*Late City_Vol. 2 Issue 341 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable



HYDERABAD, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3 sunday pioneer

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DRUG WITH POTENTIAL TO FIGHT COVID-19 IDENTIFIED

cientists have identified a new drug that could prevent or mitigate the consequences derived from infection by SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19. Preliminary results of the study conducted on animal models showed that the drug 4-Phenylbutiric acid (4-PBA) fully curbs mortality caused by respiratory failure derived from cellular stress, showed the research published in the journal Cytokine and Growth Factors Review. The inflammatory process identified in severe cases of coronavirus causes an uncontrolled and excessive release of cytokines -- molecules in charge of organising the body's defences- which could even trigger vascular hyperpermeability and multi-organ failure.

EMIRATIS JOIN EXPATS IN HONOURING 'GREATEST INDIAN ENGINEER'

Emirati and Indian expats and engineers in the UAE came together at a virtual event to pay tribute to M. Vishweshvaraya, the 'greatest Indian engineer', the media reported on Thursday. His birthday, September 15, is celebrated every year as Engineers' Day in India. The webinar was organised by Science India Forum-UAE, and among the speakers was Eesa Mohammed Bastaki, president of the University of Dubai, reports the Khaleej Times. "Sir Vishweshvaraya lived for nearly 102 years. He passed away four months before I went to Bombay when was seven years old in August 1962. He had contributed a lot to India and the engineering world.



SRI LANKAN MINISTER CLIMBS TREE TO ADDRESS PUBLIC ON SHORTAGE OF COCONUTS

To convey the message to the people on the shortage of coconuts, Sri Lankan State Minister of Coconut Arundika Fernando climbed a coconut tree and said that the country is facing a dearth of 700 million coconuts due to high demand for local industries and domestic consumption. News First quoted Fernando as saying, "We hope to utilise every available plot of land for the cultivation of coconuts and boost the industry to one which would generate foreign exchange to the country." Giving a solution to the problem of prices of coconuts, he said that the government aims to reduce the prices amid the shortage of coconuts in the country.



4 OF FAMILY COMMIT SUICIDE AMI COVID-DRIVEN FINANCIAL CRUNCH

In a shocking incident, the bodies of a bullion trader and all three members of his family, including his two sons in their early twenties, were found hanging in separate rooms of their house in Jamdoli area, police said on Saturday. Trader Yashwant Soni, 45, his wife Mamta, 40, and their sons Ajit, 23, and Bharat, 20, - allegedly committed suicide amid their worsening financial condition in last six months during the COVID-19 lockdown, they said. They committed suicide in their house at Radha Vihar colony in Jamdoli area under Kanota police station and the

matter came to light on Saturday morning when Soni's



Learning lessons about corona the hard way



Congress: Only KCR benefitted from TS

Month & Paksham: Ashwin (Adhik) & Shukla Paksha

Panchangam Tithi: Chaturthi: 02:26 am, (Next Day)

Nakshatram: Swati: 10:51 pm Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)

Rahukalam: 04:40 pm - 06:10 am **Yamagandam:** 12:09 pm — 01:39 pm 06:21 am - 07:47 pm Varivam: 03:09 pm - 04:40 pm Good Time: (to start any important work) **Amritakalam:** 02:58 pm − 04:24 pm **Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:45 am − 12:33 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Cloudy **Temp:** 26/23 Humidity: 95% Sunrise: 06.04 am **Sunset:** 06.13 pm Current Weather Conditions

OBTUSE ANGLE

TO MASK, OR NOT

LIFE OR LIBERTY

TO MASK

Covid-free world by end of 2021

With no incontestable vaccines or drugs immediately in sight to contain Covid-19, and amidst world-wide watch for light at the end of the tunnel, eminent gastroenterologist Dr D Nageshwar Reddy says confidently that mid-October would mark the beginning of the end of the pandemic. In an interview to The Pioneer, Dr Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, highlighted the possibility of majority of people getting vaccinated by April 2021 and life getting back to normalcy by the end of 2021.

EXCERPTS:

Research suggests that masks can be as important as vaccines. What are your observations?

If everyone wears a mask, it is almost like getting a vaccine; it is the best prophylaxis for this virus. If everyone puts on masks, in six weeks the infection rate will drastically come down. But unfortunately people are not listening. There was a modelling hypothesis done in Harvard, where they found that if everybody in a community wore good masks, it is equivalent to implementing 90 per cent of complete lockdown. Unfortunately we got realisation late because WHO misled us stating that it research shows it is aerosol infection and one can catch infection even in a closed room, which is not properly air-conditioned. Even if you speak loudly or laugh loudly, you can transmit the infection up to nine feet. Initially we

Even if you speak loudly or laugh loudly, you can transmit the infection up to 9 feet

but now we know it is nine feet distance that has to be

Does the virus stay in the gut for long, considering faeces have traces of the virus?

Coronavirus attaches itself to ACE2 receptors and these are present in the cells throughout the gastrointestinal tract, predominantly in the small intestine. ACE2 receptors are present in the liver and pancreas as well. So in 20-30% of Covid-19 patients there will be gastrointestinal symptoms in the form of diarrhoea, inal pain. We've seen a few cases of pancreatitis and hepatitis, especially in those people who already have fatty liver. It stays longer in the gut than in the lungs. While in lungs it stays for two weeks or at the most 4 weeks; in the gut, thought it is six feet distance, it stays longer -- up to six

weeks. So even after someone is cured, they continue to secrete through faeces. This is called a fecal-oral route, but it is still not clear if it spreads through faeces. About 50 years ago Dr Minnie Mathan published in Lancet from CMC Vellore, where they detected coronavirus in a village and said diarrhoea is self-limiting.

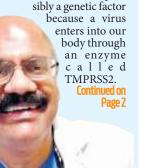
Do genetics have any role in **COVID-19 susceptibility?**

There is definite evidence as the incidence and mortality rates in South East Asia are less. compared to those of other countries. Even in India, the rates are not very large when compared to other pop-Cambodia also reported very low infection

No second peak of pandemic in India

Wearing masks is equivalent to implementing 90% lockdown

There are some genetic factors that seem to protect, but then there are a lot of immunological theories. We may have had previous infection of coronavirus, they may have protective antibodies. There is pos-



chant platform.

The accused have been named as Nishad Kunju, 31, from Hyderabad, Rohit Kadimisetty, 27, from California, three from New York -- Ephraim Rosenburg, 45, Joseph Nilsen, 31, and Kristen Leccese -- and Hadis

They have been charged with conspiracy to use a communication facility to commit commercial bribery, conspiracy to access a protected computer without authorisation, conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

TRS to oppose agri bills

PNS HYDERABAD

Alleging that the agriculture bills brought in by the NDA government would cause great injustice to farmers in the country, TRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Saturday asked his party MPs to vote against them in

the Rajya Sabha. Observing that the bills would hurt farmers and ben-ತೆಲಂಗಾಣ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಸಮತಿ efit corporates, Rao told the TRS parliamentary party

leader K Keshav Rao to strongly oppose them in parliament.

"Chief Minister Sri K Chandrasekhar Rao said that the Farmers and farming related Bills introduced by the Centre in Parliament would do a lot of injustices to the farm sec-

The CM has instructed TRSPP Leader Dr K Keshav Rao to oppose the Bills tooth and nail in the Parliament, as it would benefit the Corporates and adversely impact the farmers, an official release said. The bills, for public

brother visited them, the police said.

consumption, say that the farmers can sell their produce anywhere in the country, but, in reality, thebills would

enable the traders to go anywhere in the country to buy the produce, Rao said. Though the NDA government says that the farmers can sell their produce anywhere in the country, is it pos-

small produce to other places, bearing heavy transport charges, "These Bills are nothing but

sible for farmers to take their

a sugar coated pill. This should be opposed at all costs," the CM said. Rao further said, as on date, there is 50 per cent import duty on corn and that the Centre has decided to reduce it by 15 per cent.

The Centre wanted to import one crore tonnes of corn and about 70 lakh tonnes of corn had already been purchased, he claimed.

"For whose benefit 35 per cent of import duty was reduced? When the country is going through economic crisis how did they take such a decision? corn is cultivated in a big way in the country. If we reduce the import duty on corn, what will happen to our own corn producers?," he asked.

Rao said the bills "should be opposed and voted against in the Rajya Sabha" since they would cause huge losses to the agriculture sector and are against the interests of farmers in the country.

Hyderabadi indicted in **Amazon** bribery case

PNS WASHINGTON

Six people, including an Indian-American, were indicted by a US grand jury on Friday with conspiring to pay over USD 100,000 in commercial bribes to employees and contractors of Amazon for unfair competitive advantage on its mer-

According to the indictment, all the six accused used bribery and fraud since 2017 to benefit merchant accounts on Amazon Marketplace, a platform where third-party merchants sell goods, resulting in more than USD 100 million of competitive benefits to those accounts, harm to competitors and harm to consumers, the US Justice Department

Nuhanoviv, 30, from Georgia.



Release pending Rs1,433-cr grants to ULBs now: KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana MA&UD Minister K T Rama Rao has written a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman seeking the immediate release of pending Rs 1,433-crore grants to Urban Local Bodies in Telangana. In his letter KTR said, "I

earnestly request you to arrange the immediate release of all pending dues under FC i.e. a total of Rs 1,433.95 crore, which includes the overdue first instalment of grant to million-plus cities (Rs 468 cr), the balance second instalment of grant to non-million-plus

cities (Rs 315.75 cr) and the pending statutory grants rec-ommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission (Rs 650.20 cr)".

KTR mentioned that the non-release of statutorily mandated Finance Commission grants amid the Covid-induced shortfall in State's own revenues had handicapped the State to no end. He pointed out that the State had been denied Rs.650.20 crore of the statutory grant to urban local bodies, though the full amount was released to some other States.

Continued on Page 2

Two arrested for selling prohibited substance PNS HYDERABAD

The South Zone task force team on Saturday nabbed two persons who were illegally selling mephentermine sulphate injection, a cardiac stimulant used on the sly for performance enhancment. There is high demand for

the prohibited substance in the underground market as many youth take it for bodybuilding. However, cardiologists are against the use of this drug. It is used as an injection by some gyms as well as to increase athletic performance, strengthbuilding, and for increasing endurance by youth during

Continued on Page 2

MY NAME

Parliament's session to be curtailed, may end Wednesday

PNS NEW DELHI

The ongoing monsoon session of Parliament is likely to be curtailed and may end by the middle of next week in view of the threat of the COVID-19 spread among parliamentarians, official sources said on Saturday.

At a meeting of the business advisory committee of Lok Sabha, which has floor leaders of all parties besides the government representatives and is chaired by the Speaker, most political parties favoured curtailment of the session, which started on September 14 and was scheduled to conclude on

A final decision will be



taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary

passed three Bills to replace agriculture sector related ordinances. Also, both the Houses have cleared a bill to replace an ordinance for cutting by 30 per

session, some opposition par-

demic.

The Lok Sabha has so far

ties had conveyed to the government that conducting the full 18-day session could be a risky affair, sources said.

against the COVID-19 pan-

Parliament, including Union

ministers Nitin Gadkari and

Prahlad Patel, tested positive

for COVID-19 during the

After some Members of

the sources said. Several MPs had also tested positive for COVID-19 around the time the session began and they were advised not to attend proceedings.

The government then start-

ed thinking in that direction,

Continued on Page 2 cent the salaries of MPs to

TDP MLA switches

sition TDP crossed over to the ruling YSR Congress in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday, taking the total to four so far.

Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar from Visakhapatnam met Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy at the latter's camp office and pledged his support while the legislator's two sons formally donned the YSRC scarf in a symbolic

Ganesh, however, did not

Ganesh, however, later told reporters that he was ready to face disqualification if the TDP pressed for it. "I am ready to face a by-election as well, if required," he

added. The two-time MLA hailed Jagan's pro-poor policies and hence was extending support.

'Adhika Masam Brahmotsavam' begins PNS TIRUPATI

The nine-day 'Adhika Masam Brahmotsavam' held once in three years began at the shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala, near here, on Saturday.

The 'brahmotsavam' began with the hoisting of the 'Garuda' flag atop the golden 'dwajathambham' (flag mast) by high priests amid chanting of Vedic hymn amid observing COVID-19 precautionary measures, a temple official

Later, the centuries-old pro-

cessional idols of Lord Venkateswara and consorts Padmavathi and Lakshmi, adorned with diamond-set ornaments and mounted on Pedda Sesha Vahanam (carrier) would be taken out of the sanctum sanctorum to the Kalvanotsava Mandapam inside the shrine, the official

Special pujas were conducted for the celestial idols, he

told PTI.

For the first time in the history of the ancient hill temple, the customary practice of taking out Lord Venkateswara in



a grand procession on the 'vahanas' (celestial vehicles) around the temple was cancelled to avoid the huge congregation of devotees due to the coronavirus norms, the official said. Because of 'Adhika Masam'

(an extra month which makes it 13 months this year) in the traditional Hindu Lunar calendar, two 'Brahmotsavams' of nine days each are being conducted this year, he said.

The regular 'Navaratri Brahmotsavam' would commence on October 16, the official said



over to ruling YSRCP PNS AMARAVATI entry into the party. Yet another MLA of the oppowear the party scarf to avoid disqualification.



DO THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS RANKINGS REFLECT REAL



ndhra Pradesh has much to rejoice about after being ranked first among the States in the ease of doing business announced by the Centre last week. This is the third year in a row that Andhra has achieved this distinction, overtaking heavyweights like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, States known for

investor-friendly ecosystems. In August, AP was ranked 20th in export preparedness, though it has a 1,000-km-long coastline, while land-locked Telangana was placed sixth. A week after announcement of the ease of doing business (EODB) ranks, a joint initiative Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the World Bank, AP did not figure in the top rankings for start-

Expectedly, the Telugu DesamParty and the YSR Congress vied for credit for topping the EODB rank. But the present regime should not hesitate in sharing credit for this honour with its predecessor. Firstly, it is the continuation of a legacy and, secondly, the Jagan Mohan Reddy gov-ernment assumed office halfway in 2019.

The bigger issue is that the ranking is based on the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP), which is about ushering in 187 reform points. Telangana, which ranked third, could have edged out secondplaced Uttar Pradesh or even Andhra if only it had intro**Expectedly, the Telugu DesamParty and the** YSR Congress vied for credit for topping the **EODB** rank. But the present regime should not hesitate in sharing credit for this honour with its predecessor. Firstly, it is the continuation of a legacy and, secondly, the **Jagan Mohan Reddy government assumed** office half-way in 2019

The Jagan Mohan Reddy government, in order to retain its top rank next year, must strain every nerve to reverse perceptions about its attitude towards investors and implement YSR APOne, a new industrial policy designed to give fillip to 10 key services like food processing, textiles, pharma, electronics, biotech and leather. Besides, Jagan's U-

duced certain reforms on the legal side. turn on developing Amaravati as the State capital, throwing out the Singapore consortium from Amaravati and the Lulu group from building a grand convention centre in Vizag, administering shocks to Anantapur-based Kia Motors and shifting the capitalsignal that political vendetta is his pri-

ority.
The EDB rankings, aimed at fostering a spirit of competition among the States, have a down-



S NAGESH KUMAR Former Resident Editor, The Hindu

side. Kerala and Odisha (29th position) have slammed the exercise for lacking transparency. Questions have been raised about the accuracy of the survey in UP, which pole-vaulted 10 positions to rank second. Experts have suggested to covertly track actual investors,

The YSR government has to therefore look beyond rankings to perceptions whose parameters are difficult to gauge. It cannot wish away the foundalaid predecessors. Foreign and Indian investors have to be proactively wooed, Sri City in

Chittoor aggressively promoted, Special Investment Regions and Single Window Policy earnestly pursued, and incentives offered to prospective investors in the software sector on the lines of what Chandrababu Naidu did in Hyderabad to woo Microsoft and other tech titans.

 $The \ late \ Kotagiri Vidyadhara$ Rao, who handled the Major Industries portfolio in Naidu's Cabinet from 1999, was not a great admirer of his boss. Yet, when I asked him once

by Naidu for promoting Hyderabad as an investment destination by visiting Davos every winter, hosting international conventions, and spending huge amounts on publicity was necessary, he backed the Chief Minister to the hilt. Positive perceptions, he said, were as important as perfor-

mance. Ease of doing business should also eliminate hurdles like corruption, red tape and endless paperwork -- a phenomenon endemic in AP and Telangana. Try paying proper-ty tax at the e-Seva counters in Hyderabad and the reply one will get is "the server is down". It is set right in a jiffy if palms are greased. The massive corruption unearthed in the Revenue Department of Telangana recently is an indicator of not only how deeply

it may put off sellers and buyers of land.

India ranked 63rd in Doing Business 2020 report of the World Bank, an improvement from its 100th position earlier. China's ranking is 31, though there is criticism of our Eastern neighbour for fudging data. The report ranks India at 163rd position in ease of enforcing contracts and 154th in registra-

tion of property.
India has a long way to go to impress investors in our immediate neighbourhood and fiascos like Amaravati do not help. Investors tend to look at policy stability. It takes 27 days to start a business in India, compared to just one day in New Zealand, two days in Canada, six days in the US, and 18 days even in Pakistan. Thisis a telling commentary on pol-

Two arrested for selling prohibited substance

Continued from Page 1 "The prime accused by name Shah Fahad, who worked as medical representative first, came across the mephentermine sulphate injection. He further noticed the demand for this injections in the market eved on making huge profits by selling this drug," said S. Raghavendra, South Zone

task force Inspector.

Accordingly, he along with
his friend Shaik Abdul
Owaisi, contacted a seller named, Vikram from Delhi though Akshay Enterprises, a medical agency. Explaining the use of mephentermine sulphate, Dr M.S.S. Mukherjee, senior cardiologist said, "This drug is mainly used in operation theatre for anesthesia and to raise the blood pressure of a patient. This is not a drug which can be used routinely, it should be taken with proper precaution." He added: Many youth use this for muscles' growth, but it is dangerous in the long term. "A drug which should be used on a patient whose blood pressure is low, if used on a normal person, there is high probability of suffering with heart disease and other side effects," Mukherjee said.

Mephentermine also found its place in the prohibited list of WADA. The agency, formed to promote, coordinate, and monitor the fight siders this drug as banned.

Govt to pay 80% insurance premium of dairy, livestock

Dairy farmers and shepherds in the State can now get claim insurance for their livestock in case of their death due to road mishaps, lightning and other disasters. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao gave his nod to launch a contributory insurance scheme for the livestock purchased by individual dairy farmers and shepherds. The State government is currently providing insurance only for the livestock supplied to the beneficiaries under the cattle distribution and the sheep distribution schemes.

Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav has asked officials of his department to make arrangements for farmers apply for new insurance scheme at offices of Husbandry Department from October 15. Under the scheme, in case of death of livestock due to lightings and road accidents, a new insurance scheme would be implemented with government and farmers sharing the premium in the 80% and 20% ratio.

In a review meeting held with officials of his department on Saturday at his office in the Masab Tank, the Minister said that the new scheme is different from the insurance cover heing provided to milch animals and sheep given to farm-



ers on subsidy basis. The Minister expressed concern over the death of livestock in accidents causing severe loss to the farmers. In case of the death of livestock given to the farmers under subsidy scheme, the insurance company gives animal for the animal dead. The death of livestock, not given to farmers by the government on subsidy, is causing loss to farmers.

