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Singh submitted that proper measures are being taken to conduct the exam and a lot of checks are in place and the COVID-19 protocol including social distancing will be followed. The plea said on one hand the authorities have postponed the National Eligibility Entrance Test (Post Graduate) -2021 due to the ongoing pandemic, on the other hand, they have decided to conduct the FMGE screening test at times when the country is overcoming the second wave and preparing for the third wave of the pandemic. Challenging the April notice and the information bulletin, the petitioners contended that the decision of the authorities was arbitrary and unreasonable and sought postponement of the FMGE to a later date.





# Womenia



## Add Yoga in daily routine for health, beauty and immunity

If you want to detoxify your skin, your body, tone your muscles, and find relief from too much stress, it's time to do yoga.

Yoga for glowing skin is a real thing. A daily yoga practice like pranayama, breathing exercises, headstand, and fish pose flushes out toxins from the body, regulate the digestive system, and maintains proper blood circulation which in turn firm and tightens the skin, reducing the appearance of fine lines.

Relaxing in yoga poses

tures also promotes restful sleep, lowers cortisol levels, and boosted collagen resulting in an increase in respiration, lubricating joints, and strengthening muscles. Breathing and moving in yoga can help to balance hormones and move waste stagnating in the intestines. All of this leads to healthier, happier skin.

As the country battles the Covid-19 pandemic on a war-footing, India's traditional system of Yoga has been established as a resource to boost immunity and improve overall health and well-being. Yoga for immunity is a thing. A consistent yoga practice along with certain poses in particular can support and boost the immune system.

You can enhance your beauty with yoga by incorporating strict guidelines in your daily life. Regular yoga practice, pranayama, and meditation aid you in reverse the signs of ageing including wrinkles, saggy skin, crow's feet, and fine lines amongst others. Pranayama helps to purify the blood because of the increased intake of oxygen, which is very crucial for improving immunity. Pranayam is one of the most effective and time-tested natural immunity boosters that can lead to a healthy, sickness-free body. Mindfulness meditation can have benefits for health and performance, including improved immune function, reduced blood pressure, and enhanced cognitive function.



Shahnaz Husain

Those who regularly practice yoga and meditation have a certain glow about them that comes from within and radiates outward. Yoga helps lower stress hormones that compromise the immune system, while also conditioning the lungs and respiratory tract, stimulating the lymphatic system to oust toxins from the body, and bringing oxygenated blood to the various organs to ensure their optimal function which helps us to remain healthy and attain inner beauty.

Mindfulness meditation can have benefits for health and performance, including improved immune function, reduced blood pressure, and enhanced cognitive function. The practice of yoga may greatly aid in helping you look more youthful and more refresh. The appeal of Yoga lies in the fact that it helps both body and mind. It not only works on all the muscle groups but also increases vitality, tones the internal organs, stimulates the nerve centers, relieves stress, and clears the mind

which boosts immunity and gives you an attractive personality and beauty from within. Although it is an ancient Indian discipline, it has also gained relevance as a means of attaining a well-balanced personality and delaying the visible signs of ageing. The other important aspect of Yoga is that it involves breath control and specifies the inhalation and exhalation of breath during the exercises. Thus, it helps oxygenation which boosts immunity imparts a feeling of physical and mental exhilaration. This is so important for beauty because feeling good is an integral part of looking good.

Yoga improves blood circulation, including the circulation of blood to the skin surface. This is so important for the good health of the skin, as it helps to supply essential nutrients to the skin. It also promotes the removal of toxins through the skin which boosts immunity. This is so important, especially in cases of skin congestion. It tones the skin, improves oxygenation to the skin, imparts a beautiful glow, and keeps the skin youthful and free from problems. The same goes for the hair.

Yoga helps to promote blood circulation and oxygenation to the scalp and hair follicles. This helps to supply nutrients in the bloodstream to the hair follicles. It promotes hair growth and keeps the scalp healthy.

Many beauty problems are triggered off by stress. Since yoga helps to induce relaxation and reduce stress, it certainly helps in dealing with stress-related conditions like acne, hair loss, dandruff, etc. Studies conducted on those who practice yoga have shown that positive changes also occur in the personality, attitudes, emotional stability, self-confidence. It has a direct effect on the mind, emotions, and mood. In fact, it is a regular stress-buster and puts a glow back on the skin. You will feel instantly rejuvenated and good about yourself.

Despite popular belief, yoga is more than just a physical practice; yoga is a complete program of how to live in the world.

Indeed, the benefits of Yoga reflect as external beauty. For flawless skin, shiny hair and a slim, graceful figure, make yoga as a part of your daily life.

## Yarn Bombing Day



They're showing up everywhere, like some kind of psychedelically colorful mushroom that grows sock-like over surfaces like trees and scaffolding and even bike racks. Somewhere, somehow, these normal everyday objects have suddenly become ensconced in an odd woolly growth in amazing patterns. The skill varies widely from incredibly new to fantastically intricate, the thickness of the yarn from pencil-lead thin to thick as the pencil itself. Yarn Bombing Day is when fiber-freaks from around the world go on a knitting rampage to embrace the world in warm fuzzy comfort. Grab your needles and go forth noble kneedler, and stitch. To understand Yarn Bombing Day, we first need to take a look at what yarn bombing is. It is sometimes referred to as guerrilla knitting or yarnstorming. No matter what you call it, it is simply the practice of knitted works of art being added to public places. For example, a yarn bomber may design some sort of colorful knitted pattern and wrap it around a bus stop. The aim of this practice was to try and take knitting from something that was viewed as merely for creating clothes and hats to something that could add meaning and color to urban locations. It's not like standard graffiti where the point is to mark your territory. It's also definitely not an act of vandalizing. It is about creating a sense of belonging and conveying meaning, as well as drawing attention to something that is ignored by most people. Yarn Bombing Day, therefore, is simply a celebration of this tradition, raising awareness of the art of crochet and knitting while having a lot of fun in the process.



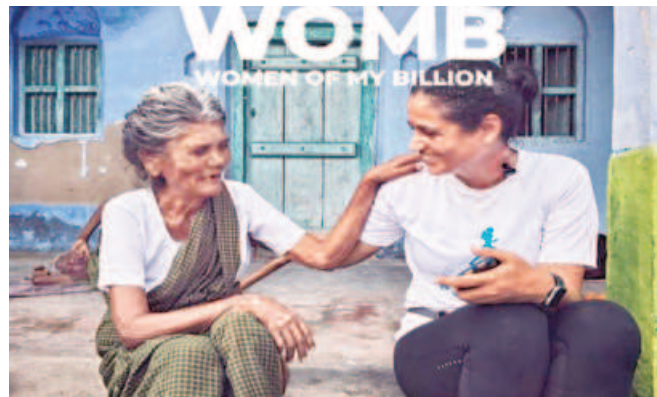
## Women-centric Indian documentary to premiere at UK film festival

SIDDHI JAIN

“WOMB - Women of my Billion”, a powerful narrative that highlights the plight, dreams, rights and fight of the women of today's India against all forms of violence, is all set for its world premiere at the opening night UK Gala of the London Indian Film Festival 2021.

The festival line up is a “love letter to India”, given the ongoing hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, say makers. Deeply shocked and disturbed by the highway 91 rape case that was reported in 2016 in India, Srishti Bakshi decided to not be a silent spectator to rising crime against women in her country. The documentary captures her 3800-kilometre on foot journey from Kanyakumari to Srinagar over 230 days and her heroic effort to create awareness on women's safety and empowerment through financial and digital literacy. The film highlights survivor stories of activist Pragya Prasad Singh, Lt. Col. Sangeeta Tiwari and Neha Rai and stands a crucial testament to the worldwide crisis which has only aggravated in these times of the pandemic.

“An Awedacious Original, ‘WOMB’ is a poignant and heart-warming watch exploring the social and political issues faced by women of today's India. The documentary feature highlights the monumental journey through Srishti's lens, her interaction with over 85,000 women over more than 100 workshops she conducted in schools, villages and institutions on her walk from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.



Emotional and powerful, the documentary is a unique testament to seemingly insurmountable challenges in these unprecedented times and the everyday ‘heroes’ who are battling to overcome,” said a statement. “In this documentary we have celebrated ordinary women who've shown extraordinary courage to rise above their limitations and challenge deeply entrenched gender norms. We did this to unite the majority because what we discovered was that ‘gender-based violence is a

crime perpetrated by the minority but perpetuated by the silence of the majority,” says a very passionate Bakshi. According to Director Ajitesh Sharma, “Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation. And since the outbreak of Covid-19 and the world locking down to live within four walls, emerging data and reports from those on the front lines, have shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, has only intensified. With ‘WOMB’, I aim to bring forth inspiring stories of fight and survival which Srishti was privy to by meeting brave women on her walk. My aim is to pass on this privilege of knowing these women and their stories to inspire conversations on how gender norms need to be overhauled.”



