhavan in support of its demands.

HC to watch Bad Boy Billionaires

Continued from Page 1

He also said that the cases referred in the trailer by the Netflix were pending adjudication by competent courts of law. He also said that neither Netflix nor the makers of the show approached Raju regarding making of said docuseries nor did they obtain his consent for releasing the trailer or streaming the docuseries. He urged the court to declare the action of Netflix and the makers of the docuseries to transmit, distribute, exhibit it by means of technology, by audio or video performance using the name, image, reference of the

Ramalinga Raju depicting the events involving him and releasing the trailer as 'action amounting to defamation and conducting media trial' besides restraining them from airing it. Stating that every accused is presumed to be innocent unless proven guilty, he said that Ramalinga Raju was one of the pioneers in the IT Industry of India and was the founder of Satyam Computers Services Limited, which became one of the five IT Companies in India and earned immense reputation to Raju and was included as the 185th Fortune 500 Companies, he said.

IN BRIEF

Ordnance services chief visits AOC Centre in Secunderabad

Lieutenant General Dalip Singh, Director General Ordnance Services (DGOS) and Senior Colonel Commandant Army Ordnance Corps visited AOC Centre, Secunderabad, on Friday. The General Officer was presented with the 'Samman Guard' by the contingent of AOC Centre. He paid homage to the martyrs of Army Ordnance Corps at the War Memorial of AOC Centre in a solemn ceremony. The event was attended by all ranks of AOC Centre. He conveyed his appreciation for the high level of proficiency, professionalism and devotion to duty by all ranks of AOC.



UoH-MDS trot together in 'Make in India' path

The University of Hyderabad (UoH), its section 8 company ASPIRE and Manjeera Digital Systems (MDS) have signed a tripartite agreement that will enable them to partner in development of deep technology products in the electronics hardware sector. MDS is a fabless semiconductor company that has developed a Patent-pending high-performance computing processor called Universal Multifunction Accelerator (UMA). Manjeera's technology is based on its patented computing methodology and processor architecture. Manjeera, started by a former student and faculty of the University, Dr. Venu Kandadai, is incubated by IIIT-H and UoH under its TIDE incubator. Manjeera is also developing processors for several other applications of the country.

JNTU Hyderabad releases EAMCET preliminary key

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad has released the candidate response sheets, preliminary key of master question papers for Engineering (E) stream for all the eight sessions on September 18. All the material is available on the official website of EAMCET. The officials have instructed the candidates to download their response sheets. If they have any objections, the candidates can submit the same on the preliminary key between September 18 and 20, by 5 pm.

Work from home gone wrong

IT employees complain of long working hours with no quality time

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA
■ HYDERABAD

Several IT companies announced 'Work From Home' (WFH) for all their employees soon after the lockdown. What seemed like a great way of working while spending time with the family, back in day, has turned into a torture for many IT professionals.

Sunil Kudidi, who works with a multi-national online retailing company, shares that he hardly gets anytime for himself as he started working from home. "Initially, we all were really happy as we thought we finally would get some time with our family. However, now I sometimes don't get time to use the wash-room. We work continuously for 10 to 12 hours and when we complain to the management, we were told that since we are working from home we should be flexible. Sometimes, there is



work even on weekends. I feel that I could maintain a work-life-balance way better when I went to the office daily. Now, even though I am living with my family 24 hours, I hardly get to share a meal with them properly," Sunil says.

The problem is not just work-life-balance. Many employees are scared to refuse the extra work as well. Shashidhar Vuppala, an IT professional shares, "Back

when I went to office and worked overtime, I was well-compensated. However, now we get so less for all the extra work. Also, most employees fear that if they say no to extra work it will reflect poorly in their performance review report on which most promotions and hikes are based towards the year end. Already this year we didn't a good hike, no one wants a bad review next year as well."

With no regulations in place for work from home, employees are working for hours without even taking any break. "I knew my shift and had set break timings. Now, if I miss a single call, it becomes chaotic. It is affecting my health too," he adds.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated cases. Vinay Kumar Pyaraka, Founder President of Information and Technology Employees Association says, "I have been receiving hundreds of such complaints each day since the start of pandemic. Technically, employees should work only for 48 hours in a week, as per the Indian Labour Law, however these employees are asked to log out and continue to work. With no regulatory body keeping an eye on this, this has become a major issue. We have been trying to get the government to take note of the issues, but to no avail."

Cops arrest three for cheating jobseekers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyberabad cyber crime police busted a job fraud racket and arrested three persons from Uttar Pradesh for luring job-seekers and siphoning money in the name of providing them job in MNC.

The arrested persons were identified as Shanu Ansari, Yugantar Srivastava and Tushar Srivastava hailing from Lucknow, UP. They collect job seekers data from job portal by paying nominal amount. Further they conduct fake interviews and issue fake offer letters to them and asks money under the guise of registration fee and others.

Based on complaint from a victim, a case was booked in September first week. During the investigation, when the accused came to know about the criminal case he refunded Rs 11 lakhs to bank account of the victim. We investigated and traced the accused in Lucknow and apprehended them," said police.

Techie held for promising jobs to aspirants

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A techie who worked in various companies, eyeing on the profitable business of arranging jobs to aspirants floated his own consultancy and duped many under the pretext of providing them jobs has been arrested by the police on Friday.

The accused Chandra shekar resigned as computer associate in an MNC and established a consultancy in 2013 by name Vincere Soft Tech Pvt. Ltd at Kukatpally. "Under the guise of providing jobs, the accused cheated innocent candidates and collected an amount of Rs 1,50,000 from each totalling to nearly Rs 2 crores from the candidates," said VC Sajjanar, Cyberabad CP.

Teachers in welfare schools told to visit students houses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Tribal Welfare schools has instructed all the teachers to attend the schools regularly to make sure the education of no student is affected.

As the teachers reside in the same village as the students, the officials have asked the teachers to visit the students' homes and teach them for two hours on alternative days. Every day three students will be taught by one teacher.

The authorities on individual schools are allowed to adjust the timings of classes depending on the number of students in the respective school. The teachers will also have to ensure that all the stu-



dents are taking online classes via TV or smartphones. In addition to that, every school has to make sure that all the students have received all the SCERT books.

The regular teachers and CRTs have to visit one adopt-

ed village daily and spend at least six hours with the students, on rotation basis.

The teachers will also have to make sure the students know how to install and use various apps required for the classes.

Employees seek reopening of theaters

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Cinema Theaters Employees Union (CITU) on Friday staged a protest at RTC X roads demanding re-opening of theaters. CITU not only demanded to reopen theaters but also to clear pending salaries from the management.

Producer Natti kumar who participated in the protest said, "Governments have eased restrictions in all areas but for cinema theaters. If there is no fear of Coronavirus for opening up for other fields, why only restrict cinema theaters. Thousands of families are dependent on this field."



CITU Hyderabad secretary J Venkatesh said, "We have taken the issues of employees to the notice of Minister for Cinematography Talasani Srinivas earlier. Not a single penny was received over the past three months." He urged them to think about employees whose livelihood has been impacted due to Covid. The CITU threatened to launch state-wide protests if the government doesn't respond.

3 held for duping public promising 2BHK houses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The police on Friday arrested a three-member gang for cheating 89 victims and collecting money from them under the guise of providing them 2BHK houses.

The arrested persons were identified as VSK Vara Prasad, E Venkateshwara Raju and K Padma Durga. Vara Prasad approached Raju through a friend. Raju convinced his relative Padma Durga and they both collected applications and Rs 1 crore from the victims.

The police officials recovered Rs 72 lakh net cash, one land document worth Rs 29 lakh and fake letters.

Delivery partners refuse to call off stir

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Indefinite strike by Swiggy delivery executive have entered fourth day. The delivery executives continue to prevent pick-up of orders from high volume restaurants across the city as part of the protest.

Third-party hyper-local logistics like Rapdio and Shadowfax were also asked to participate in the strike. Bike rallies were taken out in city. False police complaints were filed against executives about snatching food at some places.



Former mayor Majid Hussain had to intervene in the matter and rescues delivery executives. We would like to place on record that delivery executives are protesting peacefully.

Delivery executives from Banjara Hills and Himayat Nagar took bike rally to MM MLA Ahmed Balala and gave placed their concerns to him. He has issued letter to the

labour commissioner to look in to the matter of low payment to the delivery executives. If the demands are not accepted the strike will continue on weekend which is important as it has high orders and the company has been advertising for IPL.

Shaik Salauddin National General Secretary, IFAT says, "We are releasing some screenshots as part of the press release. We are collecting more screenshots from delivery executive and will be sharing it on social media websites in coming days."

Madhapur SI succumbs to Coronavirus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Sub-Inspector working at the Madhapur police station succumbed to Covid-19 here on Friday. He was infected with the virus while on duty and was on sick leave. He died while being treated at a private hospital.

The SI, Abbas Ali, was 56 and is survived by his wife and children. Ali had recently complained of headache, cold and other symptoms and was taken to the hospital for a check-up, where he was diagnosed with Covid.

TSBIE instructs junior colleges to take all Corona precautions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) permits all the junior colleges to start the admission process for the first year students and take online classes for all the students, the Board has issued a set of guidelines for the college managements.

In a notice, addressed to all the Junior Colleges, IAS Syed Omar Jaleel, Secretary, TSBIE, instructed, "Online learning, teaching and monitoring and doubt clearance shall be con-



tinued and all teaching staff, non-teaching staff shall attend the work from home for counseling, Whatsapp group study, other online study group and

others till September 20." He added that the attendance of 50 per cent teaching and non-teaching staff shall be rotational basis on alternative days.

Quitting smoking has fast-acting benefits

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Modern India is facing the rising burden of heart diseases. No other disease kills more Indians than cardiac ailments. Heart disease has emerged as the deadliest killer in both Indian males and females.

In India, nearly 52 per cent of heart disease-related deaths occur in people below the age of 70 years.

This increasing burden can be explained by the alarming rise in the increased prevalence of smoking - one of the major risk factors for heart disease. In the current pandemic situation, quitting smoking is the most important step as this habit increases your risk of Covid-19 infection. Most important, the mortality rates of Covid-19



are higher among patients with heart disease and other comorbidities which are directly related to smoking. This indicates that smoking cessation should be taken as an immediate action by current smokers to keep themselves heart strong.

Most Indians start smoking early, increasing the risk of heart disease at a young age. Daily cigarette smoking in India is about 6 per cent and prevalence of smoking increases with age. In total, 63 per cent of cigarette smokers smoke every day.

On an average, tobacco use accounts for 449,844 deaths in India each year -that's 16 per cent of all heart disease deaths in India. Studies have also established a significant association of cigarette smoking with coronary heart disease and stroke.

According to a study, cigarette smoking is associated with a two to four-fold increased risk of heart-related problems, a greater than 70 per cent excess rate of death from heart disease. Not only this, smokers have an elevated risk of sudden death. It is truly remarkable that smoking - one single risk factor which is preventable - accounts for so many deaths in India. The study highlights the need for immediate action in this much-neglected field.



One Time Settlement (OTS) on Arrears of Property Tax Scheme Extended upto 31.10.2020

Pay arrears of **+10% interest**

Avail **90% interest waiver**

Pay now: Property owners have to clear the Property Tax dues till 2019-20 with 10% interest on accumulated arrears at one go.

HOW TO PAY?

Go to the URL:
<https://ptghmconlinepayment.cgg.gov.in/PTOnlinePayment.do>

Enter 10-digit PTIN, Mobile Number and Email Id.

Select mode of payment and proceed.

Pay Property Tax... Avail the Benefit

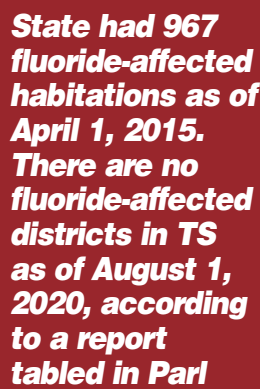
Issued By : Commissioner, I & PR Department, Government of Telangana.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mancherial district's average rainfall was 3.1 mm. Mandamarri mandal recorded the highest rainfall of 25.5 mm, followed by Naspur which saw 12.5 mm of rainfall.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The report about Telangana overcoming the problem of fluorosis comes a month after the state was ranked Number



Development Minister KT Rama Rao on Friday. He also tagged the list of states with arsenic and fluoride affected habitation as tabled in the Parliament. KTR congratulated the Mission Bhagiratha team for its success in overcoming the problem. The Nalgonda district has been affected by fluorosis, a crippling disease which affects bones and teeth due to excessive intake of fluorine-heavy

water, for a long time. More than a lakh people in the district are estimated suffering from the disease. Those afflicted by the disease are found with crippled limbs, twisted joints, bent spine, disfigured faces, stunted growth and yellowish or brownish enamel on their teeth.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

While participating in Christian Religion heads meeting (get together) at Club House of Ministers' Quarters on Friday, organised by the Welfare Minister Koppula Eshwar, KT Rama Rao said the TRS government is sincere towards finding a solution to the problems of Christians. "I



"We will not answer with words but answer with actions. We are providing good gover-

nance. I will convey the opinions expressed by the Christians in the meeting to the Chief Minister. We will complete the Christian Bhavan very soon. The development is our goal," the Minister said. State's Planning Board vice chairman B Vinod Kumar said that all sections of the people are happy under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The term of the current elected body of the GHMC, which was formed in February 2016, ends on February 10, 2021

personnel and election process etc. The SEC said it should be aimed at using maximum technology for expeditious, error-free and transparent election processes with the help of the CGG team, including certain innovations like Face Recognition Software and other pilots, after thorough scrutiny. Pointing out that in the 2016 GHMC elections, the poll per cent was 45.29 per cent, the Commissioner asked officials to prepare an action plan to improve the poll percentage and organise intensive campaigns to improving voting percentage.

"I am ready to see the progress of 2BHK works under the limits of 150 divisions. The government is misleading us in showing 1 lakh 2BHK units. I will consider only 3,428 2BHK units as constructed by the government. The government is trying to deceive the people by showing the count of the 2BHKs constructed somewhere else outside the Hyderabad city. The govern-



TRS-Cong in secret pact: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

“How can Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav go to CLP leader Mallu Bhatti

potshots at Bhatti for allegedly making baseless allegations. "The government is ready to show all 2BHK units. They are making baseless allegations. The government is ready to show all the 2BHK units if they come with us. We are ready to give the details of remaining 2BHKs. The government constructed 2BHKs on the outskirts as there is no place in GHMC limits. The Congress leaders fled away even though we said to we'll give details of 1 lakh 2BHKs," he said.

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TS reports
2,043 new
Covid cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Officials said 64.83 per cent of those tested positive were male while the remaining 38.17 per cent were female. During the last 24 hours, GHMC reported 314 new cases. Its neighbouring districts Rangareddy and Medchal Malkajgiri reported a daily jump of 174 and 144 cases respectively.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh has already commenced over 150 bus ser-

The TSRTC bore more brunt of the losses and not able to overcome the loss due to RTC workers observing strike. The resumption of services since May 19 in the rest of the

In fact, the RTC earns more through operation of the interstate services rather than the operation of the city and dis-

trict services. Soon the interstate services are resumed the better it would be for the RTC, the unions say. In fact, level playing field between the RTCs of Telugu states is posing a stumbling block in the negotiations for resumption of bus services. AP buses run for a distance of 2.62 lakh km in Telangana, while the Telangana bus services run in AP for a distance of 1.52-lakh km. The AP officials proposed to reduce the operation of its buses by 52,000 route km so that the TSRTC can operate its bus services by another 50 route km in AP. The experts in transport sector welcome the proposal.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) on Friday addressed letters to political parties seeking support in ensuing Graduate MLC elections for their chief Prof M Kodandaram. The TJS chief will contest from Nalgonda - Khammam - Warangal graduates MLC constituency in the coming elections. The party leaders have submitted letters to Congress, TDP, CPI, CPM and New Democracy parties. The TJS leaders sought the support of these political parties stating

“Kodandaram will represent the youth, unemployment youth in the Legislative Council effectively if elected as an MLC in the ensuing Graduate MLC elections,” they opined. The TJS leaders had already handed over the letters to TPCC and AICC and TTDP Chief L Ramana, CPI state secretary Chada Venkat Reddy and CPM state secretary Thammimini Veerabhadram.