He appealed to the farmers to make good use of the insurance scheme and advised them to take remedial measures to prevent livestock becoming victims of the seasonal diseases in monsoon season. The gov-ernment spent Rs 37 lakh to provide equipment to veterinary hospitals and spent Rs 3 crore to purchase medicines

He asked the officials of his department to take steps to procure medicines which are in good demand from farmers. He asked them to implement the vaccination programme for goats and sheep to protect from dehydration. The government spent Rs 6 crore to purchase de-worming medicines for sheep, he said. He wanted the officials to take measures to protect cows from lumpy skin and blue tongue disease among sheep. Farmers complain of shortage of drugs during his tour of districts, he said asking the officials to ensure that

such a situation does not arise. On starting 100 mobile vet clinics, he wanted the officials to inspect whether the mobile vet clinics services reach the target groups or not. He wanters to take up cul tivation of fodder in their own washing them away.

issued a month ago to Animal Husbandry, Development and Fsheries Departments to grow fodder crops on vacant sites, he said asking the officials to procure a report from districts on the extent of implementation of the orders. Fodder seeds worth Rs 3.21 crore were supplied among the farmers. He asked officials to take steps to strengthen the veterinary council and asked them to supply him with a report on the extent of funds received to the department from the Centre under various schemes and funds receivable from it.

He asked the officials to obtain report from district officials on the insurance claim settlement for the dead livestock, distributed by the government under a subsidy scheme, and claims receivable from insurance companies. With the funds received towards settlement of claims, the officials should take steps to distribute livestock in lieu of the dead animals to beneficiaries. In view of heavy inflows into reservoirs, rivers due to heavy rains, he asked the officials to suspend distribution of fishlings among the fishermen for about four days as releasing the fishlings in water bodies to flood waters

Parliament's session to be ...

Continued from Page 1

In order to prevent the spread of coronavirus within the parliament complex, reporters and parliamentary staff entering the premises now have to undergo the rapid antigen test mandatorily on a daily basis, according to a new protocol put in place.

Besides, members of both Houses are undergoing RT-PCR tests on regular intervals on a voluntary basis, said a senior Parliament official.

A member of Parliament can undergo the 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 result of the much reliable RT-PCR test takes time, the antigen test has been made mandatory on a daily basis. Government officials accompanying their respective ministers during the bill discussions also have to show a negative report of RT-PCR test taken within the last 72 hours of their visit to

the complex. The session began on September 14 and is slated to end on October 1. Both houses are meeting in shifts of four hours each without the customary Saturday-Sunday weekend break.

The Budget Session was short-terminated in March after the outbreak coronavirus pandemic.

Release pending Rs1,433-cr grants to ULBs now: KTR

Continued from Page 1

The MA&UD Minister said that the State had been denied its rightful entitlement even in respect of the grants to urban local bodies recommended Finance Fourteenth Commission. "While the Commission recommended unconditional basic grant of Rs.2,711.12 crore, the amount released by the Centre was Rs.2,502.90 crore and thus a shortfall of Rs.208.22 crore. Though the State had fulfilled all the conditions attached to the performance grant of Rs.677.79 crore, the amount released to the State was only 235.81 crore, shortfall of Rs.441.98 crore", he

Commission recommended that grants amounting Rs.468 crore to million-plus city i.e., Hyderabad and Rs.421 crore to non-million plus cities in the State should be released in two equal instalments -- in June and October, 2020. This recommendation was accepted by the Union Government and an Action Taken Report to this effect was also placed in Parliament.

KTR wrote, "While the grant to million-plus cities is yet to be released, grant to non-million plus cities has been split into four instalments, in contravention of the recommendation of the Finance Commission, and the first instalment amounting to Rs.105.25 crore has been released on May 19,

the Training Centre, Following are the changes in the submission of Bids. Schedule Sale closing date & Time : 25-09-2020 at 03-30 P.M. Bid Submission Closing Date & Time 25-09-2020 at 03-30 P.M. Pre - Qualification Opening Date & Time : 29-09-2020 at 11.0 A.M., Technical Specification Opening Date & Time: 29-9-2020 at 12:00 Noon. Price Bid Opening Date & Time: Will be infirmated to the Successful Bidders who qualified at Technical Bid Stage and moved to Price Bids Stage. Contact: Sri V. Rameeh Babu, RI (I/c Training) Cell : 9490931775. Sri K. P. Satyanarayana, Asst. Commandant, (l/c Training) Cell

8d/- Principal / Commandan DIPR No.:501-DPICL-Agency/Advt./1/2020-21 10° Bis, TSSP, Brechpally, Jagutamba Gadwal Dist.

TDP MLA switches...

Continued from Page 1

MLAs Gannavaram, Guntur East and Chirala had already jumped over to the YSRC though they formally did not join the party to avoid disqualification.

Jagan Mohan Reddy had, in fact, said soon after becoming Chief Minister that he would admit defectors only after they resigned from their post. This is, however, followed only in breach as the YSRC has been admitting TDP legislators into its fold citing technicalities.

HYDERABAD **BULLION RATES**



Dressed/With Skin ₹181 Without Skin ₹206 Broiler at Farm ₹125

RATES ₹/KG

CHICKEN

EGG RATES ₹/100 **HYDERABAD** VIJAYAWADA 498 VISAKHAPATNAM 500 **RETAIL PRICE**

Covid-free world by end of 2021 Continued from Page 1

Now there is evidence that genetic component of this enzyme is different in different races. In Indians and South Asians, the enzyme is not

Is the strain varying in different states of our country? Within the country, the

strain keeps mutating; in one region, you can find a little mutation after a few weeks. Initially the original strain was not very virulent. But later on different stages of mutations came. Even now strains are mutating but this mutation is not causing a difference in virulence or difference in immunity in different parts of the country. So why is it that States like Gujarat have more deaths and Maharashtra have more cases – there may be a genetic factor or variation, which is making a difference. We haven't studied it yet in India. Not only immunity or genes, but a lot of other factors affect virulence like the amount of virus. If you are wearing a mask, then it won't be virulent. All the healthcare care workers who died initially were not protected proper-

What are vour observations around the controversy surrounding plasma therapy?

We believe that plasma is very effective if given early and the controversy about it is very unfortunate. We have an

critical disease, these people have fatigue, joint paints, inability to do their work, loss of appetite sometimes lasting 2-3 months' on-going study which states: (1) Plasma has to be given between 5-7 days and (2) body levels?

Majority develop antibodies. Some may not

immunity in spiPeople who have severe or

have antibodies, but they will have

Plasma should have neutralising antibodies and not just antibodies. If the neutralising antibodies are 1 in 40, then it is very effective. Most centres don't have neutralising antibodies and they are just giving convalescent plasma.

What is Long Covid? People who have severe or critical disease, these people have fatigue, joint paints, inability to do their work, loss of appetite sometimes lasting 2-3 months. This is called Long Covid. The body is producing antibodies against the virus. The virus stimulates the body's immune reaction in an uncontrolled manner and becomes like auto-immune diseases. Especially in children (aged 5-10 years) who are coming with joint paints, low-grade fevers, hypertension, BP. It will go on stimulating the immune system, with the body producing antibody-antigen syndrome. This is called Kawasaki syndrome. True magnitude of this will be known next year when all this original disease is gone and these diseases will continue.

What is your observation on reinfection cases and anti-

Majority develop antibod-

ies. Some may not have anti-

bodies, but they will have immunity in spite of it due to T-cell. Even if you don't have high antibodies, the body recognises the virus and clears it off within 24-48 hours. All mutations occurring in this Covid-19 are outside the antibody domain called receptorbinding antibody domain. It won't cause disease again, but there will be a short span of reinfection similar to recurrent common cold. Initial reports of reinfection are not true reinfection as some of the RNA particles stay back in the nose. True reinfection is recovery from disease and documentation with other strains of virus. In India, the virus is not genotyped. So cases of reinfection in Telangana, Bengaluru or other states could be or could-

Is there a rush to invent a vaccine?

n't be reinfection, but the pro-

Vaccines usually take decades because it is done in

get a vaccine, it would take one year. But in the case of coronavirus it is unprecedented. The amount of money, science behind this, and the number of people following this has never happened in medical science. Permissions are being granted quickly and governments are pushing it. We are involved in vaccine trials as well. The timelines are not abnormal. Irrespective of whether the vaccine is working or not, the producers are making vaccines because the government has written a guarantee that if the vaccine doesn't work, they will still be paid. This further shortened the duration of making vaccines. There are six vaccines that have gone to Phase 3 trails and the results are encouraging. By the end of January, we might be getting the first few vaccines. Vaccine manufacturers are going to produce millions and millions of vials of vaccines and by April or May next year majority of people will be vaccinated.

leisurely fashion. If you want to

Did we touch the peak in the number of cases? Îs a second peak expected?

We are at the peak now as we are seeing a large number of cases being reported. In September and part of October we will have peak and in the cedure is to look at the strain. later part of November it will come down, if people take masks seriously. About the second peak, other countries are worried due to cold weather but we don't have such a prob-

lem, except for a few weeks of December when it will be cold. But again with Coronavirus we can't predict. We are doing field surveys now as part of research and in Hyderabad 20-30 per cent have antibodies; similar to the situation in other states. Once antibody levels go to 50 per cent, the rates will come down. We have 4,000 employees in our hospital. When we tested all of them, about 200 employees had Covid-19 but 400 had antibodies. There were 200 who didn't have an infection, but got antibodies. If 1 lakh people are infected, this means 2 lakh people are getting antibodies. If we wear masks, 4 times people will develop antibodies.

Will life ever get back to normal, like the way it was prior to the outbreak of Covid-19? Life will come back to nor-

mal and it is a small blip in history. My belief is by 2022 life will come back to normal and by the end of next year there will be little normalcy. What will not come back to normalcy is the generations who have gone through this trauma. Positive things happened for us like realisation that we shouldn't interfere with Nature. When World War 2 happened, a lot of positive things happened in orthopedics, blood transfusion; now in coronavirus a lot of things are happening like understanding virus, preventive drugs and

vaccines

The Fifteenth Finance

fer this office Tender Notification dated: 05-09-2020, inviting Bids for running of Me

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA STATE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CORRIGENDUM

Refer this office Tender Notification dated: 05-09-2020, inviting Bids for running of Mer the Training Centre, Following are the changes in the submission of Bids. Schedule Sak closing date & Time: 25-09-2020 at 03-30 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: 29-09-2020 at 11.00 pening Date & Time: 29-09-2020 at 11.00 A.M., Technical Specification Opening Date & Time: 29-9-2020 at 12:00 Noon. Price Bid Opening Date & Time: Will be intimated to the Successful Bidders who qualified at Technical Bid Stage and moved to Price Bids Stage. Contact : Sri V. Ramesh Babu, RI (Vc Training Cell : 9490931775. Sri K. P. Satyanarayana, Asst. Commandant, (I/c Training) Cell

8d/- Principal / Commandan DIPR No.:501-DPICL-Agency/Advt./1/2020-21 10* Bis, TSSP, Beechpally, Jagulamba Gadwal Dist.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA POLICE DEPARTMENT Office of the Commandant, 8" Bn., TSSP, Kondapur, R.R. Dist. 500084 C.No.34/RI-TRG/2020 CORRIGENDUM

Refer This Office Tender Notification Date: 04.09.2020 Inviting Bids for Running of Mess in the fraining Centre. Following are the Changes in the submission of Bids. Schedule Sale Closing Date & Time 25.09.2020 - 3.30 pm Bid submission Closing Date & Time 26.09.2020 - 3.30 pm R.O. No.:580-DPICL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2920-21 Sdi'- Commandant, 8", Bn., TSSP.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION NIT No.: 60/EE (EVDW)/OHMC/2020-21.Dated: 04.09.2020

Category of Work: 1, Contraction of Protectoin wall with grill for park near Veeranjaneya Swamy Temple, SyNo. 296,296,294, Bhagyalaxmi Nagar, Quthbullapur in Kulotpallyzone, GHMC(2nd Cally 2. Contraction of Protection wall for Park situated near KKs Bakery, Venkates vera colony. KPHB phase III, kukatpally in Kukatpally Zone GHMC-Submission of Estimates for Administrative sanction, Estimated Cost (in Lakhs) Rs. 23.21, Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 1, Dt: 17.09.2020 @ 02.00 PM - Dt: 21.09.2020 @ 02.00 PM 2, Dt: 17.09.2020 @ 04.00 P.M.- Dt. 25.09.2020 @ 04.00 P.M. Officer Name, Address and Cell No. EE(FAC)(EVDM) GHIMC, 6th Floor, Buddha Bhavan, Hyd Ph. No : 040-29880769

R.O. No.: 5143-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2020-21

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

n exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (A No. 8 of 2006), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the land use envisage in the notified Master Plan-2021 vide G.O.Ms.No. 288, MA&UD, Dt:03-04-2008. The site Sy, No.506/B, 507/B, 506/B & 509/B of Bowrampet (V), Dundigal Gandimaisamma (N Medchal-Malkajigiri District in the total extent of 885.22 Sq.mts (net site area is 748.0 Sq.Mtrs., after deducting road affected area 137.16 Sq.Mtrs. under 30 mtrs. MP Road which is presently earmanked for Conservation use zone is now proposed to be designate is Residential use zone. The details of the above are available in website http://gazette.telangana.gov.in// and https://www.hmda.gov.in// Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C., HMDA or to hincipal Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15

days from the date of publication of this Notice. IPR No.321-PPICL-Agency/ADVT/1/2828-21, Dt 19-09-2020 SQ/- Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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Fraudsters dupe 40-yr-old of Rs 6.3 lakh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Fraudsters duped a 40-yearold teacher under the guise of sending her a parcel through courier service. The fraudsters siphoned Rs 6lakh from the victim. Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police booked a case and further investigation is underway.

According to the complainant, a person befriend her on social media and started chatting with him. Further, the person informed her that he sent a parcel to her. Subsequently, the complainant received a call allegedly from International Courier Services Delhi and informed that one parcel is available with them and asked to collect it by paying Rs 43,500. Since then on various

charges like ownership charges, tax charges and others, she transferred an amount of Rs 6.3 lakh. When the courier started was not responding to her calls, she realised that she was duped by the person and approached Hyderabad Cyber Crime police. Based on the written complaint from the victim, Hyderabad cyber crime police booked a cheating case and other relevant sections of IT act and further investigation is underway.

PD Act invoked against woman

PNS HYDERABAD

The Rachakonda police invoked the PD Act against a woman who was allegedly involved in an online human trafficking racket. According to the police, Sadanala Devi alias Soumya alias Swetha had formed a gang and was organising flesh trade after bringing women from West Bengal on the pretext of employment. She was nabbed in July by the SOT and Keesara police during a raid. She is currently lodged in Special Prison for Women Chanchalguda.

Open, unfenced nalas at every turn to gobble you up

Unfenced nalas (drains) across the city are waiting for a tragedy to happen. In some places, even lack street lights are increasing the chances of accidents at night. That there are such unfenced drains on busy stretches is proof of the authorities' lackadaisical attitude. People are expressing concern over the nalas claiming lives of people more often than not. Death of 12-year-old Sumedha, who got washed away in Deen Dayal Nagar of Neredmet colony once again brought to the fore the hazard due to the nalas. Earlier, a woman was washed away in an open nala sometime ago. Last year, such incidents were reported from Old City and LB

The GHMC in rainy season doles out promises to people on removal of encroachments on nalas and take steps to expand them. But years rolled by, nothing concrete could be done. As the time passes, the nalas are becoming narrower and narrower. Construction of retaining walls at some places provided no solution at all. Following inundation of several homes in catchment areas of Hussain Sagar Lake nalas, Kirloskar committee was appointed to study the extent of encroachments on the nalas and to what extent the nalas to be expanded. The committee suggested expanding 71 nalas the spread across an area of 170 km. It estimated that it would cost the GHMC Rs 6,700 crore to remove over 10,000 encroachments on the nalas.

The city-based engineering consultancy Voyants Solutions Limited suggested widening the nalas up to a distance of over 390 km. It estimated that it would require Rs 12,000 crore to remove over 28,000 encroachments. When it rained heavily in 2017, Ministers went round the city at night to monitor the situa-



With the help of drones and topo sheets available with Revenue and Irrigation departments, a study was conducted again. The study indicated that there were 12,182 encroachments on nalas. In the first phase, measures were taken to remove 842 encroachments at a cost of Rs 230 crore in the first phase.

Tenders notification was issued to take up the works in 47 stretches. Works were handed over to the bidders in 46 areas. Works were grounded in 26 regions. In three years, nalas have been widened up to a distance of 6 km and construction of retaining wall. Several contractors have cancelled their contracts finding fault with the GHMC not acquiring properties. Officials alone would be able to say when the expansion of nalas would be completed.

sition of properties on either side of the nalas. According to the GHMC and Traffic Police, water gets logged in the city at 132 places when it rains. Of them, 24 are major water logging points. Water gets logged at Mytrivanam, Punjagutta, Khairatabad, Lakdikapul, Che Number, Mettuguda, Musheerabad, Bala Nagar, Moosapet, Borabanda, Miyapur and Kondapur. To drain water into the drainages,

At many places, there is no

cover on the nalas. When it

rains heavily, it would very dif-

ficult to identify nalas from

roads. Even though the nalas

have been claiming lives of

people, there is delay in acqui-

According to JNTU professor Lakshman Rao, the flow of flood water per square kilome-

covers on manholes are usual-

ly removed. It is often causing

People are expressing concern over nalas claiming lives of people more often than not. Death of a 12-year-old girl in Neredmet once again brought to the fore the hazard due to the nalas

tre should be identified. Accordingly, the drainage system should be improved. Care should be taken to ensure that drainage and flood canals are not merged. The flood water drainage system should be developed on either side of the roads. According to environmentalist BV Subba Rao, creation of infrastructural amenities should not confine to development of roads, bridges and tourist attractions. The authorities should improve flood flow system. The flood water flow system in the city is not as per the

SHRC seeks report from **GHMC** commissioner

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Human rights commission sought a detailed report from GHMC Commissioner over the death of 12-year-old girl, who died after skidding into a drainage while cycling. A PIL was filed by Mamidi Venu Madhav, an advocate and a trained social worker alleging the negligence of the government and concerned authorities which led to the death of the girl. Speaking to The Pioneer, Venu Madhav said, "It is clear

negligence of GHMC. They could have closed the drain but they didn't. Technology has improved so far we could have come up with solutions like underground drainage system but they haven't implemented. This clearly shows the laxity of the GHMC to serve the public." He further demand ex-gratia of one crore to family members from the government. Based on the PIL, State Human rights Commission issued notice to the Commissioner GHMC for report by 13 November

2020. A 12-year-old, Sumedha Kapuria, who went missing on Thursday was found dead in Banda Cheru on Friday. According to the police, she accidentally fell in an open drain while she was on joyride on a bicycle on Thursday

Based on the complaint of Sukanya Kapuria, Neredmet Police informed the GHMC DRF teams and started search operations and found her body on Friday afternoon at Banda lake after 13 hours

FICCI holds webinar on **National Education Policy**

FICCI-Telangana State Council, in association with Government of Telangana, Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) organised an online interactive session



'NewEducation Policy (NEP-2020)- A Game Changer For Telangana' here in the city on Saturday. The interaction saw 5 parallel sessions, 23 speakers and lasted for 215 minutes. Each plenary session gave five actionable recommendations which FICCI will present them to the government for their consideration. The concluding session was moderated by T Muralidharan, chairman of FICCI Telangana State Council and chairman of TMI Group.

