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Virbhadra passes away

SHIMLA: Six-time Himachal Pradesh chief minister and senior Congress leader Virbhadra Singh died here early Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 87. The veteran leader breathed his last at the Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) here at 3.40 am, senior medical superintendent, Dr. Janak Raj, said. Singh suffered from a heart attack on Monday and was critical since then. He was put on ventilator support on Wednesday after he had breathing problems, doctors said. The nine-time MLA and five-time MP is survived by wife Pratibha Singh, son Vikramaditya Singh and four daughters. The cremation will be held at Rampur on July 10 at 3 pm, family spokesperson Chhajta said.

1 killed in car accident

NEW DELHI: A 55-year-old man died and another was grievously injured after being hit by a cab in central Delhi's Daryaganj area, police said. Police were informed about the incident near Sabzi Mandi in Daryaganj around 3.45 am. According to the police, the accident occurred when the driver was checking the navigation route on his mobile phone. While one of the victims, Kallu, was declared brought dead by the doctors of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, another, Kanjhi, has been admitted to the ICU of the hospital with head injury.

Minor gang-raped, given abortion pills

KANPUR: A minor girl was allegedly gang-raped, filmed and was later given abortion pills by two brothers in a village in Kanpur's Ghatampur, said police on Thursday. The incident came to light when the condition of the girl, who was given abortion pills, began to deteriorate on Wednesday. She is presently undergoing treatment at a medical facility. In her statement to the police, she alleged that Roop Singh and Gulbadan Singh had gang-raped her on several occasions. And then forced her to have some pills. Both the accused are now absconding. The police spokesperson said that the accused had sedated the girl when they raped her for the first time and then made a video of the act. The girl was blackmailed on the basis of the same video and gang-raped again.

CABINET APPROVES ₹23K CR PACKAGE TO FIGHT COVID

NEW DELHI

THE Union Cabinet on Thursday approved a Rs 23,123-crore financial package for improving health infrastructure in the country to fight the Covid pandemic. Addressing a press conference here after the first meeting of the Union cabinet following its reshuffle on Wednesday, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the package will be implemented over the next nine months till March 2022. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi. Mandaviya said this is the second phase of the Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package as the Central government had given Rs 15,000 crore earlier for setting up Covid-dedicated hospitals and health centres across the country. Mandaviya said that under the new package, the Centre would provide Rs 15,000 crore and states Rs 8,000 crore and the plan would be implemented jointly by them across all the 736 districts of the country to improve medical infrastructure at primary and district health centres.



Around 2.4 lakh normal medical beds and 20,000 ICU beds would be created of which 20 percent would be specially earmarked for children, he said. The minister said storage facilities for oxygen and medicines would also be created at district level under the plan. The plan aims to accelerate health system preparedness for immediate responsiveness for early prevention, detection and management of Covid with the focus on infrastructure development including for Paediatric Care and with measurable outcomes, he said. Union Agriculture Minister

Narendra Singh Tomar on Thursday appealed to farmer unions to end their protest and resume talks with the government on provisions of three new farm laws, but he ruled out repeal of these Acts. The minister asserted that the procurement system on the minimum support price (MSP) and APMC market yards will stay and rather be strengthened. Tomar's appeal and assurance has come amid the decision of farmer unions to intensify their strike during the monsoon session of Parliament.

Twitter-Centre standoff

Co has to follow law of the land: New IT Min Ashwini

NEW DELHI

ALL those who live and work in India will have to abide by the rules of the country, newly sworn-in Information and Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Thursday on Twitter's standoff with the central government over new IT rules.

Vaishnav was talking to reporters after meeting BJP general secretary (Organisation) B L Santhosh at the party office here. On a question that Twitter was not adhering to IT rules, he said whosoever lives and works in India will have to abide by the rules of the country. Vaishnav, the MP from Odisha, on Wednesday took oath as the Cabinet Minister and was given the charge of Railways along with the Information and Technology Ministry. He said was thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving him the responsibility. He said his focus will be on improving the life of the last man standing in the queue. In past, Vaishnav, while speaking in the Rajya Sabha, had raised the issue of cyber bullying of Karnataka-based Rashmi Samant's



resignation from the position of Oxford Student Union President in the United Kingdom and described it as a serious case of racism. US-based company Twitter has been in the eye of a storm over its alleged failure to comply with the new IT rules in India, which mandates, among other requirements, the appointment of three key personnel --

chief compliance officer, nodal officer and grievance officer by social media platforms with over 50 lakh users. All the three personnel have to be residents in India. While the rules came into effect on May 26, Twitter is yet to adhere to the social media guidelines, despite repeated reminders from the government.

Meenakshi Lekhi takes charge

NEW DELHI

TWO-TIME MP from New Delhi parliamentary constituency, Meenakshi Lekhi on Thursday took charge as new Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Culture. Expressing her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief J.P. Nadda and the entire team, Lekhi said, "they prioritised meritocracy and hard work and gave positions to everyone". Lekhi further praised Prime Minister Modi for giving women leaders big responsibilities in his Cabinet 2.0, saying,

"People used to speak of women empowerment, but PM Modi made it possible that the country be led by empowered women. This is praiseworthy," she said. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar welcomed Lekhi and Rajkumar Singh to the team of Ministry of External Affairs. Expressing his wishes through his Twitter account, Jaishankar said: "Delighted to welcome @M.Lekhi and @RanjanRajkumall to #TeamMEA. Confident that together, we will promote India's interest abroad effectively. Congratulate all my new ministerial colleagues and look forward to working with them."



R-Day violence: Court grants bail to man accused of attacking cops

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to a man who was allegedly involved in the violence and vandalism at the Red Fort during the farmers' protest rally on the Republic Day this year.

Additional Sessions Judge Kamini Lau granted bail to Boota Singh, who allegedly played an active role in the farmers' agitation, after hearing the contentions of both the prosecution and the accused's counsel.

Absconding for over five months, the 26-year-old had a reward of Rs 50,000 on his head and was arrested from Punjab's Tarn Taran region on June 30. Singh was part of the riotous mob which attacked the police personnel, ransacked, sabotaged, and robbed the public property and the Red Fort on the Republic day, according to Delhi Police. The police secured his custody from the court for five days to take him to Tarn Taran for interrogation and ascertaining the source of funding of the

alleged conspiracy. Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee's (DSGMC) legal team is pursuing the matter. Advocates Jaspreet Rai, Ravinder Kaur, VPS Sandhu, Jasdeep S Dhillon, Kapil Madan, Nitin Kumar, and Gurmukh Singh represented the accused in the matter.

On January 26, protesting farmers had clashed with police during the tractor rally against three farm laws and stormed into the Red Fort, hoisting religious flags on its domes and injuring scores of policemen. An FIR was registered under various

sections of the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act, Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, Epidemic Act, and Disaster Management Act. Actor-activist Deep Sidhu is accused of being the key conspirator of the violence and is currently out on bail. The court had recently taken cognizance of the charge sheet in the case and summoned all the accused on July 12.



Delhi BJP protest over poor water supply

NEW DELHI

DELHI BJP leaders and workers on Thursday staged protests against the AAP government at different places across the city over alleged water crisis in the city. At the main protest venue near the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) headquarters at Jhandewalan, partymen led by Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta staged a sit-in alleging lack of water supply in some areas of the city. Arvind Kejriwal has no right to remain the chief minister of Delhi if he cannot provide clean, drinking water to people of the city, Gupta said. Some other party workers led by senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Vijay Goel, bathed a portrait of Kejriwal with dirty water at Ajmeri Gate Chowk, alleging supply of smelly water. "There is an atmosphere of angst against Kejriwal over water supply issues.

Woman's sari pulled ahead of UP rural polls

NEW DELHI: A woman was manhandled and her sari pulled by two men in a disturbing video that emerged on Thursday as nominations were filed for local polls in Uttar Pradesh.

The woman who was attacked was a supporter of Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party and had accompanied a candidate filing her nomination papers for block panchayat polls. The incident took place at Lakhimpur Kheri, around 130 km from Lucknow. Clashes were reported from more than a dozen places today, said police officer Prashant Kumar. Voting will take place for 825 block pramukhs or local panchayat leaders on Saturday.

Kumar said security arrangements were made for the filing of nominations but violence was reported from 14 areas. "We have reports of

clashes between groups, papers being snatched... Tough action will be taken against those involved," said the officer. A lot is at stake in these polls ahead of the assembly election in Uttar Pradesh next year. The BJP recently scored big in Zila Panchayat presidents' elections. The block pramukh polls will be the last rural elections before the state votes for a new government.

The BJP won 67 seats in the Zila panchayat chairperson election where 75 seats were at stake. The Samajwadi Party won only five seats. The Rashtriya Lok Dal, Jansatta Dal and an independent candidate won a seat each. Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party did not fight the polls. In comparison, back in the same election in 2016, Akhilesh Yadav's party took 60 of the 75 seats.

Farmers protest against fuel price hike

NEW DELHI

FARMERS agitating against the new agriculture laws on Thursday came together to raise their voices against the recent price hike of petrol, diesel and cooking oil, demanding that the rates be halved with immediate effect.

Called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the two-hour-long protest from 10 am to 12 noon, saw farmers in different parts of the country gather on the sides of national and state highways along with their vehicles, in an attempt to draw the government's attention towards their plight following the fuel price hike. "Today, farmers protested for two hours against the high fuel prices. We want them to be halved immediately. Protestors brought their motorcycles, cars, tractors and other vehicles and held sit-in protests," said farmer leader Lakhbir Singh.

SC grants interim bail to 13 Agra convicts declared juvenile

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim bail to 13 convicts, who were declared juveniles, yet they continued to languish among hardcore criminals in Agra Jail for periods ranging from 14 to 22 years. It was submitted that the prisoners had been denied release despite establishing that they were juveniles at the time of commission of offence. A bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and V. Ramasubramanian granted interim bail to the accused on personal bond. "It is not in dispute that 13 petitioners have been held juveniles by Juvenile Justice Board. Let interim bail be granted by presenting personal bonds", said the top court.

Advocate Rishi Malhotra, representing the convicts, said it was a case of illegal detention and previously, the top court had issued notice in the matter. Senior advocate Garima Prasad, representing Uttar Pradesh government, submitted, "We have no objection with the bail, but we need to conduct verification". On July 1, the top court had sought response from the Uttar Pradesh government on a plea highlighting the sorry state of affairs in the state, where 13 convicts continue to languish in Agra jail despite being declared juvenile at the time of commission of offence. Malhotra, representing the convicts, had submitted that despite unchallenged rulings from the Juvenile Justice Board



(JJB), which say they were below the age limit of 18 years, no steps have been taken so for their immediate release. The plea sought immediate release of the convicts, who have been incarcerated for the period ranging from 14 to 22 years. In majority of cases their statutory criminal appeal is pending before the High Court against their conviction under various IPC offences. The plea contended that the JJB, through its orders between February 2017 and March 2021, categorically held that all these petitioners were below 18 years of age on the date of the alleged incident. The plea added that they were declared juvenile by the concerned court. The plea contended that according to Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of

Children) (Amendment) Act, 2006, the plea of juvenility can be raised at any stage of the trial and also after final disposal of the case. Citing this law, the plea argued that petitioners continue to languish in jails amongst hardcore criminals, which defeats the purpose and objects of JJ Act. The plea argued that "the necessity and the need of the hour is immediate release of these petitioners in view of the fact that not only they are declared juvenile, but they have already undergone a maximum period of detention provided under the JJ Act, 2000, i.e., three years". Citing Article 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution, the petitioners urged the top court to pass necessary orders for their release.