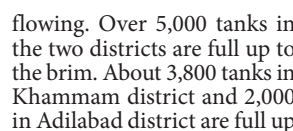
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Recently, the class-IV outsourced employees have urged the government to extend them some incentives in recognition of their services in hazardous circumstances. The beneficiaries would be sanita-

tion workers, security guards and those who serve the Corona patients. Health Minister Eatala Rajender held a high-level meeting to discuss the issue. He also held a meeting with trade union leaders and invited their suggestions on the issue. The Minister preferred to hike their wages instead of extending incentives. When he took it to the notice of KCR, the latter is learnt to have responded positively to the idea. Therefore, proposals are being prepared to hike salaries of the employees.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Of the 20,111 tanks in Godavari River basin, 6,630 are overflowing the sluices, while 10,900 are ready to overflow the sluices. Over 2,669 tanks in Karimnagar and 1,259 in Warangal district are over-



to the brim. There are over 23,301 tanks in Krishna River basin. Of them, 6,500 are overflowing, while another 5,900 tanks are up to the brim. In

In the Krishna and Godvari River basins, 13,000 tanks out of the total 43,412 tanks are overflowing the sluices, while 17,000 are up to the brim. Over 20 lakh acres are being irrigated under tanks during the current Vanakalam season. With the implementation of the Mission Kakatiya, the ayacut under various tanks has increased by 51 per cent and 17 per cent of the dried bore wells got recharged.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

Revenue (LA) Department

FORM - C

NOTIFICATION

(Under section -11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given)

(See Rule 6/12)

Gazette No. : GHMC 127

No. : C/97/2020

Dated : 15-09-2020

Dated : 15-09-2020

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ Special Collector (LA) & Commissioner, GHMC that a total of 1315.96 Sq. Yards of land is required in the Gouthbullapur Village & Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District for public purpose, namely 60' 0"(Ft) Wide Road from Ambedkar Junction (Narasapur State Highway) to Suchitra Junction (National Highway-7) via Gouthbullapur Village.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Gouthbullapur Village and Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District land measuring, more or less of 1315.96 Sq.Yards of standard measurement, whose detail description is as follows, is proposed for acquisition:

Sl.No.	Premises No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Extent in Sq. Yds	Name & Address of person interested	Boundaries				Trees Variety Number	Structures			
						North	South	East	West		Type	Area in Sq. Yds		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
LEFT SIDE PROPERTIES														
1	3-88	Owner	Putta	15.41	Vasudeva	Owners Property	Road	Lane	Neigh bour	-	-	-	-	-
2	3-77	Owner	Putta	22.82	V.Padmanao	Owners Property	Road	Neigh bour	Lane	-	-	-	-	-
3	3-66	Owner	Putta	32.26	Jagadeesh	3-65 3-68	Owner Property	Road	Neigh bour	-	-	-	-	-
4	3-65	Owner	Putta	57.62	P. Raviender	Lane	Neigh bour	Road	Neigh bour	-	-	-	-	-
5	3-64	Owner	Putta	69.73	M.Pulpantham	3-63	Lane	Road	Neigh bour	-	-	-	-	-
6	3-63	Owner	Putta	124.90	Satish Choud	4-2-99	3-64	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
7	3-61	Owner	Putta	66.22	M. Yashiah	3-50	4-2-99	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
8	3-50	Owner	Putta	75.35	B. Vasanthi	3-51	Lane	Road	3-51	-	-	-	-	-
9	3-51	Owner	Putta	17.68	Santhi	Neigh bour	Lane	3-50	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
10		Owner	Putta	79.33	Copaleetdy	Ashok Goud	Road	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
11		Owner	Putta	56.76	Ashok Goud	6-69	Copaleetdy	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
12	6-69	Owner	Putta	31.83	P. Ramesh	6-68	Ashok Goud	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
13	6-66/2	Owner	Putta	33.34	K. Satyana ragana	6-66/1	6-67	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
14	6-63	Owner	Putta	132.22	Chandra Reddy	6-62/1	6-63 /1	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
15	6-62/1	Owner	Putta	30.76	Radhia	6-62	6-63	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
16	6-62	Owner	Putta	31.66	Shantamma	6-100 /2	6-62 /1	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
17	6-100/1	Owner	Putta	35.34	Ch. Jeetha rama	6-61	6-62	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
18	5-75	Owner	Putta	37.80	D.Narasimha	Passag	5-74	Road	Neigh bour	-	-	-	-	-
19	5-86	Owner	Putta	84.26	E. Seeni	Owner Property	Road	Lane	Lane	-	-	-	-	-
20	4-61/1	Owner	Putta	17.69	N. Chandra Shekar	Satyra Ramulu	Lane	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
21	4-61/1	Owner	Putta	21.88	Satyra Ramulu	5-89	21P	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
22	5-99	Owner	Putta	22.55	N. Chandra Shekar	Satyra Ramulu	Lane	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
23		Owner	Putta	37.53		Open Plot	5-99	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
24		Owner	Putta	112.29		Open Land	Open Land	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
25		Owner	Putta	89.72		Road	Open Plot	Road	Owner Property	-	-	-	-	-
Total						1315.96								
<p>This Notification is made under the provisions of Section - 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act 30 of 2013), as amended by the Right to fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.</p> <p>A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Special Collector & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Special Collector - Cum - Appropriate Government is pleased to Authorised officer i.e. Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition, GHMC, Hyderabad and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section -12 of the said Act.</p> <p>Under Section 11 (4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/ purchase, etc., or create any encumbrance on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Special Collector.</p> <p>Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before Special Collector / Authorized officer</p> <div><div>Sd/-</div><div>Sd/-</div><div>Spl. Dy. Collector (LA), GHMC, Hyderabad</div><div>Special Collector (L.A.) & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad</div></div> <div><div>DPNR No. 627/LA/PP-Advt/Agencp/2020</div></div>														

SHORT READS



Mandatory daily antigen test for reporters, Parl staff

New Delhi: Amid fresh cases of coronavirus among MPs, reporters and parliamentary staff entering the Parliament complex will have to undergo mandatory antigen test on a daily basis, according to a new protocol put in place. Members of both Houses are undergoing RT-PCR test on regular intervals on a voluntary basis, said a senior Parliament official. A member of Parliament can undergo RT-PCR test as many times he or she likes. Journalists covering the Monsoon session from press galleries of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha also have the option to undergo the RT-PCR test which is valid for 72 hours. Since the report of the much reliable RT-PCR takes time, antigen test has been made mandatory on a daily basis. Several MPs had tested positive for COVID-19 around the time the session began.

Woman sexually harassed, her family forced to leave village

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A woman was allegedly sexually harassed and her family members threatened by the accused to withdraw the case against them in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Friday. According to the First Information Report (FIR) lodged by the family, the woman was harassed by the accused on September 13. The accused also thrashed her family members when they objected to the act, police said. Under constant threat from the accused to withdraw the case, the family migrated from the village in New Mandi police station area on Thursday, they said. According to acting Station House Officer Sanjay Kumar, six people were booked in connection with the case.

MP calls for evolving research in Homeopathy

New Delhi: A BJP member in Rajya Sabha on Friday called for evolving research in Indian medicine systems of Homeopathy and Ayurveda, saying India can become a world leader by developing alternative technologies and not by following established technology. Speaking on 'The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020' and 'The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020', which were promulgated as ordinances earlier, Sudhanshu Trivedi said there is a need to establish dedicated infrastructure in medical bodies in the country and thus the need for bringing the bills. Some opposition party members, however, took on the government for promulgating the ordinances.

Adityanath govt mulls Ordinance against 'love jihad'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Adityanath govt mulls ordinance against 'love jihad' Lucknow, Sep 18 (PTI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked officials to formulate a strategy and bring an ordinance if required to prevent religious conversions in the name of love, an official said on Friday. "It has been seen in the recent past that women have been made to convert in the name of love and marriage and later subjected to cruelty and even murder," the official who did not wished to be named said. "Taking a serious note of such incidents, the CM has directed that a concrete strategy be made to control such incidents," he added. "It has often been seen that this is being done in an organised manner," he claimed. "If required, an ordinance can be brought for it," he added. The aim is to ensure that such crimes are checked and effective

action is taken against the culprits. All this is being taken into consideration, he added. In Kanpur, the police had recently set up a Special Investigation Team to look into reports of "love jihad". Last year, the Uttar Pradesh State Law Commission had submitted a report to Adityanath, suggesting a new law to check forcible religious conversions. "The report was submitted along with a draft legislation, Uttar Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill, 2019," law commission secretary Sapna Tripathi had said. The report was prepared after going through pre and post-independence laws in the country and neighbouring countries like Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Pakistan besides keeping in mind court judgments. "The commission is of the view that existing legal provisions are not enough to check religious conversions and on this



serious matter, a new law is needed like in some other states," the report said. The 268-page report included newspaper clippings regarding forcible conversions, international covenants on the right to religion, anti-conversion laws in neighbouring countries and

India. It said states like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand had made special laws to ban conversions by force, fraud, marriage or allure-

Nadda slams Opposition over farm bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was going all out against the opposition for what he called 'falsehood' spread by it over their resistance to three farm bills, BJP President JP Nadda, too, staunchly defended the legislation. Interestingly, both deviated from their original topic - the PM was virtually inaugurating the Kosi mega bridge project and Nadda was launching a special edition of 'Kamal Sandesh' magazine. "First, peasants were in slavery. Prime Minister Modi gave a call to liberate farmers. This Bill gives them the free-

dom to choose whether the farmer sells his crop in mandi or sells it in any corner of the country," said Nadda.

He reiterated that both systems of selling agricultural produce under the Agriculture produce market committee and the MSP from the Centre will continue to exist. In a



strong charge, Nadda alleged that those who stand with middlemen are objecting to these bills. "Those opposing it are speaking the language of middlemen and not of farmers," he remarked.

"The Congress party had said in its manifesto that we will bring the farmers out from APMC, the Essential Commodities Act has rusted, we will change it," he said.

PM Modi, too, called out the opposition and called their arguments a "blatant lie". This assertive and aggressive defence by the BJP President and the Prime Minister comes just a day after the resignation of Harsimrat Kaur Badaal from the union cabinet protesting against the Bills.

BSY dismisses rumours of JD(S) joining govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Friday brushed aside speculation of Janata Dal (Secular) joining the state government or extending any support. The chief minister, who is in the national capital on a three-day tour, dismissed such reports that emerged after JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy recently met him to discuss "development-related works". "It is all speculation, there is no truth in it. As one of the leaders of the Opposition party, Kumaraswamy had recently met me to discuss development-related works. There was no political issue

discussed in that meeting," Yediyurappa told reporters here when asked about the reports.

He said his party BJP has a comfortable majority in Karnataka and does not require any support from JD(S).

Yediyurappa also refuted the Opposition's charge that his son and BJP state vice-president B Y Vijayendra was acting like a "super CM". He said Vijayendra was focusing on the party works and not interfering in the functioning of the government.

"Some of the opposition leaders are making baseless allegations out of jealousy looking at his political growth," Yediyurappa said.

Parliament passes Bill to cut salaries of MPs by 30%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Friday passed a bill to reduce for one year the salaries of MPs by 30 per cent "to meet the exigencies arising out of COVID-19 pandemic". Rajya Sabha passed the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020. It had got the approval of Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The bill was introduced by Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi.

Centre insulting Corona warriors, says Rahul Gandhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday attacked the government for stating that data on healthcare staff who were affected by COVID-19 or had died from it is not maintained centrally and alleged that "corona warriors" are being insulted.

Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey informed the Rajya Sabha this week that health is a state subject and "such data is not maintained at Central level by Ministry of Health". This was in response to a question on the number of healthcare staff, including doctors, nurses, support staff and



ASHA workers, who have been affected by coronavirus or died due to it.

Tagging a news report on Choubey's reply, Gandhi titled his tweet, "Adverse data-free Modi government!"

"Their (healthcare workers') safety and respect are more important than beating plates or lighting lamps," the former

Congress chief tweeted in Hindi, referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated campaigns honouring 'corona warriors'. "Modi government, why this insult of corona warriors?" Gandhi asked. Choubey, in his reply, however, also said the database of those seeking relief under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Insurance Package is maintained at national level.

As many as 155 healthcare staff, including 64 doctors, have died due to the coronavirus infection, according to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19, he said.

Covid recovery rate at 78.96%: Health Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The top five states with a high number of active COVID-19 cases -- Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh -- are also the ones that are reporting a high level of recoveries, the health ministry said on Friday.

With a record 87,472 patients having recuperated or having been discharged from home or facility-supervised care and hospitals in a span of 24 hours, the total number of COVID-19 recoveries has surged to 41,12,551 in the country, taking the recovery rate to 78.86 per cent, while the case fatality rate has dropped to 1.63 per cent, it added.

The country has been consistently reporting a very high level of daily recoveries of more than 70,000 for the past 11 days, the ministry said.

"Recovered cases of coronavirus infection are 4.04 times the number of active cases as

recoveries outnumber the latter by 30,94,797," it highlighted.

"The top five states with high active caseload of COVID-19 are also the ones which are presently reporting a high level of recoveries," the ministry said.

It said 59.8 per cent of the active cases are being reported from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. These states have also accounted for 59.3 per cent of the total recoveries and 90 per cent of the new recoveries are reported from 16 states and Union territories, the ministry said.

Maharashtra (19,522) has accounted for 22.31 per cent of the new recoveries, Andhra Pradesh 12.24 per cent, Karnataka 8.3 per cent, Tamil Nadu 6.31 per cent and Chhattisgarh (six per cent).

Together, these states account for 55.1 per cent of the new recoveries, the ministry said.

Kejriwal appeals to all non-BJP parties to unite in RS to oppose farm bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to all non-BJP parties on Friday to unite in the Rajya Sabha and oppose three bills that he claimed would leave farmers in the hands of big companies for exploitation.

In a tweet in Hindi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief asked the non-BJP parties to ensure that all of their members are present in the House and that they do not stage a walkout "drama".

"All three bills of the Centre will leave farmers in the hands of big companies for exploita-



tion. I request all the non-BJP parties to unite in the Rajya Sabha and oppose these bills, make sure all your MPs are present and do not stage a walkout drama. Farmers all over the country are watching you," he said. The Centre introduced the

Farmers' Produce Trade And Commerce (Promotion And Facilitation) Bill, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill in Parliament on Monday to replace ordinances promulgated earlier.

These bills seek to provide a barrier-free trade for farmers' produce outside the notified farm mandis (wholesale markets) and empower farmers to enter into farming agreements with private players prior to production for the sale of their produce.

‘Affordable healthcare for every citizen’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha approved two bills on Friday, replacing ordinances related to the Central Council of Homoeopathy and the Indian Medicine Central Council.

The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeks to further extend the time to form the Central Council of Homoeopathy by a year, after exhausting two years

for the purpose.

The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeks a year's time to reconstitute the central council and provides for a board of directors to exercise its powers in the interim period.

Replying to a debate on the two bills, Union Health minister Harsh Vardhan said the government is committed to providing affordable and easy healthcare facilities to every

citizen. He also defended the Centre's decision to bring ordinances, saying there was nothing "abnormal" and that governments have been taking this route, depending on the necessity.

Both the bills were introduced in the Upper House on September 14, the first day of the ongoing monsoon session, which is being held in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority has suspended Air India Express flights till October 2 for bringing passengers with COVID-positive certificates twice during the last couple of weeks, senior government officials said on Friday.

As per the UAE government rules, each passenger travelling from India need to bring an original COVID-negative certificate from the RT-PCR test done 96 hours prior to the journey.

Dubai suspends AI Express flights till Oct 2 for bringing flyers with +ve certificates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"A passenger, who had a COVID-positive certificate dated September 2, travelled on Air India Express' Jaipur-Dubai flight on September 4. A similar incident had happened with a passenger on one of the airline's other Dubai flights previously," said one of the officials.

Both the incidents of passengers flying with COVID-positive certificates to Dubai from India on

Air India Express flights happened during the last couple of weeks, the officials noted. In a statement later during the day, Air India Express confirmed it had received a "notice of suspension" from the DCAA on September 17 to suspend its Dubai flights from September 18 to October 2.