## Navel oiling helps to detoxify the body

N LOTHUNGBENI HUMTSOE

It is the navel that provides the essence of life and growth. It supplies nutrition, blood, and oxygen to babies in the womb through the navel. Even as an adult, your navel, which is also the core of your body, is one of the key points of sustenance and growth.

So like other parts of our body which benefit by oiling does the navel as well? Not just the belly button, but the entire body, including our skin, benefits when you oil the navel. It is a primitive tradition described in our Vedas and Ayurveda, in which women and men oil their navels to nourish their entire bodies. Your belly button has been medically proven to be related to various veins throughout your body, and oiling it can help you heal from a variety of ailments.

Preeti Chadha, Founder, IREMA shares the importance of oiling the belly button

If we talk about the technique of navel oiling in general, it has a lot of benefits, as most mothers have taught their children it can help with correcting, balancing, and repairing neural connections in their bodies.

### How to practice navel oiling

This procedure takes only two minutes. Pour oil over your belly button and that's all there is to it. Massage your belly button in a circular motion for 5-10 minutes after applying it to your navel. For the best outcome, do so every day before going to bed or after bath. Also, oiling at night can make you feel more relaxed when you wake up in the morning. During the menstrual cycle also, you can apply coconut oil on your navel, it helps soothe cramps.

The belly button is more than just a little dot on your navel; it's the chamber that has the answer to a slew of cosmetic issues. The belly button is connected to many veins throughout the body, and when it is nourished with oil, it aids in the treatment of a variety of health issues. Whatever carrier or oil you choose—coconut, mustard, or rosemary—it will be beneficial to you.

et of health issues. Whatever carrier or oil you choose—coconut, mustard, or rosemary—it will be beneficial to you.

### Benefits of oiling

People commonly use mustard, cow ghee (desi ghee) or coconut oil on the navel, but it is ineffective due to the lack of ayurvedic qualities with heating elements. Massage should be with an oil that contains extracts such as neem, tea tree, lemon, grape seed, and almond oil, which helps cleanse your belly button, for the greatest effects.

Oiling the navel helps to detoxify the body and promotes healthy, radiant skin, free from radical damage. Furthermore, the navel absorbs oil more quickly and supplies sustenance from within.

### Helps to remove dirt

Cleaning the belly button removes bacteria and filth that has accumulated and keeps the stomach and navel regions clear of any potential ailments.

### Helps to purify the skin

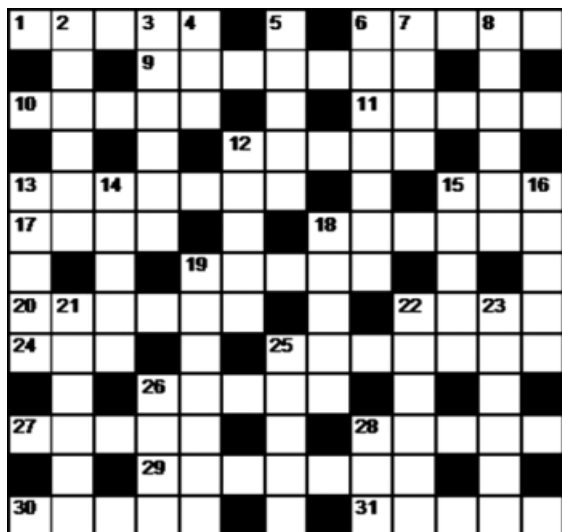
Massaging and routinely oiling your belly button should be on your to-do list if you desire a radiant face and healthier skin texture. Oiling your belly button might help clean your blood and get rid of pollutants and blemishes. Therapeutic oils such as neem oil, rosehip oil, coconut oil, and lemon essential oil can help.

### Lightens lip shade

Coconut oil applied to the belly button every night before bedtime lightens and protects your lips from chapping.

### Good for eyes

If you suffer from poor vision then you must try out oiling your belly button with a diluted solution mixed with mustard oil and so it will improve your eye health. Also, for those who constantly strain their eyes on the screens it is a good way to reduce the appearance of puffy eyes and dark circle



SOLUTION TO JUNE 10

## CROSSWORD

Across

- Russian ballet company (5)
- Throws (5)
- Russian royal house (7)
- Drinking-tube (5)
- More recent (5)
- Defeats decisively (5)
- Provoked people online (7)
- Eggs (3)
- Catch sight of (4)
- Resounds (6)
- Believer in God (5)
- Remain hidden (3,3)
- Coarse stiff hair (4)
- In addition (3)
- Contradict (7)
- Genuinely (5)
- Large parrot (5)
- Following next (5)
- Famous salad (7)
- Wanderer (5)
- Vesicles (5)

Across

- Buries underground (6)
- By word of mouth (6)
- Oath, promise (3)
- Indian classical instrument (5)
- Communication (7)
- Ancient greetings (4)
- A dozen (6)
- Begin again (5)
- Unit of magnetic induction (5)
- Chose (5)
- Seeps (5)
- Test ore (5)
- Composition (5)
- Portal (7)
- Evil notoriety (6)
- Supercilious (6)
- Least feral (6)
- Forest clearing (5)
- Leather whip (4)
- Curve (3)

## SUDOKU

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SOLUTION TO JUNE 10



# Conduct audit of deaths during 2nd wave of Covid-19: U’khand HC

NAINITAL

THE Uttarakhand High Court has asked the state government to conduct an audit of the deaths that occurred during the second wave of coronavirus in the state, and also explore the possibility of carrying out door-to-door vaccination in remote hill areas.

Hearing petitions related to the state’s handling of the pandemic, Chief Justice R S Chauhan and Justice Alok Verma asked the state government on Wednesday if a district-level task force can be constituted with the help of the social welfare department to cater to people who are unable to get their immunisation due to lack of ID cards.

Asking the state government to explore the possibility of creating a sys-

tem that reaches out to people in the remote hill areas on priority, the high court suggested setting up a panel of ASHA volunteers, home guards and nurses to carry out a door-to-door survey to ensure that the “dispersed” population in such areas is vaccinated. Besides asking the state to conduct an audit of COVID-19 deaths during the second wave, the court also asked it to conduct an audit of ventilators and ICU equipment available in government hospitals in the state to find out how many ventilators and equipment are lying un-utilised and the reason for it.

The total number of COVID-19 deaths in Uttarakhand till Wednesday evening was 6,849.

In view of alleged irregularities in



COVID testing in May, the state government has also been asked to file a full report on coronavirus tests conducted in the month. The court also observed that private hospitals are charging patients arbitrarily for Covid treatment and reiterated the need to re-issue the mandate which must clarify the maximum fee. Any hospital overcharging the patients must face legal consequences, it said. The court further directed the state government to prepare a portal for the help provided by social organizations, NGOs and people of Uttarakhand origin, so that the helpers do not face any administrative difficulties.

The state government has also been directed to make arrangements for a possible third wave of coronavirus by

creating isolation centres at the village level and to take the help of influential people of the state for creating awareness among people. The court asked Tourism Secretary Dilip Jawalkar to be present in the court on June 16 when the matter will be heard next and also to create a cordial atmosphere among the Char Dham management, government and the priests.

The court also expressed dissatisfaction with the affidavit filed by Jawalkar, saying “Secretary Tourism has simply been assessing the circumstances sitting in Dehradun and fulfilling the bare minimum of his duty by issuing letters whereas due to the upcoming Char Dham Yatra and tourist season, he should have visited Char Dham to understand ground realities”.

## Haryana police arrests 4 in cryptocurrency fraud

CHANDIGARH

HARYANA Police has arrested four fraudsters including the mastermind for allegedly duping people in the name of online business involving bitcoin transactions.

Director General of Police (DGP) Manoj Yadava on Thursday said the mastermind - Harinder Chahal alias Sonu Chahal - tricked victims into believing that he was in possession of bitcoins whereas the wallets held non-spendable (dummy) bitcoins. Chahal and his associates used the name of Binance, one of the world’s largest cryptocurrency exchanges, with an intention to cheat gullible persons on the pretext of offering them huge returns if they invest money online for bitcoin business, he said.

The DGP said the issue came to light recently when Pravesh Kumar, a resident of Sector-23, Sonapat filed a complaint with the police alleging that he was cheated by Chahal, a resident of Madha village in Hisar district.



According to an official statement, a case was registered in Cyber Police Station, Panchkula under relevant sections of IPC and IT Act, the DGP said. Police along with cyber experts started the investigation and it was revealed that several people were involved in this luring gullible people to invest in bitcoin.