Womenia

Designer Vaishali S at Paris Haute Couture Week 2021



I think it is high time we as designers started experimenting more in silhouettes that have a more global language

- Vaishali S

By TANYA BANON

There may be many heavyweights in the Indian fashion fraternity, but not everyone gets an invite to showcase at Paris Haute Couture Week 2021. Vaishali Shadangle makes us proud as the first ever Indian female designer to showcase at the prestigious platform, and only the second Indian after Rahul Mishra. We spoke to the designer to get more details on her upcoming show scheduled for the 8th of July.

After designer Rahul Mishra, you are the second Indian name to be invited to showcase at Paris Haute Couture Week. How do you feel about this?

India is the land of amazing textiles, embroideries, sensibility for colours and attention to design. I think it is high time we start being more present on the global stage. I think it is high time we as designers start experimenting more in silhouettes that have a more global language.

How does it feel to be the first female fashion designer from India to have your own show on the Haute Couture calendar?

You know, it is a great recogni-

tion, and I am very proud of it, after a 20-year journey of research and expression. What I feel more though, is a huge sense of responsibility. India has a vast heritage and population of highly skilled workers; this will be a global stage for all of them, through my work. This is a huge opportunity to show what India is capable of, at the highest global standards.

For decades luxury houses have been making couture clothes in India due to the highly skilled artisans and handmade textiles in our country, but never has India received the recognition it deserves, do you agree?

I totally agree with you on this. I must say though, that India lately has been extremely self-referring, very ethnic, thus in a language that is not easy to understand globally. Confirmation is in the fact that being the first Indian woman to get there is since I have managed to give our precious heritage a more global language and innovation of lines.

With the pandemic there is a focus on sustainability and handmade, do you think we have an edge over others when it comes to the future of fashion thanks to our handwoven textiles and slow fashion culture?

I will never stop repeating that now it is the time of India. What the world is looking for now is exactly the very basic of our normal



life and tradition. We just need to "package" it in a more understandable way. Where we must up our game is also in the service and final quality, where technology can also happen: another area where India is at the top of the world. It must be the time of India; I hope it is not just another lost opportunity.

You lend a global design language of expression to Indian handwoven textiles, please share your vision for this collection.

I am on a very clear journey of continuous discovery; I have been on it for the last 20 years. This collection will be only a further step along it. I will always get inspiration from Nature and how homegrown textiles drape around women's bodies to transmit my message.

This collection will maybe have the difference that for Haute Couture you can make your message more vocal and understandable. It will have also a

stronger direct and visually clear tie with Nature, and how we are part of it and a ring of the chain.

Haute couture in India is very different from what is traditionally associated with it globally, how do you identify with couture and what does it mean to you?

Yes, I agree with you, and thus the small global presence of Indian designers in Haute Couture; in India it is more about bridal and very ethnic.

I fully identify with it, and that is the way I have always been working. It is precious hand-woven fabrics created starting from precious yarns. Highly customized with a lot of attention to details and accessories. All this expressed without limits of traditional silhouettes, rather a continuous research extremely customized on the client. Haute Couture is excellence at 360 degrees, thus also in the way it impacts on the environment and community it involves.

Mishra, an advocate of sustainable and slow fashion, continues to promote its values with this collection

While countries slowly open their borders, Rahul Mishra's Couture Fall Collection 2021/22 'The Shape of Air' is reminiscent of adventure to the Aegean Sea and inspires one to look forward to a season of beauty, elegance and travel.

Mishra, the first ever Indian designer to be invited to showcase his collection at the Paris Haute Couture week delight with this showing of creative genius. The designer showcased an ensemble of artistic expressions in couture. The digital show featured a recollection of the overall experience, of how a physical space is perceived by the eyes and felt by a soul. Inspired by a holiday to Santorini before the pandemic, the designer found himself answering questions that we had forgotten to ask ourselves-- about simple things that seem to bewilder only a child, which overwhelm one to observe the unseen details that make up experiences.

The line-up featured five elements—earth, water, fire, air and space, combined in right proportions: a physical space. The designer recreates the city of Santorini with its elements into clothing. The glistening blue sea, bathing in the bright sun, the salty wind and pink bougainvilleas and sewed and woven into ensembles in a formidable artistic voice.

"Intricate details rendered in

Rahul Mishra's artistic magnificence at Paris Haute Couture Week 2021



hand embroidery—hand cut and individually tacked on the bright hued, ombre surfaces. Pinched, gathered and sheered lengths of tulle representing air and water in their different interpretations gives volume and movement to the otherwise sculptural silhouettes. Some of the other applications include dramatic draping of sheer fabric, to create a fluid bubble around the garments," said the designer in his note.

Mishra an advocate of sustainable and slow fashion continues to promote its values with this collection. As the world recognises the value of slow fashion, Mishra states he, "feel(s) elevated confidence in our intentions and pride, for our entire team of artisans, weavers and embroiderers that wholeheartedly contribute to the realisation of our dreams, come what may." AIR-drome Art Installation created the 'Winds of Change' set to rejoice in



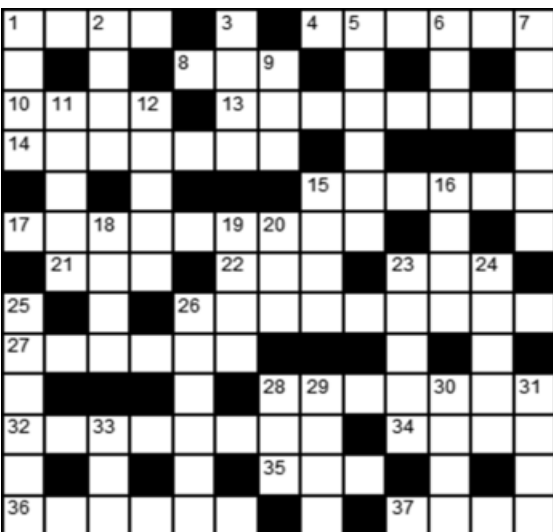
the spirit of art and to explore its direct relevance to our lives and communities.

Kebab Day

Kebabs have a long and august history, starting in the Middle East where initially they were simply grilled meat heavily seasoned. There are two particular varieties which those of us in the West are particularly familiar, being shish kebab and doner kebab. Shish kebab is far and away the more commonly known term and refers to a variety that is popular in Asia. Most commonly made of

lamb or beef, it has also been known to contain swordfish or chicken. While we usually see these dishes prepared with the vegetables and meat on the same skewer, they were initially done separately. The doner kebab, on the other hand, is most commonly known as the source of the meat for gyros. Essentially it's layers of meat stacked into an inverted cone and slowly roasted by turning next to a ver-

tical cooking element. The outer layer is slowly sliced as it cooks and served, most commonly in a pita as the famous gyro. This isn't the only thing a doner kebab is used for, but if the others top the gyro... we'd like to try them. Other varieties you might find are Kebab Kenjeh, Kebab Halabi, Burrah, Kalmi, and Galouti, just to name a few!



SOLUTION TO JULY 8

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 More than a miss (4)
- 4 Shows unholy glee ? (6)
- 8 Speed meas. (3)
- 10 Preposition (4)
- 13 Nonsense (8)
- 14 Live together like humans and animals ? (2-5)
- 15 A female parent (6)
- 17 Coffin (9)
- 21 Chop (3)
- 22 Moved fast (3)
- 23 Eden denizen (3)
- 26 As it were (2,2,5)
- 27 Purchasing (6)
- 28 Condiment (7)
- 32 Woodwind instrument (8)
- 34 Expect or have faith (4)
- 35 Catch or arrest (3)
- 36 Extreme cruelty (6)
- 37 Travel by pony in Scotland, perhaps (4)

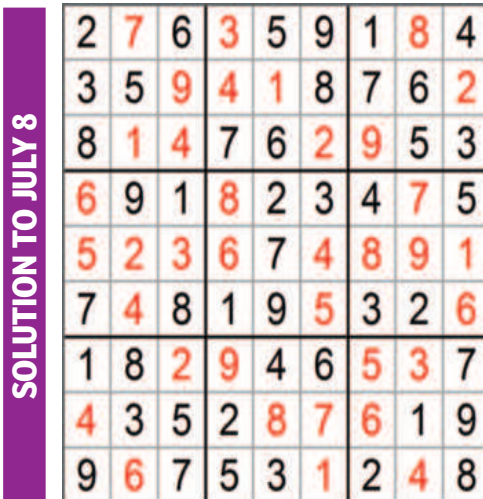
Down

- 1 Secular; a layman (4)

2 Fruit of the palm (4)

- 3 Chooses, nominates or selects ? (4)
- 5 A clumsy oaf (6)
- 6 Express publicity (3)
- 7 Buddhist enlightenment (6)
- 9 Peppery (3)
- 11 Compass point (5)
- 12 A U-shaped curve in a stream (5)
- 15 One prefix (4)
- 16 Bee colony (4)
- 18 Depend on (4)
- 19 Alcoholic drink (4)
- 20 Winged creature (3)
- 23 Era (5)
- 24 Devour (3,2)
- 25 Early counting-frame (6)
- 26 Sluggish creatures ? (6)
- 28 Barbie's beau (3)
- 29 And others, in Latin (2,2)
- 30 Frosty white (4)
- 31 Perfunctory kiss (4)
- 33 Append or join (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JULY 8

Skincare hacks with superfoods

By PUJA GUPTA

We've all heard the term "Superfood", but do you know that some superfoods can help improve the quality of your skin. Since they are packed with antioxidants, vitamins, and nutrients, they have the power to refresh, hydrate, and nourish the skin. In today's world, it is common knowledge that we are what we eat, so if you want 'food for your skin', superfoods are it. Loaded with compounds such as fiber, good fatty acids, and antioxidants, these are vital to replenish and strengthen your skin from within. Dolly Kumar, Cosmetic Engineer and Founder & Director at Cosmic Nutracos Solutions Pvt. Ltd., the parent company to skin care brand Skinella, suggests some superfoods to be included as part of your skincare routine and how to use them:

Goji Berries

These lovely little berries pack a big punch. They contain more beta carotene than carrots and more Vitamin C than any other fruit. It also contains a host of vitamins and amino acids that could give you youthful, elastic skin. Here's how you get the best out of it:

► **DIY Mask:** Place 3 Goji Berries in a bowl. Add 2 tablespoons of water and let it soak for around 15 minutes. Mash it and then add ½ teaspoon of raw honey. Apply it on your face and rinse off after 15 minutes.

► **Face wash:** Free radicals can wreak havoc on your skin. Thus it's important to wash your face with a gentle

face wash that contains natural Goji berry and Vitamin C. However, make sure you dab on a toner to close the open pores.