Cong slams govt delay over Council of Homoeopathy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress slammed the government on Friday for the "inordinate" delay in constituting the Central Council of Homoeopathy, saying it is taking away the autonomy of such autonomous bodies, as it has done in the past with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeks to further extend the time to form the Central Council of Homoeopathy by one year after exhausting two years for the purpose.



Congress leader Ripun Bora, who initiated the debate in the Rajya Sabha, also raised objections against the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which is being discussed simultaneously with the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

Provide gadgets, internet pack to poor students: Delhi HC to schools

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Friday directed private as well as government schools to provide gadgets and an internet package to poor students for online classes, saying the absence of such facilities prevent children from pursuing elementary education.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Sanjeev Narula said private unaided schools "shall be entitled to claim reimbursement of reasonable cost for procurement



of the equipment and internet package from the State under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, even though the State is not providing the same to its students".

The bench directed consti-

tution of a three-member committee, comprising education secretary from the Centre or his nominee, Delhi government's education secretary or his nominee and a representative of the private schools, to expedite and streamline the process of identifying and supplying the gadgets to poor and disadvantaged students.

The court said the committee shall also frame standard operating procedures (SOPs) for identifying the standard of the equipment and internet package to be supplied to the

poor and disadvantaged students. This would ensure uniformity in the gadgets and internet package being used by all the poor and disadvantaged students, the bench said.

The judgment came on a PIL by NGO Justice for All, represented by advocate Khagesh Jha, seeking directions to the Centre and the Delhi government to provide free laptops, tablets or mobile phones to poor kids so that they can access classes online during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Farmers' woes

The farm Bills may claim to open up the agricultural sector but the implied corporatisation may engulf farming communities



Corporatisation of agriculture in the US, where factory farming birthed an uninterrupted chain of “farm to fork,” has wiped out rural communities, their organic methods, their unique produce, their relevance and independent existence. It all began in the 1970s to realise a dream of becoming big enough to command the world’s food market with industrialised processes, merging of lands and shifting priorities to commodity crops. But in no time there was a glut due to over-production, farmers could never get the commensurate prices and were driven to debts. They had no option but to foreclose and sell out. Now farmers do not even make

up a quarter of the total US agricultural production. Buying into the promise of “making it big,” they stretched their resources and were subsumed by food giants. This is exactly the scenario that our farmers fear following the passage of farm Bills, which began as ordinances during the lockdown, in the Lok Sabha. Yes, structurally, they may seem to streamline the agricultural processes but the farmer is not willing to give up his right to exist on his terms. Worse, he fears that these could ultimately reduce the current system of open-ended FCI procurement by the State. Little wonder then that farmers have taken to the streets across North India despite the Prime Minister’s assurance that the new Bills would “empower” them by giving them direct linkages to the market and that their minimum support price (MSP) would still be guaranteed. Such has been the cascading effect of their anxieties that regional parties that sustain on the rural votebank, namely the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), are under pressure to withdraw support to the ruling BJP as allies. The farmers have made it very clear that there would be no political future for parties and MPs that voted with the Government. So the lone SAD Minister, Harsimrat Singh Badal, resigned as Union Minister of Food Processing Industries while in Parliament Sukhbir Singh Badal warned that the proposed laws would “destroy” the 50 years of hard work done by successive Punjab governments to build the farm sector. While the Government insists that the new laws will help create “one nation, one market” and remove trader barriers so that farmers can sell their produce outside notified grain markets, the latter fear that in an open, competitive market, they would not get the minimum support price that the Government has promised to continue. Besides, they feel that entering into contracts with corporations would willy-nilly give the latter negotiating rights and greater control that would impinge on their autonomy and decision-making. And that although the older system would continue, as a weakened parallel mechanism, it would ultimately crumble before emerging monopolies. It is the implication behind the grandiloquence of a prosperous countryside and the devil in the detail that have our farming community up in arms. For example, the Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020, allows buys and sales outside the notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis*, thereby limiting their cartelisation tendencies. It also prohibits State Governments from collecting the fee, cess or levy for trade outside the APMC markets. A licence won’t be required to trade in farm produce and anyone with a PAN card can now buy directly from growers. Hence they want clarity on what “outside” means and contrary to perception that they want middlemen out, they actually have a trusted bond with their existing commission agents, as their licence is proof enough of their credibility and delivery abilities, and would not want to experiment with an untested model. With most of them not literate enough about exercising their rights, dispute resolution could also end up being loaded against them. Besides, they would want direct payment as banks could deduct amounts as loan recovery. State Governments like Punjab are obviously upset that access to another market would dry up their own revenue from APMC *mandis* and are seeing this as an affront to federal controls. The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, seeks to bring uniformity in contractual farming rules and State APMC acts. So the farmer can now enter into a contract with a corporate entity at a mutually agreed price. The problem here is that the mechanism for price fixation is not codified and farmers fear that corporations could use their institutional heft to manipulate or browbeat them into accepting their terms. Finally, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, aims to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from a regulated list, which is being seen as a major threat to the food security of the poor. The Government argues that as a food-surplus nation, we don’t need it anymore but the pandemic-induced crisis has shown us how supply chain disruptions and local level hoarding can lead to a price spiral.

Farmers are not entirely without reason, battling as they are bad loans and non-payment of sugarcane dues in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. They do not want to be swamped. Many experts would argue that it is easy enough to push reforms in a sector that anyway makes a very small portion of our GDP. But farmers make up 60 per cent of the country’s population, a voter base that no political party can ignore. Both the SAD and JJP owe their political legitimacy to farmers and have no option but to advocate their rights. Besides, both represent States that are heavily dependent on procurement at MSP. The Bills may well turn out to be the BJP’s Achilles’ heel provided the Opposition is quick enough to mount a united campaign.

Flight of fancy

Aerial sightseeing has become very popular as several nations still have travel restrictions on incoming arrivals



It began with some intrepid folks chartering planes to fly around. Then airlines such as Singapore Airlines and Australia’s Qantas caught wind of the idea and ran with it. What are we talking about? The concept of “flights to nowhere in particular” seems to have taken off, literally. Qantas’ recent trip, involving low-flying, aerial survey of the Great Barrier Reef, was sold out. Airlines are happy as this allows them to fly their aircraft relatively full, thus keeping some jobs safe and their expensive assets, the planes themselves, flying. Of course, scenic flights that operate in and out of the same airport are not a new concept. Qantas itself has run seasonal flights to Antarctica for several years every southern summer. But 2020, as we all know, is not like any other year, with several nations still putting travel restrictions on incoming arrivals, some not even allowing non-citizens to return and others instituting strict quarantine regulations, even for travel within a country.

As a result the global aviation business is hurting, thousands of pilots, cabin crew, ground crew and aircraft maintenance engineers have already lost jobs and unless things change dramatically, several thousand more will lose their jobs in the coming months. Many airlines have already shut for good and many more are in deep financial distress. It is not a good time to be an airline or be employed by one. So yes, while these flights of fancy might seem extravagant and a waste of money and resources, even adding pollution, their popularity means that airlines will probably survive as well as regain some overall confidence in flying. Let us not forget, these flights are being bought by people, who after six months of being grounded, want to get back in the air. They want to experience airport security and airline food for better or for worse. The very frequent flyer might have celebrated the first couple of months of no flying but almost every single person in that category misses that experience now and these flights, pointless as they might seem, allow these people to get a fix. There are many willing to take off in India as well and maybe a scenic flight or two around the Himalayas or the wonderful coastal areas may not be a bad idea here.

opinion

Presumption of innocence

The media overlooked the principles of ethical juridical coverage while tracking Sushant Singh Rajput’s death and its sordid aftermath



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Media, particularly television, coverage of Sushant Singh Rajput’s suicide — I will call the manner of his death so until established otherwise — and its aftermath has raised questions. Avoiding the mutually accusatory statements that have been doing the rounds, I would rather focus on some of the deeper issues involved. The first is whether the extent of coverage extended to it is justified.

The event, doubtless, was most tragic. A young man, who has given much to Indian cinema, and could have given more, has been cut short in his prime. The unnatural nature of his passing, the allegations and counter-allegations ranging over it, the controversy about who should investigate it, the Centre’s decision to put the CBI in charge, the Supreme Court’s verdict endorsing the transfer and the subsequent developments, certainly merited media coverage. But did it have to take up huge chunks of prime-time coverage on most channels since June 14 when the alleged suicide occurred?

The question is relevant when the country is facing a serious threat of Chinese aggression, a raging and escalating COVID-19 pandemic and an economy in crisis — to mention three of the most important challenges. The argument that these are also receiving attention raises the question: Is the attention of the deserved quality and extent? The question can be countered by two arguments. First, any answer, in the negative or affirmative, will involve a large measure of subjective judgement and, hence, cannot be regarded as definitive. The second can be that viewers want the kind of coverage provided.

As to the first, all judgments on all issues are subjective in the sense that whatever the quality of the evidence, a person or a group must assess it and come to a conclusion. The assessment is by individuals who have their own predilections and orientations, which they may or may not be able to overcome. But then, a society would not have been able to function if it did not proceed by accepting as valid judgements that, under the normative criteria embedded in its underlying social contract, passed the tests of rationality and morality.



Here, rationality dictates the question: Whether Rajput’s death and its sordid aftermath has greater relevance to the lives of the country and its people than the Chinese aggression, the COVID-19 pandemic and/or the economic crisis? One can argue that the aftermath’s importance can hardly be under-stated because it is leading to the unravelling of the Bollywood drug network, which in turn may lead to the eradication of the drug trade’s tentacles throughout the country. Against this, one has the Union Minister of State G Kishan Reddy’s written reply to a question by a Congress MP, K Sudhakaran, in the Lok Sabha on September 15 stating, “Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) carries out search, seizure, arrest and investigation continuously throughout the year on the actionable inputs developed on its own and/or on receipt from other sources. During the period of COVID-19 lockdown, no such actionable inputs were received by the NCB revealing the nexus between people in the film industry and drug traffickers.”

He, however, added, “However, a case in this regard has been registered by NCB Mumbai zonal unit on August 28, 2020. Till date, in this case 10 persons have been arrested. Drugs such as Ganja, Hashish, Tetra Hydro Cannabinol and Lysergic acid Di-ethylamide have been seized in the operation.” Clearly, one has to see what the NCB produces. Until then it would be a bit too much to cite the possibility of its unearthing a pan-India drug racket to justify the massive coverage given to the train of events following Rajput’s death. This leads to the second justification cited above: Viewers want it. This may be true given that the titillation and voyeuristic pleasure that a very large number of people get from watching the lives of celebrities unscramble or the aftermath of a shocking tragedy unfold.

The mere fact that people want to see something does not make it acceptable. Time was when nothing was considered wrong with masses assembled in Rome’s Colosseum roaring in applause as a gladiator killed another or a lion. Even now, many in Spain are happy to witness bullfights in which matadors kill bulls in unequal combat, and thousands participate in *jallikattu* in South India in which bulls suffer horribly.

Clearly, popular participation or viewing does not by itself justify an event or its extensive and approbatory coverage — especially when it diverts attention from critical issues facing a country and trivialises discourse in what the German social philosopher, Jurgen Habermas, calls the “public sphere.” The latter, he states in *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* (1962), is a virtual or imaginary community which does not necessarily exist in any identifiable space. In its ideal form, the public sphere is “made

up of private people gathered together as a public and articulating the needs of society with the state.” It is a space where private individuals discuss public matters, which mediates between society and the state, leading to a critical consensus translating itself into a coherent public opinion, which makes the state accountable to citizens.

The media has a critical role in providing information for discussion in the public sphere. It, however, also has a responsibility to ensure that investigations proceed along right lines. Investigating and prosecuting agencies charged with delivering criminal justice are known to make mistakes and even frame innocent persons, often when under pressure to solve a crime. This writer’s decision to become a journalist has been significantly influenced by his witnessing, as a school student in the early 1950s, the film *Call Northside 777*. Directed by Henry Hathaway, it was based on the real life efforts by a *Chicago Daily Times* reporter, James McGuire, undertaken at the behest of the city editor, Karin Walsh, that led to the release of Joseph Majczek, wrongly convicted of murdering a police officer and serving a 99-year prison term.

One, however, must proceed with extreme caution. Pressures on investigative agencies to produce results can make probes go horribly wrong, leading to prolonged, rough interrogation, arrest and prosecution of innocent people whose lives are dev-

asted in the process even if the judiciary exonerates them in the end. The matter reminds one of the title of Malcom Feeley’s much-discussed book, *The Process is the Punishment: Handling Cases in a Lower Criminal Court*, first published in 1979. Doubtless, the book deals with lower criminal courts in the US and not India. Also, we are talking here not just about lower criminal courts but the entire process. It can be a long haul, involving expenses in the form of lawyers’ fees and transport, time spent in preparations, which often involves time taken off from income-generating activities and, of course, stress and worry.

Should a person, eventually proved innocent, have been made to suffer all this because media pressure led to him/her being pronounced guilty? This does not mean that investigative journalism should not extend to cases under investigation. But it does mean scrupulous observance of the canons of fair play and integrity and two cardinal principles of democratic, libertarian jurisprudence, wedded to respect for human rights.

The first is enshrined in Article 11(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948. It reads, “Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.” It is also incorporated in The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, originally Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which came into force on 3 September 1953. It states in Article 6(2), “Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.”

The famous English jurist, William Blackstone, articulated the second principle when he wrote in *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, “...all presumptive evidence of felony should be admitted cautiously, for the law holds that it is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer.” Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the United States, went further and said, in a letter in March, 1785, “That it is better 100 guilty Persons should escape than that one innocent Person should suffer, is a Maxim that has been long and generally approved.”

Journalists should remember both, always.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and author)

SOUND BITE

I have always enjoyed watching Dhoni play because of the style he has. The aggression...I really like that. It has influenced me in my game, too, as football is a game where you need to be tough.

Footballer
—Anirudh Thapa



Farming is the soul of Punjab. Wounds on the body can heal but wounds of the soul will not be tolerated and condoned.

Congress leader
—Navjot Singh Sidhu



Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, Asian-Americans have been forced to endure demean-



No matter how hard you work and what you do, the President is going to do something that is detrimental to keeping the Americans safe.

Ex-White House Aide
—Olivia Troye



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Question Hour matters

Sir — Question Hour is the liveliest hour in Parliament and lends a certain depth to proceedings. MPs ask questions to hold the Government and its Ministers accountable. It is a sacred parliamentary device meant for exercising legislative control over executive actions. Unfortunately, the ruling party has watered down the Question Hour for this monsoon session. This decision erodes the constitutional mandate of parliamentary oversight over executive actions as envisaged under Article 75 (3) of the Indian Constitution.

Noor Ahmad
Hyderabad

Stranded Indians

Sir — It was heart-wrenching to watch the viral video on social media, which claimed that thousands of Indians, mostly from UP and Bihar, are lodged in jails of Saudi Arabia for more than six months now. With the lockdown eased, many Governments have evacuated their citizens as has ours. But somehow we have been callous about these helpless

migrants, who have not been able to articulate their plight.

AMS Nadwi
Lucknow

Biased investigation

Sir — The ongoing investigation into the Delhi riots of February 2020 has begun to assume a far-fetched character. The focus of the

investigation has shifted from the perpetrators of the riot and its instigators and turned towards only civil society dissenters and protesters of Government policies. In effect, the conspiratorial net has been cast so wide as to capture anyone who opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), be it a student activist, political leader or voluntary worker. The investigation must

be thorough, fair and transparent, and deemed as such.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

China’s digital theft

Sir — The collection of digital data on our President, Prime Minister, politicians, judges, military officers, industrialists and other dignitaries by China is a



recurring frictions could escalate anytime. The Defence Minister underlined the state of preparedness of Indian troops for any eventuality. At the same time, he sounded statesman-like when he observed that there are many ways to start a war, not many to end it. Hence, it is axiomatic that cooperation is better than confrontation.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

matter of national security. An English newspaper report said that a company associated with the Chinese Government and the military is monitoring the Internet and social media activities of about 10,000 distinguished Indians and their close ones. It is clear from this that along with strategic and economic aggression, the digital breach is also a part of China’s hybrid war against India. Along with the expansion of information technology and the Internet, the issue of data security is a matter of grave concern.