“In the ongoing investigation, four accused along with their mastermind have already been

arrested,” Yadava said. The DGP informed that Chahal created a fake Facebook account in the name of one Vikas Kumar and claimed to show the wallet address of the cryptocurrency exchange. On October 1, 2019, he gave this blockchain address through Facebook messenger and WhatsApp messenger to the complainant (Pravesh Kumar). Chahal duped Kumar of Rs 15,50,000 by fraudulently show-

ing bitcoins in his wallet which in reality belonged to the cryptocurrency exchange Binance, the DGP said. “The complainant believed in the accused as 1,871 bitcoins existed in the wallet, which belonged to Binance and not to Harinder Chahal, at the time of the incident and hence got duped of his money,” he said.

The DGP further said, “It was also revealed that Harinder Chahal has been found in possession of many cryptocurrency wallets but none of them had any actual bitcoins or any form of cryptocurrency.”

“The wallets held non-spendable (dummy) bitcoins which were used fraudulently to trick victims into believing that the accused was in possession of bitcoins which in reality did not exist,” he added. Congratulating the crime branch team for busting the fraud, the DGP said, “We are collecting more information about the numbers of innocent people who have been cheated by the scammers. Efforts are being made to trace the other accused.”

## Khattar lays foundation stone for projects worth ₹1,170 cr

CHANDIGARH

HARYANA Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of developmental projects worth over Rs 1,170 crore and said the state government was committed to ensuring equitable development.

Reiterating the commitment of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’, Khattar said the developmental projects were related to education, health, sports, strengthening road connectivity, water and power. During a state-level programme held through video conferencing from here, the chief minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 98 projects in 16 districts including Karnal, Panchkula, Sirsa, Kurukshetra, Jind, Faridabad, Sonapat, Hisar and Rohtak.

This includes the inauguration of various projects of over Rs 200 crore and laying of the foundation stone of other projects costing around Rs 900 crore, an official statement said here. Speaking at the event, Khattar said that in the past seven years, the BJP-led government has ensured equitable development of all the 90 assembly



constituencies in the state while believing in the mantra of Haryana Ek, Haryanavi Ek’.

“In the last seven years, the state government has been dedicatedly working towards swiftly taking the state forward on the development track,” he said. He added that in the implementation of many schemes by the state government, Haryana has become a role model for other states. “The campaign to make the villages of the state free from ‘Lal Dora’ (land that is part of the village ‘abadi’ or habitation and is used for non-agriculture purposes only) that was launched by the Haryana government was later adopted by the Centre under the title of SVAMITVA yojana,” he said.

Khattar said realising the need for water conservation with water table going down in many parts, the Mera Pani Meri Virasat Yojana was launched last year to encourage farmers for crop diversification and to save ground water for future generations. Under this scheme, an appeal was made to the farmers of the state to adopt alternative crops in place of water-guzzling paddy, he added.

Taking a dig at the opposition for alleging that the state government has discontinued tubewell connections to farmers, he said this was not true. Various steps are being taken to provide adequate water facilities for irrigation purposes to the peasants, he added.

## U’khand police bust ₹350 cr scam that duped lakhs



DEHRADUN

UTTARAKHAND Police has busted an online scam with foreign links, in which five lakh people from across the country lost a combined Rs 350 crore, officials said on Thursday, adding a man was arrested from Noida in connection with it.

The police have sought the help of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) for further investigation in the case, Director General of Police (DGP) Ashok Kumar said. The fraudsters duped people using an online app called, ‘Power Bank’, which was available on Google Play Store till May 12, the officer said, adding, it offered lucrative returns on investment through different schemes. The money deposited in different schemes, using the app, was routed to for-

eign countries through cryptocurrency, he said.

The syndicate was run by a group of scamsters from China, according to preliminary inquiry. In connection with the scam, Pawan Kumar Pandey was arrested from Noida’s Sector 99 on Monday.

The Special Task Force (STF) recovered 19 laptops, five mobile phones and 592 SIM cards from his possession. Police had received 25 complaints of fraud against the app from different parts of Uttarakhand, said Ajay Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police (STF), who led the probe into the case.

The investigation process started after two persons from Haridwar district complained that the online app, through which they invested more than Rs 1.5 lakh, was now not available on Google Play Store, said Singh.

## 82 deaths, 642 fresh virus cases in Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW

EIGHTY-TWO more people died from coronavirus in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday as 642 fresh cases surfaced, taking the state’s infection number to 17,01,072, according to a Health Department bulletin.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, the virus has claimed 21,597 lives in the state. Of the fresh 82 deaths, 15 were reported from Kanpur Nagar, eight from Gorakhpur, five from Bareilly, four each from Saharanpur, Agra, Deoria, Jhansi, Gonda, three each from Ghaziabad, Meerut, Lakhimpur Kheri and



two each from Rae Bareilly, Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Hapur and Balrampur.

One death each was reported from Varanasi, Allahabad, Bulandshahr, Ayodhya, Mathura,

## Dalit man killed for objecting to removal of Ambedkar’s poster

JAIPUR

A Dalit man was allegedly beaten to death by a group of youths after a tiff over a poster with BR Ambedkar’s photograph put up outside his house in Rajasthan’s Hanumangarh district, police said on Thursday.

On May 24, Anil Sihag and Rakesh Sihag tore the poster put

up outside the house of Vinod Bannia, 22, a Bhim Army member, they said. After Bannia and his family raised objections, locals intervened and the family members of the accused tendered an apology on their behalf on the same day, they added. On June 5, the accused sought revenge for this by assaulting Bannia with the help of four others. After the attack, the victim was

admitted at a private hospital in Sri Ganganagar in a critical condition. He succumbed to injuries on June 7, police said. The accused Anil Sihag and Rakesh Sihag were arrested along with their friends - Saksham and Haidar Ali.

Two others, involved in the attack, were absconding, police said, adding efforts were on to nab them.

## Consider teaching foreign languages to students: Amarinder to edu dept

CHANDIGARH

PUNJAB Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday asked the state Education Department to consider teaching foreign languages to students and raise their employability across the globe.

Emphasising the need to offer an opportunity to students keen on learning foreign languages as optional subjects in government schools, he asked the School Education Department to work out modalities to enable students to learn foreign languages like Chinese, Arabic and French.

These languages could be instrumental in improving their chances of employability across the globe, the chief minister was quoted as saying in an official statement.

During an interaction with state’s school teachers, Singh said, “Though Punjabi is our mother tongue and English is already being taught in schools, the additional knowledge of foreign languages would help our students to excel in their career.”

Sharing his experience about people’s resilience and spirit to do something new, Singh said long back while travelling in Kapurthala district, he noticed a signboard showing way to a

teaching facility for the Italian language.

He said, “This incident reveals that our people, especially the youths, are keen to learn foreign languages to settle abroad and such an initiative of the Education Department would help them realise their aspirations.”

Underlining the need to motivate students to take up sports as a character-building exercise, the CM also directed Education Minister Vijay Inder Singh to explore the possibility of developing playgrounds in schools.

Sports do not only help one develop one’s overall personality but also imbibe the leadership qualities of self-discipline and sportsman spirit amongst them, he pointed out.

Singh also congratulated teachers and the entire staff of the School Education Department for making Punjab the number one state in the country in the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 released by the government of India.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has granted In-Principle approval vide memo no. ZP-1336/AD (RA)/2021/13149 dated 07.06.2021 for Approval of revised building plans of Tower-A, B, C, F & Commercial Affordable Group Housing Colony over an area measuring 5.74375 acres (License No. 69 of 2019 dated 26.06.2019 and License No. 40 of 2020 dated 11.12.2020) in Sector-63A, Gurugram Manesar Urban Complex being developed by Signatureglobal (India) Private Limited.

While according the said in-principle approval, the Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has directed the company to inform the existing allottees regarding the said amendment in the building plans through advertisement in the leading newspapers and accordingly the notice is hereby issued for their information and if any objection, the same may be sent to the office of Senior Town Planner, Gurugram within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. The said permission granted is also being uploaded/hosted on our website [www.signatureglobal.in](http://www.signatureglobal.in)

Sd/-  
Authorised Signatory  
Signatureglobal (India) Private Limited  
Regd Off- 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan,  
28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001

Place: Gurugram Dated: 11.06.2021

## Will Jitin get ‘prasada’ from BJP, asks Kapil Sibal

NEW DELHI

A day after Jitin Prasada quit the Congress, senior party leader Kapil Sibal asked if he would get “prasada” from the BJP or is he merely a “catch” for the Uttar Pradesh elections.

Another party colleague Shashi Tharoor also asked if politics can be a career devoid of principles. “Jitin Prasada joins BJP. The question is will he get ‘prasada’ from BJP or is he just a ‘catch’ for UP elections,” Sibal asked on Twitter. “In such deals

if ‘ideology’ doesn’t matter changeover is easy,” the former union minister also said. In a tweet, Tharoor asked, “Can politics be a career devoid of principle? Politics has to be about ideas, or it’s nothing. Can a person of conviction change political parties the way a cricketer changes IPL teams.”