Camu Camu

When you think of skin brightening, think Camu Camu. It contains more Vitamin C than oranges. This combined with B3 Vitamins fights pigmentation, fades skin discoloration, and reduces spots by clearing dead cells. This makes it a great ingredient in sunscreen. So, don't forget to use a Camu Camu sunscreen to protect yourself from UV rays. However, make sure it's nothing less than SPF 40.

Green Papaya

Apart from having carotenoids that fight free radical damage, green papaya also prevents collagen and elastin from breaking down. Meaning, it helps to fade wrinkles. Plus, green Papaya contains lycopene that makes your skin look radiant and smooth.



Virbhadra Singh had special place in hearts of Himachalis

DHARMENDRA JOSHI
SHIMLA

LAST month Virbhadra Singh's family cut a cake to celebrate his 87th birthday at the family's ancestral home, Holly Lodge, but the veteran Congress leader could not be a part of the gathering as he was undergoing treatment for post-Covid complications at a hospital here.

A six-time chief minister of the state, Singh held a special place in the hearts of the people of the state. He was known to take a stand contrary to that of his party on some occasions. Like in the case of the Ram Temple when he openly supported

its construction at the same spot in Ayodhya where the Babri mosque stood.

In April 2019, right before the last Lok Sabha elections, Singh spoke to PTI about this during an interview at his residence. "Land for Ram Temple can be given even in Himachal Pradesh, but it should be built on the same spot in Ayodhya," he had said. Virbhadra Singh was born on June 23, 1934 in Sarahan to late Raja Sir Padam Singh of Bushahr state. He was educated at Bishop Cotton School in Shimla and St. Stephen's College in Delhi. Singh was just 28 when he became an MP for the first time. Twenty years later, he became the chief

minister of Himachal Pradesh in 1983 at the age of 48.

He held the office of the Chief Minister from April 1983 to March 1990, December 1993 to March 1998, March 2003 to December 2007 and then from December 2012 to December 2017. Singh's birthday used to be celebrated with pomp and show in Holly Lodge every year by his supporters, but his last birthday about a fortnight ago was a low-key affair. His wife Pratibha Singh and their son Vikramaditya Singh celebrated the day at their ancestral residence in a simple affair.

A nine-time MLA and five-time MP, Virbhadra Singh re-



mained active in state and central politics throughout his life. He was representing the Arki Assembly Constituency in Solan district since December 2017. Singh was the leader of Opposition from March 1998 to March 2003. The veteran Congress leader also served as union deputy minister, Tourism and Civil Aviation, minister of state for industries, Union minister of steel and Union minister of micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME).

He was re-elected to the 13th Vidhan Sabha in December 2017 from the Arki Assembly Constituency. Earlier, he was elected to the state legislative assembly

in October 1983 (by-election); re-elected in 1985 from Jubbal-Kotkhai assembly constituency, in 1990, 1993, 1998, 2003 & 2007 from Rohru assembly constituency and in 2012 from Shimla rural assembly constituency. He was also elected to the third Lok Sabha in 1962; re-elected to the fourth Lok Sabha in 1967 from Mahasu Constituency, fifth Lok Sabha in 1971, seventh Lok Sabha in 1980 and the 15th Lok Sabha (5th term) in May 2009 from the Mandi parliamentary constituency. Singh served as Himachal Pradesh Congress president in 1977, 1979, 1980 and from 26th August, 2012 to December 2012.

HP BJP chief admitted to hospital after chest pain

SHIMLA

HIMACHAL Pradesh BJP president Suresh Kashyap was admitted to Shimla's Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) hospital after he complained of chest pain on Thursday.

He is out of danger and will be discharged after keeping him under supervision for some time, IGMC Senior Medical Superintendent Dr Janak Raj said, adding that he suffered from a mild problem in the chest. His preliminary examination report is normal, he added. Meanwhile, Kashyap in a statement said he was feeling uneasy for the past some days and went to the IGMC for a regular checkup. The Shimla MP was admitted to the hospital as he felt uneasiness when he visited former chief minister Virbhadra Singh's family to express grief over the leader's death, a BJP leader said. The 87-year-old veteran Congress leader breathed his last after prolonged illness at Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) in the early hours on Thursday.

Punjab, Har farmers protest against fuel, LPG price rise

CHANDIGARH

FARMERS in Punjab and Haryana on Thursday held protests at several places in the twin states against the hike in fuel and cooking gas prices.

The call for the protest from 10 am till 12 noon was given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), which is spearheading an agitation against the Centre's three farm laws. Protesters parked their tractors and other vehicles on the roadside and shouted slogans against the Union government over the rising prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

Some of them also brought empty LPG cylinders to the protesting sites as a mark of protest. Agitating farmers also honked their vehicles for a few minutes, saying it was done to "wake up" the government from "slumber". The farmers slammed the government for not being able to control the prices of essential commodities. Police personnel were deployed in strength near the protest sites to maintain law and order, officials said.

Protests were held at many places in Mohali, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Moga, Rupnagar in Punjab and Sonapat, Sirsa and Gohana in Haryana. Farmer leader Harmeet Singh Kadiyan, who led the protest in Ludhiana, slammed



BKU leader Rakesh Tikait, actress and model Sonia Mann and other farmers carry LPG cylinders during a protest against fuel price hike at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Thursday

the BJP-led government at the Centre over the increasing prices of fuel and cooking gas. Every day, prices of fuel are going up which is adversely affecting every section of the society, he said.

In Moga, a protester said rising prices of diesel would increase the farmers' input cost. In Haryana's Sirsa, a protesting farmer brought a camel to pull a four-wheeler as a mark of protest

against the rising fuel prices. Agitating farmers said their demonstrations were peaceful. Thousands of farmers have been camping at Delhi's borders since November last year demanding that the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 and

the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 be rolled back and a new law made to guarantee minimum support price for crops.

However, the government has maintained the laws are pro-farmer. Several rounds of talks between farmers and the government have failed to break the deadlock over the three central controversial legislations.

PSPCL buys 400 MW power to meet rising power demand

CMD PSPCL A.Venu Prasad said that Punjab is witnessing all time high demand in the ongoing paddy season due to delayed monsoon arrival. He said that the power availability is also on the lower side this season due to low reservoir levels in dams resulting into less hydro power by about 600 MW.

He informed that one unit of Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd. (TSPL) has been on forced outage due to turbine breakdown, another unit has developed a technical snag on July 7 and the third one is operating at half capacity due to some technical issue. This has resulted into a shortage of nearly 2200 MW.

A.Venu Prasad disclosed that to tide over the situation, PSPCL in addition to the existing arrangements has purchased extra power of 400 MW from the open market @ Rs



12.40 per unit on July 8. Total 1400 MW power purchased for July 8, 2021 at an exchange rate of 5.46 / unit.

He said that on the request of Punjab Government, National Load Despatch Centre has agreed to enhance the ATC/TTC limit to 8000/8600 MW from 18.00 hrs to 09.00 hrs due to outage of TSPL unit. PSPCL is utilizing this limit by import of maximum possible power to improve the supply position. Last year the same import limit was only 6500 MW.

Virbhadra one of Cong's tallest stalwarts: Sonia

NEW DELHI

FORMER Himachal Pradesh chief minister Virbhadra Singh was one of the Congress' tallest stalwarts, party president Sonia Gandhi said on Thursday while condoling the death of the veteran leader.

Singh died at a Shimla hospital in the early hours of Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 87. Expressing her deepest condolences, Gandhi said the veteran Congressperson leaves behind a legacy of nearly six decades of service to the people of Himachal Pradesh and the nation.

A six-time chief minister and former Union minister, he had the opportunity of working with many stalwarts through different generations, she said. "Popular for his affable and grounded nature, he remained close to people brought about far reaching positive changes through his administrative acumen," she said in her condolence message.

"He was one of the tallest stalwarts of the Congress Party and remained a dedicated Congressperson throughout," she said. The Congress chief underlined that Singh's contribution

to the party, as indeed to the state and the country will be valued and cherished forever.

The Dalai Lama condoled the death of veteran Congress leader Virbhadra Singh.

"Dedicating himself to the service of others, Virbhadra



Singh led a long and meaningful life. I admired the way he listened to people's needs with deep affection and compassion. I am personally grateful for the warm friendship he showed me over the many years we knew each other," the Dalai Lama wrote to Singh's wife, Pratibha Singh.

Rajasthan govt adopts scheme on lines of CGHS

JAIPUR

THE state government has approved the implementation of the Rajasthan Government Health Scheme (RGHS) in the first phase from July 1, aimed at providing better medical facilities on the lines of the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has launched the RGHS with the objective of providing better treatment facilities to the legislators, former MLAs, employees of the state government, bodies, boards and corporations and pensioners in the state. Approval has been given to implement from July 1 in the first phase, an official statement said.

Under this scheme, about 13 lakh beneficiary families will be provided indoor, outdoor and cashless medical facilities for tests in all government hospitals, approved private hospitals and private test centers. According to



the statement, the employees and pensioners appointed before January 1, 2004 will get an unlimited amount of outdoor facilities.

Employees appointed after January 1, 2004 will get cashless IPD treatment facility up to Rs 5 lakh, additional medical facility up to Rs 5 lakh for critical diseases and outdoor medical facility up to an annual limit of Rs 20,000. The chief minister has also approved to pay a total financial burden of Rs 793 crore annually at the rate of Rs 6,100 per beneficiary family to provide cashless medical facilities to about 13 lakh families. Gehlot had announced the implementation of the RGHS in line with the CGHS in the state budget for the year 2021-22.

Ajay Bhatt takes charge as Defence MoS

NEW DELHI

AJAY Bhatt, an MP from Uttarakhand, on Thursday took charge as Minister of State in the defence ministry. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and other senior officials welcomed Bhatt to the ministry. After assuming charge, he called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. In a tweet, Bhatt thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving him the responsibility, saying that he will strive to work towards a self-reliant India of the 21st century.

Bhatt is the MP from Nainital-Udhamsingh Nagar constituency in Uttarakhand. He is also a member of several parliamentary committees. He had earlier served as Cabinet minister in the Uttarakhand government and held portfolios such as Parliamentary Affairs, Health and Disaster Management. He was also the leader of opposition in Uttarakhand assembly. Prime Minister Modi on Wednesday carried out a massive revamp



of his Council of Ministers and Bhatt was one of the new faces inducted into it. Shripad Yesso Naik, who was holding charge of MoS in the defence ministry, has been made Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Thursday said the exercise would neither cover up the wrong policies, activities and other shortcomings of the government nor di-

vert the attention of people from it. "The elaborate expansion and reshuffle done in the Union Cabinet can neither cover up the wrong policies, activities and other shortcomings of the government, nor can it divert the people's attention from it. The people of the country are waiting for a change at the right time," she said in tweets in Hindi. "At the same time, the BJP government in UP has also failed on all fronts of public interest and public welfare.