Bhupendra Singh Ranga
Haryana

Classes resume

Sir—The Telangana Government has announced that senior students of classes IX to XII should start attending school with 50 per cent teachers. However, with many parents unwilling to pay the fees for the month of June, the State Government must arrange the necessary amount from its Treasury to get the system rolling.

SM Arif Hussain
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The expanding judicial remits

Over the years, the courts have changed the face of justice in India and focussed on issues where the executive has failed in its duty



VK BAHUGUNA

In any system of governance, the judiciary is always an essential part of civilised life. In Indian history, too, kings played a very important part in dispensing justice. In the days of yore, population pressure was less, crimes were few as people were more law-abiding, resources were available in abundance and the system of justice was not stretched like it is today. By and large the judicial system followed the dictates of the rulers and it sufficed. However, with the advent of democracy, modern jurisprudence developed. Independent jurisprudence got a big boost after the Magna Carta was signed by the King of England in 1215. Now, people in most parts of the world recognise the judiciary as an independent pillar of Government. It is complementary to the executive and the legislature but independent from the other branches of Government, as judicial accountability enshrines the principle of neutrality.

The beginning of codified common law in India can be traced back to 1726 when a Mayor's Court in then Madras, Bombay and Calcutta was established by the East India Company. Needless to say, the courts changed the face of justice in India and focussed on issues where the executive failed in its duty. This judicial assertion started from the Kesavananda Bharati case when it ruled that basic features of the Constitution cannot be changed. The enunciation of the doctrine of Public Interest Litigation (a relaxation on the traditional rule of *locus standi*) by Justice PN Bhagwati opened the courts to socially-disadvantaged sections of society and course correction in the functioning of the executive.

In the recent past, many landmark judgments in the field of environment have endeared judges to the people of the country. Notable among them were Justice Kuldip Singh and Justice AN Verma. The 1996 Godavarman case turned the trajectory of forest and wildlife management in India. Despite the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the lackadaisical attitude of the Central and State Governments put forests and biodiversity at great risk. Interventions by courts in the last 24 years forced executive agencies to act for the smooth implementation of constitutional provisions for the conservation of forests and wildlife resources.

India was one of the earliest nations in the tropical world to implement working plan provisions for managing forests sustainably. However, the working plans were almost forgotten by it. The Supreme Court, through its interventions, streamlined forest management in the country and forced respective governments to prepare and regulate management of forests through working plans. Now the results are visible on the ground.

Similarly, rampant mining in forest areas is being closely monitored by the apex court. This positive action of the Supreme Court struck a balance in restoring the constitutional obligation of the executive. Yet another instance of excellent intervention relates to declaring Ganga River a live entity by the Uttarakhand High Court. Such decisions have touched the lives of millions of our citizens. What is most significant in this regard is the recognition of the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves like trees, animals and rivers which are crucial for sustaining life on Earth. The establishment of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in the country, which now has an impressive collection of nearly ₹50,000 crore in its kitty, was possible on the direction of the Supreme Court.

In yet another epoch-making intervention, the apex court came down heavily on the real estate-politician-bureaucrat nexus in Noida. A Supreme Court Bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, sent a stern message to those involved in the Amrapali housing projects. The builder Anil Sharma, who was allegedly in league with politicians and officers of the Noida Authority, swindled more than ₹8,000 crore of homebuyers' hard-earned money. This crime was perpetrated under the noses of those who were supposed to protect the interest of the people. The problem with our governance system is such that it gleefully ignores the sufferings of the people at the hands of criminals and the corrupt. The Supreme Court has been relentlessly trying to restore faith in the rule of law among the 40,000 hapless homebuyers while the executive with all its power has failed miserably on all counts. The court had appointed a receiver for the case, tied up funds from banks and asked the National Building Corporation to complete the projects. The promoters of Amrapali are cooling their heels in jail for the last six months and their properties are under auction.


The vital question is why does the executive fail in its duty and why does the judiciary have to step in? The answer lies in the lop-sided democracy we follow, wherein only vote-fetching and Government formation are a priority of our political masters and public interest takes a back seat. Because of this the remits of the judiciary are being redefined. The judiciary, however, also needs to reinvent itself on certain issues concerning quick delivery of affordable justice so that it does not fall into the same rut like the executive.


(The writer is a retired civil servant)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

YOU LOOK AT COUNTRIES. IN AUSTRIA THEY LIVE IN THE FOREST. AND THEY DON'T HAVE FIRES LIKE THIS. AND THEY HAVE MORE EXPLOSIVE TREES.

—US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP





AUSTRIA IS A COUNTRY WHERE PEOPLE DO NOT LIVE IN THE FOREST, BUT RATHER WITH THE FOREST AND IN A CLOSE, SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE.

—AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER ELISABETH KOESTINGER

A matter of interest

If borrowers get interest relief during the moratorium period, bank investors and depositors would stand to lose unless compensated by the Govt, like it happens in farm loan waivers



SUBHASH CHANDRA PANDEY


Responding to the pandemic, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had "permitted" banks to grant moratorium on payment of instalments of term loans due after March 1 up to August 31. A similar dispensation was "allowed" on recovery of interest on working capital. The moratorium was initially permitted up to the end of April and 55.1 per cent of customers of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), accounting for 50 per cent of outstanding credit, had availed this facility. In Public Sector Banks (PSBs), 80.3 per cent of all individual customers, accounting for 80 per cent of total outstanding individual loans, opted for the moratorium. A whopping 74 per cent of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers and 28.8 per cent of corporate borrowers, covering 81.5 per cent and 58 per cent (by outstanding amount in category loans), availed the facility.

For private banks, 41.8 per cent of individual customers, accounting for 80 per cent of outstanding individual loans, and 20.9 per cent of all MSME customers opted for moratoriums, comprising 42.5 per cent of outstanding loans to MSMEs. About 21.6 per cent of corporate borrowers, covering 19.6 per cent of total outstanding corporate loans, had availed the facility.

The Supreme Court has extended the moratorium and the Central Government has appointed an expert panel to look into the issue. Exactly how many loans accounts and what loan amount is under moratorium are not known. Some borrowers may have decided against seeking the moratorium facility due to uncertainty about relief on interest. Had the interest relief been announced upfront, almost all borrowers would have instantly opted for the moratorium, except possibly for borrowers too proud of their financial standing to seek any relief.

Since the verdict of the apex court was not available by August 31, it was the borrowers' call to take a wager on the verdict and decide whether to opt for a moratorium or not. It is unclear if the relief, if and when granted, would be available only to those availing of the moratorium. Overall, the system lacks incentives for those remaining fully compliant while the non-compliant people may hope to get some relief. Had the interest relief been a matter of legal right under the Banking Regulation or Disaster Management Acts, it would have been through by now. The Disaster Management Act (DMA), empowering the Government to take immediate relief and rescue measures, cannot be over-read to give it unfettered powers to deal with the full economic fallout of the disaster. It certainly does not empower the Government to alter terms of private contracts on jobs, rentals, sales, lending and so on. That explains why the tone and tenor of parts of the "orders" issued under the DMA is not peremptory, prescriptive, definitive but indicative, persuasive and advisory in nature. Hence, legally binding orders regarding timely payment of full salaries, non-recovery of rent and school fees and so on could not be issued for this reason. Appeals to good conscience is a different matter.

Likewise, the Banking Regulation Act (BR Act) would by itself not confer any rights on the RBI to mandate any alteration in individual contracts entered into by the banks unless supplemented with legal remedies under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act (SARFAESI Act) or the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Appropriately, the RBI has "permitted" grants of moratorium while extending regulatory forbearance on recognition of the non-performing asset (NPA). The BR Act does not empower the RBI to mandate



IN THE ABSENCE OF FULLY DISAGGREGATED DATA ON DIFFERENT TYPES OF LOANS UNDER MORATORIUM, A BACK-OF-THE-ENVELOPE QUANTIFICATION OF THE IMPACT OF INTEREST RELIEF CAN BE ₹1 LAKH CRORE PER MONTH ASSUMING INTEREST RELIEF TO BE ABOUT ONE PER CENT PER MONTH ON TOTAL PRE-PANDEMIC OUTSTANDING CREDIT OF ABOUT ₹100 LAKH CRORE. EVEN DIRECT FISCAL RELIEF TO THE GENERAL POPULATION IS NOT OF THIS MAGNITUDE

changing loan terms already contracted. Loan contracts can be changed only on the orders of insolvency courts. Mandatory moratorium requires more than the BR Act.

There are no free lunches in economics except those paid for by others. If borrowers get interest relief during the moratorium period, bank investors and depositors would stand to lose unless compensated by the Government, like it happens in farm loan waivers. Charity at others' expense is systemic. Relief to borrowers at the expense of depositors is akin to relief to consumers ending up suppressing remunerative market prices for farmers. The bank depositors are also adversely impacted by the pandemic-induced fall in interest rates that stand to benefit new borrowers as well as the borrowers who are able to refinance high-cost old loans. The post-outbreak rate cuts and liquidity infusion by the RBI, aided by rising foreign exchange reserves, has caused a precipitous fall in interest rates. Some are offering record-low home loan interest rates under seven per cent per annum with new products of repo-linked home loans on offer. Low interest rates bring cheer to borrowers but gloom to depositors.

There are no fiscal guarantees to depositors on minimum interest rates and the IBC haircuts have been too costly in some cases. When corporate borrowers get a tax reduction bonanza, they don't share the booty with lenders as they are not obliged to. When farm loans are waived, Governments provide fiscal support to banks but at present the Centre does not seem able and willing to compensate the banks for interest relief.

In the absence of fully disaggregated data on different types of loans under moratorium, a back-of-the-envelope quantification of the impact of interest relief can be ₹1 lakh crore per month,

assuming interest relief to be about one per cent per month on total pre-pandemic outstanding credit of about ₹100 lakh crore. Even direct fiscal relief to the general population is not of this magnitude.

Financial stakes on the Supreme Court's verdict are very high. The interest relief has been sought from the highest court of justice precisely because it is not a legal right. The golden balance of justice is being watched by distressed borrowers and anxious depositors. All borrowers are not equally distressed by the pandemic. Some differentiating criterion based on quantum of liability outstanding on March 1 and purpose of loan (whether educational; for first home/car or second one, for the Economically Weaker Section or affordable housing, past credit history) and proven impact of the contagion on income can be evolved to give relief to a truly needy class of borrowers. The relief even to this subset should not be entirely a burden on bank depositors. Ideally such relief is best provided by governments under fiscal stimulus paid by taxpayers, current or future.

The need to maintain the health of banks can hardly be overemphasised. Deep-rooted socio-cultural beliefs stigmatising indebtedness (indebted person embarrassed and lenders reviled) continue to change worldwide.

Post World War, the wheels of growth are lubricated by the continuous supply of credit. India joined the borrow/spend bandwagon in the 80s. Lending by Scheduled Commercial Banks rose from ₹8,64,300 crore (30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product [GDP]) at the end of March 2004 to ₹67,35,200 crore at the end of March 2014 (60 per cent of the GDP). At present, bank lending is only about 50 per cent of the GDP.

As on July 31, the total deposits of SCBs were ₹141,61,689 crore (₹127,44,583 crore a year ago); outstanding credit was ₹102,65,888 crore (₹97,29,002 crore a year ago) and investments were ₹42,78,294 crore (₹35,57,063 crore a year ago). The combined effect of risk aversion of banks to lend and predominantly domestic financing of fiscal deficit is that only about two-third of deposits get lent to non-Government entities.

We have made great strides in terms of expanding the reach of banking services and financialisation of savings but high-profile delinquencies by those who can afford to pay continue to eclipse these achievements.

The gross NPA of SCBs that had peaked to 11.2 per cent in 2017-18 has been brought down to 8.5 per cent by March. This achievement is at great cost to bank investors/depositors on account of hefty haircuts following not-so-competitive slump sales of distressed companies under the conventional, single round bidding system being followed under the IBC. The RBI has assessed that the gross NPA of all SCBs may increase from 8.5 per cent in March to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 and even to 14.7 per cent if the adverse economic impact of the pandemic is very severe. Seeing the plight of forecasting tools, the economic fallout of the contagion is hard to predict and measure.


Since bank lending is only about 50 per cent of the GDP and post-pandemic recovery would require a heavy dose of credit, it is imperative to maintain incentives for financial savings.

Erosion of bank profitability runs the risk of dire consequences of de-financialisation or informalisation of savings, derailing the hard-won recovery. The banking system needs calibrated support to prevent relapse into transmitted sickness.

(The writer is a retired IAAS officer and former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.)

Fight hunger with an inter-sectoral strategy

The 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' seems to have made some headway with an ambitious target of achieving a malnutrition-free India by 2022



SUNIL RAJPAL

It is disconcerting that every second child in India suffers some form of nutritional failure in India. Over the years, Government data have borne witness to how many people, especially women and children, do not get three square meals in a day. Worryingly, the potential disruptions caused by the lockdown may make the varied forms of malnutrition a lasting reality. However, the launch of the Government's flagship programme 'POSHAN Abhiyaan', seems to have made some headway, with an ambitious target of achieving a malnutrition-free India by 2022.

It also aims to reduce stunting in children aged between zero and five years from 38.4 per cent to 25 per cent during the same period, along with reducing the level of anaemia and low birth weight in children.

With inter-sectoral convergence being the key strategy, the programme makes a shift from the existing approach of making planning and implementation the responsibility of one Ministry. Instead, it rightly notes the various critical components of success and makes 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' a multi-ministerial initiative. While the Ministry of Women and Child Development acts as the nodal office, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is responsible for the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) that ensures cleanliness and hygiene and the Ministry of Education is responsible for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS).

Two other Ministries, that of Health and Family Welfare and the one responsible for Rural Development, are looking after health programmes such as Mission

Indradhanush for immunisation coverage and rural income schemes, such as MNREGA, respectively. The LPG distribution scheme by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas enabled safe and hygienic cooking in underprivileged households.

But will India accept malnutrition as everyone's problem? The copious fund allocation for the 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' and its increase in the past three years have shown the Government's sincerity in taking the mission to its intended conclusion. From ₹950 crore in 2017-18, the current allocation for the 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' reached a sum of ₹3,400 crore for the financial year 2019-20. However, the potential challenge can be bringing social and behavioural change towards malnutrition at the community level. Ensuring equitable nutrition to build a healthier nation will require the following.

Eating local and seasonal food: This comprises a part of the trend known as "sustainable eating" and has

been proven to be an economical solution to the food crisis globally. This saves time and the cost of transportation while promoting the use of fewer preservatives. Such food items are also suitable to fulfil the nutritional needs of the people in a way that is commensurate with the local environment.

The concept of introducing kitchen gardens in schools to fulfil some part of the requirements under the MDMS is an innovative step. In the coming days, introducing more steps, such as promotion of local, nutritious millet and crop diversification to promote traditional millet will be the right steps to complement this ongoing effort. Recent studies have observed that investing \$1 in nutrition-related interventions will have economic gains of about \$19 to \$22.

Addressing intrinsic social and cultural biases: In his paper 'POSHAN Abhiyaan: Making Nutrition a Jan Andolan', NITI Aayog member Vinod K Paul and co-

authors observe that despite the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 mandating the legal age of marriage at 18 for girls, 30 per cent of them are married before that age and eight per cent are already pregnant by the time they are 15-19 years of age. Facing intra-household deprivations due to their sex and abject poverty, these young girls often forego necessary nutrition, care, and rest even during their pregnancy, thus delivering low birth weight babies. For these babies, the cycle of malnutrition has already begun, they note.

This long-standing social bias deepens with socio-economic nuances. For example, in tribal households, the overall amount of food is anyway low and the men, by tradition, get the larger share of it, considering the physical labour they must undertake. A male child may get less to eat than his father, but is likely to get more than his mother, grandmother or sister. There is a need to free nutrition from the perceived requirement of the

receiver. Disseminating a scientifically-validated diet chart according to age and sex to the Panchayat level can help in spreading awareness and help households modify their practices.