In an article on the larger issues in Prasada’s defection to the BJP, Tharoor said his decision a year after his “older brother” Jyotiraditya Scindia did the same thing, is “deeply dismaying”. “I

said this without any personal bitterness,” he said. “Both Scindia and Prasada were amongst the most eloquent voices against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the dangers its communal bigotry posed to the India they cherished. Today, they are both happily sporting the colours of the party they once reviled more than any other. “The obvious question this provokes is: what do they really stand for? What beliefs and values animate their politics? Or are they in politics only for self-advancement and power?



Can politics be a career devoid of principle,” Tharoor asked in the article. “When you enter politics, then, you don’t choose a party the way a graduate chooses the com-

pany that makes him the best placement offer. You choose a vehicle for your convictions. “Your party reflects not merely the institutional framework for your

personal ambitions, but the set of principles, beliefs and ideas that you are pledged to promote and defend in the course of your political career,” he wrote. Prasada, a member of the group of 23 Congress leaders who wrote to Sonia Gandhi seeking an organisational overhaul and elections at all levels last year, quit the Congress Wednesday to join the BJP ahead of next year’s assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. Both Sibal and Tharoor are also a part of the group of 23 who wrote to the Congress chief.



## A successful ‘Parisodhana’ with face masks

COVID-19 pandemic has played a havoc role for humans across the globe. The first line of defence against the prevailing situation have been sanitisers, face masks and Covid appropriate behaviour. Masks have been recommended by WHO as well to protect against and limit the spread of Covid-19. N95 face masks, especially, have been considered more effective in reducing the transmission of Covid-19 virus from an infected person to a non-infected one.

But the usage of N95 face masks prove to be uncomfortable for many and are mostly non-washable. Parisodhana Technologies Pvt. Ltd. was supported partly by BIRAC and IKP Knowledge Park, under the Fast-Track Covid-19 fund to develop hybrid multiple face masks, SHG-95 (Billion Social Masks). These ‘Made in India’ face masks provide high particulate (>90%)

and bacterial filtration efficiency (>99%). (Those who question either Indians’ efficiency or the ‘Make in India’ idea should revisit their views once).

The face masks so developed ensure high breathability, have comfortable ear loops, and are convenient to be used even in tropical conditions since they are prepared from purely hand weaved cotton contact materials. A special filtration layer is an added advantage. The cost of these hand washable and reusable face masks has been estimated as below Rs 75 per piece by the company, making it affordable for the general public as well.

With around 1,45,000 plus units sold, this initiative, which is also funded by Grand Challenges Canada, has been designed to meet the demands in times of Covid-19 while improving the livelihoods of many Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The founders of

Parisodhana Technologies Pvt. Ltd. envisioned to create solutions to problems faced by mankind through utilising applied research and affordable product development. It is remarkable that the silent work done by the Biotechnology (DBT) keeps on enhancing and improving the development of biotechnology in India, via its growth and application in agriculture, healthcare, animal sciences, environment, and industry.

Those working here are not celebrated as in the private sector and really are low profile. It is just their commitment to technology and the country that works wonders. A not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) acts as an interface agency to improve

and encourage the evolving biotechnology industry to execute strategic research and development activities in context to Nation’s product development needs. Parisodhana Technologies Pvt Ltd is currently aimed at developing products related to healthcare and wellness.

The team has an added advantage of its global exposure and training at premier institutes to solve problems as per the Indian context. It was registered as a private limited company in June 2016 from Hyderabad, India (yet another feather in the cap of Techbad aka Hyderabad). Covid-19 is here to stay and we cannot escape it. It seems to have the capacity to come back to us - rather we have the capacity to go to it maybe - every time. Whenever it comes, it comes back stronger and deadlier. As has repeatedly been said “mask, sanitizer and social distancing” are the new mantras to ward off the virus as it keeps demanding greater hygiene, cleanliness and sterilization in our lives. Well, done DBT!



## Climate crisis will have catastrophic impact in India: Study

THE climate emergency will have a catastrophic human and economic impact in India. Different threats will interact to devastating effect, as exemplified by cyclones Tauktae and Yaas during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A new review by the global think tank, ODI, The costs of climate change in India, released on Tuesday, laid out how rising temperatures will jeopardise India’s economic development through different channels, including falling agriculture productivity, impact to public health, reduced labour productivity and sea level rise. The study is a first-ever literature review on the economic costs of climate inaction in India. At one degree Celsius of global warming, the country is already experiencing damages. Flooding in India over the last decade caused \$3 billion in economic damage -- accounting for 10 per cent of global economic losses from flooding. The evidence clearly demonstrates that the human and economic costs of climate change will only increase in the coming years, particularly without urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One study finds that India’s GDP in the year 2100 will be reduced by 90 per cent if the world reaches three degrees Celsius of warming. Angela Picciariello, Senior Research Officer at ODI, said, “India is already feeling the costs of climate change, with many cities reporting temperatures above 48 degrees in 2020 and a billion people facing severe water scarcity for at least a month of the year.

“If action is not taken to cut emissions enough to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the human and economic toll will rise even higher.” The total cost of heatwaves, flooding, water scarcity, cyclones, sea-level rise and other climate-related hazards will be determined by the direction and level of economic development; the choices made in spatial planning and infrastructure investment; and the way different hazards intersect.

Amir Bazaz, Senior Lead-Practice at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, said: “As we are seeing now with Cyclones Tauktae and Yaas, low-income and other marginalised groups are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. They often live in dense settlements that lack basic services and infrastructure that could reduce risk.

“Many households also live on hazardous sites such as steep slopes and floodplains. It is therefore crucial to bring climate and development goals together.” The study found that India’s GDP would be around 25 per cent higher today, were it not for the current costs of global warming. Looking forward, the numbers are even more grim.

Researchers have assessed different mechanisms through which climate change will affect India’s economy, and predict that GDP in 2100 could be reduced by 10 per cent at three degrees Celsius of global warming due to declining agricultural productivity, sea-level rise and increased health expenditure. They say up to 13.4 per cent at over four degrees Celsius of global warming due to declining labour productivity from temperature and precipitation changes.

Rathin Roy, Managing Director (Research and Policy) at ODI, said “Pursuing a cleaner, more resource-efficient path to development could stimulate a faster, fairer economic recovery for India and help secure India’s prosperity and competitiveness in the long term.” “Lower-carbon options are more efficient and less polluting, producing immediate benefits such as cleaner air, greater energy security and rapid job creation.”

Much depends on India’s policy, investment and diplomatic choices over the next decade. As the only country in the G20 that currently has a ‘two degrees Celsius compatible’ Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), India is already doing its fair share for climate mitigation.

However, pursuing a more carbon-efficient and resilient pathway would enable India to climate-proof its development gains. Given India’s low per capita emissions and lower-middle income country status, it may need international support to make it happen. (OANS)

## 1 in 2 Indian-Americans discriminated in past yr: Study

WASHINGTON

A new study has revealed that one in two Indian-Americans have reported being discriminated against in the past one year.

The study titled, ‘Social Realities of Indian Americans: Results from the 2020 Indian American Attitudes Survey’, was conducted jointly by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Johns Hopkins SAIS, and the University of Pennsylvania. Released on Wednesday, it is the third in a series on the social, political, and foreign policy attitudes of Indian-Americans.

“One in two Indian Americans reports being discriminated against in the past one year, with discrimination based on skin colour identified as the most common form of bias,” “Somewhat surprisingly, Indian Americans born in the US are much more likely to report being victims of discrimination than their foreign-born counterparts,” the study says. The findings of the study were based on a nationally representative online survey of 1,200 Indian-American residents in the US. It was conducted between September 1 and September 20, 2020, in partnership with the research and analytics firm YouGov. The report also found that Indian-Americans exhibit very high rates of marriage within their community. “While eight out of 10 respondents have a spouse or partner of Indian origin, US-born Indian-Americans are four times more likely to have a spouse or partner who is of Indian origin but was born in the US,” it said. Religion also plays an important role in the community. While 40 per cent of respondents pray at least once a day, 27 per cent attend religious services at least once a week. The study also revealed that roughly half of all Hindu Indian-Americans identify with a caste group. “The overwhelming majority of Hindus with a caste identity, more than eight in 10, self-identify as belonging to the category of General or upper caste.”

Meanwhile, partisan polarisation, linked to political preferences both in India and the US, is rife, within the community. “However, this polarisation is asymmetric: Democrats are much less comfortable having close friends who are Republicans than the converse. The same is true of Congress Party supporters vis-a-vis supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),” says the study. The report further showed that Indian-Americans, especially members of the first generation, tend to socialise with other Indian-Americans. “Internally, the social networks of Indian-Americans are more homogenous in terms of religion than either Indian region (state) of origin or caste.”