NIT-W Director launches 'Fit India Movement'



Director of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal, Prof NV Ramana Rao inaugurated Fit India Movement' online on Saturday. This two-week programme is being jointly organised by the Department of Physical Education and TEQIP-III, NIT, Warangal. On the occasion of

this event, Prof NV Raman Rao has stressed the importance of physical fitness especially during the Covid-19 situation. He said "Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making huge efforts to make a 'Fit India'. Prime minister has taken the fit India movement campaign very seriously. The Union education ministry directed the schools, colleges and universities in union territories to start this campaign for the good health of students". He said that he was glad that Prof P Ravikumar had taken the initiative to conduct this two week 'Fit India Movement' campaign in NIT Warangal.

Awfis to double its co-working centres in Hyd

Awfis, an Indian co-working space company that caters to startups, freelancers and enterprises, having 67 centres across 10 cities of India with a capacity of over 35,000 seats, is expanding its footprint in Hyderabad. The company plans to more than double its centres in the city. The



company currently operates six co-working space centres in Hyderabad with 5,000 seats with its facilities spread across Gachibowli, HITEC City, Kondapur, Banjara Hills, Begumpet and Taj Deccan. "We are currently adding three new centres in Hyderabad with an additional 1,500-2,000 seat capacity, which will take the total to 6,500-7,000 seats. We plan to have about 15 centres in the city in the coming years as we see the notential to double our capacities," said Awfis founder & CEO Amit Ramani

College managements keep lecturers certificates illegally

Despite it being illegal, it is well known that college managements in Telangana keep the employees certificates for the tenure they work there. However, during pandemic, the college managements have been terminating employees without giving back their certificates. When the teachers ask them for their documents and experience letters, the managements assure the teachers that if the college needs their services after the classes resume they will be called back.

Sacred of not getting any jobs again, several teachers in the state have been keeping mum. A faculty, who worked in an Engineering College based in Peddapally, shares, "I served in the college for a decade. However I was terminated without any notice in April. Not just that, they haven't vet returned my certificates or issued a letter of experience. I am helpless as I can't even apply for a new job." In 2012, in a similar case, Madras High Court had given the ver-



certificates by the second respondent Management is unlawful which makes out an offence under Section 406 UGC has also warned the

college managements against retaining certificates. A senior engineering faculty, who was terminated during the pandemic, shares on the condition on anonymity, "I received my termination letter by registered post in May. But despite pressurising the managements, I haven't vet received my certificates. They are more valuable that money. I complaint to IAS Navin Mittal as well, but without any inquiry he shut the case, telling me that I was trying to defame the college."

Although several associations have complaint against dict that, the retention of the the practice in JNTUH, lines."

pandemic, the college managements have been terminating employees without giving back their certificates

authorities paid no heed. D Srinivas Varma, General Secretary of Telangana Technical Institutions Employees Association, shares, "I have received official complaints from at least 83 lecturers. When we spoke to JNTUH aurhorities they said we will see what can be done, but it's been five months without any action from the University's end. It's very unfortunate to see that one of the most reputed Universities in the country, is not abiding by the UGC guide-

GHMC alerts people to stay indoors

from

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad witnessed heavy rains on Saturday and IMD advised citizens to restrict movements. GHMC urged people to stay indoors as the rainfall led to water pooling on roads and low lying areas in many places. Since September 16-19, GHMC received 422 complaints in total of which 236 were water logging complaints, 106 complaints related to potholes.

As of Saturday 5 pm, 68 complaints were related to tree fall and fallen tree branches, 11 related to wall collapse and one dilapidated building condition. On Saturday alone, GHMC received 78 rain-related grievances with 40 related to water logging. IMD issued weath-



er warning of thundercyclonic circulation over storms accompanied with lightning over Telangana Saturday September 23. The warning also said 'heavy to very heavy rain' was very likely to occur in several districts including Hyderabad, Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Yadadri Bhongir among others. The rains are due to The ed at Ghanpur (Nalgonda).

Telangana & adjoining Vidarbha extending upto 0.9 km above mean sea level has become less marked. During the last 24 hours, Highest Rainfall of 208.8 mm recorded at Addakal (Mahabubnagar), Highest Maximum temperature of 37.6oC recorded at Wyra (Khammam), Lowest Minimum temperature of 20.4oC record-

2,000 patients admitted in TIMS

Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (TIMS) at Gachibowli admitted nearly 2,000 patients over the past couple of months. According to officials, there are 275 patients admitted in the hospital of which 32 patients are in ICU as on Friday. TIMS has provided out-patient services to nearly 3,000 patients so far.

The 14-storey building, which was unused for over a decade, was converted into a Covid-19 centre. Even though the government has decided to make it a super speciality hospital, currently only Covid-19 cases are being taken care of. The patients who need super speciality care are being referred to Gandhi hospital. The modern hospital has

1,224 beds out of which 1,000 beds have Oxygen supply and 50 beds with ventilator support. The hospital recently got a Liquid oxygen tank of 21KL capacity which can provide



The modern hospital has 1,224 beds out of which 1,000 beds have Oxygen supply and 50 beds with ventilator support. The hospital recently got a Liquid oxygen tank of 21KL capacity

uninterrupted supply to nearly 1200 patients. Officials noted that there is no shortage of staff and that 200 doctors and 250 staff nurses are working in the hospital. Of the 20,396 beds available in government hospitals in Telangana, 17,932 are vacant. Nearly 11,950 regular beds are vacant while 4470 oxygen beds and 1512 ICU



As part of beautification drive in public areas, the officials concerned painted the walls at Kukatpally Y Junction to spread awareness about cleanliness among people. The wall paintings made the roads present a pleasant sight to the commuters

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT FORM-VII PRELIMINARY DECLARATION

(As per sub-rule (1) of rule 25 of Act 30/2013)

G1/3155/2019 Dated: 02-09-2020 File No: F/29/2019 Dated: ---/08/2020 (Collector/Joint Collector/Special Collector (Land Acquisition)/Special Deputy Collector

As per the directions of the government of Telangana/District Collect Nalgonda an area of Acres 46.17 ½ Guntas is needed for the pub purpose in Venkapali village of Marriguda mandal of Nalgonda district construction of Shivannagudem Balancing Reservoir under Dindi L Imigation Scheme. The land figured under reach 0.000 to 5.875 vi needed for the purpose as was mentioned in the schedule below.

Therefore a declaration has been issued to acquire Acres 45.1. Guntas in Venkapali village of Marriguda mandal of Nalgonda district mentioned in the schedule below

Village: Venkepalli Mandal: Marriguda District: Nalgoni

SCHEDULE-1

Name of Pattadaru/ Name of **kusto**r Enjoyer and Father/Husband 0.012 Ohoosari Padmaish S/o Anjaiah ptalif 0.0°2 Kaagu Jangalal S/o Ramulu Panga Chinamarayya 27 Kishki S/o Ramayya pata 1.02 0.01 Gunapanti Padhamayya 0.01 Mailarapu Yadaial S/o Muthalah 0.16¹¹ Giri Buggaiah 1 Bore Pain S/o Yellalah 1 Bore, Pain 0.16¹¹ Giri Ramulu Tanania 0.13 Giri Buggaiah 1.11 Bodiga Satyanarayar 1 Borg Pain S/o Nagabhushanam W/e Kondaiah 1,11 Bodiga Venkatalah 1 Borg Pain S/o Nagabhusharar 1 Bore Pain S/o Nagabhushanam 2.05 Pathangi Lingamma 28es Patro W/o Yadaiah Pipeline 0.10 litukoju Lavamana Chary S/o Kondayya Pulasani Annapuma Wo Ravindar Rac 1 Box Patro 0.11 Bodiaga Yadaiah Pipe line, Man S/o Nagathushanam 0.26 Idukoju Lavamana Chary 1 Birs, Pahr S/s Kondayia nem 1, Tex 2.26 Bellamkonda Marayya S/o Kashayya Ppeire 0.26 Idukoju Venkatesvariu Ref 0.06 Waddam Kalamma Wio Srinu Stalk Niranjan S/o Jahangee 0.02 Shaik Mahmood S/o Jahangeer 0.02 Shak Yusaf Slo Jahangee Shalk Ahmed Shulahangeer

S/o Kandzyya

0.00¹¹ Nenarath Dhuthya

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Pasham Bhupathi Reddy

S/o Dhamodar Reddy

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1	The declaration has been issued under Section 15					
7	(0	(Central Act 30/2013) after subjecting all objections for the				
\dashv		land acquisition to scrutiny.				
		Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying				

30 107 KistW 0.0011 Jatavath Narendar S/o Ramiji

under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of

which the land is being acquired, are not needed. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer. AMR Project, Unit-2,

Nalgonda during working hours on any working day. Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition) AMRP, Unit-2, Nalgonda Nalgonds

PR R.O. No: 621/LA/PP/Advt/Pub/2020-21

MLC polls turn prestigious for parties | TS Government likely to

Political parties in the state are taking Graduate Constituency MLC elections on a prestigious note. They are gearing up for the polls and have begun preparations at ground level. The Graduate MLC elections will be held for two constituencies-Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal and Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahbubnagar.

The parties are considering these elections as prestigious and hence have already started the election process and sending voter enrolment proformas to the graduates to enroll their names whenever the Election Commission begins enrolment of the votes. Though the elections will be held apolitically, the political parties in the state wants to show their strength by fielding their candidates.

However, the competition is more in Congress party for the two graduate MLC tickets. Senior leaders like G Chinna Reddy is expecting ticket for the graduate MLC elections as Congress senior leader and



former Minister T Jeevan Reddy, who won the Karimnagar graduate constituency election with a thumping majority, lost Assembly elections in 2018.

Jeevan Reddy's thumping victory tempted leaders like Chinna Reddy, who also lost Assembly elections like Jeevan Reddy. Chinna Reddy has applied for the MLC ticket to contest from Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahbubnagar Graduate Constituency which is in the hands of BJP now. Not only Chinna Reddy but also the leaders like Ch Vamshichand Reddy, SA Sampath Kumar, Dasoju Sravan, Kuna Srisailam Goud, who lost Assembly elections, are trying for the Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahbubnagar Graduate Constituency ticket along with leaders like Indira Shobhan, Harsha Vardhan Reddy and several others.

The BJP, which is stating that it is the only alternative to the ruling TRS, is preparing strategies to win both Hyderabad-Kangareddy-Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda-Khammam-Graduate Constituencies this time.

Party senior leader N

Many senior leaders from Oppn parties are looking forward to contest polls, which in turn will benefit the ruling TRS

MLC from Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahbubnagar Graduate Constituency. According to sources, the party is fielding N Ramchander Rao once again from Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahbubnagar constituency.

Besides these national parties, Congress and BJP, the TJS is also going to field its candidates in the MLC elections. TJS Chief Prof M Kodandaram, who didn't contest yet though he floated the party much before Assembly elections, himself is going to test his for-tune from Nalgonda-Khammam - Warangal Graduate Constituency. He sought the support of the Congress, TTDP, CPI, CPM and CPI ML New Democracy too. There are rumors that the ruling TRS is seriously trying its best to see that Kodandaram does not win these elections and is preparing Kodandaram centric plans. It's not that easy for Kodandaram to win the elections if opposition parties don't extend their support.

On the other hand,

Telangana Inti Party chief Dr Cheruku Sudhakar too wants to contest MLC elections from Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduate constituency. Besides these political parties' candidates, many independent candidates are also vying to contest the elections. Both Kodandaram and Cheruku Sudhakar worked with TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao and separated from the latter. One of the political analyst opined that many stalwarts like Kodandaram, Cheruku Sudhakar, Chinna Reddy, N Ramchander Rao, Ch Vamshichand Reddy, SA Sampath Kumar, Kuna Srisailam Goud and several others may become an advan-

revise market value of lands

The State Government is keen to recover the loss of revenue due to Coronavirus through revising the value of lands upwards. It may be recalled that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao raised the issue on the floor of the State Legislative Council on September 13.

He said the execution of the irrigation projects and implementation of the Rythu Bandhu scheme has increased the value of the lands in the open market. He said that an acre of agriculture land costs at least Rs 10 lakh anywhere in Telangana. At some places, its cost went up to Rs 1 crore, he added. The statements drop the hint that the state government is keen to revise the market value of lands upwards.

Stamps Registration Department has studied the land prices in the open market in 2019 and submitted a report to the government and recommended the

government to increase the land cost. As the market value is very less the Stamps and Registration Department is not able to earn enough revenue by way of stamp duty and fees. The state government did not entertain the increase in the prices of land values then. It went back fearing backlash from the people. Now the situation is totally different. There is huge variation in land prices.

In 2013, the Kiran Kumar Reddy Government revised the market value of lands in undivided Andhra Pradesh. The same rates are prevalent

even now. As per the state government's assessment, the revenue realised from Stamps and Registration Department in 2019-20 was Rs 6,446 crore. In 2020-21, it targeted to earn Rs 10,000 crore revenue. The Government of Telangana collects 6 per cent of the market value towards registration fees, stamp duty and transfer duty, while AP collects 7.5 per cent towards the same charges. By any amount, the stamp duty and registration is very less, feels the government which is toying with the idea of increasing the market value

HC relief for contract employees

PNS HYDERABAD

In a relief to contract employees working in various govern-ment departments of the state including power utilities, a full bench of Telangana High Court comprising the Chief Justice of the state Justice RS Chauhan, Justice A Rajasheker Reddy and Justice Naveen Rao held that the employer viz-aviz state government service and service power utilities has got the power to apportion marks towards service rendered on temporary basis.

The bench, however, said that the marks, so apportioned, should not be more than 20 marks out of total marks of 100 or not more than 20 per cent of the total marks while having direct recruit-ment. The bench has also upheld the constitutional validity of Rule 31 of the Telangana State and Subordinate Service Rules, 1996 and added that the exercise of power under the

said Rule was legally valid. It also said that the power of relaxation of Service Rules could be exercised by the Government in order to remove the restriction on computation of temporary service imposed by the Service Rule, and to enable the temporary employee to compute the temporary service as weightage in the process of regular recruit-

It, however, made it clear that if the Service Rules do not envisage assignment of marks for temporary service in the

regular recruitment, it was for the employer to assign such weightage. 'For, such a power is an enabling power. It does not bestow any vested right upon a temporary employee to insist upon extension of weightage to temporary service rendered by him," the bench said. Referring to the petitions filed on the issue. It said that as the binding Settlements require assignment of marks for temporary service in the regular recruitment, the temporary employee is entitled to seek its

Reach out to students in Agency, officials told

PNS HYDERABAD

Tribal Welfare Minister Satyavati Rathod on Saturday called upon ITDA project officials and district tribal welfare officials to work with more efficiency to ensure the fruits of welfare schemes being implemented in the department trickle down to the beneficiaries.

She reviewed implementation of development schemes in the department with ITDA project officials and District Tribal Welfare officials in a meeting held at MCR HRD Institute here on Saturday. Later speaking to media, she said that she asked the participants of the meeting to complete the works suspended mid-way due to Covid-19.

He said that the depart-



ment always puts the interests of tribals first whether food processing units are set up in tune with KCR's ideals or other industries set up. The department always strives hard to ensure the new industries improve living standards of tribals. The Tribal Welfare Minister said that the teachers asked to teachers to reach out to ST students at their homes because there are no proper educational amenities in Agency areas.

Vijayashanthi hits out at CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Campaign Committee chairperson Vijayashanthi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao over the death of 12-year-old girl who died after falling into an open nala at Deendayala Nagar in Malkajgiri area. "Hyderabad will enter the Guinness World records if they take into consideration the deaths due to nalas, drainages and manholes during the rainy season," she alleged. "It has become a common thing for the TRS leaders to give assurances whenever incidents like Sumedha take place. The government says that it will see that such incidents will not be repeated," she pointed out. Vijayashanti said that the TRS leaders have also got habituated that they will criticise the previous governments when-ever such incidents happen.

State wins praise for Covid management

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal along with Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Saturday held a video con-ference with Chief Secretaries of twelve states and enquired about the steps taken by the various states in containing the spread of Coronavirus. Cabinet Secretary complimented the state for managing the pandemic well and maintaining low case fatality com-

pared with national average. Ramping up the number of Covid tests and making testing facilities available in large number of locations across the state such as Primary Health Centres, Urban Health Centres and Basthi Dawakhanas in the state was also appreciated by the Cabinet Secretary.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar informed that the government is having a close watch on the situation and fully geared up to

handle the pandemic, even as the number of positive cases have started declining. Explaining the various measures taken by the state government, Chief Secretary said that testing has been ramped up in the state. RT-CPR testing is being done on every person who is found symptomatic under rapid antigen test. The government has formulated a strategy to make all beds equipped with oxygen facilities.

Cops clear traffic to help organs reach hospital

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Traffic Police provided a green channel for ambulance transporting live organs. The ambulance covered 36.8 km in 25 minutes. In this year alone, Hyderabad Traffic Police has facilitated organ transport nine times.

The Hyderabad and Cyberabad Traffic Police coordinated and arranged Green Channel for transportation of live organ (Lungs) from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad to KIMS Hospital, Begumpet.

The distance between Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad to KIMS Hospital is 36.8 km which was covered in 25 minutes. The medical team carrying live organ (Lungs) left at 13:23 hrs from RGI Airport, Shamshabad and reached KIMS Hospital, Begumpet, Hyderabad at



Commissioner Anjani Kumar said, "Greatest sense of satisfaction, when an Ambulance carrying live Organ was escorted from Shamshabad Airport to KIMS Hospital in 24 minutes. Though it must have caused inconvenience to some but you will agree that 13:48 hrs.

Taking to Twitter Kudos to traffic police and Hyderabad City police the public."

Congress blames KTR for death of 12-yr-old girl

PNS HYDFRABAD

AICC Member and TPCC official Spokesperson G Niranjan on Saturday blamed Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao for the death of 12-year-old Sumedha Kapuria, who drowned in an open Nala at Malkajgiri on Friday. He demanded the Minister to resign for his post.

Residents of Greater Hyderabad are afraid to step out of their homes in rains. KTR is misleading the people with figures and wasting time of officials with his review meetings without taking any concrete measures to safeguard the lives of the people," he alleged. Niranjan, in a statement asked KTR to reveal as to why precautionary measures were not put in place at vulnerable places as the heavy rains are lashing state since the last few days.

Cong: Only KCR benefitted from TS

PNS HYDERABAD

AICC In-charge for TPCC Manickam Tagore on Saturday urged the party leaders to adopt a constituency-centric approach in order to win next Assembly elections in 2023. Manickam Tagore, along with TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy, had a videoconference through Zoom App with AICC Secretaries, contested

candidates of Lok Sabha, former Ministers and other senior leaders. CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka,

AICC Secretaries NS Bose Raju and Sreenivasan Krishnan, TPCC working presidents Ponnam Prabhakar and I Kusum Kumar, former Union Minister Renuka Chowdhary, former ministers Dr J Geetha Reddy, R Damodar Reddy, Marri Shashidhar Reddy, AICC spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan, contested candidates

including Mallu Ravi, R Damodar Reddy, Anjan Kumar Yadav, Feroz Khan, Madan Mohan, Gaddam Vinod, Konda Visveshwar Reddy and S Chandrashekhar participated in the meeting.

TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy introduced the leaders to Manickam Tagore and said that it was the second meeting to facilitate interaction between senior leaders with the new AICC In-charge.