Criminal with ₹ 2 lakh bounty killed in encounter

LUCKNOW

A criminal carrying a reward of Rs 2 lakh in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana was killed in an encounter in Gautam Buddh Nagar on Wednesday in a joint operation by the Special Task Force and local police, the STF said in a statement here. Ajay alias Kalua was involved in robbing car passengers in Bulandshahr in 2016, and raping women. The matter is being probed by the CBI. The STF said that acting on a tip-off, the police in Gautam Buddh Nagar tried to stop two suspects riding a motorcycle on the Yamuna Expressway peripheral, but they started firing at the security personnel. The STF and local police fired in self-defence in which one criminal was injured, while the other crim-



inal fled, it said. The injured criminal was taken to the district hospital in Nithari, where doctors declared him dead. Ajay was a resident of Rewari district of Haryana, the statement said. ADG Agra zone had declared a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh on the criminal, while DIG Aligarh and DGP of Haryana Police had declared a cash reward of Rs 50,000 each, the STF said in the statement. A case has been registered in this regard at Sector 20 police station in Gautam Buddh Nagar.

Adityanath's fight in Assembly polls will be with widows, orphans: Owaisi

BAHRAICH

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "fight" in the Assembly elections next year is with widows and orphans, said AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday attacking the state government over the deaths during the second coronavirus wave. Owaisi said during the second wave of Covid, lakhs of people died "due to the UP government" as bodies of the poor were seen floating in the Ganga and dogs found dragging these on the river banks. "People were not getting oxygen and beds in hospitals," he said addressing party workers while inaugurating its office in Bahraich city. "Yogi's fight

in the coming elections will be with the women made widows and children left orphan by his government," he said, adding that mothers and sisters of UP have expectations from Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha, a coalition of smaller parties. The Hyderabad MP also called upon opposition parties to join the Morcha, saying, "We are entering the electoral fray with the resolve not to allow Yogi to become the chief minister again in the 2022 elections."

Those (opposition parties) who are afraid of us today should not forget that we did not contest the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, yet they could not defeat Narendra Modi," he said. Owaisi



further said they are going to contest the Assembly elections with a bigger motive. "We are fighting for our share in power and not to become mere vote bank. Now, we will send our representatives to the Legislative Assembly with our votes. We have also proved this by winning five Vidhan Sabha seats

in Bihar," he said in an apparent reference to the Muslim community. Owaisi said all political groups understand that there is no voice of the oppressed and minorities.

"The drama of those who make us happy by feeding dates during iftars, organise mushairas and

qawwali will now come to an end. We are not circus clowns. Instead of becoming a clown who dances at the behest of the ring master, we will now become the ringmaster and make them dance to our directions," he said. Owaisi said the Uttar Pradesh government has so far administered coronavirus vaccine to only three per cent of the state population and called upon the people who attended the programme to get themselves vaccinated. The AIMIM had recently announced that it would contest on 100 seats in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls in alliance with Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha, a front of smaller parties.

New displacement threat for Adivasis in MP

YET another project in the country has come in for criticism by the Adivasis. This time around the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM), a top civil society network, has opposed the destruction of Buxwaha in a protected forest region in Madhya Pradesh's Bundelkhand region for the proposed Bunder diamond mining project. It has demanded that the government must immediately withdraw all projects which threaten the ecological and socio-cultural significance of Buxwaha.

The project, spearheaded by Aditya Birla Group's Essel Mining and Industries Ltd (EMIL), will lead to irrevocable destruction of dense forest land, including over 2 lakh trees. Pointing out that the government was making "the blatantly false claim that Adivasi communities are not dependent on the area", NAPM claimed at least 8,000 residents from more than 20 nearby

villages rely heavily on these forests for their livelihoods and food security."

It is not uncommon for the governments to sacrifice natural resources and local communities for private profit. The project proposed now will be located in Chattarpur area of the State. The project, spearheaded by Aditya Birla Group's Essel Mining and Industries Ltd (EMIL), will lead to irrevocable destruction of dense forest land, including over 2 lakh trees. Local communities and citizens' campaigns are on to save Buxwaha forest. They are calling upon the State Government to scrap the project with immediate effect.

EMIL is currently in the process of obtaining regulatory clearances for a fully-mechanised open-cast mine and processing plant for diamonds on 364 hectares of protected forest land near Sagoria village. The project is expected to begin in 2022 and the company

claims that it has the potential to be the biggest diamond mining plant in Asia. However, the mine will have devastating social and environmental effects on the Buxwaha protected forests and surrounding region. It will lead to the cutting of at least 2.15 lakh trees, severely threatening the region's rich biodiversity and the local Adivasi communities.

The project threatens critical wildlife habitats, including those of at least seven species listed in Schedule I of Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. It will also adversely impact the tiger corridor between the Panna National Park and the nearby Nauradehi forests of Bundelkhand. Moreover, Bundelkhand is drought prone and the water situation in the Buxwaha region itself has been declared as 'semi-critical'. The large water requirement for the mining project (1.6 crore litres per day) will lead to diversion of vital sea-

sonal water sources found in the forests. Mining to depths of more than 1,100 feet will also severely deplete the already low groundwater levels.

The official version that says that no Adivasi community is dependent on the area is being debunked by the NAPM. However, at least 8,000 residents from more than 20 nearby villages rely heavily on these forests for their livelihoods and food security. Those critical of the present project feel that the experience from the Sardar Sarovar dam and other dam projects in the Narmada Valley shows that the MP government cannot be relied on to carry out proper 'compensatory afforestation' programs to compensate for the proposed destruction of Buxwaha forests. India should follow the example being set by some of the African countries in recognising nature as a legal right holder and protecting it.



A perfect prescription by doctor-administrator

DEVULAPALLI AMAR

GOOD health is real wealth of society. Being a professional medical practitioner before entering public life, Yeduguri Sandinti Rajasekhara Reddy, popularly known as Dr. YSR rightly gave correct prescription to the ailing poor of his State when he was Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh.

His idea of free corporate health care is first of its kind in the country by which time only three schemes – two for Government employees (CGHS and ESIS) and one scheme for farmers under cooperative sector in Karnataka State were operational.

Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme, a brain child of Dr Y S Rajasekhara Reddy was launched in the unified Andhra Pradesh when he was Chief Minister in 2007 and soon the concept found place in draft of the National Health Bill and Twelfth Five Year Plan. Since 2003, the central and some State governments have launched new medical insurance schemes, all with different features, to extend coverage to workers in the informal sector, but a full-fledged health insurance scheme to serve poor has been introduced in Andhra Pradesh. Presently, almost all the States as also Modi Government at Centre are implementing similar health insurance schemes with different names

workers in the informal sector, but a full-fledged health insurance scheme to serve poor has been introduced in Andhra Pradesh. Presently, almost all the States as also Modi Government at Centre are implementing similar health insurance schemes with different names.

Dr. YSR envisaged keeping his experience with people approaching the government to provide financial assistance for medical treatment Under CM's Relief Fund. According to official figures, financial assistance to a tune of Rs. 168.52 crore has been provided from CM's Relief Fund between the periods from 14.05.2004 to 26.06.2007.

The Doctor in the Chief Minister then wrote a right prescription that once for all removed the 'pain' of poor approaching for CM Relief Fund. His prescription was institutionalising the assistance. His dream came to true when Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme was launched on 01.04.2007.

During the regime of Dr. Rajasekhara Reddy Rajiv Aarogyasri scheme has covered 198.25 lakh families out of total of 229.11 Lakh families (87 per cent families covered). Mentioning these figures and other facts about the scheme, Mr. J. Yellaiah ICSSR Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Department of Economics, Osmania University, Hyderabad in his article in a journal (Jan. - Feb. 2013) (being published by IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science) pointed that there have been several attempts to introduce similar schemes in other States but Andhra Pradesh has been one of the only states to successfully roll out the scheme.

Testimony article in Hindustan daily

A senior journalist, Mr Jaishankar Gupta who was in a visiting media team representing Hindustan Hindi Daily as Special Correspondent from national capital to cover the visit of AICC chief and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi in Prakasam and Nellore districts on July 17, 2008, wanted to ascertain how Aarogyasri scheme was being implemented. On reaching Tirumala guest house he called 108 and to his surprise within 10 minutes the ambulance service arrived at the guest house. Mr. Gupta, who is now Executive Editor of Deshbandhu, wrote an article then in Hindustan daily on the effective functioning of Aarogyasri and the prompt response from 108 service.

'One Rupee Doctor' knows the pulse

Dr Rajasekhara Reddy, soon after completing his MBBS started his practice as a Doctor in YS Raja Reddy Hospital (named after his father) in Pulivendula, his native village in Kadapa district in 1973 and started treating poor and the under privileged just for a token fee of one rupee. This humanly gesture earned him the sobriquet of 'One Rupee Doctor'. After taking charge as Rural Development Minister and later, Health portfolio in T Anjaiah Cabinet in 1980, he had decided to take one rupee as his salary.

While his Rajiv Aarogyasri Scheme is being applauded internationally, other States followed suit as also Central Government with different nomenclature. Over 40 Countries have shown interest in the Scheme.

In another remarkable initiative in health services Dr. Rajasekhara Reddy launched 108 services, an emergency alert for Ambulance on 15 August 2007. This ambulance service was first envisioned by Dr A P Ranga Rao, a retired doctor and former Director of the Andhra Pradesh Handicapped Department. Few days after YSR introduced the unique service, the then Chief minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi launched these services in his State on 29 August 2007.

Babu too followed but named it after NTR

Mr N Chandrababu Naidu had no choice to accept the much acclaimed 'poorest of the poor' populist scheme after he became Chief Minister of residual state of Andhra Pradesh. To suit his political aspirations, Chandrababu had changed the name of Rajiv Aarogyasri scheme as NTR Vaidya seva. Similarly, after the split of State in 2014 in to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Aarogyasri became flagship healthcare scheme of Telangana State headed by Mr. KCR. In fact KCR on the floor of Telangana Assembly on January 20, 2019 was all praise for YSR for introducing Aarogyasri scheme and acknowledged saying "We do not hesitate to appreciate any good scheme introduced by the previous governments. Aarogyasri introduced by YSR was one such scheme which has benefitted the poor people. We are continuing the scheme with the same spirit".

Like father, like son. Closely following the footsteps of his late father, present Chief Minister of AP Mr Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy further improvised the scheme and renamed as YSR Arogyasri and it covers more than 90 per cent of the population of the State (as per 2011 census figures AP population stands at 49.7 million). While during the regime of YSR in undivided AP over 940 medical and surgical packages are listed in Rajiv Aarogyasri, his son Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy brought numerous treatments that range from simple medical procedures to special critical care treatments covered under Dr YSR Aarogyasri scheme (General Surgery to Psychiatry). Above all, Andhra Pradesh is the first State in the country to include Covid-19 in the healthcare system of the government.

(The author is advisor national media and inter-state affairs (AP government). This is a tribute to late Chief Minister of United Andhra Pradesh, Dr Y S Rajasekhara Reddy on his Jayanthi on July 8).



K KRISHNA SAAGAR RAO

IN the world we live currently, intelligence is measured through multiple metrics. Competence, quality, efficiency and result orientation are some essential outcomes of intelligence.

I strongly believe 'active-learning' is core to all competencies that one acquires across many phases in life. I hence propose that 'Receptive Intelligence' is the critical factor for all active-learning in human beings.