The study goes on to say that while only a minority of the respondents were concerned about the importation of political divisions from India to the US. But those who were, identified religion, political leadership, and political parties in India as the most common factors.

Indian-Americans currently account for the second-largest immigrant group in the US.

According to data from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS), which is conducted by the US Census Bureau, there are 4.2 million people of Indian origin residing in the country.

Although a large proportion are not US citizens (38 per cent), roughly 2.6 million are (1.4 million are naturalised citizens and 1.2 million were born in the US). (OANS)

# Smokeless ‘chulhas’ help Bijapur villagers save their forests

SAMEER SHOWKIN LONE

IN this Chhattisgarh district known for its dense forests, tribal villagers are embracing an innovative and cost-effective technique to burn less firewood while cooking. In Bijapur, a severely Naxal-affected district in Chhattisgarh’s Bastar division, a silent revolution is taking place, entirely driven by the villagers. Locals in the area have decided to move from traditional chulhas (stoves) to smokeless ones in a bid to save their green cover.

The movement, started by a single villager, gained the sanction of residents in a dozen villages, and today, over 1,980 smokeless chulhas (clay stoves) have been successfully set up in households, and 166 smokeless chulhas function in schools and anganwadis (rural child care centres). The initiative not only cuts down the need for firewood but also reduces indoor air pollution, thus improving the health of the women using these stoves.

### The beginning of a transition

The Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh is spread over more than 6,500 square kilometres, a majority of which is either dense or open forest. Of the 2.5 lakh people who live in the district, 85 per cent comprise indigenous tribal, forest-dwellers whose survival is solely dependent on the forests.

The tribes earn their livelihood by collecting and selling minor forest produce like chironji, tendu patta, mahua, tora, tamarind etc. “The locals of Bijapur cut timber from the forests and use it as firewood in chulhas. This is used to cook food, boil water and meet other household needs. But as more and more timber was used for firewood, the depleting trees began to concern villagers and a few officials.

“The amount of firewood consumption has increased over the years, which is a worrying trend,” said a district official who wished to remain anonymous. The PM

Ujjwala Yojana, which was set up to distribute LPG cylinders to Below Poverty Line families, has been slow to pick up in Bijapur. Out of the 48,000 eligible households, only 25 per cent have been covered under this scheme.

However, the lack of motorable roads makes it logistically challenging to bring the rest of the deserting households under the scheme. Refuelling of the cylinders is a huge problem when people have to travel dozens of kilometres on bad or no roads to reach ration shops and cylinder distributors.

Anil Kawre, a local who has been a part of several programmes with the Department of Health, recalls how the idea of smokeless chulhas came about. “When we saw the depleting forests, we thought of starting something so that the load on the forests is reduced. We know the locals heavily rely on forest wood to be used as firewood in chulhas, but we thought we have to find a way to minimise the input of firewood and maximise the output,” he told IOTReporters.

Kawre learnt about the smokeless chulha a few years back, through the Phulwari scheme launched by the Chhattisgarh Health Department to battle malnutrition in children and reduce indoor air pollution.

The smoke released in traditional stoves was causing many ailments like asthma, pneumonia, cancer, chronic restrictive lung disease and other respiratory health issues. In fact, indoor air pollution has been termed as the silent killer of the rural kitchen.

While the Phulwari scheme is inactive now, the memory of the smokeless chulha stayed with Kawre, who had also been part of the project. He began talking to the women in his village, telling them about the smokeless chulha and its many benefits. Many women were keen to make the shift from traditional chulhas and readily agreed. Smokeless chul-



The movement, started by a single villager, gained the sanction of residents in a dozen villages, and today, over 1,980 smokeless chulhas (clay stoves) have been successfully set up in households, and 166 smokeless chulhas function in schools and anganwadis (rural child care centres). The initiative not only cuts down the need for firewood but also reduces indoor air pollution, thus improving the health of the women using these stoves. According to a report by Ramkrishna Muley, Chairman of Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences & Technology Trust, Bengaluru, “A rural household uses up to 3,000 kg of firewood per annum. The average cost of firewood is Rs 2 per kg. Since the improved smokeless chulha uses 50 per cent less firewood, a rural household using this chulha will save 1,500 kg for firewood in a year.”

has were introduced in their homes and as the word spread, more and more women came forward to make the shift.

### The smokeless chulha and its benefits

The smokeless chulha is built using bricks, an iron rod and a pipe for the outflow of smoke. According to a report by Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences & Technology Trust, the smokeless chulha uses up to 50 per cent less firewood than the traditional chulha. It is designed to continuously supply adequate oxygen, thus enabling efficient combustion. This results in up to 80 per cent less smoke production. In

addition, since the smokeless chulha has a double mouth, you can cook two items at once.

Kawre explained, “It costs around Rs 300 to set up a smokeless chulha. It reduces cooking time by 50 per cent. It will take you 45 minutes to cook on a smokeless chulha while on a traditional chulha (an open-air structure of mud or stones with a single mouth), the same meal can take one and a half hours to cook.”

But the most important benefit is the reduction in firewood requirement, feel the villagers. “A person doesn’t need to go to the forest every other day to collect firewood. The amount of wood

needed has reduced,” said Surti Netam, a local. Kawre added that the felling of trees has reduced. “The tribals cut down forest trees mainly to use as firewood. They don’t use it for commercial purposes. So this has definitely come down,” he said.

According to a report by Ramkrishna Muley, Chairman of Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences & Technology Trust, Bengaluru, “A rural household uses up to 3,000 kg of firewood per annum. The average cost of firewood is Rs 2 per kg. Since the improved smokeless chulha uses 50 per cent less firewood, a rural household using this chulha will save 1,500 kg for firewood in a year.”

Muley in his report further states that a pilot exercise demonstrated that saving 1,500 kg of firewood meant the saving of at least three full-grown trees. “If an entire village of say 200 firewood-burning households adopts the improved chulha, then this village will be saving 600 trees per annum. This is equal to about 1.5 acres of forest area,” he wrote. Kawre and his team aim to set up these smokeless chulhas in every household in the district.

## LETTERS

### Take care of orphans

IT is of particular poignancy that many children have been orphaned in the Covid-19 pandemic. All of a sudden these children find themselves without the loving care and protection of their parents. The condition of the orphaned children is too sorrowful to think about. It makes us contemplate on the nature of human life and what the future holds for them. If we are really a caring and humane society, we have to empathise with the orphaned children and take care of them.

The decision about leaving the orphaned children to the care of surviving close relatives, adopters or care homes should be informed by their safety and welfare. How each child is treated must be constantly and closely monitored so as to ensure that no child is trafficked and forced into dehumanising work. The vulnerability of children should not be allowed to be exploited. The state must intervene and protect these children when circumstances change and work against them. The Child Welfare Department must have oversight of how these children are looked after and brought up.

It is some comfort to learn that the central and state governments are promising help to children who have lost either both or one of the parents to the disease. The Supreme Court has also stressed the need for ensuring no break in the education of children hit by the pandemic. The governments and the wider society should provide children orphaned and abandoned since the Covid-19 outbreak all the support

they need to meet their basic needs, pursue their education and realize their full potential.

G David Milton, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

### Covid patients and hospitals

PRIVATE hospitals are in the business of health care, not for charity but on commercial lines. In the process they may deliver quality medical care with speed and efficiency. They don’t get any government support and are keen to make a tidy sum in the process. There is nothing unethical in that as long as ethics are not undermined. In the recent upheaval during the pandemic, we were hearing of a lot of instances of Covid infected patients incurring huge medical expenses at private hospitals. In a government hospital, political power sometimes helps one to get expeditious attention and treatment and the cost is negligible. The doctors there also normally depend on physical examination rather than diagnostic investigations. The main difference is that a doctor working in a government hospital has enormous exposure by way of outpatient departments.

However this pandemic revealed the phenomenal dedication and competence of doctors in government hospitals. Recent investigations by the state government and imposition of bans on private hospitals look a sham. These hospitals went to the courts when government reviewed the position and directed the concerned hospitals to refund the excess

amount charged to the concerned patients. This is a cruel joke.

The very fact these hospitals agreed to refund excess amount tantamount to acceptance of a malpractice which deserves certain punishment under judicial laws. Further how does one assess the quantum of excess charged? The whole exercise seems to be just to hoodwink the citizens as well as the judiciary. The moot point is that these patients have opted to get treated at these hospitals. Further the government did not have adequate health infra which might have forced them to take such decisions. The whole issue has to be judged with the investment made by the hospitals to establish the infra. It is time the courts also refrained from playing to the gallery and take up cases within its scope with due reference to the technicalities involved. It is time the courts allowed the executive and administration handle the problem with the help of political leadership. The courts should keep a watch and interfere only at apt moment.