Clear and visible measures for better accountability: Owing to the possible institutional leakages, Government initiatives should be monitored by some metric for accountability. For this, an enhanced information and process system is crucial. Monitoring, surveillance, and evaluation remain critical to all Government initiatives not only to firm up the people's trust but for better outcomes as well. Understanding ground-level realities will not only enrich policymakers' understanding, it may help in building a positive perspective among beneficiaries about public interventions. Public consultations, surveys among beneficiaries and social audits are some of the most effective ways to do this.

Building a case against hidden hunger: Few realise that malnutrition

is not exclusively a rural phenomenon. Many people, especially children, in the cities, too, suffer from malnutrition, albeit of a different kind. Since a good part of their diet is filled with refined and finished items, not to mention the large amounts of salt, sugar and trans-fat they consume, the children lack micronutrients such as iron and zinc. Traditional crops and millet, marked as nutri-cereals that should have been part of our diet, are fast becoming a favourite of the educated and wealthier part of the society. However, as companies producing fast-moving consumer goods look to the rural market to revive from the economic effect of the pandemic, it is important to ensure that rural consumers do not acquire the habits of cities. The onus is on the Government to ensure that the learnings from the cities reach the villages before it is too late.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Health Economist, IIHMR University, Jaipur)

CAPSULE

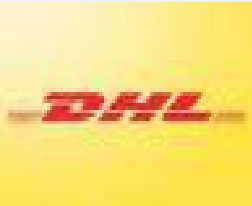


Expecting continuous improvement in leather exports: CLE
New Delhi:The country's exports of leather and footwear items are expected to see continuous improvement in the growth rate in the coming months on account of increasing demand in global markets, CLE said on Friday. Council for Leather Exports (CLE) Chairman Aqeel Ahmed Panaruna said the exports in August stood at USD 356.15 million and 'our industry is confident of achieving 90 per cent of last year's exports in September'.The sector's export in July was USD 333 million and USD 245 million in June.He added that as of now, there is an increase in demand for casual products and lesser demand for formal items, as more people are still working from home.But, we are optimistic that once the pandemic situation settles down, the overall demand will increase and there will be more opportunities for sector.



Angel Broking's Rs 600-cr IPO to open on Sep 22

New Delhi: Angel Broking on Friday said it will launch its initial public offering (IPO) on September 22 to raise an estimated Rs 600 crore. The company has fixed a price band of Rs 305-306 per share for its IPO, Angel Broking said in a virtual press conference.The initial share-sale will be open for public subscription on September 22 and close on September 24, while the bidding for anchor investors will open on September 21. Angel Broking is aiming to raise Rs 600 crore through the IPO, which comprises fresh issuance of shares worth Rs 300 crore and offer for sale of Rs 300 crore by promoters and other shareholders.International Finance Corporation will sell shares to the tune of Rs 120 crore in the offer for sale. Proceeds of the issue will be utilised for meeting working capital requirements and for general corporate purposes. Angel Broking, a leading full-service retail broking house in the country, has presence across 1,800 cities and towns through a network of sub-brokers and 110 branches.



DHL Express announces annual price adjustments

Coimbatore: DHL, leading international express service provider, announced a price hike in shipment rates for India on Friday that will come into effect on January 1, 2021.The increase in the country will be 6.9 per cent, compared to 2020, a DHL release said Further, the surcharge for Overweight Pieces and Non-Stackable Pallets will be adjusted to Rs 7,250 per piece and Rs 15,000 per pallet.This is to continuously ensure the resilience of its network and constantly maintain high service standards. "At DHL Express, it is our endeavor to deliver unparalleled quality to our customers.This needs us to make significant and continuous investments in infrastructure and technology," DHL Express India Country Manager R S Subramanian said. Prices are adjusted on an annual basis by DHL Express, taking into consideration inflation and currency dynamics such as administrative costs related to regulatory and security measures. These measures are updated by national and international authorities on a regular basis.

Google removes Paytm app from Play Store

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Google on Friday said it has removed Paytm app from the Play Store for violation of its policy on sport betting activities. Paytm will not be available for download now but there will be no impact on existing users of the app.

"The app was blocked for violation of play policies - a clarification of our policy was released earlier today ahead of the IPL tournament," Google said in an e-mailed response on Friday.

Google also said that only the app availability on Play Store is impacted and there is no impact on users.In a tweet, Paytm said Paytm Android app is temporarily unavailable on Google's Play Store for new downloads or updates.

"It will be back very soon. All your money is completely safe, and you can continue to enjoy your Paytm app as normal," it added. Paytm is a popular app for digital transactions.

In a blog on Friday, Google said it does not allow apps facilitating sports betting and will remove such apps from the Google Play Store.

"We don't allow online casinos or support any unregulated gambling apps that facilitate



'Will remove apps that facilitate sports betting from Play Store'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Google on Friday said it does not allow apps facilitating sports betting and will remove such apps from the Google Play Store.

There is often a surge in launch of such apps before major sporting tournaments like the IPL. The latest season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is scheduled to start from September 19 in the United Arab Emirates.

"We don't allow online casinos or support any unregulated gambling apps that facilitate

nos or support any unregulated gambling apps that facilitate sports betting. This includes if an app leads consumers to an external website that allows them to participate in paid tournaments to win real money or cash prizes, it is a violation of our policies," Google said in a blog post.

It added that these policies are in place to protect users from potential harm.Google did not specify if any apps have been removed for non-compliance on these grounds.Further,

sports betting. This includes if an app leads consumers to an external website that allows them to participate in paid tournaments to win real money or cash prizes, it is a violation of our policies," the blog post said. According to the blog post, these policies are in place to protect users from potential harm.

There is often a surge in launches of such apps before major sporting tournaments like the IPL.

Google said that when an app violates these policies, it notifies the developer of the violation and removes the app from Google Play until the developer brings the app into compliance."And in the case where there are repeated policy violations, we may take more serious action which may include terminating Google Play Developer accounts. Our policies are applied and enforced on all developers consistently," the blog posted.

Kia Motors launches Sonet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

South Korean auto major Kia Motors on Friday launched its compact SUV Sonet in India, priced between Rs 6.71 lakh and Rs 11.99 lakh (ex-showroom), marking its foray into the highly competitive and fast-growing segment.

The sub-four metre model comes in both petrol and diesel engine options and will compete with the likes of Hyundai Venue, Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza, Tata Motors Nexon, Honda WR-V and Ford Ecosport, among others.

In total, Kia Motors India said, the Sonet will be available across 17 variants, including two petrol engines, two diesel engines (WGT and VGT configurations), five transmissions and two trim levels -- Tech Line and GT-Line. The petrol variant will have a 1-litre GDI delivering power of 120 PS and another 1.2-litre G1 engine with power of 83 PS.

India Ratings revises banking sector outlook to negative for H2 FY21

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Domestic rating agency India Ratings and Research on Friday revised its outlook on the country's banking sector to negative for the second half of this fiscal from stable due to the likely increase in stressed assets, credit costs and weak earnings.

It expects restructuring/slip-pages pool from the corporate sector to be around Rs 3.3 lakh crore to Rs 6.3 lakh crore during the current fiscal.

The agency said it has revised its outlook in view of "an expected spike in stressed assets, higher credit costs, weaker earnings on account of interest reversals and lower fee income, and muted growth prospects in the wake of the measures taken to contain the spread of COVID-19".

In the worst case, the spike in stressed assets due to the pandemic is expected to double the credit costs for the banking system than estimated pre-COVID-19 levels for



FY21, it said. It has revised the rating outlook on public sector banks (PSBs) to negative for the second half from stable, while maintaining a stable outlook for private banks, as they are better placed to withstand the challenges presented by the pandemic.

The agency in the report said state-run lenders' modest capital buffers are expected to deplete further in FY21 due to provisioning requirements. Also, pre-COVID profitability expectations for FY21 would be belied and most banks are

likely to report net losses.

These banks may also need to continue to build up their provision cover in FY22 for restructured assets as some of the restructured assets could turn NPA in FY23.

"PSBs' could require Rs 350 billion-Rs 550 billion in H2 of FY21 for tier 1 ratio of 10 per cent," the report said.

Under the new restructuring framework, lenders would be able to handhold those borrowers who have been temporarily impacted by COVID-19 but are otherwise viable.

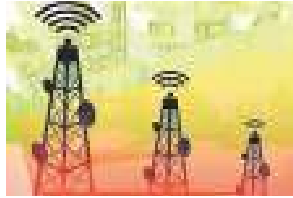
TRAI tightens rules on tariff plans issued by telcos

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator TRAI on Friday issued a fresh set of rules for publication and advertisement of tariff plans by telcos, in a bid to boost transparency in mobile offers and to help subscribers make informed decisions.

The consumer-oriented move assumes significance as telecom subscribers often grapple with issues such as lack of information, unclear or hard to find plan details a situation that affects subscribers' ability to make proper choices.

Tightening the rules for telcos, TRAI on Friday issued directions on tariff publication



and tariff advertisements.

It has been observed that existing measures adopted by telecom service providers are not transparent as they should be and that some of the telecom service providers are not prominently highlighting additional terms and conditions and are also collating the terms and conditions applicable to various tariffs on a single

web-page and that the relevant information either gets lost in the maze of detail or becomes ambiguous and incomprehensible to consumers," TRAI directive said.

Overhauling the regulatory requirements in this regard, TRAI has now directed telcos to publish, service area wise - within 15 days - each tariff plan for postpaid and prepaid subscribers, and offer full information to subscribers at customer care centres, points of sales, retail outlets and websites, and apps with requisite disclosures.

The "essential disclosures", mandated in TRAI's directive, include information on

units/volume of voice, data and SMS, and its rates, limits of usage rates and speeds beyond entitled use.

Telcos will also have to transparently inform subscribers about upfront cost alongwith details like advance rentals, deposits, connection fee for postpaid services as well as top up, tariffs vouchers and others. TRAI asserted that "clear, unambiguous and easy to understand" disclosure also has to be made on the validity period of tariff plan and last date of bill payment. Other details that have to be transparently communicated to subscribers are specific inclusions made in the tariff plan.

Import duty on masoor dal reduced

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has reduced the import duty on masoor dal by 20 per cent till October-end, a move aimed at increasing availability in the domestic market. A notification of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has amended a June 2017 notification "so as to reduce" the basic customs duty on lentil (masoor dal) for the period from September 18, 2020 to October 31, 2020".

The import duty on lentil has been reduced from 30 per cent to 10 per cent from countries other than the US.

In the case of import of the lentil from the US, the duty has been brought down to 30 per cent from the earlier 50 per cent. In June also, the import



duty was cut to 10 per cent for the shipments originating from any country other than the US till August 31. In case of the US, the customs duty was brought down to 30 per cent from 50 per cent.

The reduced customs duty was applicable during the period June 2 to August 31, 2020. The duty was restored to previous level from September 1.

India is the world's largest consumer and importer of pulses.The country's total pulses production during 2019-20 crop year (July-June) stood at 23.15 million tonnes as against 22.08 million tonne in the previous year, as per the government's estimates.

Of this, the lentil output is

estimated to have declined to 1.18 million tonne from 1.23 million tonne in the 2018-19 crop year. Reacting to the development, Indian Pulses & Grains Association Vice Chairman Bimal Kothari said the government should have a consistent import policy.

He said the duty cut announced in June benefitted foreign farmers and traders as global prices of lentil rose after India reduced the import duty.

Kothari said the country imported about 25 lakh tonnes of pulses last fiscal to meet domestic demand and out of that 8.5 lakh tonne was lentil.

He pegged the imports of lentil to rise to 10 lakh tonnes this fiscal, although the overall inwards shipments might come down to 20 lakh tonnes.

Sensex drops 134 pts; financial stocks drag

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Domestic equity benchmark Sensex ended 134 points lower on Friday, dragged by losses in financial stocks amid mixed global cues.

After swinging 564.69 points during the day, the 30-share BSE index settled 134.03 points or 0.34 per cent lower at 38,845.82. The NSE Nifty fell 11.15 points or 0.10 per cent to finish at 11,504.95.

HDFC Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding over 2 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Titan, SBI, HUL, HDFC and Tata Steel.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel,M&M,NTPC,Tech Mahindra,Sun Pharma and Power-Grid were among the gainers.According to traders,



despite a positive start, domestic stocks ended on a negative note tracking weakness in financial stocks and foreign fund outflows. Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 249.82 crore on a net basis on Thursday, exchange data showed.Meanwhile, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul

and Tokyo ended with gains, while most stock exchanges in Europe were trading with a negative bias.Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.39 per cent higher at USD 43.47 per barrel. the forex market, the rupee strengthened by 21 paise to close at 73.45 against the US dollar.

Lift onion export ban: Congress MP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress MP Rajeev Satav urged the government on Friday to withdraw its decision to ban the export of onions, saying it is an anti-farmer move and would affect them adversely, especially in Maharashtra.

"The government decision to ban the export of onions would affect farmers adversely. The poor farmers are already distressed due to the bad condition of the economy and the COVID-19 situation. The onion export ban would further aggravate that suffering. I urge the government to review its decision and withdraw this notification," Satav said in a special mention in the Upper House of Parliament.

"Maharashtra is one of the big onion-exporting states. In 2019-20, Maharashtra had exported 18.5 lakh metric tonnes of onions. Thus, it is a prime source of farmers' income in the state," he pointed out.

The Centre banned the export of all varieties of onions with an immediate effect on Monday to keep a tab on the prices of the commodity in the domestic market.

Earlier, during the Zero Hour, Arpita Ghosh of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) suggested that the government should not



withdraw its control over the prices of vegetables like potatoes and onions.

She said the Centre is trying to de-control the prices of essential commodities, including vegetables like potatoes and onions.It has been observed that the prices of essential commodities like potatoes and onions have shot up by 50 to 80 per cent, Ghosh said. "Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been trying immensely to keep the upward prices in control in West Bengal. Potato is being made available at Rs 25 per kg to people through 'Sufal Bangla'. Regular campaigns are being organised to curb black marketing.

"She has made arrangements to provide ration to people for free till June 2021 in view of the coronavirus situation. Arrangements have also been made to preserve 70 lakh tonnes of potatoes in 400 cold storages," the TMC leader said.

India public cloud mkt to reach Rs 63,000cr by FY'25

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's public cloud market stood at Rs 17,000 crore in FY2020 and is expected to grow at about 30 per cent CAGR to reach Rs 63,000 crore by FY2025, a report by industry body Nasscom said.

Also, small and medium businesses (SMBs) can account for 28-30 per cent of the cloud market by 2025, it said.

The report titled 'SMB Cloud Adoption in India: Towards a Cloud First nation' showcased how SMBs are at

the cusp of digital transformation with cloud adoption as the catalyst.

In a survey of 1,000 SMBs in India, 60 per cent said they are already using cloud, though almost half are at early stages of adoption. Best-in-class SMBs that adopted cloud have been able to drive 25-30 per cent productivity improvement and 15-20 per cent reduction in operational costs.

Security, analytics and offline to online are the three major opportunity segments for cloud adoption, the report

said. More than 50 per cent of the respondents cited lack of management support, talent and capital as key constraints for cloud adoption.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the SMB segment and they have struggled with liquidity crunch, lack of demand and lack of an alternative operational model. However, according to the report findings, SMBs that have an online presence have shown greater resilience and are expected to see short-term revenue gain," Nasscom said.

Asian shares higher despite Wall Street slump, virus fears

PNS ■ TOKYO

Asian shares were mostly higher Friday despite some investor attention shifting again to the uncertainties in global economies amid the coronavirus pandemic, as reflected in the overnight fall on Wall Street.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 0.2% to finish at 23,360.30. South Korea's Kospi added 0.4% to 2,414.86. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.3% to 5,864.50. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.6% to 24,489.40, while the Shanghai Composite edged up 1.9% to 3,332.96.

Another slide in technology

companies helped pull stocks lower on Wall Street Thursday, extending losses from the day before.

The S&P 500 lost 0.8% after having been down 1.7% earlier. The selling was widespread, with eight of the 11 sectors that make up the benchmark index ending the day lower. The sectors that include Amazon, Facebook and Apple took the heaviest losses.