> more meetings, through video-conference, would be held in the coming days to complete the formal introduc-

He informed that a few

tion of all leaders and take their views and suggestions on strengthening the Congress. He said that Tagore would visit Hyderabad in the first week of October after the end of Parliament session. In his opening remarks, Uttam said that the agenda for the meeting was to discuss membership drive, Dubbak by-elections, MLC polls and others.

who used to take tuitions for

students also are using online

medium to ensure their kids

get maximum support.

Murthy, a 61-year-old retired

mathematics teacher, who ran

tuition for students' started a



Social Welfare Minister Koppula Eshwar, MLA Arekapudi Gandhi and Ex MLA K Prabhakar Reddy donated Covid-19 response ambulances to the state government under 'Gift A Smile' initiative, on Saturday

TRS leaders cheating people in every election, alleges Bhatti

PNS HYDERABAD

CLP Leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday alleged that TRS leaders from Minister Chandrasekhar Rao to Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao and Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav won the elections by deceiving the people of Greater Hyderabad in every election. "The TRS leaders are troubling the people after winning the elections. Minister Talasani Srinivas left the people to the wind instead of showing 1 lakh houses in GHMC limits," he alleged.

Speaking to the media on Saturday along with V Hanumatha Rao, Dasoju Sravan and others at Indira Bhavan, Bhatti alleged that KCR, KTR and Talasani assured the people of Hyderabad that the government would give construct 1 lakh houses but the government constructed only 3,428 2BHK units. The government has to construct 96,000 2BHKs in 150 divisions (24 Assembly



city but it constructed mere 3,428 2BHKs only," he point-

He alleged Talasani nowed 2BHKs in showed Maheshwaram, which were constructed in 2016, constituency instead of Greater Hyderabad. There is no truth in the words of Talasani, Bhatti alleged. The govern-ment vacated 150 families four years ago in Ambedkar Nagar Colony, however, the colony is still vacant till date, Bhatti alleged. "Even in Mallepally, the government left the vacant place by laying foundation stone," he said. The Congress leaders

all the divisions of Hyderabad city about the deceivings of TRS party, he said. Bhatti said that the TRS government is stating that there is no vacant land in Hyderabad city to construct DBHs but the Congress is ready to show the land in Hyderabad city. "We will sit in chairs in Miyapur lands as KCR assured in Warangal that he will construct houses by sitting in the chair in Warangal but nothing has happened over there", he said. The Congress will wage the same fight for the sake of Warangal and Khammam people, he said.

Teachers go the extra mile to teach students who have stepped up their technical knowledge. Teachers,

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA HYDERABAD

The pandemic and subsequent lockdown in the country raised several questions on the continuity of education for several students. With the schools closed for a good six months, several teachers, especially those in their fifties, have been going the extra mile to make sure that the education of their students is no affected during the pandemic. Most of these teachers, who have taught their lessons in the traditional, classroom setting for decades, have to change their medium of interaction with the kids. While initially there were a few hesitations, these teachers are

learning quickly. P Uma, a 58-year-old, government school teacher, shares how she used her time recov-



ering from Coronavirus to learn a bit of new technology so that she can take the class. "All of it is so new. I won't claim that I have learnt it all, I am still learning and mostly my daughter helps me with various things. I teach Environmental Science to primary kids. A lot of lessons were outdoor based. But now, I perform experiments at



home as they watch and make slides for them as well. It's nice to know that even in pandemic my students' education is not affected.

While learning new technology initially was a bit scary, most teachers are finding it exciting now. After all, as they say, there is no age to learn anything. Talking about her experience of learning new



Telichetty Ranga Bai

things at 58, Telichetty Ranga Bai, English teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya Tirumalgiri said, "Learning new things at this age is real-ly thrilling. Had it not been so we would have been with chalk and talk. It has also boosted our morale. I have been using Zoom and Google for taking the classes." Incidentally, it's not just the schools teachers

YouTube channel so that classes won't stop. "I took tuition for over 20 kids. But, the pandemic halted all the classes. Many parents insisted that I take the classes, but I thought it was too risky. That's when I thought of making my videos. Initially, I understood nothing about making videos or uploading and giving appropriate captions. My son helped. Slowly, I am grasping various things. It's nice to learn something new at 61, while imparting knowledge to your students,

India overtakes US in Covid-19 recoveries

ndia has overtaken the US to register the highest number of Covid-19 recoveries in the

It has reported the highest number of recoveries with 42,08,431 infected patients recuperating from the viral disease. About 60 per cent of the new recoveries were reported from five States -Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka Pradesh. Uttar Incidentally, these are the States that have reported high caseload also.

Recovery-wise, Maharashtra accounted for over 22,000 (23 per cent), followed by Andhra Pradesh with more than 11,000 (12.3 per cent) of the new recover-

"The country has reported the highest number of recoveries with 42,08,431 COVID-19 patients having recovered from the disease so far, pushing the national recovery rate to nearly 80 per cent, while the case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.61 per cent, " the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

"India now accounts for close to 19 per cent of the total global recoveries. This has strongly pushed the national recovery rate to 79.28 per cent," it underlined.

The Centre-led focussed, calibrated, responsive and effective measures of early identification through high and aggressive testing, a prompt surveillance and tracking, coupled with standardised high-quality clinical care, have together resulted in this glob-



al achievement, the ministry

A record 95,880 patients recuperated from COVID-19 in a span of 24 hours, with 90 per cent of the new recoveries reported from 16 States and Union territories, the ministry's data said.

According to the ministry, 90 per cent of the recoveries were reported from 15 States and Union territories.

The five states with the maximum caseload -Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh — have also accounted for a majority of the recoveries, the ministry highlighted.

"India has maintained a sustained path of reporting a very high number of recoveries. This is the result of focussed strategies leading to coordinated effective actions in the states and Union territories," it said.

India's COVID-19 tally mounted to 53,08,014 on Saturday with 93,337 cases

Homemade masks helpful

PNS NEW DELHI

in checking

Covid spread

Homemade masks help in fighting the spread of viruses like Covid-19 when combined with frequent handwashing and physical distanc-ing, researchers have said after testing the breathability and droplet-blocking ability of 11 common household fabrics, using a medical mask as a benchmark. The study has been published in the journal Extreme Mechanics Letters.

reported in a day, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 85,619 with 1,247 more people succumbing to it in a span of 24 hours, the min-

RS passes Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill to protect health workers

Earlier, the House passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Rajya Sabha on Saturday}}_{\text{passed two legislations, The }}$ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill 2020 and The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill,

The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill provides for up to five years in jail for those attacking doctors and healthcare workers fighting the COVID-19 outbreak or during any situation akin to the current pandemic

Speaking on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said that the bill was required to prevent offences against healthcare professionals.

"Many healthcare workers including doctors, paramedics were insulted in some form or the other, due to stigma attached to COVID-19. Centre government acted on this situation found that there was a need for a law, a prohibitory mechanism against such inci-

dents," Dr Harsh Vardhan said. However, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Derek O'Brien termed the Bill an attempt to encroach states' constitutionally assigned functioning.

Speaking while the discussions on the bill were underway, the TMC MP said that

Bengal already had laws to deal with prevention of violence against doctors and healthcare workers.

You thought of healthcare workers now? Bengal has Medicare Service Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property Act 2009. What happens to it? Bill is an attempt to encroach states' constitutionally assigned functioning," O'Brien

The Upper House had ear-lier passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Second Amendment) Bill.

Moving the IBC Bill in Rajya Sabha Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "IBC is such a critical part of business now. On the NPAs of scheduled commercial banks, I just want to highlight how IBC is actually serving the purpose. The priority is to keep companies to be a going concern rather than liquidate them."

The Bill mandates that a default on repayments from March 25, the day when a nationwide lockdown began to curb the spread of coronavirus, would not be considered for initiating insolvency proceedings for at least six months.

The upper house which saw minimal disruptions during the last two days passed four Bills together with the controversial Farmers bill and Homeopathy bill in Friday.

NEP tailored to meet 21st century edu needs: Kovind

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said the new National Education Policy (NEP) aims to reorient the education system towards meeting the needs of the 21st century by achieving the twin objectives of inclusion and excellence and will also restore India's glory as a learning centre.

Speaking at the inaugural address of Visitors' Conference on 'Implementation of NEP in Higher Education, Kovind said the policy sets the vision of developing an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing quality education to

Directors of IITs, NITs, SPAs etc were present on the occasion besides the Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and top Ministry officials.

He drew inspiration from Bhagvad Gita and the Krishna-Arjun dialogue while reiterating the concept of free communication and discussion between the teacher and the student. "Effective implementation of the NEP 2020 is likely to restore India's glory as a great centre of learning as during the times of Takshashila and Nalanda," Kovind added.

The President said accord-Vice Chancellors of all ing to the All India Survey of

GER for females is slightly higher than that for males. However, the share of female students is extremely low in Institutions of National Importance and particularly low in technical education. Emphasising that NEP has focus on equity and inclusion, he said that such gender disparity in higher education should be corrected.

Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said the NEP has given access to foreign universities to open campuses in India and viceversa which will be instrumental in the process of making India a soft power, the Minister added.

India should talk to Pakistan to defuse border row: Faroog

Former JK CM also demands restoration of 4G services in UT

PNS NEW DELHI

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday sought talks with Pakietan saying if India can Pakistan, saying if India can talk to China to defuse their border row, it can also speak to its other neighbour to deal with the situation at the Union Territory's borders. He also



G internet services in the UT.

"Border skirmishes have been rising and people are dying... A way has to be found to deal with this. Except for talks... As you are talking to China to attempt that it withdraws (from Ladakh border), we should also talk to our (other) neighbour to find a way to get out of this situation," he said in Lok Sabha during the Zero Hour amid shouting from treasury bench-

Abulllah was speaking in the Parliament for the first time after his release from the detention following the change in the Union Territory status and bifurcation of the erstwhile state in the wake of abrogation of article 370, last year. He was released in March this

The MP expressed his happiness at the findings of an Army inquiry into the killings of three men in Shopian in an encounter.

"I am happy that the Army has admitted that three Shopian men were killed mistakenly. I hope the government gives a hefty compensa-

Flipkart, Amazon, Snapdeal to remove 160 fake Khadi products from platforms

E-commerce portals like Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal and others have been forced to remove over 160 web links selling products in the brand name of "Khadi" after the Khadi and Village Industries Commission's (KVIC) served egal notic firms for misusing its brand

name to sell their products. After KVIC served legal notice, Khadi Global has also discontinued using its website www.khadiglobalstore.com and also removed its social media pages on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. It has sought 10-day time to remove all such contents and product using the brand name "Khadi". KVIC action has also resulted in shutting down of a number of stores across the country that were selling fake Khadi prod-

These e-commerce portals were selling products like Khadi masks, herbals soaps, shampoos, cosmetics, herbal mehandi, jackets, kurta and many such products through different sellers using the brand name "Khadi". This created a false impression among online buyers that these commodities were genuine "Khadi" products. A majority of the products that have been removed were being sold by one Ayush E-Traders. This firm has confirmed to KVIC that it has removed 140

links for various products that were being sold as "Vagad's Khadi Products".

There has been a steep rise in violation of Khadi trademark as the popularity of Khadi grew manifold in recent years after the Hon'ble Prime Minister's appeal to buy Khadi products. Exploiting this opportunity, a selling random products in the name of Khadi Also hundreds of stores

mushroomed in different cities that were selling fake Khadi products. In recent months particularly during the Covid-19 lockdown, there was a huge proliferation of such fraudulent online sellers. However, to enable online customers to buy genuine Khadi products, KVIĆ has launched its e-portal selling a range of 300 products online

www.kviconline.gov.in/khadi-

KVIC Chairman Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena said the KVIC has given violators the option of either stop selling products in the name of Khadi or legal action will be initiated for recovery of heavy damages. "Legal notices have been issued to various firms essentially to safeguard the interest of Khadi artisans.

This trademark violation has a direct bearing on the livelihood of our artisans who are making genuine handcrafted products," Saxena said.

ECI to set up national database to track status of ex-gratia payments



PNS NEW DELHI

aking note of the delay in giving compensation, the Election commission (EC) is planning to set up a database to track the status of ex-gratia payments to those who got injured or lost their lives while pólling or poll-related duty. In a letter to chief electoral officers of all states and union territories, the EC has asked to track all such claims. At present, the poll watchdog pays ₹10 lakh to the next of kin of those who died in poll duties through

cheques. "A stern view has been taken of the institutional failure and lack of sensitivity, bordering on apathy, on part of the administrative machinery, which failed to respect the memory of the departed," EC said in the letter. The letter asked CEOs to create a digital database to track the settlement of such legacy claims and all



future claims. A national level database will also be created by the commission.

EC is also working out the modalities of how payments will be expedited to reduce any kind of inconvenience to the

Last month, Pramila Devi, the wife of late Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan Ramesh Kumar, 31, wrote to chief election commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, highlighting the delay in such payments. Kumar died in a grenade attack during the 2002 Jammu and Kashmir elections. In her letter dated August 10, Devi said she had not received the payment; she was entitled to ₹5 lakh as per the allotment 18 years ago. Following her letter, the Commission acted immediately to get the sum remitted to her without any further delay and later also transferred ₹15 lakhs to her

Manage oxygen availability effectively, States told



PNS NEW DELHI

Following reports of shortage of oxygen in some States threatening the management of patients suffering from Covid-19, the Centre has asked the States to focus on analysing district level and health facility level status and effectively plan and manage logistical issues related with

oxygen availability.

The suggestion came in the wake of an increasing number of cases across the country which is likely to push up the demand for oxygen as well.

At a high-level meeting held here under the chair-manship of the Cabinet Secretary, Rajiv Gauba , special instructions were issued for oxygen availability to the 12

States/UT Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Chandigarh, Telangana, Kerala, Delhi, Punjab and West Bengal where about 80 per cent of the Covid caseload in the country is concentrat-

The Cabinet Secretary while complementing the States for significantly ramping up testing, expressed con-cern that the case fatality rates of several States are still higher than that of the national

He urged the States to analyse mortalities district and hospital wise for identification of critical areas of inter-

A day ago, Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla had

Oxford Covid-19 vaccine: Serum Institute to start final phase of trial from Monday

PNS NEW DELHI

Dune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) is likely to start from Monday the final of University of Oxford and AstraZeneca Plc.'s

experimental vaccine. The latestage trial will take place at the Sassoon General Hospital in

In the third phase of the clinical trial, around 150-200 volunteers will administer a dose of Covishield. "Some volunteers have already come forward for the trial," a senior official from the company said. The Sassoon General Hospital in Pune has started enrolling volunteers from Saturday. 'Those who are willing to voĺunteer for the vaccination should contact the hospital," he

The phase II trial of Covishield was conducted at Bharti Vidyapeeth Medical College and King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital in

said.

SII has inked a pact with

British-Swedish company AstraZeneca to manufacture COVID-19 vaccine candidate, developed by the University of Oxford. The vaccine maker earli-

er shortlisted 17 sites in India for the Phase II clinical trial of Covid-19 vaccine. At least 1,600 candidates aged between 18 to 55, participated in the Phase II clinical trial. On September 10, the

drug maker had paused the clinical trials of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine candidate in India in the wake of AstraZeneca suspending the clinical trials in other countries. On September 15 the DCGI granted permission to SII to resume trial, while revoking its earlier order of suspending any new recruitment for phase II and III trial.

asked all the States to ensure modity and an important prefree movement of vehicles requisite for managing modcarrying oxygen "as it is an erate and severe Covid-19 essential public health com-

MNCs responsbile for 20% carbon dioxide emission

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

A mid ongoing blame-game between the developed and developing nations on who should pay for increasing carbon footprints, a study has pointed out that a fifth of carbon dioxide emissions come from multinational companies' global supply chains which in effect outsourced to poorer parts of the world.

The study, which is published in Nature Climate Change, mapped the emissions generated by multinationals' assets and suppliers abroad and found that the flow of investment is typically from developed countries to developing ones . "Hence emissions be assigned to countries where the investment comes from, rather than countries where the emissions are generated," said Researchers said this was a green house gas emission.

Mapping the global flow of

investment, researchers from JCL and Tianjin University found steady increases in investment from developed to developing countries. For instance, between 2011 and 2016 emissions generated through investment from the US to India increased by nearly half (from 48.3 million tons to 70.7 million tons), while in the same years emissions generated through investment from China to south-east Asia increased tenfold (from 0.7 million tons to 8.2 million

In contrast, the study found that carbon emissions from multinationals' foreign investment fell from a peak of 22 per cent of all emissions in 2011 to 18.7 per cent in 2016.



result of a trend of "de-globalisation", with the volume of foreign direct investment shrinking, as well as new technologies and processes making industries more carbon efficient.

The findings by UCL and Tianjin University holds immense importance amid the ongoing blamegame between the developed and developing nations on the increasing climate change threat owing to the

research shows the impact that multinationals can have by encouraging greater energy e f f i c i e n c y among suppliers or by choosing suppliers that are more

carbon efficient. Professor Dabo Guan (UCL Bartlett School of Construction & Project Management)

"Multinational companies have enormous influence stretching far beyond national borders. If the world's leading companies exercised leadership on climate change - for instance, by requiring energy efficiency in their supply chains - they could have a transformative effect on glob-

al efforts to reduce emissions. "However, companies' climate change policies often have little effect when it comes to big investment decisions such as where to build supply chains.

"Assigning emissions to the investor country means multinationals are more accountable for the emissions they generate as a result of these decisions." Lead author Dr Zengkai Zhang, of Tianjin University,

"Multinationals are increasingly transferring investment from developed to developing countries. This has the effect of reducing developed countries' emissions while placing a greater emissions burden on poorer

countries. At the same time it is likely to create higher emissions overall, as investment is moved to more 'carbon intense' regions?

Govt plans environment-friendly scrapping of vehicles, RS told

month.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said ■ a Cabinet note has been formulated for the vehicle

scrapping policy. In reply to a question, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) VK Singh informed the Rajya Sabha that the Government has formulated a Cabinet note on creation of an ecosystem for voluntary and environment friendly phasing out of unfit and old polluting

The proposed policy, once approved, will be applicable on all vehicles, the government had said earlier.

A MoRTH official said

that cabinet note on Vehicle Scrapping Policy- is preparing to implement the vehicle scrap policy for the old four wheelers (car) and two wheelers (scooter bike) from next

The policy was sent for a fresh round of consultation with stakeholders on the direc-

tion of the PMO. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadakri had earlier this year said once the policy is approved, India could emerge as a hub for automobile manufacturing as key raw material available from scrapping steel, aluminium and plastic are bound to be recycled, bringing down automobile

prices by "20-30%t".

On July 26, 2019, the Government had proposed amendments to motor vehicle rules to allow scrapping of vehicles older than 15 years in a bid to spur adoption of electrical vehicles. In a draft notification, the

government proposed renewal of fitness certificates for vehicles older than 15 years every six months instead of the current time-frame of one

When come into force, the automobile sector will gain momentum as demand for new vehicles increases. As per a report in the MoRTH, customers will get new vehicles up to 30 percent cheaper while older vehicles will reduce air pollution by 25 percent.

'Thrilled to do a negative role'

■How did you come on board for the series — Flesh? The casting director of the series approached me; he is a friend of mine. The character I play here is very different from what I have done in the

He is known for his comic timing and has

done films like My Name Is Khan, Shirin

Farhad Ki Toh Nikal Padi and Kick. The

actor speaks with Shalini Saksena

about why he played a negative

character in a web series,

Flesh and his upcom-

He thought of me and wanted to see if I fit the role. I was thrilled that somebody approached me for a negative role. Then the series is directed by Danish Aslam and there was nothing that made me turn it down.