J Kannan, Hyderabad

### Illogical argument

THIS refers to the write up by Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu. It is difficult to understand the logic of the writer, why he is making an exception to AAP ruled NCT that clearly comes under the category of a Union Territory, like any other UT in the country, in an attempt to make the Centre a monster for curtailing powers of AAP which is in Delhi. This rule of limited governance by Kejriwal’s AAP is not specially created or tailor-made for Delhi, this trend is applicable to all UTs in the coun-

try; and any needless grumbling by AAP for its power and authority being curtailed will not hold water.

Nothing prevents Kejriwal from taking any meaningful decision in Delhi NCT; which did not suffer from such syndrome, when Congress chief minister Sheila Dikshit, was in power as CM for ten years. Mrs Sheila Dikshit perfectly understood her powers not to antagonise Delhi police or LG. She had known her rules well, while Kejriwal pretends not knowing them, despite having requisite education and cunningness in this regard. Some irrational murmur was evident in the Pondicherry too, that proved to be mere ego complex on part of the chief minister.

The AAP despite winning almost all seats in the assembly elections in Delhi, resorted to cheap and irrational populist measures like free water, electricity, and free ride for ladies in the metro and buses, and failed to be inclusive in the national and security scenario of the country, unnecessarily siding with the anti-CAA protesters, JNU tukde-tukde gang agitation, and openly extending support to irrational and mindless agitation by Kisan unions, against the well-meaning measure, in fixing MSP and remunerative price for farm products in the country, to shore up the pathetic plight being endured by the farming community in the country. It was inevitable that irresponsible tantrums being played out by Kejriwal had to be finally curtailed by introducing a new Bill, in helping draw a line to help the CM understand his range of power and authority.

K V Raghuram, Wayand

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# Mayor holds review meeting on monsoon works

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
ADARSH NAGAR

HYDERABAD Mayor Gadwall Vijayalaxmi held a review meeting on monsoon preparedness and pending works in Uppal Constituency on Thursday at Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) head office along with Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha, B subash reddy MLA and other GHMC officials.

During the meeting, Mayor enquired from the Corporators of Uppal Constituency about the progress of desilting nalas, monsoon-related works and even their suggestions in order to prevent inundation in monsoon.

The Corporators expressed their satisfaction on desilting the nalas in their respective wards and requested to replace the existing drainage pipelines with extra width pipes as the population

- Corporators requested to construct box drains and remove major obstructions for free flow of water
- Mayor appealed to the Corporators to field visit every morning to improve sanitation

in the colonies increased in many folds and few Corporators requested to construct box drains and remove major obstructions for free flow of water.

The Mayor instructed the officials to give details of monsoon teams and emergency vehicles to the Corporators so that they can contact those when needed and the Mayor appealed to the Corporators to field visit every morning and verify the attendance with SFAs and inspect the



workers in the field in order to improve sanitation.

On the representation of works from the Corporators, the Mayor informed the Zonal Commissioner Upender reddy to inspect the places personally and issue instructions to the concerned to take action accordingly. SE, Ashok reddy, Dy Commissioner Aruna Kumari, Executive Engineers, AMOHs and ACPs were also present in the meeting.

## One held for black marketing of black fungus drug

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
LB NAGAR

SPECIAL Operation Team (SOT) police on Thursday arrested one person and seized vials of Amphotericin B, currently hard to obtain drug which is used to treat black fungus patients. The person was identified as Gangolla Manish (23) resident of Pragathinagar in Kukatpally. Gangolla Manish has procured the injections and was selling each vial for Rs 35,000 in Saroornagar.

The Police said that Gangolla Manish was selling each vial for a higher price compared to its actual price which is Rs 330. They said that upon receiving credible information from sources we arrested Gangolla Manish and seized vials of Amphotericin B. Police registered a case and investigation is underway.



## Five nabbed for selling gutka

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE South Zone Task Force on Thursday raided several kirana and pan shops in Chandrayangutta, Madannapet and Kanchanbagh PS limits and nabbed five persons allegedly involved in selling gutka and tobacco products illegally.

The accused were Abu Bakar, Omer, Md. Abu Bakar, P. Gangadhar and Khader Khan. The police seized huge quantities of gutka and tobacco products worth Rs. 9 lakh from them.

According to Task Force officials, the arrested were running kirana and pan shops and selling gutka/ tobacco products illegally to customers to gain easy money illegally.

According to S Raghavendra, Inspector of Task Force, South Zone, the accused contacted tobacco supply agents. Through them they illegally procured banned tobacco and gutka material for sale.

He said: "The State has banned sale, manufacture, distribution



and storage of gutka and all its variants, as consuming or chewing gutka and tobacco products is harmful to health. Despite knowing this, the accused planned to

earn easy money by selling banned gutka. Hence, they were nabbed and handed over to the respective police stations for further booking of cases."

## Bride commits suicide over dowry

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
RANGA REDDY

A newlywed bride committed suicide under suspicious circumstances 14 days after her marriage on Wednesday night in Cheedheda village of Manchala mandal in Ranga Reddy district. Parents of the bride alleged that their daughter committed suicide as she could not bear the harassment over extra dowry from her husband and in-laws.

According to the details, Gautami (21), the second daughter of Binamoni Ailaiah and Swaroopa was married to Pantam Suresh of Cheedheda village in Manchala zone on May 22. Later after a few days, Gautami told her parents that her husband wanted extra dowry and demanded Kalyana Lakshmi scheme money and to build a house. Parents of Gautami alleged that even after agreeing to give extra dowry their daughter was harassed. They said unable to bear the harassment Gautami forcibly hanged herself at night. The deceased Gautami parents had lodged a complaint with the Manchala police against Gautami's husband and her in-laws alleging that their daughter had died as a result of harassment for extra dowry. They demanded that the accused should be arrested and severely punished.

## Sabita holds review meeting on reopening of educational institutions

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
ADARSHNAGAR

THE continuous drop in the number of Covid cases has given a ray of hope for the managements of all educational institutions in the State. Education Minister Sabita Indra Reddy on Thursday held a review meeting with the officials of her department on the issue of the reopening of all educational institutions.

The meeting discussed conduct of online classes for Intermediate and school students. It reportedly decided to reopen educational institutions from June 16 The department is planning to hold on-

Likely to be opened on June 16



line classes from the VIII to X standards.

Schools sanitised

Meanwhile, the Panchayat Raj department authorities from vil-

lages of the state have taken up the cleaning and sanitation drive in all the schools and colleges located in their limits ahead of the reopening of the schools.

Panchayat secretary of Madhuranagar Gram Panchayat in Gangadhar mandal of Karimnagar district B Raj Kumar said the department staff has been asked by the higher ups to take up sanitation drive in all educational institutions located in their limits.

"We have taken up the drive as per the orders of our higher ups on Thursday. Educational institutions in our limits have been cleaned and sanitised as per Covid protocols" he said.

## ‘Provide free rice to poor’

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
SHADNAGAR

ALL India Yadava Mahasabha (AIYM) general secretary N Raghunath Yadav on Thursday demanded authorities to take strict action against ration dealers who are harassing the people in Shadnagar constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, the AIYM general secretary N Raghunath Yadav said that ration dealers should provide free rice to the poor provided by the Central and State Governments to the peo-

ple without any own rules and problems. He said that ration dealers are harassing public and the same threat continues in every village in the Shadnagar constituency, causing severe hardship to the people. Due to the lack of supervision by the civil supply officers, various other items were being put in the ration shops and were sold to people, he added. He later said that people do not need to buy essentials that are being sold in ration shops and complain to the authorities if anyone is forced to buy.



## Jab drive for families of Cyberabad police



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

COMMISSIONER Of Police Cyberabad VC Sajjanar, inaugurated Covid-19 vaccination drive to the frontline officers family members at CTC, Cyberabad CP Office on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion Cyberabad CP V C Sajjanar said, "That as of today 98 per cent of the personnel of Cyberabad police got vaccinated. As many as 2000 family members of all the CPO and headquarters staff, Madhapur zone and traffic police. 1500 members from Shamshabad zone, 1500 members from Balanagar zone got vaccinated. Total of 5000 police family members got vaccinated. Meanwhile arrangements for 12000 doses have been done for the next three days, informed an official.