The natural or nurtured capability of an individual, to acutely focus on reception from his immediate and remote environment, intentionally cancelling out all interference is 'Active Reception'. All knowledge compounded as intelligence acquired through this method is 'Receptive Intelligence'.

It is evolutionarily proven beyond doubt that human species evolved rapidly into a 'thinking' species from 'feeling species', in comparison to any other animal in the animal kingdom on this planet. There's no doubt that humans are a superior thinking species above all other life forms on this planet. Being on top of the food-chain is no random coincidence. It is the outcome of a prolonged period of evolution centred around superior 'Reception' which transformed humans into a smart species.

All reception is essentially the function of sensory perception. The species which utilised its sensory perception for outcomes larger than fulfilling bare minimum physical instincts, has evolved to a being superior thinking species. All other species which naturally contin-

ued to use sensory perception for satiating their menial primal needs have continued to be just 'feeling species'.

As homo sapiens evolved into a complex thinking species with aspirations beyond fulfilling their menial physical needs, 'Reception' has become critical to its constant and consistent rise. The contemporary human world today, has evolved through stages of intelligence over centuries of its timeline, where the human enterprise has moved away from caves to social habitats, built machines for mass production & automation, and is today on its way to achieving inter planetary exploration and artificial intelligence. All this was only possible with 'Reception' as the core, for all acquisition of intelligence to survive and thrive.

However, it looks as if humans have come a full circle. There are many visible indicators of lowered Reception, especially in the last two decades. It is imperative that we revisit and reacquire the core competence of human species, which differentiated us from other animals through centuries. Lowered reception directly impacts the quality of intelligence and thereby the quality of human output.

This column is just a brief outline of the vast subject, which deals with ancient human competence. I will highlight few important factors which explain the massive impact 'Receptive Intelligence' has on human excellence.

Listen or die

It will sound quite cruel to state 'Listen or Die'. However, that's a fact evolutionarily. Those who adapted evolved, those who resisted perished. It's not very hard to understand and imply that those who adapted had better 'Reception' capabilities to assess changes in the immediate and remote environment, than those who perished.

Listening is not just an auditory function, it's a sensory competence for survival and development. We as humans have come so far, because we listened. When we stop listening, we are



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bound to die (need not be literal).

Look into national and political scenario of any nation and assess if listening as a collective and individual human function, is valued or devalued over years. Look at the social conditions around you and assess for yourself if listening as a human competence, is growing or declining gradually in the society you live.

Look at your family and assess, how much time is spent into listening by any member of your family. Finally assess your own personal condition and measure the importance and value you attach to this core human function 'listening'. I am

sure, you will be quite shocked at the outcome of your honest assessment.

Death need not be literal. If the sheer spirit of human development and its core functions deteriorate, it is no different from actual death. This is a serious challenge, though not very conspicuous, that is evolving gradually and pose a serious threat to human development.

Sensory deterioration

As humans regress into self-inflicted sensory deterioration through multiple environmental interferences, the capabilities which have evolved this species can quickly dissipate.

There's already lot of medical evidence and credible scientific data which is pointing at lowered sensory acuity across the world, especially in modern urban societies.

Lowered sensory acuity directly results in low level reception and thereby reduced learnings and applicable knowledge from the immediate environment. I am foreseeing the deterioration of 'natural intelligence', as the human enterprise is racing towards 'artificial intelligence'.

The lack of sensory focus in majority young adults, dangerously low listening aptitude, serious electronic addiction, unusually low comprehension is reflective of tough times ahead. Social competition, mediocrity, insecurity, comparison, identity rush, indebtedness with unviable lifestyles have already stressed the sensory perception in human adults.

The next twenty years will showcase massive disruption in societal framework, institutions of marriage & family, individual relationships, workplace dynamics, competitiveness, quality of thought, professionalism and of course in the quality of 'Receptive Intelligence'.

(Author is the chief spokesperson of BJP Telangana State / an organisational strategist and a global leadership coach)

mid-term seems to be strategic. Representing roughly the whole India, the cabinet has now more intellectual and younger members as compared to any other former Cabinet. It includes the people from all the community which would be helpful to gain the confidence of the countrymen. This big change is likely to revive and bolster the nation. It is also a politically motivated step which has been done keeping the upcoming state elections in the view.

Mohit Rawal, Ujjain

Non-performers axed

THE cabinet expansion at the Centre in the middle of tenure has surprised many with its unique features. The high profile ministers like Ravi Shankar Prasad, Harsha Vardhan, Javadekar, who had played a key role since the beginning of NDA rule, losing their jobs is intriguing. Anyway by giving proper representation to educated, young, women, socially disadvantaged and to leaders from under-represented regions of the country in the ministry, the Modi government has sent right signals. It can be seen as a part of mission 2024 politically for the ruling dispensation. In the team where Modi is the team leader, there will be hardly any difference in functioning with the new formations.

Dr D V G Sankararao, Nellimarla

LETTERS

AP inexplicably left out in reshuffle

IT appears that there is no provision in our richly hailed Constitution that every State in the country must have a representation in the Union Cabinet. It is very unfortunate that the truncated and aggrieved AP state does not possess any representation in the recent Cabinet reshuffle.

As everybody knows in the country, AP has been very cruelly cheated by all the political parties, led by the Congress - BJP duo, as a result the State cannot be rejuvenated in the near future. In such severe conditions, there is every dire necessity that the State must have a representation at the Centre. People hoped that the State will be given justice, at least in the latest reshuffle. But to utter dismay, the Centre has just been neglected and even thrown away. What if a Governor's post is given to AP....No use, but may be a political step.

The party which is having sizable number of MPs from AP is also passing the years, without any fruitful outcome, as promised by it earlier before elections. Is it that if the ruling party at Centre is not having any MP from AP state, it cannot accommodate any other in the cabinet, who can become MP within 6 months, as per the constitutional provision? Why such indiscriminate injustice to AP? Who will save this poor and pitiable AP?

TV Nageswara Rao, Visakhapatnam

Balanced cabinet

IT is established that caste, education and other vital factors are taken into consideration behind this mammoth exercise. It has also have paved a platform suitable for experience while giving young people an opportunity. This does establish that the new generation is given anteriority. The new cabinet has four State chief ministers. In terms of professions, there are 13 lawyers, six doctors, five engineers, seven former government officials, another seven research degree holders and three business degree graduates. The number of women ministers will increase to 11 after the expansion. In terms of social groups, 12 members from Scheduled Castes, 8 members from Scheduled Tribes and 27 members from Backward Classes will be appointed as ministers after the reorganisation.

Kolluru Raju, Kakinada

New hopes with new faces

A cabinet, with young and new faces, is now ready to work under the leadership of the Prime minister Sri. Narendra Modi. This team has the mark of NA Mo including the exclusion of senior members like Ravi Shankar Prasad. Most of the new cabinet have the experience of working as members of various advisory committees of the present government and have par-

ticipated as the thinktank of various programmes. The expansion of the cabinet reflects the fabric of the allied parties which was given the mandate in the previous elections. This move of Narendra Modi will strengthen the relationships of BJP with its allies and may suppress the dissatisfaction to decimal, if any, in the partners of the Government.

The forthcoming election in some States and the hope of coming into power in states like in Telangana in future may be key factors to draft the members into this cabinet. It is happy that Telangana has got its share in this expansion in the form of upgradation of Sri. G.Kishan Reddy into Cabinet Status.

Let us hope that this new team of Sri Narendra Modi, which includes well-qualified, repeatedly elected and committed workers, loyalists to the party, will do its best in bringing the name and fame to our mother land, without entering into complexities. May this new team be blessed with the strength and direction to take forward the country in all the spheres of development and progress.

Dr M Venkata Ramana, Khammam

A good mix of young and old

PM Modi has designed a new lotus to serve the nation. After forming a Co-operation ministry, PM has formed a new Cabinet with the biggest council of minister with 77 members. The step in the

thehansreader@gmail.com

AP has right to use its allocated water: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAYADURGAM
(ANANTAPUR DISTRICT)

CHIEF Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy made a thought-provoking observation on the ongoing Telangana- AP water imbroglio by questioning the irresponsible talk of Telangana ministers on the AP state's right to utilise its share of waters as per the tripartite agreement entered into by AP, Telangana and the Centre.

Addressing the state-level 'Rythu Dinotsavam' celebrations at the local high school grounds premises here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that he is using the platform to set the record straight on the ongoing row between the two States by placing facts and figures before one and all.

On June 19, 2015, an agreement was signed between the two States and the Central government to utilize the allocated waters to the three regions of Telangana, Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema region which is 395



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy addressing farmers on the occasion of Rythu Dinotsavam at Rayadurgam in Anantapur district on Thursday

tmc feet, 365 tmc ft and 144 tmc ft respectively. He said that he is at a loss to understand why AP is being faulted for using its share of waters in Srisailem reservoir which is when the water level rises to 881 feet based on which the Pothireddypadu lift irrigation project is being constructed

when Telangana is fully utilizing its right to use waters below 800 tmc ft capacity in the reservoir to lift water to their projects.

He demanded to know what is wrong in lifting excess water (right of AP to use) from Srisailem to Pothireddypadu lift irrigation project in Rayalaseema

when storage capacity climbs above 880 feet height.

Lambasting TDP chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu for his irrational criticism of him on the inter-state row, Chief Minister Jagan Reddy fumed what was he doing when he (CBN) was the chief minister when Telangana was constructing the lift irrigation projects in Rangareddy, Dindi and Kalavakunti? Was he tending donkeys? he asked.

The Chief Minister stated that he understands that water is dearer to everyone and that he did not believe in making false claims or indulging in injustice to the neighbouring State. When Telangana can utilize its water rights fully why can't AP do it, he asked.

He stated that he never dabbled in politics of neighboring states be it Telangana, Karnataka or Tamil Nadu.

He reiterated that he was never interested in conflicts with any state and was only interested in protecting riparian agreement and the constitutional rights and privileges of AP state.

Kishan Reddy vows to realise PM's vision

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of North-Eastern Region G Kishan Reddy assumed office on Thursday along with Ministers of State in Tourism Ministry Shripad Yesso Naik and Ajay Bhatt, and Minister of State for Development of North-East Region, BL Verma, and Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi.

Addressing the media after assuming office, Kishan Reddy said, "We will work towards achieving the vision of the Prime Minister with full commitment." He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has taken development activities in all the sectors in the North-Eastern Region like never before. He promised completion of all the pending development works in the region in a time-bound manner.

Kishan Reddy lauded the hard work and contribution of former Union Minister for the Development of North-East Region Dr Jithendra Singh, who was also present on the occasion.

Junior Minister BL Verma said that with the cooperation from Kishan Reddy and the officials he would give his best for the development of the North-East Region in the days to come and do justice to the trust reposed by the Prime Minister.

Earlier, Secretary in the Ministry Dr Indrajit Singh made a presentation to the ministers who assumed charge and briefed the ministry's work.

Kishan Reddy earlier was holding the charge of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. He assumed charge as minister for cul-



Union Minister of Tourism G Kishan Reddy presents a shawl to his predecessor Prahlad Singh Patel while taking charge at his office, in New Delhi on Thursday

ture along with Meenakshi Lekhi and Arjun Ram Meghwal, who has also taken charge as Ministers of State in the Culture Ministry.