The selling came a day after the Federal Reserve said it will keep interest rates at nearly zero for years to support the wheezing economy. The statement failed to encourage Wall Street and the S&P 500 recorded its first loss in four days

Wednesday. "Hesitations as to whether the U.S. economy can sustain the current pace of recovery amid the lack of additional fiscal policy support and the Fed standing put on stimulus had the market reeling once again," said Jingy Pan, senior market analyst at IG. "The Fed hangover had seen to a conundrum for Asia markets with muted moves noted going into Friday between the Wall Street decline and the greenback weakness post Fed meeting." Low interest rates are usually a boon for investors, sending stocks soaring. So why the sell-off? Analysts gave varying reasons for the market's weakness.

‘HYDERABAD TO ME IS MY KARMABHOOMI’

Pradeep Chowdhry's association with Hyderabad dates back to 1991 when he first moved here to join ITC as Vice President finance with their Agribusiness division. He later went on to establish Acalmar Oils & Fats, which was a JV with the Wilmar Group of Singapore. After exiting from the group, he established Gemini Edibles & Fats India Pvt Ltd (GEF India), which was again a JV company in 2009.

Pradeep, who has been in the edible oil business for over 18 years now, says, "My team and I applied our collective learning of over 18 years in the edible oils business and worked on setting up a company of international standards. A skilled and committed team along with support from the huge number of distributors and other customers helped me greatly in the success of the new company. All of this happened to me in Hyderabad."

He credits his entire entrepreneurial journey to Hyderabad. "Hyderabad inspires a culture of entrepreneurs and is very positive towards people of all ethnicity and background. The last 29 years spent here have been memorable and the city has given me everything possible that a man needs. Success in the business where I created value for all stakeholders and employment for thousands of employees and service providers, suppliers, and ancillaries. Besides, at a personal level, I have made some really good friends

Pradeep Chowdhry, the Managing director of Gemini Edibles and Fats India Pvt Ltd, is the first generation entrepreneur who has been instrumental in setting up an edible oil firm and making it one of the finest and top edible oil producers in the country. He has been awarded the Globoil India Man of the Year award 2015. Having been born in Dehradun and lived across various cities in the country, he established his firm in Hyderabad. He talks to **K RAMYA SREE** about his association with the city, how it helped his career bloom, and more...

which are so important in life," he adds.

Like many others migrating to a new city, Pradeep and his family too, had their own set of apprehensions before migrating to Hyderabad. After moving

here, he says, all his fears were allayed. Having been born in Dehradun and lived in Delhi, Kanpur, Kolkata, and Bengaluru, how did Pradeep manage in an all-new city, Hyderabad, he explains, "My family and I

moved from Bangalore which, in 1991, was a real swanky city. We did have certain apprehensions about moving to Hyderabad — about its culture, language, schools for my kids, and the professional environment of the city. Thankfully, all these fears proved to be in vain. My children got a good education and are well settled in their lives. Hyderabad is truly a cosmopolitan city and we got adapted to its culture very well. People from all parts of the country live in Hyderabad. Language is not an issue at all. All this made us feel at home as if we are originally Hyderabadi," he tells us.

In the same vein, he goes on to add, "Hyderabad is a lovely city in most aspects. It is cosmopolitan with people being very friendly and warm. It has, by far, the best infrastructure compared to other Indian cities. It gives all the advantages of a big city and yet gives the comfort of a small place. For instance, commuting is much easier. Above all the climate of Hyderabad is gorgeous."

Pradeep loves how the city welcomed him with open arms. "The city is treating me very well. I credit my success to this city and the wonderful ecosystem that it offers. Today, Gemini Edibles deals in a wide range of edible oils and fats and we have carved out a niche for us in the country. We are one of the fastest-growing edible oil companies in India and a lot of credit for this goes to the professional culture of Hyderabad where I was able to build a strong and committed team. The

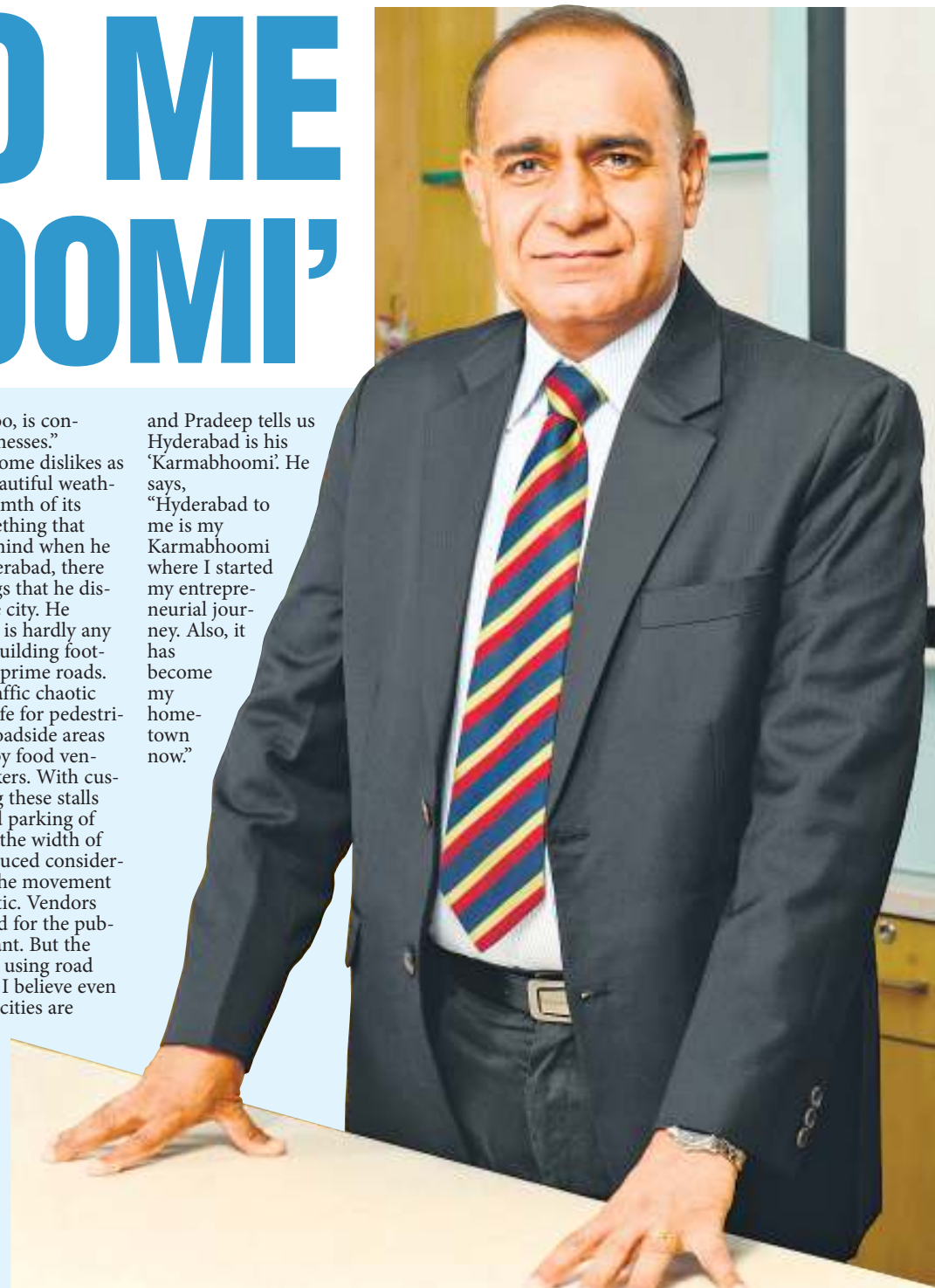
government too, is conducive to businesses."

With likes come dislikes as well. While beautiful weather and the warmth of its people is something that comes to his mind when he thinks of Hyderabad, there are a few things that he dislikes about the city. He shares, "There is hardly any emphasis on building footpaths on even prime roads. This makes traffic chaotic plus very unsafe for pedestrians. A lot of roadside areas are occupied by food vendors and hawkers. With customers visiting these stalls and haphazard parking of their vehicles, the width of the road is reduced considerably, making the movement of traffic chaotic. Vendors and cheap food for the public are important. But the solution is not using road space for that. I believe even in India some cities are developing vendor zones to deal with this issue. Hyderabad was earlier known for its lakes.

However, lakes of Hyderabad are reducing and one day will become extinct. This is because water passages to lakes are getting blocked, unauthorised construction by occupying lake areas and pollutants being dumped in the lakes."

For a person who gained entrepreneurial success in Hyderabad, the city becomes his/her hometown

and Pradeep tells us Hyderabad is his 'Karmabhoomi'. He says, "Hyderabad to me is my Karmabhoomi where I started my entrepreneurial journey. Also, it has become my home-town now."



HYDERABOND



As international film festivals are transitioning to virtual formats, there is an increased demand in trimmed down yet accurately curated short films. One of its kind being — *A Date in the Dark*, the first-ever Telugu virtual audio short film officially selected for the Mont. Blanc International film festival Paris made by a small-town guy from Kadapa, Singara Mohan. He talks to **The Pioneer's SHIKHA DUGGAL** on his journey, battling odds and more.

Audio effects in short films opening new doors for art!

Those who swore away from digital versions of books have now adapted to technology. 2020 is dedicated to experimental selections and directors from Telangana seem to make a clear mark. As narrated by filmmaker Singara Mohan, the audiences are already overwhelmed by the volume of online content and it's giving them a cinematic experience surrounded by audio and sound effects. "My plotline discovers the last day of a man who spends time with his wife who is blind. It was an extremely tough journey as we needed to create,

capture, and manipulate several sounds. It's not a regular short film, what we hear is as important as what we see. We replicated the environment, narrated the scenes, actions, and conducted a brilliant sound designing," shares the writer-cum-director.

Weaving the short film into an emphasis on beautiful performances drawing attention to sound elements, Singara Mohan, a B-tech dropout, believes in penning down extraordinary content. The inflection points, art, and dialogues must acquire a unique place in the audience's hearts. "The content should enhance the intensity of the movie, fit into the

specific genre, and engage the viewers. The sound shouldn't go unnoticed because the whole short film is based on it. I have unlocked the sound's potential to create storytelling picturesquely," he adds.

The film's narrative structure is inspired by another similar virtual audio film called 'Dialogue in Dark' paving new pathways for writers. Mediums keep changing and the switch to audio films is a novelty that is being recognised and appreciated. They are better for the environment, are economical, and can add new dimensions to what the writer brings to the table.

Caring for your eyes amid COVID

The COVID-19 pandemic seems like it is here to stay for a while. As the number of cases is shooting up as days pass by, it is of utmost importance to maintain social distance and not travel unnecessarily. By staying home, we can manage several activities like working online, studying for school, ordering groceries and supplies, etc. But what about our health? Especially the health of our eyes? What if we have decreased vision or redness or pain? How will we know whether it is an emergency or it can wait? Should we postpone the visit to the eye doctor?

As a patient, you would naturally be apprehensive about your eyes as vision is one of the most essential sense that is required to function. It is also well known that certain diseases, if not taken care of in the initial stages, can lead to permanent visual loss. In these times, teleconsultation/telephone and video consultation are proving to be very useful to have an initial assessment of the condition of the patient and decide on whether the patient needs a hospital visit or not.

The conditions for which one can seek a teleconsultation and avoid a physical visit include:

- Complaints of dryness, eye fatigue, discomfort: this is often due to the necessary use of computers as many people are now working online and prolonged use of digital media either for work or entertainment can cause this
- Complaints of redness, eye swelling, mild to



DR SOMASHEILA MURTHY, Head, Cornea and Anterior Segment Service, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

moderate pain, watering, itching, lid nodules: many of these conditions can be managed medically and a good teleconsultation including a video consultation would be the first step

When should you visit the hospital and on an emergency basis?

- Do not wait if you have:
 - Sudden loss of vision
 - Complaints of severe pain, associated with

redness, light sensitivity: in such a case the patient should prepare for a hospital visit as these symptoms could be due to a more severe eye disease

- Any significant injury such as household chemicals falling accidentally into the eye, injury to the eye with a blunt or sharp object while working/playing, etc.

When should you visit the hospital, not as an emergency but where routine follow-ups can not be ignored:

- Diabetic patient with or without deterioration of vision
- Patients with a history of glaucoma or other eye diseases such as corneal transplants
- Other chronic conditions for which the patient is on medications as advised by the ophthalmologist (uveitis, etc.)

How safe is it to visit the hospital during the pandemic:

The followings steps are being taken by several hospitals to ensure the utmost safety for patients:

- A triage system at the entry point itself, where patients who have symptoms suggestive of COVID infection are being seen in an isolation room
- The patient numbers are maintained at a uniform inflow and outflow so as to ensure that there is no overcrowding in lounges or clinics
- A social distance of one meter is maintained between patients even while being seated
- The hospital personnel use personal protection equipment to ensure the patients are not exposed to them and vice versa
- Equipment used for examining the patients are sterilised after each examination
- Follow-up through teleconsultation is being encouraged to minimise the number of visits that patients have to make to the hospital



The Batman filming resumes following shutdown over Pattinson's COVID diagnosis

Warner Bros has announced that the filming on its much-anticipated DC superhero movie *The Batman* has resumed after being shutdown for over two weeks.

The production on the Matt Reeves-directed film was halted on September 3 after lead star Robert Pattinson tested positive for COVID-19.

Following a hiatus for COVID-19 quarantine precautions, filming has now resumed on *The Batman* in the UK, a spokesperson for Warner Bros Pictures told Variety.

Filming on *The Batman* started earlier this month in London after it shut down in mid-March amid the coronavirus pandemic, which closed produc-

tions worldwide.

However, on September 4 the studio announced that movie was temporarily paused after a crew member was diagnosed COVID-19 positive.

The production company did not reveal the name of the individual who had tested positive.

Vanity Fair reported that Pattinson was the crew member who had contracted the virus.

The first trailer of *The Batman* debuted last month at DC FanDome and the film is scheduled to be released in October 2021. Actors Zoe Kravitz, Paul Dano, Jeffrey Wright, John Turturro, Peter Sarsgaard, Barry Keoghan, Andy Serkis and Colin Farrell also feature in the movie.



Ranveer Singh's efforts to make Indian Sign Language an official language are on

India's deaf community has lauded the efforts of actor Ranveer Singh to make Indian Sign Language an official language.

Ranveer has been urging authorities to consider and declare Indian Sign Language (ISL) as the 23rd official language of India. He recently signed a petition aimed at furthering awareness for the cause.

His independent record label, IncInk, which he has formed with Navzar Eranee, also released sign language music videos. Twenty-five members from the deaf community in India appreciated him by putting out a thank-you video for him. "We were very happy to hear the good news about Ranveer Singh, who is a famous Bollywood actor, to support ISL to be recognised as the 23rd official

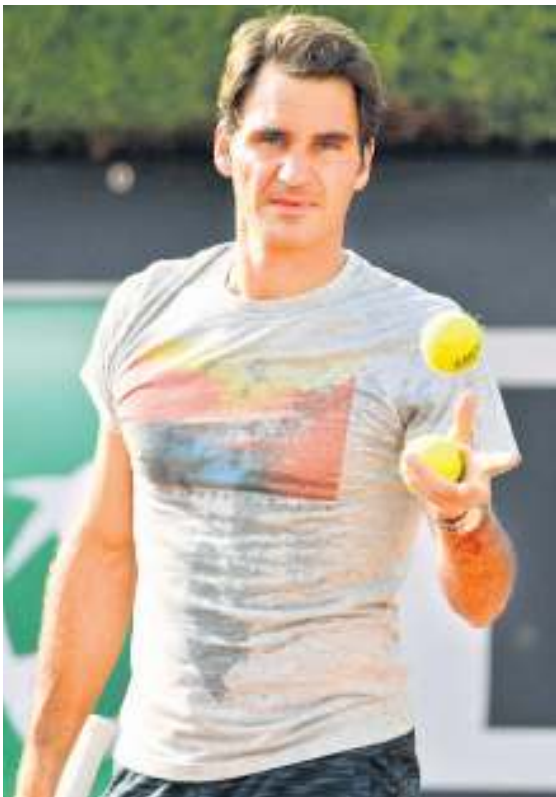
language of India. We are so glad that he supports this," the members stated.

"Indian sign language is a beautiful language. We want to thank Ranveer for showing support to the deaf community," they added.