## Placement offers pour in SRM students

KATTANKULATHUR

THE Covid-19 crisis notwithstanding, SRM Institute of Science and Technology has kept up its reputation for high scores in campus recruitments this year too, with leading IT and core engineering companies coming up with over 7,111 offers to the graduating class of 2021. The highest offer, Rs35 lakh per annum, came from Bengaluru-based WorkIndia Information Technology and Service, rated among the topmost blue-collar job portals in the country. More than 600 companies have already visited the campus virtually since the commencement of the placement season. Many more are expected as the 'season' continues till the end of June 2021. The centralised placement process organised at the Kattankulathur campus brings students from the SRM campuses in Modinagar, Ramapuram and Vadapalani and others, said director, Career Centre at SRMIST, N Venkata Sastry. "Top com-



panies are drawn to the SRM due to the cosmopolitan composition of the students and quality of students," he added. About 2,000 Super Dream (Rs10 lakh per year and Dream (Rs5 lakh per year) offers have been made so far. Students are also recruited by companies from the core engineering sector. "At the conclusion of 'Day One' processes, Cognizant-

1,018, TCS-983, Wipro-634, Infosys-602 offers were made," said Venkata Sastry. Various prominent recruiters such as WorkIndia, MotorQ, Amazon, Arcesium, Paypal, Barclays, Amadeus, Nielsen, Oracle, Adobe, Capgemini, Deloitte, Bank of America visited the campus for hiring this year, the institute said in a statement on Thursday.

## PETA only against cruelty towards animals, not anti-Hindu

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THERE is so much uproar about PETA (People for ethical treatment to Animals) being 'anti-Hindu' just because they asked Amul to consider switching from animal-based milk and milk products to vegan / non-dairy milk over a period of time. The Hindu angle was brought expecting the radicals to pitch in and take it forward towards the Hindutva uprising against the western PETA movement. No Hindu scripture advocates cows being tied to the poles in cramped place all their life in captivity, bred in captivity, separated from the calf and

milked with machines and slaughtered once dry of milk. PETA is an international body that is against cruelty to animals and believe that the dairy industry is indirectly or directly responsible for the cruelty to animals through breeding in captivity, culling of male calf's of the milking cows, feeding the meat industry with the cows past the milking age, administration of hormones and milk enhancing drugs causing unexplainable pain and cruelty to the animals. All of this is actually pro Hindu and pro all faiths that preach nonviolence and kindness. Kindness is religion neutral. There is nothing anti Hindu in PETA's stand.

## Polavaram to be ready by kharif-'22, says Anil



P Anil Kumar Yadav

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

MINISTER for water resources P Anil Kumar Yadav said the state government was carrying on Polavaram irrigation project works though the entire world has come to a halt, with an aim of providing water by 2022 kharif.

Addressing a press conference at YSRC office in Tadepalli on Thursday, the minister said that the opposition leaders were unnecessarily making false allegations against the government fearing that their

- Accuses TDP of trying to create hurdles to the project through false campaign
- Says works are going non-stop despite workers and officials being plagued by Covid
- States Naidu has no moral right to question R&R for displaced people as he has not provided a single house to them during his rule

party would completely vanish after the completion of Polavaram project. Almost over 3,000 people are working on the project to complete the work on time risking their lives, though five officials working on the project site died due to Covid. The minister said that both TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu and his son Lokesh are not venturing out of their homes fearing Covid and conducting Zoom meetings sitting in their houses. He said one has to appreciate the officials and

workers for continuing the project works despite Covid crisis.

Anil Kumar alleged that YSRC rebel MP K Raghurama Krishnam Raju had become an agent for the TDP and conspired to destabilise the government by joining hands with Chandrababu and Lokesh. He said that Lokesh had failed miserably as he couldn't win as an MLA despite working as a minister for three departments, and the existing MLC tenure will also end in a year. He said that it was ridiculous on the part of Chandrababu to talk about Polavaram rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R), as he was the same person who could not give a single house to the displaced people during his rule.

The minister assured that all measures are being taken in rehabilitation of the 17,000 displaced families in a phased manner. He said that the opposition leaders have no right to speak on the Polavaram project, as they are trying to blame the government by trying to attribute their mistakes to the current government.

## AP sees 8,110 fresh cases

AMARAVATI

THE active coronavirus cases fell below the one lakh mark to 99,057 in the state as 8,110 fresh positives, 12,981 recoveries and 67 deaths were reported in 24 hours ending 9 am on Thursday. The cumulative cases went up to 17,87,883 and recoveries to 16,77,063 so far, the latest bulletin said. The Covid-19 toll in the state touched 11,763. The two main hotspots East Godavari and Chittoor districts reported 1,416 and 1,042 fresh cases respectively in 24 hours. The remaining 11 districts added less than 1,000 new cases each, according to the bulletin. Kadapa district stopped just seven short of the one lakh Covid-19 cases mark, adding 508 in a day. Chittoor saw 11 fresh fatalities, West Godavari nine, Visakhapatnam seven, East Godavari, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram six each, Guntur and Kurnool five each, Anantapur and Krishna four each, Kadapa three and Nellore one in 24 hours. Prakasam district did not report any fresh death. (PTI)

## Botcha downplays burden of property tax increase

- Minister clarifies tax rise will be only Rs 186 cr, not Rs 1,000 cr as being falsely claimed by the Opposition
- States property value-based tax decision was taken before the local body polls
- 'Clean Andhra Pradesh' programme will be launched on July 8, the birth anniversary of YSR

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

MINISTER for municipal administration and urban development Botcha Satyanarayana said that the new tax will not exceed 15 per cent on the market value of the property as per government records and assured that it will be implemented in the most transparent manner.

Speaking to the media here on Thursday, Satyanarayana said that the decision on new tax was taken after examining the tax system



Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana addressing the media on Thursday in Visakhapatnam

across many states. "With the new taxation, the state would only earn an additional revenue of Rs 186 crore, but the opposition is portraying it as Rs 1,000 crore which is false," Satyanarayana said.

Dismissing the allegations made by the Opposition for burdening the public with the new tax system, the minister clarified that the property value-based tax decision was taken before the local body elections and it will not

be burden the taxpayers.

About the decentralised administration, the minister said the exercise for the same had commenced when the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill was passed.

The minister slammed the TDP for 'politicising' Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Delhi and made it clear that his tour was meant for the welfare of the state and to seek funds. He said it was ridiculous that the TDP leaders claimed that the visit was to seek a way out for the Chief Minister's 'personal' cases.

The Opposition failed to speak on the state issues that benefit the public like demanding more vaccines from the Centre, he said.

On paddy procurement, Satyanarayana said the government is procuring cent per cent of paddy from the farmers and Andhra Pradesh is the only state in the world to offer high prices for paddy.

Further, the minister announced that the government is launching 'Clean Andhra Pradesh' (CLAP) programme on July 8, commemorating the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy.



Suspense on after Uddhav Thackeray’s one-on-one meet with Modi

I trust Sena, MVA will complete full term, says Sharad Pawar

MUMBAI

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Thursday said the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra will complete its full term and praised ally Shiv Sena, saying it is party which one can trust.

The remarks came against the backdrop of the one-on-one meeting between Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi and Pawar’s meeting with BJP leader and former CM Devendra Fadnis last week.

Speaking on the 22nd foundation day of the NCP, Pawar also said the MVA (comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress)

will do well in the next Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, indicating the three parties may contest the 2024 polls together. He said doubts are being raised as to how long the state government will last. "The Shiv Sena is a party you can trust. (Sena founder) Balasaheb Thackeray honoured his commitment to Indira Gandhi," he said.

The Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress came together to form government in Maharashtra following the Assembly polls in 2019, after the Uddhav Thackeray-led party had a fallout with the BJP over the issue of sharing the chief ministerial post.

"We have formed a government comprising parties of different ideologies. We



never thought we will one day form government with the Shiv Sena because we had never worked together. But, the experience is good as all the three parties are working well together during the COVID-19 pandemic," Pawar said.

The Sena moved quickly to play down the rumours, which have never really been far from the surface. "It was not for political reasons," party mouthpiece 'Saamna' said. Thackeray said: "We may not be politically together... doesn't mean our relationship has broken." The praise from Sena MP Sanjay Raut - who was among those most vocal in his criticism of the BJP during that fallout - was in response to speculation

about the Prime Minister's hold on voters and talk that the RSS - the BJP's ideological mentor - may now want local leaders as party faces for State polls."I don't want to comment on this... I don't go by the media reports. There is no official statement about this... The BJP owes its success to Narendra Modi in the last seven years and currently he is the top leader of the country and his party," Raut said. The PM's image - has suffered setbacks in states, the most recent of which were in Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

PM Modi was a prominent face on the campaign trail in each of those three polls, but the BJP wound up with zero seats in

Kerala, four in Tamil Nadu and 77 (of a target of 200) in Bengal.

The Bengal loss, in particular, has opened a can of worms, with local leaders and those lured from the Trinamool and rival parties voicing discontent over being sidelined by out-of-state faces.

And with the elections due in UP - a bellwether state ahead of the 2024 election - questions are being asked of so-far unquestioned campaign plans.

The acquisition of ex-Congress leader Jitin Prasada - an influential Brahmin face in UP - is an indication the party may be ready to reset and focus on local rather than out-of-state faces.