G Kishan Reddy was elected as a Member of Parliament to 17th Lok Sabha in 2019, from the Secunderabad constituency in Telangana.

KCR FOR NEW TRIBUNAL ON KRISHNA WATER SHARING

CM likely to meet PM during monsoon session of Parliament

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF MINISTER K Chandrababu Naidu is likely to go to New Delhi during the monsoon session of Parliament beginning from July 19. The CM is planning to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the State issues mainly the water disputes between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and the constitution of new Tribunal to finalise sharing of Krishna water between the two Telugu States.

Sources said that the CM is keen to meet PM and also Union Minister of Jal Shakti Ganendra Singh Shekhawat after the water sharing issues between AP and Telangana took centre-stage in the recent times. The Telangana

Government was strongly opposing the construction of the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS) and the enhancement of Pothireddypadu head regulator by the Andhra Government.

As the AP government was busy writing a series of letters to the Centre against Telangana on water issues and hydel power generation from Srisailem power house and the construction of new lift schemes, sources said the Telangana CM wanted to meet the Central authorities, including PM and Jal Shakti Minister. "The CM is of the view that the monsoon session of Parliament which starts from July 19 will be the right time to meet the Central authorities. The other State issues would also be brought to the notice of

the Prime Minister in the meeting," they said.

The CMO authorities said that KCR will finalise the schedule for Delhi visit soon after the beginning of Parliament session. During his visit, the TRS supremo would also meet the newly elected Union Cabinet ministers. The CM wanted to apprise the Union ministers of the pending Telangana issues. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman, Minister for Civil Aviation Jyothiraditya Scindia, Minister of Steel Ramchandra Prasad Singh and Minister of Health and Family Welfare, and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya are among the ministers who KCR will likely to meet.



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, along with his family members, pays tribute to his father and late Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy at YSR Memorial in Idupulapaya on Thursday

Blood donation, social service mark YSR fete

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

YSRCP paid rich tributes to former chief minister Dr YSRajasekhara Reddy on his 72nd birth anniversary by observing it as 'YSR Rythu Dinotsavam' and organised mega blood donation camps, social service activities and plantation of sapling across the state.

Government advisor (public affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy hoisted the party flag, cut the cake and paid floral tributes to former Chief Minister YSRajasekhara Reddy at party central office in Tadepalli. Speaking to media at party central office, Ramakrishna Reddy said YSR is a great leader who will remain in people's hearts forever. He said Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been following the footsteps of YSR and fulfilling his dreams of welfare state. The Chief Minister has been implementing welfare schemes despite financial constraints in the pandemic. He reminded that the state has been bifurcated in unscientific manner and everyone including the Chief Minister has been working for the development of the state adding that the cadres and the followers should work hard for the Party.

YSRCP Parliamentary party leader V Vijayasai Reddy, party leader in Lok Sabha floor leader PV Mithun Reddy and party Chief Whip in Lok Sabha Margani Barath participated in YSR birth anniversary celebrations at Bala Sahayog orphanage in New Delhi.



Govt Advisor (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy pays tributes to late Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy on his birth anniversary at the party central office in Mangalagiri on Thursday

will be remembered forever.

Celebrations were held on a grand note at party office in Visakhapatnam. Tourism minister Muttamsetti Srinivas, MLA Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar, Mayor Golanani Hari Kumari and other leaders were present on the occasion. GMC Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu, MLA Maddali Giridhar, MLC Lella Appireddy and Mirchi Yard chairman Chandragiri Yesuratnam paid tributes to the late chief minister Rajasekhara Reddy in Guntur. Minister Dharmana Krishna Das and Speaker Tammineni Sitaram in Srikakulam, Deputy Chief Minister Amzath Basha in Kadapa, minister P Anil Kumar Yadav in Nellore, MLA Malladi Vishnu in Vijayawada and others paid tributes to the former Chief Minister.

YSRCP leaders distributed new clothes to women and children in the orphanage. Speaking on the occasion, Vijayasai Reddy said the welfare schemes and activities introduced by YSR for the development of poor are historic and

- Hitting out at critics who are questioning the achievements of his 2-yr rule, CM lists village secretariats, volunteers, RBKs, English medium and other major measures introduced by his govt
- Takes part in the Rythu Dinotsavam celebrations coinciding with his father YSR's birth anniversary
- Launches works worth Rs 1,570 cr across the State including 1,510 RBKs being built at a cost of Rs 372 cr, 53 veterinary and aqua laboratories

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAYADURGAM (ANANTAPUR)

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy lashed out at his detractors who are saying what he had done in two years asking them to come to villages and see the development for themselves. "As you enter a village you will find village secretariats, village volunteers having everything the government is doing on their finger tips. The Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs), the Nadu-Nedu school buildings, English medium schools and CBSE syllabus, ICDS programmes for children and mothers, etc., and the massive welfare benefits people are deriving, supply of quality seeds, fertilisers and pesticides etc.," the Chief Minister said while explaining what is the development.

Participating in the state level Rythu Dinotsavam celebrations here on Thursday afternoon, Ja-



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurates Rythu Bharosa Kendra at Udegola village in Anantapur district on Thursday

gan Mohan Reddy said that the birth anniversary of his father and former chief minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy is officially declared as 'Rythu Dinotsavam' to impress upon one and all that this government is a pro-farmer one. Rajasekhara Reddy ushered in a farmers' revolution by launching Jalayagnam which changed the face of the state, he said.

The Chief Minister launched Rs 1,570 crore worth works throughout the state on the occasion of Rythu Dinotsavam, including 1510 RBKs at a cost of Rs 372 crores, 53 veterinary and aqua laboratories, warehouses costing Rs 400 crore and modernisation of market yards costing Rs 212 crore.

He said that bureaucratic red tapism is a thing of the past and people are getting all services at their doorstep. A village is the most happening place with RBKs playing a pivotal role and operating as a nerve centre for all farm-

ing activity from supply of quality seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to extending interest-free loans, input subsidy and insurance payment to damaged crops. Besides agriculture boards have been formed from the panchayath to mandal and district level for advising farmers on crop planning.

Jagan Mohan Reddy said that his government is functioning on apolitical lines and is extending all governmental benefits to all people, including those who did not or do not vote for him. Soon every village will have digital library and internet facilities.

A parallel income generation schemes through veterinary department in addition to farm income by promoting milk dairies in villages involving Amul company have been introduced, he said adding milch animals would offer supplementary income to rural poor.

Earlier, agriculture minister Kurasala Kannababu described

farmers as restless workers who toil to feed the masses. Rajasekhara Reddy did miracles for farmers adding that the YSR-RCP government had spent Rs 83,000 crores on farmers in two years. YSR's last speech in the Assembly was on farmers, he said. District collector Nagalakshmi Selvarajan presided over the meeting.

The Chief Minister soon after arrival at the helipad left to 74-Udegolam village where he participated in a spree of launching of works and also visited the agriculture and horticulture stalls organised at the agriculture market yard.

The meeting was attended by all district MLAs, MLCs, members of parliament Talari Rangiah and Gorantla Madhav, district minister M Sankara Narayana and district in-charge minister Botcha Satyanarayana and several state agriculture officials.

Bharat Ratna sought for TS docs claimed by Covid

Over 600 Covid warriors, including doctors, nurses and paramedical staff in State succumbed to Covid while treating patients. Some had even served till their last breath

MOHSIN ALI
HYDERABAD

SUPPORTING Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's recommendation of awarding the Bharat Ratna to the doctors who sacrificed their lives while saving others from the Coronavirus, doctors from Telangana have demanded that the State government to recommend to the Centre to include the Telangana warriors in the list of awardees.

More than 600 Covid warriors, including doctors, nurses and paramedical staff in the State succumbed to Covid while treating patients. Some of them had served till their last breath, they said.

Recently, Kejriwal had recommended to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the Bharat Ratna award be given to doctors, nurses and paramedical staff who lost their lives while saving others during Covid, which devastated the country.



Doctors from Telangana appreciated Kejriwal's proposal and demanded the Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu to request Modi to provide space to doctors from Telangana in the list being prepared for the Bharat Ratna.

A Doctors' Union said the United Nations observed that the health sector worked hard and kept lives of doctors and nurses at risk during the pandemic with many of them falling prey to corona while treating the Covid-

infected.

Favoring the award to the doctors fraternity, Dr Sharif, a member of the union, said doctors were appreciated worldwide during Covid for their dedicated work in Telangana. "Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan had applauded the doctors on the Doctors' Day, and awarding the Bharat Ratna to Telangana doctors will be the real gratitude to them," Dr Sharif said. Appreciating Kejriwal's stand, President of Indian Medical Association Dr Jaylal said, "The decision is very good, but security and respect are more important than any award to doctors. The doctor fraternity must get respect; attacks on them should be stopped and attackers must be punished. This will be the real tribute to doctors." He added that dedicating Bharat Ratna to those who served and who lost lives while treating Covid patients would be great. It would boost their confidence and encourage them to serve better.

TODAY's QUOTE

Will work for the development of textile sector

“Textiles is a big sector for employment so this is a big opportunity through this sector. The government will try to give a big support to the income of all the people employed in this sector, especially women. We will ensure that this sector can be further improved and exports can be boosted


— Piyush Goyal, Union Minister



E-COMMERCE

Amazon prime day sale on July 26 and 27

E-COMMERCE giant Amazon on Thursday announced that its annual prime day sale will be held on July 26 and 27 in the country, during which there will be new launches from top brands and Small and Medium Businesses (SMB). There will be over 300 new product launches from top Indian and global brands.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	75.67	South		
Euro	89.48	African Rand		5.51
UAE Dirham	20.75	Hong Kong Dollar		10.1
Thai Baht	2.42	Japanese Yen		0.78
British Pound	104.32	New Zealand Dollar		52.73
Australian Dollar	56.27	Saudi Riyal		21.9
Canadian Dollar	60.22	Swedish Krona		9.2
Swiss Franc	82.47	Singapore Dollar		56.24

DELHI FRIDAY 9 JULY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Mouri gets CMMI 5

Mouri Tech has announced that it has been appraised at level 5 of the CMMI Institute's Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) for IT development and services capabilities. It is the highest level of certification for demonstrating an optimum maturity model in delivery excellence. The framework allows organizations to evolve and implement best practices in developing products and services through innovative processes and technological advancements. At this level, an organization continually improves its processes based on a quantitative understanding of its business objectives. Anil Yerremreddy, Global CEO, MOURI Tech, said: "We are extremely pleased to be appraised at the highest level of CMMI Level 5. It is a testament to our focus on continuous improvement and delivery capabilities across our varied service offerings."

Itel unveils new TV range

Itel has announced the launch of its 4K Android TVs range in India. The range promises bundle of entertainment with features in both 43 and 55 inch sizes. The new television models named G4334IE and G5534IE are designed to elevate the home entertainment experience with a better viewing experience. The smart TVs are priced at Rs 32,999 for the 43-inch variant and Rs 46,999 for the 55-inch version. The 4K UHD TVs offer a better resolution, ultra bright display, 24W speaker, latest Android 10 OS, Google Assistant, Chromecast built-in. Arijet Talapatra, CEO, TRANSSION India, said: "We are pleased to expand our TV portfolio with the launch of 4K Android TVs under our G-Series range that come equipped with a better resolution for brighter viewing."