■You play a negative role. Was it something that you were looking for?

I was not specifically looking for a negative role. I wanted to do something different from the roles that were offered to me. In the past, I have

played comic roles. People associate me with those type of easygoing characters. I wanted to show I could do other roles. I also wanted to experi-Talktime

■You have done films and TV shows **Bollywood** and Guiarati, what made you say yes to a web series?

I said yes purely on the basis of the content and the role that was offered to me. I had been offered other web series before as well, but they were similar to what I had

I started acting when I was very young. But it was more of a picnic back then. During

when I got to know what acting was all about. After graduation. I pursued it as a

profession

my college days I

started doing

theatre. That is

done in the past. There was no role that excited me. But the role in Flesh excited

■What is Scam 1992 about and your

The series is directed by Hansal Mehta; it is based on the scam by Harshad Mehta back in 1992. The series is all set to release on SonyLiv. I may have a small part here, but the role excited me because it is based on the real-life character. The role was really challenging since it is based on real per-

■How did you get into acting?

I started acting when I was very young. But it was not much of work back then; it was more of a picnic. During my college days I started doing theatre. That is when I got to know what acting was all about. After graduation, I pursued it as a profession.

What has been the most significant change in the industry?

I would say it is the influence of social media. I am a private person so it becomes difficult because people approach you for a particular character after they see the kind of following one has on social media. Not everybody does it, but there are many.

One is not selected on one's talent and if you fit the bill.

Does that mean you still have to be recognised by the industry?

I think so. I am only half way there. I

still have a long way to go. ■Is there a role that you loved being part of?

There were a couple of roles that I did for YRF Television. In 2010 I played Huzaifa Ali in Rishta.com. Another role that is dear to me is a role that I did for Fatmagul, a Turkish series.

■You have done comedy and now a negative character. Which would you choose?

Comedy comes naturally to me. It is my first love. When I was younger, I did Filmi Chakkar. I have learnt from the greats like Satish Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah and Rajesh Bedi. As a kid I used to observe them; I owe my comic timing to

■What next?

There were a few things that had been planned but the pandemic has pushed those projects. But Scam 1992 is set to release. There is another film, I have just finished dubbing for it and is in the post-



The award-winning documentary, Kiss The Ground, by Josh and Rebecca Tickell talks about the agriculture revolution and climate change

ho would have thought that ploughing our fields meant denuding the soil, triggering desertification and leading to unprecedented water crisis, famine, starvation and global crises of unimaginable proportions? Who would have thought that years of fertilisers and pesticides being used in fields worldwide came from the residues of what an evil German scientist evolved in a lab to gas the unsuspecting Jews in millions? Who would have thought that an arrived nation like the US would actually transport this poison and insert it into its soil to botox unscrupulous farm production and, in turn, bring in cancer, heart, kidney and other fatal dis-

eases in the form of global epidemics? Not many of us would think deeply about this agriculture revolution, Monsanto and other prime suspects that are slowly killing the planet and its human population, not to mention the millions and millions of soil organisms that take in CO2 and turn it into natural manure for the plants to grow organically. We still are not thinking about it even if brilliant documentaries like this one makes the

THE INTERESTING ONE HOUR, 24-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY, IS THE STRONGEST **EVER DEFENCE OF** ORGANIC WAY OF LIFE. SOME PARTS OF THE DOCUMENTARY ARE SO WELL PUT **OUT IN THE SEGMENT** OF STORY-TELLING THAT IT ALMOST COMES OUT AS A **THRILLER**



issue clear and obvious.

Call it the curse of meddling with God and his creation, but the way humanity has evolved leaves a lot to be questioned as we tussle with the inconclusive talks on climate change at the highest international level.

Kudos to the husband-wife duo Josh and Rebecca Tickell, full time environment activists and filmmakers, to have put up such a well-researched, convincing and alarming state of affairs about the killing of our soil. The documentary is a stunning mount on the soil-conscious farming practices that need to be implemented if climate

change has to be curbed. The interesting one hour, 24minute documentary, is the strongest ever defence of organic way of life. Some parts of the documentary are so well put out in the segment of storytelling that it almost comes out as a

Such is the story of the soil that is put to you that you don't mind the

preachiness that accompanies it.

A worthwhile watch not just for enjoyment but to face the soil crisis with some viable alternatives

'Owning a production house is diversification, not transition'

RAVI DUBEY, who has completed 15 years in the industry, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his production house, his recent poem and album, among other things

You started off as an actor, how did it lead to a production

I would not call having a production house a transition from acting; it is a diversification. I am very much still an actor and I still love acting. One thing just led to another. Sargun (wife) and I have been lucky that we have been able to forge good relations and people trust us. It is an organic diversification

Are there any particular kind of projects your production house would like to promote?

There are Punjabi films that we are doing. A third has just been put on the floor. There is content we are working for Hindi TV. There is content for the web. Everything from music videos to cinema to TV, we are all there.

■ Is that how your poem and album happened?

No, I wouldn't say that. When we produce content, there are many factors that come into play. But for poetry, it was something that I had been wanting to pen down. One by one, people came and got associated with it and became a project. A friend created a video and another gave the music. We produced the video and I have written the poetry, but would not call it a commercial production, it was more of a creative bent.

■ How has the journey been? I have been lucky. God is kind. The industry has embraced me, honour, taught me so much, been kind to me and showered me with love. I am grateful that I am here more than anywhere else. we to be this is what Leniov Lam for

part of this industry. What is the best part of owning a production house?

You can tell stories you believe in; you push forward ideas and stories that you want and closet to your heart. It is an opportunity where one doesn't have to necessarily rely on others to tell a story. One doesn't have to convince people that a project is good because you think it is. Having your own resources makes it possible. We are lucky we could start this and put forward ideas we believe in. ■ Does that mean that the kind of content in the industry is not something that works for you?

This is not true. There is great work happening. In my 15 years in the industry that I have been an actor, there is fantastic work happening. It is only in the last one year that we decided to diversify for commercial and creative reasons. I am personally proud of the work that I have done like *Jamai Raja* and *Ŝaas Bina Sasural*. Opening a production house doesn't mean I am undermining what is happening in industry but celebrating it.

You also debuted in the digital space with Jamai 2.0. What made you say yes to the project?

It was an organic move. The show — Jamai Raja has given so much; people loved it and wanted to see a metamorphosed version of it. I liked the story and the comfort level of working with Nia (Sharma). Doing it was like being at home. I enjoyed the process and that people loved it.

From modeling to acting to hosting a show. Where are you most comfortable?

I am most comfortable performing. I love and enjoy acting. I love hosting as well. Playing a character really grinds my gear. Just putting myself in front of the camera, the imagination is at full throttle, your creative potential and juices are flowing. But it doesn't mean I don't like hosting or dancing. I just love the art of performing. ■ What are some of the upcoming projects? Besides the Punjabi films,

music videos, web series and content for TV, there are some acting projects as about them at present.

WEEKLYNATTER

SUNNY KAUSHAL MAKES DEBUT WITH TAARON KA SHEHER

n 2019, Bhushan Kumar and Vicky Kaushal teamed up for the chartbuster Pachtaoge that stands tall with around 450 million views on YouTube. Just a year later, the T-Series head honcho has signed Sunny Kaushal for his next music video. The single, titled Taaron Ke Sheher will have Sunny, who debuts in the world of music videos, opposite the vivacious and talented Neha Kakkar

When you speak of music artists, Neha Kakkar has many blockbuster tracks to her credit and is one of the trending artist on YouTube, streaming sites and social media. But with Taaron Ke Sheher, the audience will witness a different side of Neha, on the other hand Sunny will don a never-seen-before rugged look, with long hair. The duo romantically paired opposite each other

will definitely surprise the audiences with their It's the first time lyricist Jaani has given the music and composed this intense romantic track sung by Neha Kakkar and Jubin Nautiyal

A visibly excited Sunny shares: When Bhushan sir called me for the song I was really excited to be associated with T-Series but after listening to it I got on board immediately, without a second thought. Neha and Jubin have sung the song so well that you can't help but feel it completely. And I've always been a fan of Jaani so I am really kicked about being a part of the sona.

Songstress Neha who reunites with Jaani yet another time is all smiles: "It's an amazing composition by Jaani, one would hear after a long time. Bhushan sir's vision on this track is something to look forward to. I am super excited to feature with Sunny and give the audience this intense romantic track in mine and Jubin's vocals. Arvindr Khera, our director, has done a great job with the video.

A DINNER TO REMEMBER you have more time to do the things

Ever feel like the weeknight struggle is real? Sometimes it's hard to find the time to put a balanced meal on the table that the whole family will love, and it can be just as hard to think of something to prepare that you didn't already eat last

week! We're with you. It doesn't take a long list of ingredients to make a great weeknight dinner. With simple and versatile ingredients, you already have at home combined with the

goodness of California walnuts vou can prepare comforting and wholesome meals that are sure to win your family's heart. Walnuts make a fantastic addition to the recipes. They're crunchy, filling and go with just about everything

So, whip-up these delicious meals in thirty minutes or less so you love with the people you love.

California walnuts Coimbatore

INGREDIENTS 3 cups basmati rice, cooked 3 tablespoons oil teaspoon

mustard seeds 1 teaspoon cumin seeds 1 spring curry leaves 2-3 dried red

chilies 1/4 teaspoon asafoetida 1/2 teaspoon pepper powder 1 cup fresh tomato puree ■ 1 tablespoon Kashmiri red chilli

powder 1/2 teaspoon garam masala 1/2 cup California walnuts. chopped roughly

1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder Salt to taste **PREPARATION**

Heat oil in a kadhai. Add mustard seeds and cumin seeds. Allow them to crackle

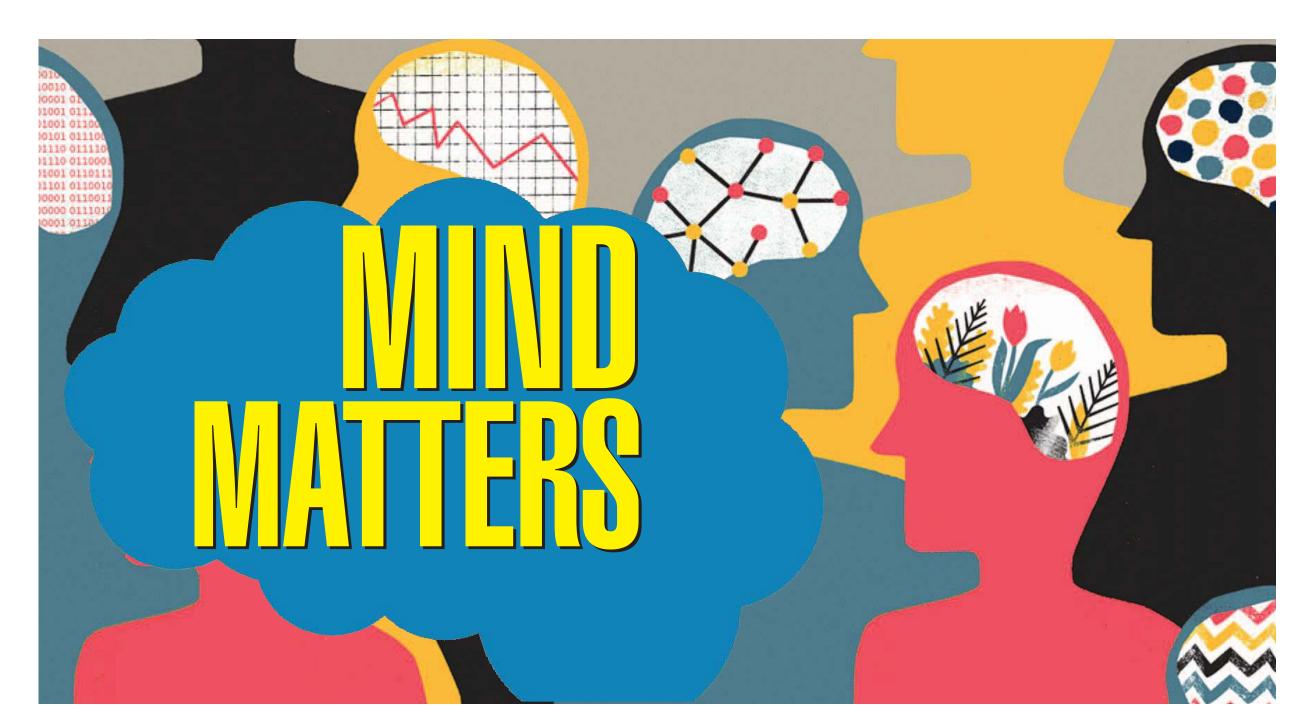
Add curry leaves, red chillies and asafoetida. Stir in California walnuts and add the

tomato puree. powder spices.

tomato puree thickens and reduces to 1/3rd its original size.

add the rice.





SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with experts who say that the rising numbers need to be tackled on a war-footing as a 2019 report by the World Health Organisation revealed that 7.5 per cent of Indian population suffers from some form of mental disorder, which constitutes one-sixth of all health-related disorders and accounts for nearly 15% of the global mental, neurological and substance abuse burden

Triggers

■ Stressful events:

Personal events like divorce, loss of job, death of a friend or close relative may cause depression.

- Family history: Genes have a role to play, so if you have a parent or a sibling with the condition, chances are you will also develop it.
- monal and physical changes in a woman's body during pregnancy and after birth, coupled with the added responsibility of a new life, may cause postnatal depression, also known as baby blues'

Substance abuse:

- Sustained high consumption of alcohol and psychedelic can affects brain.
- Illness: Chronic or life-threatening illness like cancer, can cause depression. Other triggers can be poor hormonal balance (hypothyroidism) or head injury.
- Gender: Women are more commonly prone to depression than men, mainly due to socio-cultural surroundings.

15-year-old student has allegedly died by suicide because she could not cope with online classes. The Class X student, Subiksha, from Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu allegedly ended her life on September 15, 2020 since she couldn't understand the lessons taught through the online sessions. Subiksha was depressed as she was not able to follow the lessons and feared that she would not be able to score high marks in her exams if she was to study via online classes.

On August 14, 2020, a decomposing body of a 40-year-old doctor working at AIIMS was recovered from his residence in South Delhi. Mohit Singhla was found hanging in a room on the second floor, which was locked from inside. The doctor worked with Department of Paediatrics at AIIMS. A suicide note was recovered that said: 'It was his life, his choice and he didn't want to live till 60-70 years. The letter also said he couldn't hide his mental state anymore'.

On August 10 2020, a 22-year-old medical student, Vikas, had allegedly committed suicide at AIIMS. He was a second-year MBBS student from Bengaluru, and had been seeking treatment at the institute for depression.

On July 11, 2020 Dr Anurag Kumar (25), a junior resident with the psychiatry department, allegedly committed suicide at AIIMS.

Depression is a term we often throw around without realising the depth of the disease. "It is a mental health condition that affects people of all ages in the form of one or recurrent major depressive episodes that can be mild, moderate, or severe. There is no single cause of depression; it is a disorder of the brain that occurs due to a combination of genetic and environmental factors working together. It is a frequent mood disorder that is severely disabling and has a significant impact on everyday life of an individual as well as society at large, including a substantial economic burden on society, Dr Prakriti Poddar, director Poddar Wellness Ltd explains.

According to The Lancet, mental disorders are among the leading causes of nonfatal disease burden in India and 197.3 million people had mental disorders in India in 2017, which includes 45.7 million people with depressive disorders and 44.9 million people with anxiety disorders. It goes onto state that mental disorders comprised 2.5 per cent of the total disability-adjusted life-years in 1990 that increased to 4.7 per cent in 2017. Among non-communicable diseases mental health is the largest contributor to economic loss in India.

PREVENTION

- * Take good care of yourself. Get enough sleep, eat nutritious food, and exercise regularly.
- * Reach out to family and friends if you are feeling lonely or sad and spend time with them.
- Fight stress with exercise, meditation, and yoga.
- * Know yourself better. Find your strengths and pay attention to what makes your symptoms worse. This can help your doctor or therapist.
- Stick with your treatment plan. If you are on medicine, take it as prescribed.
- * Do not skip sessions and tell your doctor what is and is not working for you

"It is time we shun this one at a time approach towards depression and other mental health conditions and take up the cudgels to support them. Depression is a risk factor for suicidal thinking and good mental health care can reduce the risk, there are several ways to ensure the affected person can access these. Suicide prevention programmes and hotlines can provide support and can withhold the tendency for some time. However, the focus and its prevention draws attention away from the fact that in worst case situations depression and resultant suicidal thinking/suicide attempts/suicide can be compelling," Dr Poddar says.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added to the stress and disrupted not only just businesses but also our consumption patterns and the way we live. The pandemic induced forced work from home and online education has become the new normal. Screen time has gone up exponentially and a lack of physical activity has significantly impacted mental and physical health. Established routines are completely unsettled. Within a week of the lockdown, reported cases of mental health went up 20 per cent.

A Tata Salt Lite survey has indicated that for Delhiites, work related issues and technology related issues were the top reasons

forgetting angry and stressed. Every three out of five (61%) respondents admitted that they would feel extremely angry, make errors or even argue with their boss if they were assigned work on their holidays or if they were asked to work longer on Fridays for

some urgent work. According to Dr Raj Kumar Shrivastava, senior consultant and head, Department of Mental Health and Behavioral Science, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Patparganj, depression is the most common form of psychiatric problem. "It has always been there. Today, people have started talking about it more. People are more open and reporting is on the rise. The role of social media and the celebrities also talking about their mental health, people have become courageous. The pandemic has not helped matters. Fear of infection, losing jobs and negativity around the Coronavirus has added to the burden. There is a change in the lifestyle of people as well. The uncertainty has made people anxious. Glorifying suicide of a celebrity by the media is to be blamed. One has to understand that the person who commits suicide, that person is not mentally strong. Even the smallest things in one's life can be a trigger leading to mental illness,"

The good is that stigma around mental illness is getting diluted, people are willing to talk about their problems. "However, in smaller towns the problem still continues. In the metros the situation is much better. What is more important is to look for signs. There is a term, intent to suicide in psychiatry. It may be a casual phrase which can be a phase that a person is going through. But if the phrase becomes repetitive, that is a red flag," Dr Shrivastava tells you.

Pallavi Joshi, clinical psychologist at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, tells you that people are more aware today and open to talking about mental illnesses. "But there is a need to go through psychometric tests and then diagnose. There are a series of tests that the person is put through. Clinically diagpresent generation, if denied certain comforts feels they are depressed; this is not true. The coping mechanism is low for Gen Z now for a few reasons. Lack of physical exercise is one reason. It makes some changes in the brain. Second, the older generation was asked to do certain things like help the mother in the kitchen or offer water to the guest. Kids had household chores to do. They felt needed and had a role to play. Today, they don't have this and are unable to tackle the pressure. Contributing to the life of others has its benefits, it prevents mood swings, getting bored and falling into depression," Joshi explains.

Natasha Sharma, counselor, psychotherapist and clinical hypnotherapist opines that the younger generation has lost the art of communication because they have been living in the virtual world of social media and

reality is so different. 'Therefore, the lockdown has been so devastating. Humans are social animals. We are meant to be in community. We shrivel up when there is no touch. Isolation is the severest of punishment in jails, there is solitary confinement. This is psychologically the worst thing that one can do, to a human being. Then there is an illusion of being connected due to social media. We don't pick up our phones anymore. There was a time when one had to wait one's turn to speak over the one phone in the house. Today, even with each one having a phone, we send messages. There is no face-to-face conversation. There is no touch which is a form of communication; there are verbal and non-verbal modes of communication when you are in the same room or in a relationship. What we are seeing is the dark side of technology," Natasha says.