An overwhelmed Ranveer said that his independent music label was created to encourage inclusivity.

Ranveer said, "IncInk was created as a platform to encourage inclusivity through art and we are deeply committed towards making Indian Sign Language (ISL) become the 23rd official language of India."

He added, "This progressive step will create a ripple effect in providing equal access across all areas, from education to employment to entertainment to more than 10 million deaf people in India."



Roger Federer sings Beatles classic for commercial

Twenty-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer has been mesmerising fans with his breathtaking shots on the tennis courts ever since he turned professional in 1998. Now the Swiss legend has left his fans speechless with a rendition of a Beatles' classic.

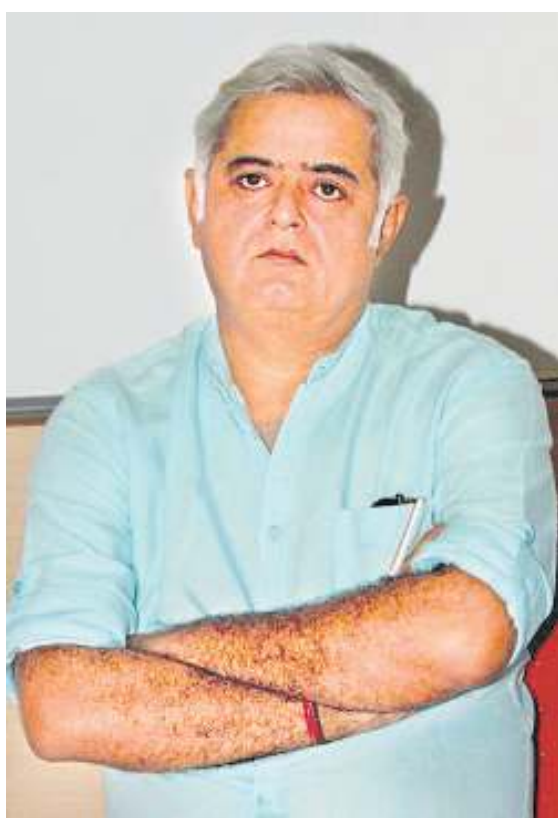
Federer sang The Beatles classic *With A Little Help From My Friends* as part of a commercial for Sunrise, a Swiss telecommunications provider based in Zurich.

This is was not the first time the 39-year-old had recorded a song. According to the ATP Tour website, in 2017, he had joined

Grigor Dimitrov and Tommy Haas to create the Backhand Boys supergroup during the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells.

The trio recorded a version of the 1982 Chicago hit *Hard To Say I'm Sorry* with Haas' father-in-law, the world-renowned record producer and musician David Foster, on piano.

After this year's Australian Open, Federer decided to give the 2020 season a miss following a setback in his rehabilitation from a knee surgery that he underwent in February. He has said he will return in 2021, thus making 2020 only the second year in his career in which he would not win a title.



Hansal Mehta: Need more films about LGBTQ community

Filmmaker Hansal Mehta feels we need more films to be made on the LGBTQ community.

"There has been an absolute change in our society as well as our cinema regarding LGBTQ people. But I really think that we need to make more films about them, and need to normalise the subject as much as possible," Mehta told IANS.

Mehta made the widely applauded *Aligarh* in 2015, which is inspired by the real-life story of a professor who was suspended




from his job because of his sexual orientation.

"From *Dostana* to *Kapoor & Sons*, *Aligarh* and *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*, a lot of films have been made about LGBTQ people. The stories have evolved with time, for sure. Speaking of myself, I always try to tell our stories of our times, of our world. It's great if we depict society's reality through films," Hansal Mehta said.




Hansal Mehta is currently directing Rajkumar Rao and Nushratt Bharuccha in his upcoming film, *Chhalaang*.

FUN




ARCHIE



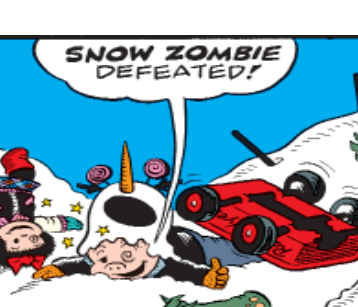
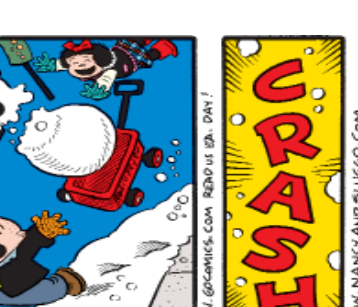

CALVIN AND HOBBS





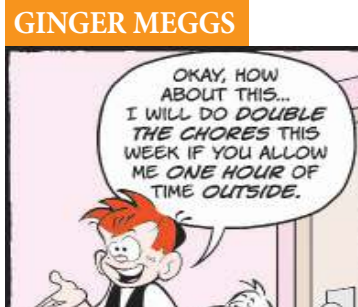
GARFIELD




NANCY



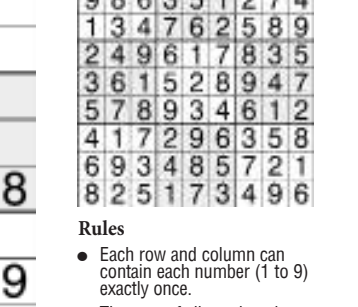
GINGER MEGGS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

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				6				
7				8				
	10			9				
11						12		
			13					
16						17		
18						19		

ACROSS

1 Use these on envelopes

3 Icy

7 A scented flower

8 Hot remains from a fire

12 Make up your mind

14 Cosy

15 Don't go

6 The leader of an empire

9 Looked at

11 Quicker

13 A month

16 A hole in a hill for a train

17 Birthday present

18 Scraps of material

19 A funny play or film

DOWN

1 Certain

2 Help

4 Finished

5 Plates

SOLUTION

G	R	A	D	I	A	L	L	I
T	R	I	A	L	L	I	L	I
H	S	L	O	R	E			
U	S	E	D	O	R	A	N	G
N	G	E						
D	O	C	T	O	R			
E	H	N	S					
R	E	I	N	S				
H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

Sakshi pushed me out of my comfort zone: Anushka

After months of uncertainty, Anushka Shetty-starrer *Nishabdham* is finally opting for a direct-to-web release. Initially slotted for April 2 earlier this summer, the outbreak of coronavirus thwarted the producer's release plans and ever since, the film was in the news over OTT reasons. While Anushka and her fans were not in favour of a streaming release to begin with, the inordinate delay in theatres reopening seems to have finally convinced them OTT is the way to go.

Talking about the OTT release on October 2, film's director Hemanth Madhukar said, "We have been waiting for the right opportunity to bring to audiences this ambitious story starring some of the best Indian talent. The movie was shot simultaneously in both Telugu and Tamil. With a global release on Amazon Prime Video across 200 countries and territories, we are happy to take the film to audiences' world over."

Anushka, who played a speech and hearing impaired artist Sakshi in the film, said that role was something she hitherto essayed in her career so far. "It's a character that pushed me out of my comfort zone, a character I'm glad it came my way," she said.

In the film, Sakshi gets entangled in a criminal investigation when she unexpectedly witnesses a tragic incident that occurs in a villa with a reputation for being haunted. With a team of police detectives determined to get to the bottom of the case and the list of suspects ranging from a ghost to a missing young girl, the film promises to be an edge-of-the-seat thriller, the makers said.

Also featuring Madhavan, Anjali, Shalini Pandey, Subbaraju and Avasarala Srinivas and popular Hollywood actor Michael Madsen in key roles, *Nishabdham* has been shot extensively in Seattle and other parts of the US.

After countryside, *TUCK JAGADISH* MOVES TO HYD

After a six-month hiatus, the filming of Nani-starrer *Tuck Jagadish* will resume in Hyderabad from October 5. Shiva Nirvana, film's director, intends to complete 90-95 percent of the film in Hyderabad before he moves to Rajahmundry once again, finds NAGARAJ GOUD

With V behind him, Nani will join the shoot of *Tuck Jagadish* from October.

We've learned that director Shiva Nirvana has planned an extensive schedule in Hyderabad from October first week and all safety measures will be followed for a smooth conduct of the shoot. According to a source, the director has already completed a major chunk of outdoor schedule before the pandemic forced the unit to take a six-month break. "Nirvana has shot outdoor schedules in the scenic locales of Rajahmundry and Palani, Tamil Nadu for 28 days. He has another week schedule in Rajahmundry, which he intends to start after

completing the Hyderabad leg of filming. By December, he is looking at wrapping up the complete film. The release date will be decided in late January," points out a source.

A production venture of Sahu Garapati and Harish Peddi under Shine Screens, *Tuck Jagadish*, an SS Thaman musical, features Nani alongside Ritu Varma, while Aishwarya Rajesh is playing a strong supporting role. Nirvana has assembled a strong supporting line-up for the film. Significant among them include Jagapathi Babu, Murali Sharma, Nassar, Rao Ramesh, Naresh and Rohini, while CVL Narashimha Rao, Maala Pravathi, Devadharshini, Bindhu Chandramouli, Praveen, Kishore

Polimera and Pammi Sai are essaying other roles.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* earlier, Nirvana billed the film as an emotional family drama set in a rural landscape. "It has been some time since Telugu audiences saw a full-fledged rural family drama with an A-list in the lead and this is that film. Performance-wise for Nani anna, the film will be a step ahead than Ninnu Kori. It has a contemporary story and focuses on bonds within a family. The idea is to shoot it in a way that the audiences after watching will say, 'Bhale vunnarra valla' (They are so good)," Nirvana had said.



NITHYA MENEN'S guest appearance in *Gamanam*



Actor Sharwanand unveiled the look of Nithya Menen from cinematographer VS Gana Shekar's maiden production venture *Gamanam* on Friday. The actress will be seen as singer Shailaputri Devi in the human drama, which marks the directorial debut of debutante Sujana Rao. Gana Shekar clarifies that Nithya's presence is limited to the song alone and she doesn't have any scenes as such in the film. "She just appears in the intense classical song and in the context of the narrative; the role carries its own weight. The moment you listen to the song, you cannot think of any other actress in the world other than Nithya performing for it," he marvels,

speaking to *The Pioneer*.

The famed lensman is producing the film, an Ilaiyaraaja musical, in collaboration with Ramesh Karutoori and Venki Pushadapu. Headlined by Shriya Saran, Shiva Kandukuri and Priyanka Jawalkar, Shekar is keen on a big screen debut for the film. "We thought of giving it to prominent streaming players initially, but while doing the colour grading, I felt it was better fit for the silver screen as it looked a bigger film. The moment you see it in a laptop or on a smartphone, the visual and sound experience will be lost. We are waiting. If we are lucky enough, it will go to cinema halls or it will go straight to streaming. I can't hold it for long," he explains.

— NG

Rajendra Prasad in a political satire

After his earlier film, *Dream*, a psychological thriller, with Bhavani Shankar won many laurels; Rajendra Prasad has teamed up with the director again for *Climax*. Produced by P Rajeshwar Reddy, and K Karunakar Reddy, the film, according to the makers, is a political satire, which revolves around a murder mystery with intriguing characters dotting the narrative.

Prasad is upbeat about the project. "*Dream* won seven international awards

but it only pleased a certain section of the audience. *Climax* is a multi-genre flick that has romance, family emotions,

CLIMAX IS A MULTI-GENRE FLICK THAT HAS ROMANCE, FAMILY EMOTIONS, THRILLING ELEMENTS AND HUMOUR IN EQUAL MEASURES.

thrilling elements and humour in equal measures. If the audiences think it's different for such emotions to sit in one story, they have to watch *Climax*," he said.

Bhavani Shankar is hopeful that the film, co-starring Pridhvi, Shivashankar master and Sri Reddy, will find love from the audience of different ilk.

The producers informed that the film's shoot has been wrapped up and they are targeting a theatrical release. Rajesh Nidhwana is scoring the music.



Rashmika is 'super proud' of her positive outlook

Rashmika Mandanna, who is back in Hyderabad after a five-month stay at her home in Coorg, is proud of the positive attitude she has imbibed. She says no matter the situation, people around her never saw mood swings on her face. "I don't know why anything comes my way I'd just smile through it.. be it good or bad.. and honestly, I am super proud and grateful for myself. I don't think anyone.. JUST ANYONE has seen the bad days or the mood swings on my face.. That's because I already know that there's so much in the world that's happening.. So many hardships that when you see me I want to take all that away and I want to make you smile.. I want you to feel at home.. I want you to feel calm.. I want you to depend on me as much as I depend on you.. (Sic)," she wrote on her Instagram page.

Addressing her followers, she further wrote, "I don't want to be your favorite actress.. I just want to be your family..! What I say here.. I mean it.. You matter! (Sic)."

On the work front, Rashmika is gearing up for the shoot of Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa*, where she plays a village belle. She is rumoured to be playing Ram Charan's love interest in Koratala Siva's *Acharya*.



ALL SET FOR IPL SHOW

CSK take on Mumbai Indians in the delayed tournament opener



MI vs CSK
Live from 7:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 & 3

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

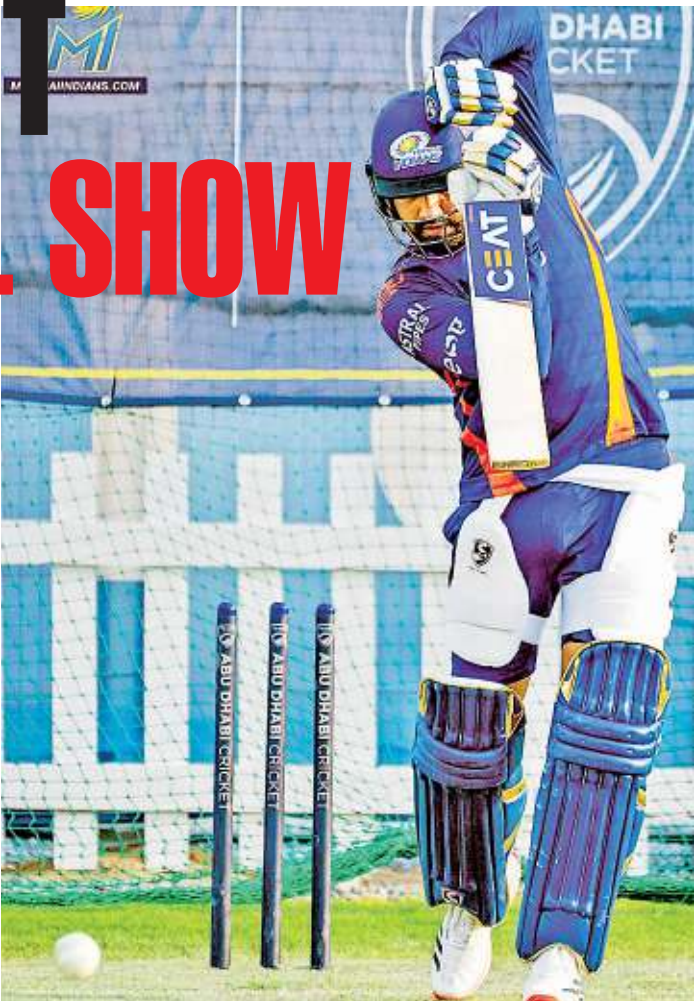
Mahendra Singh Dhoni's poker face, Virat Kohli's raw emotions and Rohit Sharma's effortless handling of his *Galacticos* will be back to charm cricket fans across the globe with the Indian Premier League starting on Saturday, promising to be a happy distraction in a world scarred by Covid-19.

Rohit's defending champions Mumbai Indians will be locking horns with Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in what is likely to be a fittingly exciting opening showdown here.

The tournament, which has been shifted to the UAE due to five million plus Covid cases in India, is a 'TV-only event', expected to be lapped up by all and sundry who crave for cricket and Bollywood in equal measure during prime time.

Bollywood had its share of prime time in the past few months but rest assured, the next 53 days would belong to Dhoni's CSK, Kohli's RCB and Rohit's Mumbai Indians challenged by young pretenders comprising KL Rahul's KXIP and Shreyas Iyer's Delhi Capitals among others.