New products from 24 Mantra

24 Mantra Organic has introduced new organic pasta and vermicelli. The products are free of chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers. The new range of products assures complete purity and safety. Complimenting these two healthy products is the organic peanut butter for the protein conscious avid sandwich lovers. Pasta is available in two variants and the vermicelli is available in roasted and plain variants. Both of the products are available in 400 gram pack sizes. Products are available across 10,000 retail outlets all over the country and at its exclusive stores in Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai. They can also be purchased from all leading e-commerce sites like Amazon, Flipkart, Big Basket, JioMart, Grofers.

M&M launches new range

Mahindra & Mahindra has launched its new range of Supro profit trucks. The cargo mover is affordable, more powerful, boasts of a greater payload capacity and higher mileage that assures higher profit to the customers. Veejay Nakra, CEO, Automotive Division, M&M, said: "The Supro has become one of the preferred small commercial vehicle platforms for our customers, given its efficiency and engineering capabilities. With the launch of the new Supro Profit Truck we have significantly enhanced the product proposition by focusing on customers' profitability. While being competitively priced, it also offers class-leading performance, fuel efficiency and option of diesel & CNG powertrains." Customers can avail loan tenure upto five years and lower IRR starting from 12.99 per cent onwards which helps in lowering EMI for customers.

TCS crosses \$6-bn revenue mark in Q1

■ Misses earnings estimates ■ Profit up 28.5% to ₹9,008 cr ■ highest-ever headcount addition in June qtr

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA
BENGALURU

TATA Consultancy Services (TCS) kickstarted earnings season for the India Inc with a mixed set of numbers for the first quarter of current financial year. During the quarter, while core markets saw sound growth, Indian business got disrupted due to the deadly second wave of the pandemic.

During the quarter, TCS posted a 28.5 percent rise in its net profit at Rs 9,008 crore for the quarter ended June, 2021 as compared the same period of last fiscal. Its revenues grew 18.5 percent to Rs 45,411 crore a year ago.

In dollar terms, revenues of the firm were at \$ 6.15 billion, a growth of 2.4 percent in constant currency term sequentially and 16.4 percent year-on-year basis.

"First quarter was a balance between health crisis and business opportunities. While core markets like the US and UK grew, our Indian business was impacted due to the second wave of Covid. However, we have seen growth revival in Indian business from end of June onwards but remain vigilant about the situation," said Rajesh Gopinathan, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of TCS.

"We crossed the \$6 billion milestone in quarterly revenue this



QUARTERLY CONTOUR

- Business surge in North America
- BFSI and retail segments add to top line

Hires
20,409
people in June qtr

Total headcount rises above
5-lakh
mark

“Given the variants of the virus and fears of a potential 3rd wave, the company is watchful of the emerging situation and remains optimistic of the opportunities in core markets and verticals

— Rajesh Gopinathan, MD and CEO

quarter. In addition to our annual salary increase and promotions, we undertook one of the largest vaccination drives in the private sector. Despite this and headwinds in regional markets, we expanded our Q1 operating margin year on year, reflecting the inherent resilience of our business model," said Samir Seksaria, chief financial officer, TCS

Gopinathan, however, remained optimistic about the double-digit revenue growth

prospects of the company during this financial year. "Despite the one-off seen in Indian market, our strong deal pipeline and good growth in core markers gave us the confidence that we are on track for the double-digit revenue growth," Gopinathan said.

The company saw its operating margin falling by 130 basis points at 25.5 percent over the last quarter, though it was 190 basis points higher than the same period last fiscal. The Mumbai-headquar-

tered firm reported another quarter of sound TCV (total contract value) of \$8.1 billion during the April-June period.

During the first quarter, while North American market grew by 4.1 per cent quarter-on-quarter, the UK market witnessed a growth of 3.6 per cent in constant currency term. However, Indian market saw a degrowth of 14.1 per cent during this period, dragging the growth numbers for this period.

SCCL earns ₹663 cr profit in Q1

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

THE Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has posted a profit of Rs 663.23 crore during the first quarter of the financial year 2021-2022 by achieving a turnover of Rs 6,337 crore by selling coal and power recording an increase of 78 per cent profit over the last year.

The company had sold coal to the tune of Rs 5,393 crore against Rs 2,851 last year and earned a profit of Rs 394.89 crore, registering an increase of 89.16 per cent. Taking into consideration the experiences of the last financial year, the company had geared up to the occasion and produced 15.57 million tonnes and despatched 16.7 million tonne coal.

Similarly, the Singareni Thermal Power station in Jaipur in Mancherial district of Telangana



employees to achieve the targeted coal production and dispatch during this financial year.

The company management had launched special measures to check the spread of Covid in the coal belt regions by taking up massive vaccination drive and providing proper medicare to the miners.

Brightcom to take over digi marketing co

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD-BASED Brightcom Group, the global internet brand, has signed a Letter of Intent to acquire a digital marketing services company based out of India with 1,100 employees and premium clients such as Netflix, Disney, Bitly, Hulu and The New York Times.

The details regarding the name of the target company have been kept confidential in light of the confidentiality clause of the LOI. A definitive agreement will follow after the completion of the customary business, legal and financial due diligence. The company partners with clients for their product strategy, product development and operational support needs. It does display, video and mobile advertising for ad agencies and publishers. The company works closely with creative agencies, media buying firms and analytics suites to deliver results for top brands.

Key indices plunge on renewed virus fears

MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmark Sensex slumped 486 points on Thursday, largely in tandem with a global selloff as rising cases of the Covid-19 Delta variant in multiple countries and hawkish comments from the US Federal Reserve spooked investors.

The 30-share BSE index ended 485.82 points or 0.92 per cent lower at 52,568.94, while the broader NSE Nifty dropped 151.75 points or 0.96 per cent to 15,727.90. "Pessimistic global cues dented the morale of Dalal Street with selling pressure seen across the sectors amid high volatility. Global markets were deep in the red, shadowing a weakness in the Asian markets following the widening Chinese tech crackdown and concerns over the country's economic recovery. As we kickstart Q1FY22 results season, initial releases of IT sector and a good number of lucrative IPOs will be in focus for



the coming weeks," said Vinod Nair, head (research) at Geojit Financial Services.

Binod Modi, head (research) at Reliance Securities, said: "Domestic equities witnessed sharp correction amid weak global cues. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index corrected by over 2.50 per cent as investors dumped Chinese tech giants led by mounting concerns about regulatory risk, he noted. Asian stock markets fell after the Federal Reserve talked about possibly reducing US economic stimulus and Japanese officials prepared to declare a coronavirus state of emergency during the Olympics due to a surge in infections."

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital market on Wednesday as they bought shares worth Rs 532.94 crore, as per exchange data. Tata Steel was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 2.30 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, SBI, ICICI Bank, Dr Reddy's, Kotak Bank and HUL.

AIPBA calls for disease-free poultry sector

Says vax can only guard poultry sector, reduce loss

MUMBAI

All India Poultry Breeders Association (AIPBA) has called for building disease-free Indian poultry industry. Disease-free poultry production is the only way to increase the income of the farmer. The vaccine is the most effective way to destroy any disease from the root, said the industry body. On Thursday, AIPBA organized a webinar to discuss diseases and issues in the poultry sector and to bring it to the notice of the officials of the Animal Husbandry Department.

"The last two years have been very difficult for the poultry industry and the Animal Husbandry Department has also provided all possible help to the poultry industry, but it has become very important to find a permanent solution to the diseases of the poultry so that it becomes possible to prevent the loss of 20-25 thousand crores every year," said AIPBA.

Mankind Pharma gets DRDO nod to make Covid drug

NEW DELHI

DRUG firm Mankind Pharma on Thursday said it has received licence from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to manufacture and market oral 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG), used for the treatment of Covid-19.

2-DG was developed by the Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Gwalior. The clinical trials were conducted by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of DRDO, in association with Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Mankind Pharma said in a statement. The company will manufacture the product at its facilities in Visakhapatnam and Himachal Pradesh, it added. The office of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on May 1 had permitted the emergency use of 2-DG as an adjunct treatment for moderate to severe Covid-19 patients, Mankind Pharma said.

TS sends chartered jet to bring in ₹3,500-cr project

KOCHI

A special private jet sent by the Telangana government will carry estranged Kerala businessman Sabu Jacob and his team for discussions on setting up his proposed Rs3,500-crore unit in the State. The special private jet will departure on Friday for Kerala.

Interacting with the media on Thursday, Jacob, who heads Kitex - one of Kerala's biggest industrial groups, said "they will leave on Friday by the private jet sent by the Telangana government to have discussions with them."

"By now, I have already completed a few rounds of discussions on this with the Telangana Industries Minister KT Rama Rao and his top officials over telephone. We are going to have more discussions and we will return on Saturday," he said.

Kitex Garments, the second-largest children's apparel manu-

Invites Sabu Jacob, owner of Kitex Garments in Kerala; Annoyed with ill treatment of Kerala govt, estranged Kerala businessman wants to invest outside his home state; 9 states already wooing him

facturer in the world, has announced the scrapping of the Rs3,500-crore project, for which it had signed a memorandum with the Kerala government at the 'Ascend Global Investors Meet' in Kochi in January 2020.

As part of the project, an apparel park was to be opened in Kochi, besides the establishment of industrial parks in Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, and Palakkad.

Voicing his ire against his home

State's government, Jacob said: "I was hunted as an 'animal' here by several officials. As many as 76 cases were registered against us by various agencies."

Early this week, Kerala Industries Minister P Rajeev held discussions with various departmental heads and after that, he sought to clarify that the State government did not suo motto take up any probe

“I have already completed a few rounds of discussions on this with the Telangana Industries Minister KT Rama Rao and his top officials over telephone. We are going to have more discussions on Saturday

—Sabu Jacob



against Kitex and they only looked into certain complaints that came before the various government departments.

Kitex fell on the wrong side of the political establishment in Kerala after Jacob floated a political outfit named 'Twenty 20' - which was earlier registered as a non-profit organisation - and wrested power in the Kizhakkambalam Panchayat in Ernakulam district. In the recent Assembly elections, Twenty 20 contested six seats, but could not win any.

Jacob has gone on record to state that the Kerala government is not providing any subsidy, including for power, noting that it is all profit for the State government and there is no professional interest being envisaged by it.

He had also alleged that things are at the mercy of the local level leaders here, and even an upper division clerk in the State can scuttle the prospects of an industrialist. Kerala is lagging behind in industrial growth and the attitude of the rulers and the bureaucracy is the reason behind this, he had said. Jacob and his establishment saw 11 teams of officers from various departments raiding the company in the past one month. The company employees were also grilled for hours. It was then that Jacob had announced that he will move out of the State, following which offers poured in from nine States.

WIMBLEDON

Berrettini beats close mate, runs into Federer conqueror

LONDON

SEVENTH-SEED Matteo Berrettini defeated close friend Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3 to enter his first Wimbledon semi-final and set up a clash with Poland's Hubert Hurkacz, who scalped Roger Federer in straight sets.