For a person to commit suicide, research suggests that 90 per cent people who com-

mit suicide have undiagnosed mental disorder. That is not to say that because you have mental disorder, one will commit suicide. There is impulsive suicide as well which doesn't follow any steps. But suicide does involve a lot of steps and intervention therefore is required which has lot of steps. Skipping a step can result in a loss of life. Essentially, there is no one cause but a bunch of precipitating factors that come together at a particular time or stage.

Pulkit Sharma, Puducherry-based clinical psychologist, says what has changed between then and now is that on an external level. Back then there was a good support system. "People were well-connected. If something bad would happen, society would rally around the person. Face-to-face comand the relations deep and meaningful and not superficial like today. Earlier, life was less complicated. Today, the work culture is such that the mind never gets a break. We are doing a lot and have no space to just be yourself. Social media, the virtual world, has added to the problem. One might have 500 friends online, but none whom they can really connect with emotionally," Sharma tells you.

Though people today may be doing well financially, there is a feeling of lack of accomplishment. "Beyond money, life is empty today. People are working like machines especially for those in the corporate sector. The sources on which one's self-esteem was based earlier, were deeper and were about value, ethics and work performance. Today, it is superficial; it is all about material things — it is about how much you earn, how you look and what you own. This superficial life can ditch you fast and can lead to depression.'I have lost my charm' and I don't look like I used to' are common and become triggers," Sharma explains.

Since there is no or little Government help in order to reach out to people with mental illness, Natasha tells you that it is the people around, the society that needs to step in and lend a hand.

"There are rumblings that there may be something happening at the Government level. We, as a nation, we are under-equipped. We have not Centre of State level policy for suicide prevention. We have no national helpline for suicide prevention, whatever is happening it is due to certain people. There are not enough mental health professionals per capita; there are not enough mental health clinics or hospitals given the population. So, the Government should take up steps. While some head way has been made, a lot more needs to be done," Natasha says.

GATEKEEPERS ARE OUR EYES, EARS AND HANDS ON THE GROUND

Shalini Saksena ■ NEW DELHI

ast December, when Kushal Punjabi committed suicide his friends were shocked. He had been out at a friend's party on December 25, 2019 and none of his friends picked up the signs that Punjabi was depressed and when they said goodbye that would be the last time, they would see him alive. That got his good friend Harmeet Singh of Meet Brothers thinking.

of Meet Brothers thinking.
"When I said goodbye to him at the
end of the party I never realised that I
would not see him alive again. The next
day when I got the news, I was
shocked; I couldn't believe it. When I
went to his house and saw his mother

and sister in tears and inconsolable, I knew that I had to do something about it — how to help others. Charity, like they say begins at home and hence The WeCare Initiative was launched on World Suicide Prevention Awareness Day on September 10, 2020," the singer-music director tells you.

The aim of the initiative is to train common people as gatekeepers who can then spot the signs of depression in others and offer help by asking them pertinent questions without alarming the person but ensuring that he opens up and gets the help that he needs. The focus is to also reduce the stigma around emotional and mental health issues, spread awareness about suicide

prevention and change the way people look at mental and emotional health. By training as many people as possible within the industry as gatekeepers, there will have eyes and ears everywhere to identify the signs of suicide and know what to do and how to help. "The idea is to train ordinary people who can identify signs of depression among others. create awareness about the issue and where necessary help the person suffering from mental illness get the necessary help he requires. The training is imparted by experts. It is a two-hour session which people can join after registering at www.wecareinitiative.co.in andpaying

a fee of ₹1,000. The initiative has been



launched with the help of a few friends and well-trained professionals. The rising rate of suicides in the country, especially in the entertainment industry, has brought the conversation aroundmental health into the open and that's the first step." Singh explains.

Natasha Sharma, executive director of the initiative tells you the one of the goals on their initiative is about suicide prevention and how to tackle the mental disorders. "The more we talk about it, the more it will help people. One of the reasons for the rise in suicides can beattributed to the lockdown due to the pandemic. Today, the world is a very pressured place. There is a lot of financial pressure and the younger

generation is alot more sensitive than what people were of the 70s-80s. Anxiety is on the rise. They see everyone struggling; they are worried about their future." Sharma says

about their future," Sharma says.
She tells you that before any
initiative starts, it is important to define

"For us it is the entertainment industry and not just Bollywood. There is this institute in the US, the QPR Institute byDr Paul Quinnett, founder-CEO. He has 20 years of research-based programmes and one of them is gatekeepers training programme. There is an NGO in Bengalure, Suicide Prevention India Foundation. We have collaborated with them endorsed by

QPR Institute and we conduct gatekeeper training which teaches people who toidentify signs and what to do about it. It is a sensitising training wherepeople are taught to look for certain signs that this person is going throughor attempting or planning suicide and understand what he is going through. As a gatekeeper you will know and save a life. It may be 20 years down the line butthe gatekeeper will know. We realise that we can't be accessible to everyone. What we can do is train as many gatekeepers as possible to be our eyes, earsand hands on the ground. If we can train enough gatekeepers, we can prevent the next Kushal Punjabi from happening," Sharma says.





















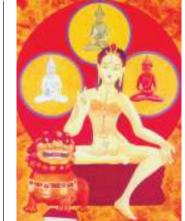




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week some challenges are foreseen on the health front. Problems may come up at the same time and make you restless. Indigestion, gastric, BP and depression issues may crop up. Your emotions and sensitivity are badly affected. You must relax. On the career front, your work graph will take a new turn this week, as your potentials will be duly recognised. The finance part will also improve. You will feel the positive vibrations at the workplace. This is a week of attainment, accumulation and finding inner satisfaction. On the personal front, be cautious in your relationships. You may be marked as arrogant or incompatible. Married couples may not be in harmony and want their own space to escape any conflict and tension

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Off-White Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you will be balancing five elements in life and have harmony between body, mind, and soul. Those with an ongoing health issue may benefit greatly from an alternative therapy like nutritional counselling, massage, dietary restriction etc. Professionally, you need to sharpen your skills. Career counselling from someone experienced would be a good idea. Attending short courses, workshops, or lectures etc will help you in your goals. Work should be going very well if you can be organised and work as per the rules. Relationship wise you are lucky as the people around you listen to you with respect and value your ideas. At professional and personal fronts, you live life king size. In love, you make an impression on your partner with your positive and honest approach.

Lucky number 16 Lucky colour White Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This is a great week for your creativity and optimism, and you believe that everything will turn out in your favour. You are generous and willing to share. You have learnt to accept your flaws and to accommodate others. It gives you the strength to be what you want to be. Health will be fine, and you will enjoy it. On the work front, a feelgood factor will bring a smile on your face. This week you find the support of colleagues and seniors, and there is a chance that your name may be recommended for promotion. Make the best use of this time. On the love front, you may have your eye on someone who you feel is not treating you the way they should. The best solution would be that you stop fantasising about this person

Lucky number 9 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You have overcome the challenges you were facing and are now feeling on top of the world. Appreciation for a job well done on the domestic front will be encouraging. you have the blessings of elders and it radiates your personality. You have inner satisfaction, with positive energy after easing a difficult situation. On the career front, a good message is on the cards. Some of you will be promoted and assigned an important task which will give a boost to your career. You might attend a virtual seminar or training session to enhance your skill. The stars are with you and you enjoy the results of your hard work. Relationship wise, if you like someone goes ahead and express yourself. Avoid the loose talk as this may spoil your relationship.

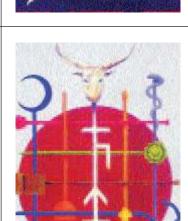
Lucky number 1 Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Your efforts towards good health will pay you well this week. You feel energetic, creative, and versatile. There is a sense of purpose in life, and you are charged. Practices such as yoga, Pranayam and healing exercises help you keep fit and rejuvenated. Spiritualism will help you to restore your confidence and add a spark in life. On the career front, all of a sudden, you may find things working out much better. A powerful person is likely to support you. This is a good time to ask for a raise or to seek employment that pays more if you are so inclined. Overall, your career front is looking up. In the context of love, it's important to remember that no relationship can stand up to constant analysis. Try to give your beloved some breathing space.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

The week starts with never-ending activities such as meeting, attending to guests etc. This will give you no time for yourself. You are working hard. There are chances that you may get bruises or hurt yourself. Stay focused while you drive and take all safety measures to avoid any unpleasant situation. On the work front, you feel at ease as things are going in your favour. Great things come in a small package and this is what going to happen with you. There will be new opportunities in a job, and those who are unemployed will get that job in their desired field. On the personal front, your partner may put things in some challenging situations and give you excuses of not accepting your relationships by

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Camel Brown Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week positive energy flows in your veins. You must use this energy in some creative pursuits. This can be a very creative time for you, and a good time for you to dream, play and be inventive as a child. On the professional front, things are likely to go your way. This seems to be an excellent time career-wise. A raise or promotion is certain for those who work in the private sector. Stay focused. Approach of a senior official will help make your work easy. On the relationship front. action holds the key. You need to talk to your partner face to face to sort out the mess which has been created knowingly or unknowingly between you two. Take out some time and plan a romantic endeavour to boost up your love life.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you will be filled with confidence and be in the best of your health. Your health efforts are likely to bear fruit. Do not hesitate to consider alternative ways to treat or deal with health challenges. Professionally, the way your career graph is going at present, you need a break and professional counselling. Seek some advice from your senior for better results. To maintain control over your domain and to achieve mastering in your trade, someone's guideline will give a boost to your career. Join a virtual professional course/seminar or workshop to enhance your skills. On the love front, there will be tension. A rejection or break up might be faced. The singletons will remain single. This is the time to make thoughtful bonding whether in love or marriage.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Pastel Blue Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, avoid anger and aggression. Listen to your body and treat it accordingly. Seek the advice of an elderly person in the family, maybe your mother or aunt. Her homemade remedies will give you relief in your current health problems. Workwise, you are filled with the guts and try your level best to achieve what you want in life. Those who are waiting for final verdict in court in legal hassle will be pleased to have the case turned in their favour. Those in media, opposition, and justice etc fields will do well this week. On the personal front, love is not happening, neither do you have time to think about the matters of the heart. The existing relationships too may suffer due to the lack of understanding and busy schedule

Lucky number 7 Lucky colour Brown **Lucky day** Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you are confused and contemplating a change in your life. Health is fluctuating and affecting the quality of life. You need guidelines, a session of counselling to gain the results of your past behaviour. It is never too late to improve. Sow the seeds today for better tomorrow. On the work front, there will be challenges. With your determination and will power you are likely to take hold of the situations and emerge a winner. Electrical, technical gadgets may create problems and take most of your time. On the personal front, this week is likely to bring love to the centre stage of your life. This is either a new relationship or a powerful re-bonding of an old one. You share your joy with those around you who need it.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week as well as in general, you need to let go of the past wounds to move forward. This is a time that you must look within yourself thoroughly to analyse the areas of fears, trying to hold onto things. Non-attachment is also freedom. Learn about the energy centres in the body and meditate on how you are functioning. Be open to changes as it is the only constant in life. This week professionally, the need of the hour is to give your time and attention to your work. You need to be sure that your work balance is where it needs to be. Make sure you do justice to your work. Avoid confrontations and conflicts with the people at work area as that will only tarnish your image. You will find success in love and rejoice this

Living in a giving mode

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Rose Gold Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Health looks promising this week. Some of you may gradually regain your health and feel a new spark of creativity. This is a great time to try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. Exercise, eating well, and making sure that you get enough sleep are all common approaches that you can consider. On the work front, a change of place, relocation; posting or transfer is on the cards. You are filled with new hones and aspirations as it is your desired post for which you have been aspiring for a long time. The new avenues of progress will be opened, and you get a chance to prove vour worth and notentials. On the personal front, you are demanding and very strict in your relationships, and this attitude will not go in married couples' favour.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Peach **Lucky day** Saturday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

ne day, sense of reasons dawned upon a feuding couple, when they came together seeking guidance on how to improve their relationship. Their common urge was: "Suggest some puja or such remedial measure as would help improve our relationship."

Well, caught up on the plane where the problem exists — both of you stuck to own perceptions — you can't find a way out. Unless you change your perception, things won't improve. No belief driven puja can invade your mind space to make necessary correction. You need to first explore the premise on which the institution of marriage stands. You may then be able to understand where you are going wrong. Following which, you may become keen to redo your perceptions.

Both of them then countered in chorus: "Sir our expectations from each other are not being met, which remains the bone of contention. Is it not natural to carry expectations?" Well, there is nothing wrong in having expectations. But before that you need to appreciate that every being is born unique. Each would thus, reflect varying desire and mindtrends, coming as they may as Karmic carryover from the past. So, differences of

opinion is natural. C oming to marital relationship, it is not simply meeting of two unique characters, but sporting different psyche as well. And it needs no elaboration that convergence of two corresponding opposites prove productive and fulfilling. When there is discord, it becomes painful. The choice is yours. Now, how to go about? It simply calls for a lesson in the art of living, which may help you be in accord, overriding individual limitations. Here, exposure to some fundamental truths of life becomes imperative.

All existences in the cosmos — planets, stars and other astral bodies — have been serving the larger existence in a giving mode, not expecting anything in return thereof. Such a humongous crowd of cosmic bodies are in perfect harmony and balance, because they are bound by the design underlying them, with no scope for making any exception. Look at the beauty of cosmic design. All planets in the immediate galaxy, while going round the Sun, traverse their exclusive path, each respectively moving at their own speed. Each, thus, enjoys its own independent space, simultaneously maintaining relativity amongst them. It is, as if



a family discharging their individual and collective obligations in service of the larger existence. Even on earth plane, trees, plants, animals, birds and microorganism are bound by their predefined nature, and therefore, continue serving the larger existence in a giving mode. They are not bothered who benefits, nor do they have any expectation from us. If we attend to them, it is to serve our own interest. Trivial looking termites for example, feed themselves by creating hole deep inside the soil structure. That facilitate entry of oxygen to augments earthmass's dynamic potential. They have to,

Human beings enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice and discrimination. This, coupled with the sense of ego, make them live in a demanding mode. What we forget that being an inseparable part of a unified organism, necessarily framed into an interdependent setup, we all have a shared destiny. No individual is capable of meeting one's bare existential needs all by oneself. That makes complementing and supplementing each other's efforts imperative, to carry on the cycle of life.

The problem with the two is that, bound by individualistic whims and fancies, the two are living in a demanding mode, trying to impose one's will on the other, which creates conflict. Look at your astrological pointers. Whereas one is born in Sagittarius *laguna*, with Moon there itself and placed adverse to Uranus, which implies being tactless, undiplomatic, and erratic. Mars placed adverse to Jupiter is indicative of inflated ego. Moon again ill-disposed to Neptune, implies being stuck to one's own delusional perceptions not open to look beyond for a reality check. In the other case, the laguna and Moon both, occupy fixed sign, which indicates fixated one track mind. Sun placed adverse to Jupiter speaks of swaggering ego. Moon placed adverse to Neptune is indicative of being stuck to one's own delusional perception. The result is there to see. Once, you start living in a giving mode, you will care for each other's concerns and sensibilities. In the process, you will be particular about servicing each other's expectations. Your life will turn into a beautiful experience.

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

TEAM AGENDA DESK > NAVNEET MENDIRATTA, CONSULTING EDITOR I ★ LAYOUT AND DESIGN > SATISH CHANDRA JAKHMOLA, SENIOR EDITOR (CREATIVE)

The Ed-Tech industry in India has been going through three major push backs including resistance from schools, the lack of trust in online education and the reach of internet and communication devices such as computers, tablets and mobile phones. Covid-19 served as a catalyst in resolving these concerns. The outbreak encouraged schools and other educational institutions to embrace technological solutions, writes PRAVEEN PARAMESWAR



ovid-19 has taken the country offguard and is seen impacting the Indian economy. As per the Moody's report published in June 2020, India's GDP is expected to shrink by 3.1%. Going one step further, the Dun and Bradstreet Report rel 2020 predicted that the GDP would contract by 4.5% this fiscal year. Amidst these daunting numbers, one industry that is still reflecting a ray of hope while showing unprecedented growth in India is the Education Technology, that is, the Ed-Tech sector. RS Components, analysing the Crunchbase data, observes that other than the USA, India is the second country that hosts the most number of Ed-Tech companies in the world.

In 2020, Ed-Tech stands as the most funded business sector in India. Only between January and July \$998 Mn has been invested across 31 deals. Furthermore, the ed-tech sector, according to the Omidyar, Redseer report, 2020, is expected to touch a size of \$3.5 Bn by

To understand the inner working of this sector and map its growth, let us delve deeper and analyse the current scenario along with the latest trends, impact, opportunities, possible pitfalls and the way ahead for the Ed-Tech

INDIAN ED-TECH INDUSTRY; GROWTH

AND INVESTMENT The umbrella term of 'Ed-Tech' largely consists of five segments, which include Online Teaching and Test Preparation; Assessment, Guidance and Mentoring; Skill Development and Certification; Professional Development Programmes, Infrastructural and Administrative Solutions. Amongst these segments, Online Teaching and Test Preparation leads the market with a 64% share and further anticipating size of \$515 Mn by 2021. The sector is lately experiencing a boom as it alchemises with artificial intelligence and

The growth of Ed-Tech in India started around 2004-05 when ventures such as Everonn, NIIT and Educomp made their mark through digital course content, smart classrooms and skill development programs. The industry has been reaching new heights with 3000 companies, including Byju's, Unacademy etc. along with various investors like Tiger Global, General Atlantic, Steadview Capital, GGV Capital, Foundation Holding, Aarin Capital, Simplilearn and Blume Ventures venturing into this landscape.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

The Ed-Tech industry in India has been going through three major push backs including resistance from schools, the lack of trust on online education and the reach of internet and communication devices such as computers, tablets and mobile phones. Covid-19 served as a catalyst in resolving these concerns. The outbreak encouraged schools and other educational institutions to embrace

technological solutions. In addition to this, it also influenced offline institutions to collaborate with companies such as Embibe and

Not just this, parents are also trying to adapt to the new normal and subscribing to ational help platforms such as Byir Toppr or Global Shiksha, Khan Academy and others. People are going an extra mile to adapt to the Ed-Tech culture and connecting internet, mobile phones, TV, computers and tablets more to learning.

THE BENEFIT COMMON PEOPLE ENJOY FROM THE GROWTH OF ED-TECH

The growth of technology in the education sector is, in fact, impacting lives of millions majorly in five different ways:

- Many of the top-notch teachers, courses and institutions were only accessible for people who live in the city. But technology dilutes the geographical borders. Today, a person sitting 200 kilometres away from a city like Bangalore or Mumbai or
- Thiruvananthapuram or Lucknow would get easy access to high-class lectures and tutorials. • Platforms such as Unacademy and Upgrad are helping people to learn/get certified/professionally qualified even along with the job they do. This helps more people to up-skill
- them without moving out of jobs. Technology in the coming years shall make education accessible for more people who are not able to afford fees at schools or colleges. This would also help the government to provide education to children and adults without much capital investment in high rise buildings and infrastructure, leading to the real democratisation of education in India.
- Assessments, guidance and mentoring are some of the areas that have to consider multiple data points at the same point. Most of the time these aspects go wrong in education as it is humanly impossible to consider multiple variables together. High profile technology is, in fact, solving this problem to a large extent. This would make assessments, guidance and mentoring people easier and more accurate, thus the right people would reach the right
- places in life. • Another major impact of Ed-Tech in the life of common people is that education becomes more effective through visual aids, augmented reality, virtual reality and videos with meaningful graphics. This will help children and adults to comprehend the conceptual level of knowledge rather than mugging up as used to happen during the early days.