IPL happening in foreign shores is not a new phenomenon, not even the shift to the Emirates but as Indian sports hits the restart button with the billion dollar cricketing extravaganza, the hugely popular event to be



held closed doors in a bio-secure environment will be a new experience.

David Warner or Chris Gayle's towering sixes welcomed by artificial crowd cheer will be the new normal and the deafening roars during Super Overs will be missing but no one can complain as at least the show will go on in amid a devastating health crisis.

A look at the teams would indicate that Mumbai Indians by a distance is the most formidable with Rohit, Pandya brothers — Hardik and Krunal, the indomitable Kieron Pollard and the 'King of Death' bowling Jasprit Bumrah giving it a menacing look.

The perennial Dad's Army Chennai Super Kings can never be counted out till that man with 'Hawk Eyes' uses his peripheral vision behind the stumps.

Experience can't be bought and the likes of Shane Watson, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis and Ravindra

Jadeja have given their blood and sweat for the 'Yellows' and it would be no different this time.

For Kohli, winning a tournament as a captain would reaffirm his status even as naysayers question his style of leadership. The team is a shade better with presence of Aaron Finch, Chris Morris and the wonderfully gifted Devdutt Padikkal, who if all goes well, is destined to become a big name in years to come.

Delhi Capitals, with their new found vigour and more pragmatic new owners, found their mojo last year and would like to go one better under an enormously talented skipper in Shreyas Iyer, who can be matched in skills by a Prithvi Shaw or a Rishabh Pant.

Seasoned brains like Ravichandran Ashwin would be ideal foil for the team's youthful exuberance.

KXIP's KL Rahul is a class act and how he shapes as a leader could also create a narrative for the future

MSD is fresh, engaged & determined after break: Fleming

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

His sabbatical from the game has done Mahendra Singh Dhoni a world of good, Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming said on Friday, asserting that the enigmatic skipper is "mentally engaged and determined" to encounter the challenges of a "tactically different" IPL.

Dhoni's CSK will take on Rohit Sharma's Mumbai Indians in the tournament opener on Saturday. Fleming, a former New Zealand captain, stressed that his team's experience of winning big matches will come in handy during the next 53 days.

Dhoni retired from international cricket last month after being on a break for over one year and when asked about the 39-year-old's preparedness for the IPL, Fleming said, "It has been no different. He's very fit and mentally, he's been very engaged and determined."

"In some ways the break can work for the experienced and older



players that we have. MS is fresh and ready to go," Fleming said in a pre-tournament interview to CSK's official website.

The three-time champions are banking heavily on their 35-plus players, including Dhoni himself, Shane Watson, Dwayne Bravo, Kedar

Jadhav, and Imran Tahir to name a few.

"...Experienced players identify key times and that's why they've done so well in their careers. They can turn games, absorb pressure or just sum out the situation. That's what experience is about and that's why we value it so highly," said Fleming.

"And that's why we've been able to get over the line in so many close games because the key player has been one with a lot of experience. And you also mix that with skill. You are conscious of having a skilful side and adding youth when we can and with that get the balance pretty right."

Starting against a quality side like MI is certainly exciting for Fleming, who wants his men to have a crack at the defending champions after their agonising last-ball loss in the previous edition.

"The first game is always full of anxiety, nerves and excitement, and CSK-MI has added extra excitement and pressure and we enjoy that. We've earned the right to play the

first game by playing well last year, and given the way the final finished last year, it's nice to have another crack at MI.

"They (MI) are a very good side and it gives you a good gauge as to how the pre-season has gone and the areas that need improvement. You get a good idea after the first game as to where your team is sitting."

With the home advantage of playing seven games at Chepauk gone, Fleming is bracing up for a very different tournament tactically where adaptability will be the key.

"I see this season is going to be very different tactically. With no real home ground advantage here, we've got to be very good at adapting to the conditions in each ground."

"We've got three different grounds to assess and each ground has its own character and nuances and we've just got to be good enough to pick the right team and get the right game plan to match that. It's like every game is an away game," he explained.

HEAD TO HEAD			
Matches:	28	MI won:	17
		CSK won:	11
MEETING IN 2019			
■ Mumbai Indians defeated Chennai Super Kings by 37 runs at Mumbai (League)			
■ Mumbai Indians beat Chennai Super Kings by 46 runs at Chennai (League)			
■ Mumbai Indians beat Chennai Super Kings by 6 wickets at Chennai (Qualifier 1)			
■ Mumbai Indian beat Chennai Super Kings by one run at Hyderabad (final)			
FOR THE RECORD			
■ Rohit Sharma who scored			
		4898 runs at an average of 31.60 in 183 innings of 188 matches for Deccan Chargers and Mumbai Indians is the third highest scorer in IPL behind Virat Kohli (5412 runs in 177 matches) and Suresh Raina (5368 runs in 193 matches).	
		■ Dwayne Bravo who claimed 147 wickets in 131 innings of 134 matches, needs just three wickets to become the fifth bowler to take 150 wickets in IPL.	
		Faisal Features	

when Indian cricket goes through another change of guard in next few years.

There will be a lot of interest as to how he handles players like Glenn Maxwell, Gayle and Mohammed Shami, who are savage on their days but can be ordinary on some others.

Handling an inconsistent team to a decent finish will be on top of Rahul's agenda.

The low profile Sunrisers Hyderabad once again will be gun-

ning for a place in the summit clash and their skipper David Warner knows how to win the IPL having always led the way with spectacular performances.

There is Jonny Bairstow's flair, Kane Williamson's poise and Rashid Khan's flamboyance with a host of youngsters like Virat Singh and Priyam Garg eager to make a name for themselves.

When the IPL was partially held in UAE back in 2014, KKR were the

eventual champions.

If Ben Stokes is the world's best all-rounder across formats, Andre Russell probably is a bit more destructive in this format as he hit 52 sixes during their horrendous last edition.

The 2018 U-19 World Cup stars — Shubman Gill, Shivam Mavi and Kamlesh Nagarkoti — add a dash of youth. Eoin Morgan's leadership skills that might prove to be handy in case a normally inconsistent Dinesh Karthik misfires.

Rajasthan Royals is the weakest team lacking quality in the Indian line-up but expect Jos Buttler, Steve Smith and Jofra Archer to do the heavy lifting in Stokes' absence. Stokes is currently in New Zealand to be with his ailing father.

MI START FAVOURITES

Mumbai Indians are traditional slow-starters in the IPL but on paper, they will be the favourites against Chennai Super Kings in the opening game in Abu Dhabi.

MI looks the most prepared and set team with a scary batting lineup of Rohit, Quinton de Kock, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Hardik and Krunal Pandya, Kieron Pollard. Trent Boult and Nathan Coulter-Nile will complete their

quota of foreigners.

For CSK, the core has remained the same save for Suresh Raina, who was their worst performer last year and has pulled out citing personal reasons this year. His replacement Ruturaj Gaikwad remains in quarantine having tested Covid-19 positive at least five times.

But there is Watson, Ambati Rayudu, Kedar Jadhav, Ravindra Jadeja, and Bravo, who have all won matches from hopeless situations.

Lynn banking on T10 form in UAE to fire in for MI

Abu Dhabi: Going through a poor run of form, Australian top-order batsman Chris Lynn is banking on his exploits at last year's T10 tournament in UAE to turn things around and contribute to his IPL team Mumbai Indians.

Lynn, a hard-hitting opener, had a poor run at the recently-concluded Caribbean Premier League having scored less than 150 runs in nine games for St Kitts and Nevis Patriots.

However, the 30-year-old was the highest run-getter at last year's T10 league in UAE. He amassed 371 runs for Maratha Arabians and also smashed the highest individual score of 91 off 30 balls.

"I have got some really good memories from the T10 tournament last year here in Abu Dhabi, so hopefully just reconnect with what worked for me there and hopefully put some performances on the board," he said.

However, Lynn will find it difficult to break into the MI's playing XI with coach Jayawardene already making it clear that he will not tinker with the opening combination of Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock.

The Australian said he is ready to bat at any position that Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene deems fit. "Rohit! what a world class player, runs on the board, on and off the field what he's contributed to Mumbai is something really really special. And Quinny (De Kock) has been outstanding with the gloves and bat in hand," Lynn said in a video posted on Mumbai Indians official Twitter handle.

Injured Osaka withdraws from French Open



AP ■ PARIS

Newly crowned US Open champion Naomi Osaka pulled out of the French Open with a sore hamstring on Friday, in a fresh blow to the coronavirus-hit Grand Slam which is already missing world number one Ashleigh Barty.

Japan's Osaka made the announcement just days after lifting her third Major title behind closed doors in New York.

"Unfortunately I won't be able to play the French Open this year," Osaka said in posts on Instagram and Twitter. "My

hamstring is still sore so I won't have enough time to prepare for the clay — these two tournaments came too close to each other for me this year."

The French Open is due to start on September 27 at Roland Garros, rescheduled from earlier in the year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Osaka, who has never made it out of the third round of the French Open, did not say when she will play next. She did assure her fans they would see her "sooner than later".

The withdrawal of third-ranked Osaka means Roland Garros will be missing two of the

Attendance reduced to 5K/day

Paris: The French Open rescheduled for later this month will be limited to 5,000 spectators daily, a reduction from the 11,500 announced by organisers, the Paris police prefecture said on Thursday.

Earlier this month, the French tennis federation revealed plans to allow 11,500 fans to attend each day, with the Roland Garros venue divided into three independent zones.

However, the deteriorating health situation in the country and current French Government regulations capping public gatherings at 5,000 forced them into a rethink. The revised number was announced by tournament director Guy Forget just 10 days ago.

world's top three, after reigning champion Barty said earlier this month that she wouldn't return to defend her title.

Sindhu pulls out of Denmark Open

New Delhi: Olympic Silver medalist PV Sindhu on Thursday pulled out of the Denmark Open tournament scheduled to be held in Odense from October 13 to 18.

"Sindhu is not playing in Denmark, she has pulled out," a source in the Gopichand Academy told PTI.

The BAI had on Tuesday written to the players who have sent their entries for the Denmark Open, stating that they would be "travelling or participating at their own responsibility due to the current pandemic" and "have to send their consent within September 17".

Though Sindhu decided against travelling to Denmark, she plans to participate in the Asia Open-I and Asia Open-II scheduled to be held in November.

Kidambi Srikanth, Lakshya Sen and Subhankar Dey were among those players who have sent their consent letters and will be participating in the super 750 event.

Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap have also sent their consent letters but will take a final call nearer to the date of the tournament.

Variety in spin, will give CSK edge in UAE conditions: Lee



New Delhi: Former Australian speedster Brett Lee has tipped three-time champions Chennai Super Kings to win the 13th IPL, saying the variety in their spin department gives them an advantage in the UAE conditions.

"They (CSK) are up there. I have picked them to win and I think CSK have a good chance because of their spin attack," Lee said

on *Star Sports* show *Game Plan*.

"With Santner, Jadeja needs to step up and be the No 1 spinner and CSK have got great variety and none of the spinners are same, so they are at an advantage for the conditions in the UAE as the tournament progresses."

Four-time winners Mumbai Indian will miss the services of their bowling spearhead Lasith Malinga who opted out of the tournament citing personal reasons.

However, the 43-year-old Lee said he has no doubts that Jasprit Bumrah will be able to fill in the shoes of the experienced seamer.

"I am always Bumrah's fan since he burst onto the scene some years ago. He has got a different bowling action, he pushes the ball in, and can swing the ball both ways. He is good with the new ball but I like him with the old ball and that's why he can fill the shoes of Malinga and can bowl at death overs," he said.

"He can bowl at 140kmph and zoom the ball in at the batsman's feet. He is bowling the yorkers consistently and there are very less bowlers like that, so he can fill those shoes."

Lee, who has 310 wickets in 76 Tests and 380 scalps in 221 ODIs, said he considers Mumbai Indians in his top four.



Halep extends her perfect record

AP ■ ROME

Top-seeded Simona Halep improved to 7-0 in tennis' restart with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Dayana Yastremska on Friday to reach the Italian Open quarters.

Halep, who is actually on an 11-0 run overall stretching back to February, recovered an early break in the opening set and then overpowered her 29th-ranked opponent the rest of the way.

Having won a title in Dubai before the coronavirus pandemic, Halep marked her return with another trophy in Prague last month. She then skipped the US Open due to health concerns amid the pandemic.

Halep, who lost two straight finals in Rome to Elina Svitolina in 2017 and 2018, will next face either 10th-seeded Elena Rybakina or Yulia

Putintseva.

Also on the red clay courts of the Foro Italico, defending champion Karolina Pliskova defeated Russian qualifier Anna Blinkova 6-4, 6-3 and will next play 11th-seeded Elise Mertens, who eliminated Montenegrin qualifier Danka Kovinic 6-4, 6-4.

In men's action, 15th-seeded Grigor Dimitrov ended the run of 19-year-old Jannik Sinner with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win.

Sinner, the Italian who had beaten third-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas in the previous round, missed an easy overhead smash into the net on Dimitrov's fifth match point.

The tournament has been played without fans so far due to the pandemic, although the Italian Govt announced Friday that up to 1,000 spectators will be allowed in to watch the semifinals and finals.



Spurs avoid embarrassing exit

AFP ■ LONDON

Tottenham scored twice in the final 10 minutes to avoid a humiliating Europa League exit to Lokomotiv Plovdiv as Jose Mourinho's men came from behind to beat the nine-man Bulgarians 2-1 on Thursday.

Harry Kane's penalty and Tanguy Ndombele's winner five minutes from time ensured the 2019 Champions League finalists did not fall at the first hurdle of their Europa League campaign to a side that have never progressed beyond the qualifying stages of European competition.

"I think it was a helluva experience for the players. Sometimes in football miracles happen and when you play a knockout, one-leg it is the perfect scenario for a miracle to happen," said Mourinho.

"Everyone on their side had the moment where they dream and we had the moment where we believed a nightmare could arrive."

Mourinho named a strong side featuring Kane, Hugo Lloris and Son Heung-min with just four changes from Sunday's 1-0 defeat to Everton to start their Premier League campaign.

But there was more evidence



why Spurs are desperate to secure Gareth Bale's return on loan from Real Madrid as they struggled to break Plovdiv down and went behind to Georgi Minchev's header 19 minutes from time.

The tie swung back in Spurs favour nine minutes later when Momchil Tsvetanov punched clear off his own line and the referee had no option but to point to the spot and send Tsvetanov off.

Birsent Karagaren was then also



Gareth Bale looks at fans as he arrives at the training ground of Tottenham Hotspur in London on Friday. Real Madrid winger Gareth Bale is in London to complete his return to Tottenham seven years after he left for Madrid in 2013 for 100 million euros

shown a second yellow card before Kane dispatched the spot-kick into the top corner.

Ndombele has struggled for game time under Mourinho despite being the club's record signing.

But the Frenchman, who was introduced on the hour mark, proved the match winner by bundling home from close range.

A trip to Macedonia next week to face KF Shkendija faces Mourinho's men in the third qualifying round.

Liverpool finally signs Thiago

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool completed the signing of Thiago Alcantara from Bayern Munich on Friday, bringing in one of the world's most technically gifted players to add another dimension to the English champions' midfield.

The 29-year-old Thiago ended his seven-year spell at Bayern by moving for an initial fee of 20 million pounds (\$26 million), with a potential additional 5 million pounds (\$6.5 million) later.

"My decision is purely of a sporting nature," the Spain international said in a video announcing his departure from Bayern.

"As a football player, I seek new challenges to develop myself further. Bavaria will always be my home."

Thiago, whose father is former Brazil midfielder Mazinho, leaves Bayern as a European Cup winner, his last match being the 1-0

victory over Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final in August. He also won seven straight Bundesliga titles with Bayern.

"When the years are passing, you are trying to win as much as you can — and when you win, you want to win more," Thiago said.

"I think this club describes what I am as well. I want to achieve all of the goals, win as many trophies as possible."

At Liverpool, he will add a more creative edge — nurtured at Barcelona's famed La Masia academy — to a midfield that currently is more notable for its energy and intensity through hard-running players like Jordan Henderson, Georginio Wijnaldum and James Milner.

Thiago — with his technique, touch and vision — will provide Liverpool with more control in midfield, too, allowing manager Jurgen Klopp to adopt a different approach in certain games.