Berrettini is the first man from his country in the Open Era to make it to the last-four stage of the Wimbledon Championships.

"Everything is crazy right now. Thanks to Felix, I think we made a great match and I hope you guys enjoyed it," Berrettini said in his on-court interview after trumping Canadian Auger-Aliassime, his closest mate, on Wednesday night.

"He is probably one of my best friends on tour, so it is never easy to play against him. But that's sport and I am really happy."

Berrettini converted six of the 14 break-points, hit 12 aces (to 13 by his rival) and won 76 per cent points on first serve. He committed only three double faults as against six by Auger-Aliassime.

"Hubert is having a great season. He won Miami, he is playing good. Beating Federer in three sets means that he's playing well," Berrettini said of his semi-final rival.

"But I feel ready, I am feeling confident. Good luck to him, and let us see."

Hurkacz had beaten Federer 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-0.

In the other semi-final, top seed Novak Djokovic will face Canadian 10th seed Denis Shapovalov who overcame Russia's 25th seed Karen Khachanov in a tough five-set game 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, 1-6, 4-6 to enter the last-four stage of the tournament.

Djokovic had beaten Marton Fucsovics of Hungary 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. Both the semi-finals will be played on Friday.



I really don't know, need to regroup: Federer on retirement

Tennis ace Roger Federer, who crashed out of Wimbledon Championships on Wednesday night, is still undecided on retirement and insists on "time to regroup".

The 39-year-old Swiss lost his men's singles quarter-final match in Wimbledon to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz in straight sets 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-0 and was given a standing ovation by the crowd on the Centre Court. It was also the first time, Federer lost a set to love at Wimbledon.

Federer was asked on his retirement plans.

"It's a struggle for me. I knew it was going to be hard, to be honest, but now I need to talk to the team, take time -- not feel rushed by you guys or anybody -- take time and work out the decision to take. I hope not, the goal is to play on," said Federer in the post-match press conference.

When asked if the loss was his final match at the Centre Court, the eight-time Wimbledon champion remained non-committal. "I really don't know. I need to regroup. My goal was to play another Wimbledon. The initial goal was to play last year. I was able to play this year," he said.

Federer didn't talk much on his future after Wimbledon. He is scheduled to take part at Tokyo Olympics and US Open this year.



LONDON

HARRY Kane scored a 104th minute goal to give England a 2-1 win over Denmark in European Championship semi-finals on Wednesday night and end a 55-year wait for his country to qualify for the final of a major football tournament.

Kane slotted home the rebound after Denmark keeper Kasper Schmeichel had saved his spot-kick which England earned after Raheem Sterling went down following a slight contact in the Danish penalty area. It was harsh on Schmeichel, who was magnificent all game, but the result did justice to an England side that totally dominated the second half and extra time of the match, Xinhua reports. The game got off to a high energy start with England looking to impose themselves and pin the Danes back in their own half. A low cross from Harry Kane evaded Raheem Sterling, who then cut inside only to shoot tamely at Schmeichel, before Kane hit a powerful shot well over.

Denmark then began to work themselves into the game with Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg challenging Jordan Pickford from outside of the penalty area and the England goalkeeper conceding a corner after a poor clearance.

Denmark took control and Mikkel Damsgaard curled a shot wide of the goal as fans at Wembley endured nervous moments.

The Danish forward made no mistake in the 30th minute with a vicious free kick from 25 metres which flashed past Pickford to put Denmark ahead. It was the first goal England had conceded in the competition, but they levelled in the 39th minute. Bukayo Sako collected a pass from Kane and his low cross for Sterling, who moments earlier had seen Schmeichel save from point blank range, was turned into own net by Simon Kjaer. The second half was also played at a ferocious pace with both sides creating chances in the opening



England's Harry Kane scores his side's second goal from the penalty spot during the Euro 2020 semifinal match against Denmark at Wembley stadium in London late on Wednesday

Calls for ban on fan who distracted Danish goalkeeper with laser beam

Fans were left seething after a laser beam was pointed at the face and eyes of Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel while he was trying to save a penalty from England striker Harry Kane in extra-time of their semi-final of Euro 2020 at the Wembley Stadium late Wednesday night.

Though Schmeichel managed to stop the spot-kick, Kane scored on rebound and gave England their first final appearance in the event.

As Kane was about to take the penalty in the 104th minute of the match, an England fan from the crowd started to shine a green-coloured laser beam on Schmeichel's face and right eye.

The tactic didn't work as Schmeichel dived to his left to save the penalty by pushing the ball straight to the feet of the striker. But Kane was quick to net the goal on rebound and send the stadium in a state of frenzy. The fans are demanding that the person in question be identified and banned from entering football matches. Former Liverpool and England striker Stan Collymore supported the calls made by fans. "If anyone shone a laser pen at Schmeichel, they want banning for life," he tweeted. England will now face Italy in the final on Sunday at Wembley Stadium. (IANS)

minutes. Harry Maguire was booked for a challenge on Kjaer following a free-kick. He then saw Schmeichel get across to tip away his header from a corner. At the other end, Pickford got down to deny Dolberg, who then fired another effort straight at the England goalkeeper. England were getting more and more on top, with Schmeichel tipping over a cross from the

hard-working Mason Mount and Sterling having a shot blocked from the resulting corner. The Danes, however, always looked as if they could threaten on the break. The half ended with England controlling the ball in and around the Danish area, but they were unable to find a clear chance against the Danish defence and the game went into extra-time. (IANS)

England face UEFA charges on 3 incidents

The UEFA has opened disciplinary proceedings against England on three different incidents which took place during the second semi-final of Euro 2020 at Wembley Stadium on Wednesday. The inquiry includes the incident in which a fan used a laser pointer over Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel's face. The laser incident finds a mention in the press release by UEFA as a violation under Article 16 (2)(d) of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations.

England has also been charged under Article 16 (2)(g) for disturbance caused by its supporters during the national anthem. Denmark's national anthem was booed by a section of England fans before the match started. The third event was the lightning of fireworks by the English supporters, punishable under Article 16 (2)(c) of the Disciplinary Regulations.

"The case will be dealt with by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body (CEDB) in due course," said a statement from European football's governing body.

Stafanie's century powers Windies women to win

ANTIGUA

CAPTAIN Stafanie Taylor's all-round show led West Indies women to a five-wicket win over Pakistan in the first ODI at the Coolidge Cricket Ground here. After scalping three wickets with her off-breaks, Stafanie hammered an unbeaten at 105 off 116 deliveries on Wednesday night to chase down the target of 206 with 13 balls remaining. Her sixth ODI century, which got her the 'Player of the Match' award was laced with eleven fours and two sixes.

Stafanie stitched an important stand of 42 with Brittany Cooper to see the host home. Joining forces at 167/5 after 42 overs, Brittany played her part with mesmerising shots on the off-side in her knock of 17 off 21 balls.

After being put in to bat, Pakistan managed 205/9 in 50 overs. Barring a 70-run opening partnership between Muneeba Ali and Ayesha Zafar, the visitors failed.

LONDON

INDIA are likely to fret over the lack of a seam bowling all-rounder in their squad ahead of the Test series next month in England, a country where players with the ability to bat and bowl medium pace can turn out to be match winners and match savers, as seen in the past.

With all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja coming a cropper in the World Test Championship (WTC) final -- his spin not getting help from the pitch and he failed with the bat as well -- the focus is back on the lack of a seam bowling all-rounder.

Both New Zealand (who India lost to in the WTC fi-

Medals in boxing ring: 13 gold on offer

MUMBAI

THOUGH quite popular as a sport, boxing was introduced at the Olympic Games in 1904. It has been part of every Olympics since then, except in the 1912 Stockholm edition since Swedish laws prohibited such a sport.

It was a male-only event till Beijing 2008. Four years later, in 2012 in London, women made their debut.

There are a total of 13 categories -- eight for men and five for women. AIBA reduced the weight classes for men from 10 to eight for Tokyo 2020 Games.

In the men's section, a total of 186 contestants will compete while in the women's section, there will be 100 competitors.

Each country can put only one competitor in each category.



Caption: Olympic-bound boxer Vikas Krishan trains with fellow boxer Neeraj Goyat in Assisi, Italy.

It's official: No spectators at Tokyo Oly venues

TOKYO: THE Tokyo Olympic Games, starting on July 23, will be played without spectators at venues, Tokyo Olympics Minister Tamayo Marukawa announced on Thursday. Tokyo will be placed under the fourth state of emergency on July 12, and it will last until August 22, covering the duration of the Olympics (July 23-Aug 8).

In all, 79 nations have won a total of 946 medals in the men's boxing competition at the Olympics so

far. A total of 252 gold, 251 silver, and 443 bronze medals have been distributed till the Rio Olympics.

Lack of seam bowling, all-rounder sets India back in England



nal) and England have riches in the department. The Kiwis had Colin de Grandhomme and Kyle Jamieson in the WTC final whereas England have the likes of Ben Stokes, Sam Curran and Chris Woakes to choose from.

Unfortunately for India, their only seam bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya is not yet fit to bowl and has therefore been left out of the squad. He is currently with the limited-overs squad in Sri Lanka. At

best, India can try Mumbai player Shardul Thakur who scored a half-century and picked wickets in the fourth and final Test against Aus-

tralia in Brisbane. "A seam-bowling all-rounder brings a lot of balance to a squad overseas, especially in England. If you have a bowling all-rounder - say like Kapil Dev -- he will get you wickets and score 40-50 runs, maybe even a 100. Those 40-50 runs can mean a partnership of 100," said former India seam-bowling all-rounder Madan Lal, who was part of India's 1983 World Cup-winning squad. (IANS)



India's Sarin wins Serbia Open chess, enters top 100

MUMBAI


YOUNG Indian chess sensation Nihal Sarin won the Masters' section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship, his second consecutive tournament victory, after claiming the title in Silver Lake Open, which has propelled him into the top 100 in live chess ratings. The 16-year-old from Thrissur, Kerala, on Thursday, played out a draw with GM Vladimir Fedoseev of Russia to finish with 7.5 points out a possible nine to finish clear first in the 280-player field in the nine-round Serbia Ope-

It was an incredible display of chess prowess by Sarin, with a rating of 2620, as he was only the eighth-seeded player in this tournament but finished with a performance worthy of a player with a rating of over 2800.

Sarin, who became a Grandmaster in 2018 at the age of 14, won six games and drew three, thus remaining unbeaten. Sarin, who started the Serbia Open with wins in the first two rounds, ended the event with three successive wins and a draw in the final round, finishing a clear half point ahead of the field.

This was Sarin's second consecutive tournament triumph in Serbia, having won the Silver Lake championships last week with a similarly dominant performance and finishing with eight points from nine rounds. Silver Lake Open was his first over-the-board event after the COVID-19 pandemic break.

The two victories pushed his live ratings to 2655, an incredible gain of 35 points in a couple of weeks. Though the live ratings are unofficial as FIDE updates its ratings and rankings at the end of every month, Sarin, on the basis of his brilliant performance in the Serbia Open, has moved into the top 100 in the world -- one of the youngest to do so. The live rating will also put him at 88 in the rankings list. (IANS)





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