CURRENT TRENDS IN THE ED-TECH INDUSTRY

The current trends in the Ed-Tech industry in Indian can be presented through the

- following four points: • The growth of Ed-Tech in India is not a linear or organised graph. It becomes extremely dynamic in nature. Thus only companies who are really agile, open to change and vibrant
- can sustain in the market. Early entrants to the market who could

increased the quality of content, visual treatment and sophistication of technology to a very high level. This demands any new entrant to match the high standards of their products in order to satisfy the customers. • Ed-Tech being a very large and broad industry with too many areas to address, a collaboration between non-

raise considerable capital, such as Byjus,

competing players is becoming a new norm. Assessment companies joining hands with content providers or infrastructure agencies partnering with skill development companies are a few endeavours taking place all across the globe. Organisations have understood the power of co-creation of success.

 The New Education Policy (NEP-2020) sets the tone perfectly for the intervention of technology in education. This would enable the Ed-Tech industry to make India globally competitive.

FUTURE AVENUES FOR START-UPS

WE SHOULD AIM AT

MAKING INDIA THE

HUB OF EDUCATION

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HIGH MARKET SIZE.

MAXIMUM

ENHANCES

The significant areas where new startups can work on and create new horizons of growth will include the fol-

lowing: • Vernacular Languages: 80% of India speaks vernacular languages. The New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP), also emphasises on education through regional languages. In every vertical, ranging right from online tutoring to skills development to assessments, vernacular content is yet to be well addressed. To understand its nature, it is important to note that even a unicorn such as Byjus has not started venturing into the vernacular market yet. Addressing the education requirements through all 22 officials in India would be a great space for start-ups to play. • Technological reforms of the 21st century: Even though many companies claim that they use the technologies of the 4th industrial revolution such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality, big data analytics etc., very few companies use them productively, that too on a very small scale. Majority of the brands attempting to amalgamate artificial intelligence in their modules/ approach are yet to tap into its true potential. On the other hand, some

ty than to manifest its real power. This is where the start-ups can work on and develop cutting edge technology solutions that can power any or all of the 5 segments in the ed-tech industry. Research to blend Technology and Behavior Science: This is an area

their ideas. Currently, a gap that the

companies use augmented and virtual

realities mostly to enhance marketabili-

where research-based startups can pitch

Ed-Tech industry is coming across includes not having alchemists who can blend technology and behavioural sciences seamlessly. Insightful research is one factor that could help in bridging this gan Multifunctional teams con ing of technologists, psychologists, sociologists and neurobiologists can identify hundreds of areas that require in-

depth attention in the ed-tech domain.

 Assessments, Guidance and **Mentoring:** Right people reaching the wrong places causes huge loss. In addition to this, financial loss, lack of happiness, fulfilment, purpose are some vital elements that people largely lack. This can be resolved through addressing assessment, guidance and mentoring techniques in the most appropriate manner. Startups who tap this nerve of the market can become the game changers of the sector while rightly using the modern-day technology and

immersive solutions to one's benefit. • Skill Development: National Skill Development Council (NSDC), various Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and different State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) are on a mission to bridge India's skill gap. The speed of change in technology is expected to make more than 48% of jobs obsolete in the next ten years, as observed by the Oxford Martin School study. This makes it inevitable to train every student with the best skillset, thus requiring more players to step forward and up-skill a large proportion of our workforce.

POSSIBLE PITFALLS FOR STARTUPS

Considering that the Ed-Tech industry is hardly 14 to 15 years old in India, its infancy stage does not enable the newcomers to learn from a plethora of successful cases. Thus, there are a lot of chances that lack of understanding of the market or misjudgment might make startups err. Some of the possible

mistakes are listed below. Online tutoring and test preparation through video content would be a business with fewer obstacles here and there. Thus many people may just take a deep dive, considering the growth of edtech experiences. It is a fact that the market still has space for newcomers. But the incumbents have raised the bar of quality very high. Therefore any person who gets into the market with a couple of lakhs investment on a camera, microphone, a bunch of amateur teachers and a website created out of a template in Envato would not be growing further. If the newcomers overcome the current quality players in the market, it will get easier for the sector to grow.

 Many of the start-ups see a captive market inside schools and with gov-

ernments. Even though the cost of acquiring customers would be lesser, compared with the direct to customer strategy, time to close a deal would be very long in the B2B or B2G segment. Time and money would be lost if the newcomers wait to close large businesses with governments or large school chains. Thus it is ideal to start with direct access to students and keep B2B or B2G as a parallel track.

- Education is a vertical where human behaviour and mindset carries a lot of significance. Only if technology solutions can consider the behavioural aspects as well, companies can sustain the market. Many players only develop a team consisting of technical experts or some content developers, but miss out on collaborating with behaviour experts. This could serve as one of the common mistakes and should be avoided.
- The pandemic might be serving as a catalyst but it is imperative for us to remember that this scenario would last forever. Education will not travel backwards from the current affinity that it's built with technology. It's essential for one to have a plan when thinking about the road ahead for their venture.

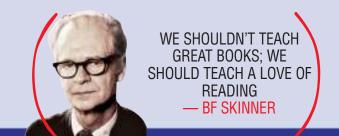
THE WAY FORWARD

In India, the education sector is considered as one of the most stable. robust fields with low-income elasticity. According to the Economic Survey (2018), the income elasticity towards the healthcare sector was 1.95, whereas it was 0.93 for products in the education sector.

This scenario, along with the wide acceptance of ed-tech during Covid-19 would certainly lure more investments in this industry. In this case, the intervention of policymakers, influencers, launchpads and mentoring bodies should be focusing on channelising this growth to the right direction by ensuring entry of companies to the appropriate areas, channelising investment to the organisations attending the right requirement and helping ventures with proper hand-holding. We should aim at making India the hub of Education Technology, with the most number of companies, maximum investment and high market size. This not only enhances business in the country but also takes India to the next trajectory of growth. This would be the right time to develop 'Make in India' as the most powerful brand in the global ed-tech space.

The writer is CEO, Lifology. Lifology is India's first career eco-system for parents





An Extraordinary Life stands out because of the main protagonist, Manohar Parrikar. He reminds the readers of a super-hero character from the Hindi movies, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Parrikar: A man extraordinaire

t was on a Friday (to be precise, on November 13, 2015) that I met Manohar Parrikar, the country's defence minister for the first and last time. He flew into the Indian Naval Station Rajali, around 80 km south of Chennai by a Boeing Poseidon-8 India (Boeing P-80I) the country's newly acquired Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, described as the country's eyes and ears up in the air.

As he strode into the auditorium, I could feel the powerful aura of elegance associated with him. It was for the induction into service of the eight aircraft, each procured at a cost of ₹1,500 crore he flew down to Rajali despite the heavy rains and winds that tormented northern Tamil Nadu on that Friday.

The induction ceremony was as simple as the chief guest. There was no big speech or show. The minister unveiled a plaque installed on the side of the 4.9 km long runway and he was presented with a memento by Admiral Dhowan, the then chief of naval staff.

Before embarking the aircraft for his onward journey to New Delhi, the minister was surrounded by journalists for some possible 'bytes'. All were asking him about the One Rank One Pension controversy generated by a section of exservicemen who had accused the government with going back on the promise. Some of them had threatened to return the medals they received from the Government for their meritorious services to the nation. And some had even burnt the medals and ribbons!

"Returning the medals and burning the medals are like insulting the nation. Medals are a recognition of bravery, for the service to the nation. It has nothing to do with service conditions whereas OROP is with service conditions. It does not say you are entitled for medals," Parrikar replied. He declined to comment when asked whether the continuing agitation has some political motives. "It is for those who are agitating to prove that it is not politically motivated. Let them prove it themselves," said the minister. When he was about to leave, I asked him about his two hour long journey in the Poseidon 80-I from Andamans to Arkkonam and also about the possibilities of the revival of Durand Cup Football Championship hosted by the Indian Army.

The word football literally 'threw him out of balance'. "Well, I'll answer your question on football first. I'll definitely and seriously look into



promote Durand Cup Football tournament. It is Asia's oldest and world's third oldest championship and it is our responsibility to revive it," he said.

To convince me about his seriousness, Parrikar told me that he was passionate about football. "Do you know that I myself was a football player and have played in all levels of the games. Goans are passionate about the game. It was during my first tenure as chief minister I declared football as Goa's official game. We have village level tournaments as well as league matches featuring big time clubs. I had played the game even while I was pursing my studies in IIT Bombay. It was because of an injury, I had to hang my boots so early," he opened up. The enthusiasm and energy when he spoke of football had to be seen to believe. And that too from the country's defence minister.

It was another thing that politics took the front seat as he had to return to chief minister of Goa

Parrikar looked so healthy and energetic on that Friday in 2015 and nobody would have imagined even in their wildest dreams he had some medical issues which would snuff out that life so

Manohar Parrikar was the first BJP chief minister of Goa and also the tenth chief minister of the State. Pramod Sawant, the present Chief Minister is the 13th to occupy the *gaddi*. Nobody has bothered to write the biographies of the other 12 chief ministers while two young journalists, Sadguru Patil and Mayabhushan Nagvenkar selected Manohar Parrikar as their subject speaks volumes about the greatness and uniqueness of the man.

For people from Goa, Parrikar is a swayamsevak (volunteer) of the RSS, a B Tech graduate from IIT Bombay in metallurgical engineering (an important and tough branch of technology) and a BJP worker. The authors, who have interviewed or interacted with Parrikar more

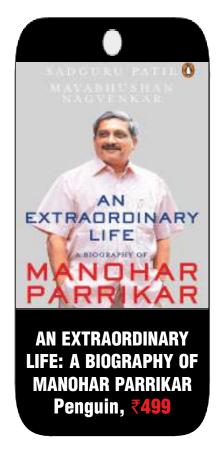
than 20 times during his tenure as leader of the opposition and chief minister, had to walk a tight rope to convince the world about their neutrality and impartiality while writing about the life and times of a Sangh Parivar man. They have succeeded in it because they have left no stones unturned while writing about

The authors while introducing Parrikar to the readers said that he had to settle for metallurgy engineering in IIT, 'ranked low in the elite institution's flaunting order compared to other branches of engineering'. Metallurgy engineering was a topic very much in demand in those days because the country's nuclear and space programmes and the flourishing metal industries were on the prowl for graduates in metallurgy.

How Parrikar single-handedly built the BJP into a powerful force in Goa politics is interesting. A small state dominated by the Maharashtravadi Gomantak Party and the Congress had

to yield space to the Hindutwa politics only because of the kind of work done by Parrikar and associates. In a democracy, all political parties should have space to grow, grow fairly. Parrikar has succeeded in developing his political party into a major entity like the manager/coach a soccer team builds a team from scratch to that of a winning combination.

Parrikar as leader of opposition and then as Chief Minister were two different personalities, charge the authors. Since I am not familiar with Goan politics, let me stay away from that controversy. But how many politicians are there in India who fight corruption with the same dedication with which they fight the system while in the Opposition? What happened to the 2G Spectrum, Coal Gate, Commonwealth Games scam, National Herald scam, Bofors scam and a host of other such cases? The lives in the form of cancer or villains' prime suspects are still seen in TV chan-



a snook at the millions. This is India that

But why didn't Goans take up violation of court orders, if any, in the mining licence and casino issues have been left untold. It definitely would have added to the value of the book. These instances are also parts of the folklore associated with Goa and Parrikar. Similarly, the authors' criticism in Parrikar surrounding himself with persons from the GSB community to which he belonged sounded out of place. I have seen how ministers belonging to the Dravidian parties appoint only members from their caste in their personal staff. Same is the case with Muslim League, Kerala Congress leaders in my home state! The only difference is that casteism in Kerala is not severe as it is in TN!

"An Extraordinary Life" stands out only because of the main protagonist, Manohar Parrikar. He reminds the readers about characters in Hindi movies, who succumb to fate which claims their gun shots. This Parrikar was a Manohar



THE CROCODILE WHO ATE BUTTER CHICKEN FOR **BREAKFAST AND** OTHER STORIES Khyrunnisa A. Red Panda, ₹249

Arun wants a pet crocodile. Now imagine the fun when he ends up with a crocodile that eats butter chicken for breakfast. Karthik loves big, dull-coloured birds of prey and can't contain his excitement at the thought of receiving a kite for his birthday. The hunt for the professor's glasses leads to a chance encounter with a big monkey and a volley of eggs being thrown at everybody. Animals and humans of all shapes and sizes gather together on the pages of this delightful anthology of stories by bestselling children's author Khyrunnisa A. *The* Crocodile Who Ate Butter Chicken for Breakfast and Other Stories is a charming collection of stories of animals and people, their exciting lives and funny antics. Humorous and at times touching, this collection of short stories is perfect for all readers, including animal lovers.

WOOF!: ADVENTURES BY THE SEA Aparna Karthikeyan Red Panda, ₹250

It's just before the Mumbai monsoon when the Don and her gang chance upon a mysterious package on the beach. It pops open, and a little puppy wriggles out. The Don's annoyed, her gang is upset. A new puppy spells trouble. For the dogs on the beach, life can be tough. And the new arrival has broken their rhythm. But soon they discover Shingmo the Seventh is actually a sliver of sunshine on the beach. The pack weaves a circle of friendship and love that shelters them all through sun and storm. These unforgettable dogs and their world come to life with Sagar Kolwankar's beautiful black-and-white illustrations. An adventure with a heart, Woof! is a mustread for anyone who's exchanged a knowing look with a dog.

Sadasuhags: The cross-dressers...

Sacred and Profane by GS Sachdeva is a secular take on the world's most unorthodox and mystifying rituals, customs and traditions. An edited excerpt:

n the evolution of human society and community living, réligion, however primitive, elemental or minimalistic, has always had a place in some form or manner. Even aboriginal and tribal denominations had pseudo-religious totemic faiths, which many of them still carry with staunch fervour. Religion, for them, had a different meaning and purpose in life. It was more relevant to mundane things in life like warding off adversity, illluck, illness, etc. For some, religion was a shield against natural calamities like droughts and floods, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions. Religion, to this effect, treated everything incomprehensible as a god and worshipped it to propitiate for benevolence. Later, religion came to be sought and followed for higher virtues, spiritual values, after-life treatment and salvation from rebirth.

Religion has evolved with time as few spiritually enlightened beings were blessed with unique reverential experiences and divine revelations, which were interpreted differently by different groups of people, with shifting of emphasis on traditional tenets and prevalent rituals. As a result, small groups tended to branch off as separate religious sects with differential beliefs and varied pronouncements on attendant rituals. Gradually, these break-away branches developed their own tenets and conspicuous identities with separate prayer systems and anomalized ritualistic practices that came to be recognized as distinct from the



main religion, acquiring a different name and calling.

The same happened for Sadasuhags. This sect, though originally part of mainstream Hinduism, leaned in a different direction, highlighting a prominent belief that all living persons are the brides of the Eternal God. irrespective of their gender. Thus, they remain brides forever and never get widowed because God is immortal and eternal. With this cognition and motivation, they dress as women, embellish themselves in feminine ways and mentally pray to please God, imagining him as the groom. With passage of time and growing disapprobation of crossdressing by the prudish society. this sect went into hiding and has gradually disappeared. These days, few Sadasuhags are seen,

either near temples or seeking

Besides, social customs, at times, acquire oddities and unusual practices and turn into superstitions that defy common logic, where optical physicality tends to be illusory or remains unexplained in rational terms; for example, the Koovagam festival of transgenders, the weeping statue, prejudice against the number thirteen or the Spanish festival of Devil's Jump. While some oddities may be backed by reason like exaltation of pigs for economic necessity or the seasonal facts related to the Lenten Moon or Montanna for social justice. [...]

Koovagam Festival of Transgenders in Tamil Nadu

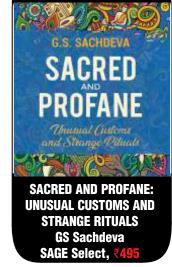
Koovagam is the time and place, when and where transgenders flaunt their uniqueness and sexuality in style without any fear of prejudice or stigma.

Koovagam, a little-known village in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, hosts the biggest festival for the third gender or eunuchs, called Aravanis in Tamil. This festival lasts for one week and is celebrated with big rallies, beauty pageants, sports events, gala feasts and other festivities. People from the transgender community also tie nuptial knots with a deity at the local Koothandavar temple and freely consummate their marriage in the open fields under a full moon sky. The final day of the week-long celebrations falls on a full moon night in April, every year.

Legend has it that Lord Krishna turned into Mohini, a beautiful woman, to marry a

local boy, Aravan, for a night. This was because Aravan was to be sacrificed the next morning during the Kurukshetra war and no woman had come forward to tie the knot. Lord Krishna blessed him with this bliss of marital pleasure. The eunuchs, called Aravanis in Tamil Nadu, assume the role of Mohini every year and marry the legendary Aravan at the Koothandavar temple in a hallowed tradition.

The euphoric celebration has been accepted so far as an ageold practice, but has been condemned in the recent times, since the morning after the consummation of ritualistic marriage, the fields look like dump yard of condoms, which are often, in amusement, picked up by young children to the embarrassment of the parents and possibly consti-



tute a bad influence on them. It has been seen lately that sex workers, homosexuals, bi-sexuals, bi-curious and even crossdressers enter the fest and boldly mingle with their cognate peers.

Besides, many seem in unusual hurry to have multiple sex escapades during this licentious time. This has vitiated the solemn environment and local resistance to the festivities is growing. In any case, the present message being propagated is 'No sex around the temple'. This is how traditions are debased to attract a stigma.

An excerpt from Sacred and Profane: Unusual Customs and Strange Rituals by G. S. Sachdeva, published by SAGE Publications India

HOME THEATRE

Laugh the American way



OUR CARTOON PRESIDENT Disney+Hotstar Season 3, Episodes 10 Animation Rated: 6/10

¬rump roasts Trump with his own signature brand of stupidity, outrage and elan. Season 3 takes off with the Impeachment sham that Trump survived with flying colours. As he puts it: "I can do anything and get away with it as I have been chosen by the people of America."

The self-deprecating humour, the audacity of impunity that Trump wears brings in a lot of laughter into this very American series much like *The Simpsons*. It will appeal to the people who are in the knowledge of America's domestic politics, policy blunders and the demeanour that the President sports.

Trump is undoubtedly a globally recognised political the funny bone button.

clown so situations around him are insanely funny and the scriptwriter has done well to catch all the nuances to present Trump roasting himself, more specifically roasting the citizens of America for voting him in.

Ticklish subjects like foreign affairs, economy and the upcoming Presidential elections are issues some of the episodes touch upon and that includes the Clinton's coming into the picture from their living room television viewing and keeping their hyper candidate in the race who is on a personal high of anxiety, aspiration, scepticism of her prospects and yet compelling optimism in dreaming to be the possible first-ever native American woman President!

Entirely up to you whether you are in a mood to connect to this sort of very American comedy. One thing is there though, Season 3 shows no fatigue whatsoever in pressing

Sleep over this one | Smashes patriarchy

HOLLY SLEPT OVER Amazon Prime

*ing: Josh Lawson, Nathalie Emmanuel, Britt Lower, Erinn Hayes, Ron Livingston Rated: 3/10

ome movies are made out of nothing, conveying nothing and thinking nothing about the amount of waste they produce. Holly Slept Over tops in that segment. A thoughtless, disastrous comedy-drama propelling sexual adventurism to save a sagging marriage where sex has become boring and a tool to somehow have babies, it is a romp in the bed by a committed couple and the wife's lesbian girlfriend who stops over for a night after 12 years of a breakup.

Other than the protagonists being extremely pretty, the house where the action takes place being sexy, the neighbours having their own between the sheets issues with yucky outcomes, there is nothing in the movie that will keep you interested, or let me say not get you irritated.

Holly (girlfriend) breezes into the couple's home with not even a blink, sleeps straight seven hours, gets up all decked up and her friend's husband proposing a threesome! They agree and do it without wasting any time or sparing a thought to even their



viewers. And then it is all over, Holly leaves, the couple rocks and the neighbours too learn to live, well, between the sheets once in a while.

Who, how, what, why? Don't look for answers in this one which much too casually degrades the entire institution of marriage, fidelity and the works.

Can be totally ignored even on a very idle week day or week-end.

Watch it for Holland & Pattinson

*ing: Tom Holland, Robert Pattinson, Bill Skarsgård, Jason Clarke, Eliza Scanlen Rated: 6/10

lmost all of us find it difficult to see a character that we have followed over the A character that we have followed over the years and identify with, see playing another role — definitely not the fault of the actor. But the truth is that the characters that they have played leave such an impact that it becomes impossible to break the mould in which we are used to seeing them. This probably makes the task of the director and the actor tough but the end result is worth it and *The Devil All The Time* is a prime example how actors step out of the mould that viewers put them in and show that at the end of the day, it is job and a role that they stepped into even if it was for a few

The psychological thriller based on the novel of the same name by Donald Ray Pollock is directed and co-written by Antonio Campos and produced by Jake Gyllenhaal and Randall Poster. The story is simple enough. But there are many characters

follow the thread of each character's journey, they tend to collide with each other from time to time. The way it all comes together is interesting.

What is even more brilliant about this movie is the performance that Tom Holland and Robert Pattinson have given. Holland as a young man trying to protect his family from all the evil gives a stellar performance. However, it is Pattinson who stands out here even though he doesn't have as meaty a role as Holland. He may have a total screen presence of 30-35 minutes but the way he manages to break away from Edward Cullen is stunning. As the preacher in this one and a high-pitched Southern drawl, he is a surprise.

A report says that the actor had crafted the accent in his room for days and didn't let anyone hear it — not even Campos. It is riveting to watch him deliver the dialogues in this accent, so different from the extremely polished Cullen.

While the movie itself doesn't have much to say apart from the good versus evil, God versus the devil, what makes this 138-minute film worth a watch are Holland and Pattinson's acting.



DOLLY KITTY AUR WOH CHAMAKTE SITARE Netflix

*ing: Konkona Sen Sharma, Bhumi Pednekar, Amol Parashar, Aamir Bashir, Kubra Sait, Vikrant Massey, Neelima Azmi Rated: 5.5/10

ff late, Bollywood has started making movies that are beyond glam women and having them be an arm candy for the hero and do a song and dance. Not that there is anything wrong with such films, the only problem is that few realise that what they see on the screen is a make-belief world and there is more to life, especially for women -

they have aspirations, ambitions and needs. Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare by director Alankrita Shrivastava and produced by Ekta Kapoor and Shobha Kapoor under their banner Balaji Telefilms is one such film. Shrivastava is known to make films that explore gender roles and the judgement on how women in our society should behave

without questioning the moral values of the men. The film tries to bring out complexities of relationships, questions what is right and wrong as the story progresses.

The good part is that it doesn't pass any judgement on the choices the women make. In fact, it goes on as far as saying that it was the choice that they made because there is more to them that needs to be explored. The two-hour running time may appear to be a bit longer than what we are used to, but the story keeps the viewer engrossed.

Konkana Sen as Radha aka Dolly gives a great performance as she explores her relationship — with her husband, with her younger son, with her sister, with her a delivery boy and her mother. Bhumi Pednekar as Kaajal aka Kitty too gives a brilliant performance. Amol Parashar, Vikrant Massey and Aamir Bashir do justice to their performances.

- Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Day

atch your favourite musicians live in an all-star virtual fundraiser event 'Together, Louder, Stronger' on September 26, 2020 at 6:30 pm, helping and supporting the performance industry workers and folk artists during the ongoing pandemic crisis.

Hosted by Anahad Foundation and produced by Believe Entertainment, the digital event will be live on Facebook and YouTube and will see a stellar line-up of 20 mainstream, independent and talented artists like Shaan, Mame Khan, Jonita Gandhi, Benny Dayal, Mamta Sharma, Bhuvan Bam, Nithyasree Mahadevan and many more supporting the cause and raising funds during this critical

Tune in to this exclusive digital event and provide your support to the entertainment industry — Together, Louder, Stronger!

Log on to https://www.facebook.com/anahad.ngo/.

ELLYTALF

MEET THE NEW KOMOLIKA

Nowadays actor Paritosh Tripathi is making the audience love him more by playing various Bollywood actors in the



show Filmistaan on Star Sharat. Everyone is already loving the comic tuning between Sunil Grover and Paritosh Tripathi. People are appreciating their work. Paritosh has not stopped here, the actor cum writer is all ready to play the most loved vamp in the *saas-bahu* series, none other than Komolika, this will be a site to watch. He is gathering much popularity in the orange shimmer saree draped in Bengali style with perfectly curled hair and make up that is

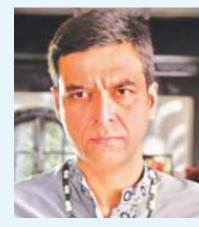
making him look more like the character. On this new look Paritosh comments: "Initially when my show maker Preeti Simoes, came to me with this idea of playing a popular female antagonist character, I was not very sure about it. But she convinced me, and I was ready to do it. Till date I have played many characters in the show, most of them have been male. I was not very sure that my audience would accept me in this new avatar? Will I do justice to the Komolika character. I did my best, and when the pictures were out on social media. I was blown after receiving so much love and comments like; cute, beautiful and charming which I am still receiving. I am loving it.

We will watch Paritosh doing this fascinating act soon in the show.

SATYAJIT SHARMA'S NEW OUTING Impressing the television viewers with his power-packed roles, renowned actor Satyajit Sharma is all set to venture into the digital space with ALTBalaji and ZEE5 Club's upcoming web series Bicchoo Ka Khel. The stellar actor will be seen essaving the role of Anil Chaubev, an overconfident lawyer who brags about being the best criminal and civil lawyer in the state. Alongside him, the crime drama will see other talented actors like Divyenndu Sharma, Anshul Chauhan, Mukul Chadda, Gagan Anand, Zeishan Quadri, amongst others.

The popular TV actor is a known face amongst the masses, having starred in a host of daily Hindi soaps. With Bicchoo Ka Khel, he will be playing the role of a lawyer with top connections to the mafia and the cops who help him to create his empire.

Speaking about the series, Satyajit Sharma quipped: "It feels great to be a part of a crime thriller like *Bicchoo Ka Khel*. I play the character of Anil Chaubey, an overconfident lawyer who's been a jugaadu since childhood. It has been extremely interesting to act in the series with a talented cast and a great crew, an amazing



storyline. I hope the audiences enjoy and shower their love for my character and the

Bicchoo Ka Khel is a crime thriller that revolves around the story of Akhil, a budding writer whose life is nothing less than a roller-coaster ride with twists and turns to keep you at the edge of your seat.

SAMBHAVNA ALL SET TO PLAY MAHUA Bollywood sensation, performer, and

vlogger, Sambhavna Seth has made her mark in the entertainment industry. The actor will be making her comeback to television and is all set to make heads turn as she enters &TV's Gudiya Humari Sabhi



Pe Bhari. Portraying the role of Radhe's (Ravi Mahashabde) first wife Mahua, Sambhavna is all set to wreak comical havoc in the lives of the close-knitted

Adding an extra dose of entertainment and humour to the chaos, Mahua comes with her son that leads to creating an unsettlement in the family to the extent that Sarla (Samta Sagar) goes to stay in the Haveli. The most fun part, however, is that Radhe has no memory of ever getting married to anyone besides Sarla, forget having a child. What unfolds is a comical characters.

Expressing her excitement, Mahua aka Sambhavna Seth says: "I am excited to back on television to portray the role of Mahua in a light-hearted show on &TV, Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari. This is the first time I will be exploring a light-hearted genre. As Mahua now enters the show, the audience will now be privy to a higher notch of comical chaos and entertainment I am sure the audience will enjoy this new role of mine and continue to shower me with their love and support. I am eagerly looking forward to work with everyone in

DISNEY BRINGS IMAGINE THAT

Disney Channel is all set to treat its young viewers and families with an all new DIY show Imagine That. Helmed by every child's favourite art mentor and friend Rob the show brings imagination alive through DIY with upcycling as the key theme. One of the pioneering faces of DIY art. Rob promises to take the Imagine That experience to a whole new level for young fans and their families

The show will focus on a child's natural creative palette through experiential initiatives, all centred around repurposing. The show will see Rob engage with children as their mentor and friend who encourages their imaginative minds through fun and innovative DIY. It aims at inspiring the young ones to create top quality art out of materials that are usually discarded at home. Be it robots from bottle caps, monsters from egg shells, gorillas from kitchen cutlery, fish out of cables and other home e-waste; Imagine That will focus on upcycling everyday items and

"A child's mind is filled with curiosity and imagination and with Imagine That, we are encouraging kids to push the boundaries of their creativity. The show, will take DIY a step further by making innovative and fun artsy products out of simple and easily available day-to-day things. I believe that imagination and creativity together can make a change the world we live in and this show will help kids and their families have lots of fun with DIY while understanding the process of repurposing," said Rob.

Disney Channel has been consistently bringing fun and wholesome entertainment for kids and families. Post a successful summer with new series such as Bapu. Guddu and Gadget Guru Ganesha, the channel now extends a new treat filled with imagination and creativity with Imagine

'I love playing Kalyani'

SHEETAL MAULIK, who plays Kalyani in Pyar Ki Luka Chhupi, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how she ended up playing a negative character, her first break and challenges in shooting under the new normal

■ You play a negative character in Pyar Ki Luka Chhupi for the first time. How is it going?

I am thoroughly enjoying it and the same can be seen on screen. It depends on how far you are willing to take the role and how you play it out. You know your limitations and playing such a cha is tougher since you are not playing just one role. Earlier, I have been part of comedy shows and done lead roles that have been positive. Doing a show where you are playing a negative role, it gives you an opportunity to explore yourself and do something that you would not do in real life. You are portraying something that is opposite to what you are, be

negative and yet be funny. Were there apprehensions in taking up the role?

I have always wanted to explore my acting abilities. When I got an opportunity to be part of this show, I had no reason to turn it down. There were two things playing. First, I have been waiting to work with the makers of Pyar Ki Luka Chhupi. Second, since I had already done lead roles and comedy, I wanted to take up this project. The only challenge was to train myself for the accent. Kalyani is a totally Kanpuriya woman.

■ You also had to perfect a new language. What was the preparation?

When I gave the auditions, I knew that I didn't have the accent correct. The only reason why I got the role was because they felt that I could act. But after that the team really helped me. The script comes in the language that I am supposed to speak. The only thing that I had to perfect the accent correctly for the dialogues. For this, I heard a number of jokes from the region. An assistant, Prem, who is from the area, would tell me how to speak certain words. This helped.

■ How did you get interested in acting? I am a trained Bharatanatyam dancer. I have been dancing since I was three. I still practice it and Kuchipudi. There was a contest but I couldn't participate. The organisers asked me to open the contest. I performed. Sachin Pilgaonkar, who was there, told me to take up acting. I told him, I couldn't act. He said not to worry and took me for a role in an episodic show of his. Once the make-up is on, it has been on. I have done Hindi and Marathi theatre. I have worked with the likes of Bhavana Balsavar and Shubha Khote. My journey has been that of a learner. I have not taken any acting lessons. I am able to emote and understand the character because I have done theatre.

■ How did you get your first break with Akkad Bakkad Bambev Bo?

Actually, I did Hello Dolly before this. I had played a kleptomaniac for production house Sagar Films Pvt Ltd. When they came up with Akkad Bakkad Bambey Bo, they knew I could act and that is how I came on board for this



project as a lead. It was a different role. played a student.

You have now been in the industry for over a decade. How has the journey been thus far?

It has been good. One has to go with the flow. Yes, there have been changes. But if we don't move forward, we won't be able to move past the negatives. The good is that we are paid better. Then, there were actors, today we have stars. It is important to understand that change is a reality. To accept it is necessary. When I was young, I played roles according to my age. Now I am doing roles that fit my

■ What is the toughest thing about

being an actor? Everything that comes your way is up spending time with my daughter.

tough. Even with Kalyani's role, I still get butterflies when I am on camera. There is always the fear that I may not be able to remain the skin of the character. The good is that it makes me more determined to do my work better.

■ How tough is it to shoot under the new normal?

When we first started, I was afraid, I have a four-year-old daughter. My father lives with me. The fear was very high. I was not sure whether I should get back to work or not. But the makers have been thorough with precautions and I am doing the same. ■ What next?

I am concentrating on this show. I work 25 days a month. The rest of the days I want to spend with my family and catch

Undaunted by failure humbled by SUCCESS



MISCHIEVOUS CHILD

hail from
Mahabubnagar.
Although I studied in Hyderabad till fifth
standard, my family moved
back to Mahbubnagar. My
father was a businessman and
my mother a housewife.

I was the most mischievous of my siblings. I was good at studies, but I really liked spending time with my friends. So after school, we would go out and play cricket or football. We were a naughty bunch, so we would do some badmashi as well. It was a great time, I don't have many pictures of those times since taking photos everyday wasn't so much popular as today, but I cherish those memories even now.

I was ambitious right from my young age. I remember at that time, students would opt for either engineering or medicine. I was inclined towards becoming a doctor.

So, after completing my schooling and Intermediate, I came to Hyderabad, rented a small room and dedicated my heart and soul into clearing the medical entrance exam. I gave the examination twice, but somehow couldn't get a very good rank.

That was the first time in life I realised, by experience, that we have to face failures at some point or the other in life. No matter how careful one is, everyone faces failure once in a while - it's natural.

A successful entrepreneur Since I couldn't do well in the medical entrance test even after putting in two years of hard work, I was in a bit of a dilemma about what to do next. A friend of mine informed me about this course in Osmania University, that students could take in one

sitting instead of three years. I don't think it's in practice anymore.

But I thought that was a good way of getting a degree in a year and not wasting valuable time. So, I got a Bachelor of Arts from OU and started looking for work opportunities.

It was then that I got to know about the mining sector booming in Karnataka. So, I and three of my friends started a mining company in Karnataka and we dealt with manganese ore.

Most people get shocked when I tell them that at the time when we started the company, I was just 21 years old.

Fortunately, within just a few years, the company was thriving. We had a very handsome and stable income. It was very gratifying to know that at this small age I was able to amass so much and was running a successful company

But, there was certainly something amiss. I wanted to do more, but at that time did not know how.

THE TURNING POINT

One day, I believe it was a Sunday, we four (I and three of my friends, who were also the partners in the mining firm) were at home, and received a call that a few of the workers in the mining company had fought amongst themselves and were taken to the police station. I went there and met the IPS officer posted at the station. He was very supportive. But, the way he carried himself and spoke impressed me a

By the time I returned home, I had already decided that I too wanted to wear the uniform. So. I

sold everything, came back to Hyderabad and put every waking hour into studying for UPSC. I tried a lot of times, but things didn't work again. So, I also competed in the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, for the post of Deputy Superintendent of Police. I got to know that based on my performance here, I could become an IPS officer. I put in my best, and got through the examination. I was promoted as an IPS within a few

RAISED BY A STRONG WOMAN

My mother was my biggest inspiration. I lost her a couple of years back. When I was 10-11 years old, one day the Collector of Mahabubnagar district visited our area. We were facing some water issues then. My mother went to speak to him about it and took me along. But, back ir those days, bureaucrats hardly met the general public and my mother wasn't allowed to meet him. She was very bold. So, in front of at least 20-25 people, she held my hand and said that one day my son will become a collector too.

will become a collector too.

I didn't understand it then, in fact I was confused about how I could become a collector. Even when I ran a successful business she kept prompting me to try for UPSC. In fact, I might have stopped attempting to be an officer, had she not constantly motivated and encouraged

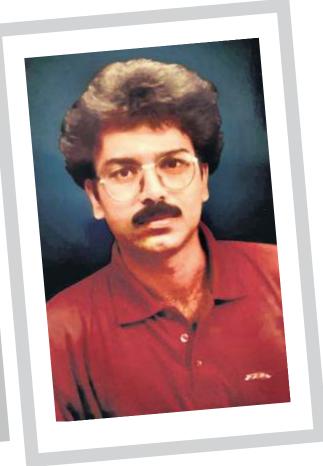
She was very happy when I became a police officer, but she would always say that I couldn't become an IAS. She taught me to be a fighter and never to give up. I really miss her a lot.

Not all of us have an easy journey to success, in fact it comes naturally to very few. All others have to work hard to be deemed successful. One such person is Mitte Sreenivas, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Telangana State who has handled many responsibilities with aplomb, including heading the CID team. His journey towards a successful career hasn't been an easy one. In this candid conversation with The Pioneer, Sreenivas speaks to NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA about his childhood, becoming an entrepreneur and the hard work behind becoming an IPS officer.









DOTING HUSBAND,

My job is such that I am mostly busy, out for duty, sometimes posted out of the city. So, whatever time I get, I love to spend it with my family. My wife, Vasavi Jagannadham, is a Joint Commissioner in Goods and Services Tax (GST) Department. We have a teenage daughter, Sahiti Suhana. I just love spending time with my daughter, she means the world to me.

TIME WELL SPENT

We love to go hiking and camping. And when we are with nature, we make sure we are just there, and absorb in the beauty. Whenever I get some time, I make sure I take out my bike and go for a long ride. I enjoy horse-riding a lot as well.

I also love to design and innovate things. I have designed my house. In fact, I own a car with an open roof that was completely designed by me. Right now, I am trying to make an electric car. I love to make things as simplified as possible.

I read a lot, I consider this to be next to meditation. I have always been a man of science, so reading about new scientific inventions, futuristic technologies and innovative devices really excites me. In fiction, I prefer thrillers and detective novels.

A FITNESS FREAK

I am not so much of a foodie. I love to cook biryani for my family though; my daughter relishes it. I also like using the barbecue to make dishes. I am also a fitness freak. In the Police Department we are continuously dealing with crime and criminals. It becomes very important to take measures and make sure to detoxify your inner self. I think exercising helps me there.

I can't spend hours in the

But I make sure that I am working out every day, even for a short time. It helps keep my mind active. Of late, I have also started yoga and meditation. They help me focus better.



Favourite book: Many. I would say Sherlock Holmes.

Dream vacation destination:

I love beaches. I would love to spend a nice vacation with my family on an Hawaiian island or even the Andamans.

Favourite movie:

All James Bond movies. I am a huge fan of the franchise.

Favourite actor:

Absolutely love
Pierce Brosnan

Biggest stress reliever:

I feel really relaxed when I am with nature and surrounded by it. Advice to

youngsters:

Don't give up. Keep trying, be consistent.

Your hard work will