WINDOW

Pak cleric threatens Malala, held

Lahore: A Muslim cleric in north-west Pakistan has been arrested under the anti-terrorism act for threatening Malala Yousafzai and instigating people to attack the Nobel Laureate for her recent comments on marriage, police said. Mufti Sardar Ali Haqqani, a cleric in Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was arrested on Wednesday after the police raided his house, Dawn newspaper reported on Thursday, quoting Lakki Marwat District Police Office. An FIR under the Anti-Terrorism Act was registered against him on the complaint of SHO Wasim Sajjad, it said. According to the FIR, a video went viral on social media showing Mufti Sardar instigating people at a gathering in Peshawar to take the law into their own hands and attack Malala. He was armed when the incident took place, the report said.

Sand mafia attacks Woman forest officer

Morena: A woman forest officer was attacked by the mining mafia here when she was on patrolling duty. However, the forest officer Shradha Pandre escaped unhurt. This is the ninth attack on her in the last two months. According to information, Shradha Pandre, a sub-divisional officer of the forest department, was on patrol with the forest department staff on Wednesday night, when she found some illegal sand-laden vehicles on the road. She and her staff confiscated the vehicles and informed the police of Deogarh police station but no help arrived. After this, the forest staff who were with Pandre started taking the seized vehicles to the police station. However, some people blocked the way by putting barbed wire in Pathanpura village and attacked Pandre and her staff. The attackers had weapons like guns, axes, sticks etc. When the forest officer was attacked by the mob, a forest staff member tried to protect her and in the process got hurt. Pandre later told the media that police do not stop the sand mafia because they pay entry fee to the police.

2.5 cr get jab in Maha, highest in country

Delhi hails 'Mumbai model' of Covid-19 management, BMC's exemplary work

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

MAHARASHTRA has crossed another milestone by vaccinating 2.5 crore people in the state, the highest in the country so far. Over 50 lakh people have completed both the doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

Terming the low Covid vaccination coverage among the healthcare and frontline workers, especially for the second dose, a cause of "serious concern", the Centre advised the states and Union territories on Thursday to sharpen their focus and prepare effective plans for expediting the second dose coverage among these priority groups.

At a high-level meeting chaired by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan with the states to review the progress of vaccination, it was highlighted that while the national average for the first dose administration among the healthcare workers (HCWs) is 82 per cent, for the second dose, it is only 56 per cent.

A Delhi government team lauded the work done by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, and announced that the 'Mumbai model' of curbing the infection cases will be implemented in the national capital soon. The BMC said this in a statement issued on Wednesday. The Delhi government team comprising senior officials of the Delhi government's health department, Dr Sanjay Agarwal and Dr Dharmendra Kumar, paid a visit to Mumbai recently to study the steps taken by the BMC. During the visit, the team discussed various issues, including decentralisation achieved through Ward War Rooms, successful management of oxygen supply and jumbo hospitals set up in a short span of time, the BMC said in the release.

Two lionesses of the Arinagar Anna Zoological Park in Tamil Nadu have tested positive for COVID-19, while a lion was found to have contracted distemper virus, the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi demanded that every person walking into a vaccination centre should get the jab, saying those who do not have access to internet also have the right to life.

The Congress has been battling for vaccines for the poor, especially those living in far-flung and rural areas, who do not have digital access or smart phones. The opposition party has also been demanding that COWIN registration should not be mandatory for getting the Covid vaccine.



A women returns after collecting food from volunteers outside a city hospital during lockdown in Kolkata on Thursday

Two lionesses of Tamil Nadu zoo test positive  
Give jabs to those without smart phones: Rahul

Man given 2 vx doses in 5 minutes

Lalitpur : In a case of shocking negligence, a man in Lalitpur district was given both doses of the Covid vaccine within five minutes. This incident took place at a vaccination centre in Ravarpura locality. According to reports, the man who went there to take the jab on Wednesday has alleged that the nursing staff was so busy talking among themselves that they administered both the doses of vaccine to him within five minutes. He said he did not know that the second dose of the vaccine was to be injected after a certain time gap. He claimed that when he reached home after getting vaccinated, he felt uneasy and restless so he narrated the incident to his family members.

Alpha, Delta variants found in Lanka

Colombo: The highly contagious Alpha and Delta variants of the coronavirus have been detected in Sri Lanka, which is facing a third wave of the pandemic. Patients carrying the Delta variant, or the B.1.617.2 variant first identified in India, and the Alpha strain, formerly called the B.1.1.7 strain, which was first detected in the UK, have been found at around nine locations of different districts in Sri Lanka, said Dr Chandima Jeewandara, the Director of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. According to the sequencing report issued on Wednesday, 80 people were infected with the Alpha variant in multiple locations while the Delta variant was found in one person from a quarantine facility.

Ganga water samples tested

Lucknow: Days after bodies were found floating in Ganga in the state, samples collected from the river have been sent for testing to check for COVID-19 contamination in the water, informed Bihar State Pollution Control Board Scientist, Navin Kumar. "The sampling of Ganga river is a routine thing which we carry out on a regular basis. But as you know that there were reports of bodies of COVID-19 victims disposed of in the river, so, we are conducting tests to check whether the river has been contaminated with coronavirus or not," Kumar told ANI. He mentioned that the initiative of conducting such an investigation of the river water was taken through the National Mission for Ganga under the Jal Shakti Ministry.

Civil Services interview from August 2

NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has decided to commence interviews for civil services examination 2020, which were deferred due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, from August 2, according to an official statement.

The civil services examination is conducted annually by the UPSC in three stages -- preliminary, main and personality test (interview) -- to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), among others. It had in

April this year deferred interviews for the prestigious examination due to increase in coronavirus cases.

"After reviewing the situation, the Commission has decided to commence the personality test of the civil services examination, 2020 from 02.08.2021," according to the statement issued by the UPSC.

The e-summon letters of personality tests (Interviews) of the candidates will be made available shortly, which may be downloaded from the Commission's website www.upsc.gov.in and www.upsonline.in, it said.

Mumbai horror: Two women fall in open manhole, survive

Mumbai: In a shocking incident, two women walking along a flooded footpath in Mumbai's Bhandup suddenly fell into an open manhole, as per the video going viral on Thursday and evoking outrage from city residents,

The incident happened on Wednesday evening when Mumbai was lashed by record heavy rains and many parts were inundated, leading to suspension of even the suburban trains for several hours. A CCTV grab showed the two unidentified women, walking along the pavement while shielding themselves with an umbrella in the rains, and the next moment plonking inside the same open manhole, at brief intervals. A red alert has been sounded in Raigad district of Maharashtra, warning of heavy to extremely rainfall till Friday. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray visited the injured victims of last night's house crash in Malad - which claimed 11 lives.



BJP received ₹785 cr as party donation

NEW DELHI

THE ruling BJP received over Rs 785 crore in contributions from individuals, electoral trusts and corporates in 2019-20 which is over five times more than what the Congress received during the same period.

According to the BJP's latest contribution report submitted to the Election Commission in February and put out in the public domain by the poll panel this week, the party received over Rs 785 crore in contributions. Major contributors for the BJP included electoral trusts, corporates and leaders

of the party itself among others. Among the leaders who contributed to the party funds included Piyush Goyal, Pema Khandu, Kirron Kher and Raman Singh. ITC, Kalyan Jewellers, Rare Enterprises, Ambuja Cement, Lodha Developers and Motilal Oswal were some of the corporate houses which contributed to the BJP's kitty. New Democratic Electoral Trust, Prudent Electoral Trust, Jankalyan Electoral Trust and Triumph Electoral Trust also contributed to the BJP's funds. According to the contribution report of the Congress, it received Rs 139 crore as contributions.

‘Enrolment of girl students lowest in institutes of natl importance’

NEW DELHI

The share of girl students is lowest in institutes of national importance while female participation in professional courses is lower in comparison to academic courses, according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20.

However, there has been an overall increase of over 18 per cent in female enrolment in higher education from 2015-16 to 2019-20, pointed out the report released on Thursday by the Ministry of Education.

A total of 1,019 universities, 39,955 colleges and 9,599 stand-alone institutions participated in the survey, which provides key performance indicators on the current status of higher education in the country. "In the last five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of 11.4 per cent in the student enrolment. The

rise in female enrolment in higher education during the period is 18.2 per cent.

Gender Parity Index (GPI) in higher education in 2019-20 is 1.01 against 1.00 in 2018-19 indicating an improvement in the relative access to higher education for females of eligible age group compared to males," the report said. According to the report, the number of female students is lowest for institutes under state private open university (2,499) followed by institutes under state legislature act (3,702) whereas the share is highest in state public universities. "Share of female students is lowest for institutes of national importance (24.7 per cent) followed by deemed universities government (33.4 per cent) and state private universities (34.7 per cent), whereas the share of female students for institutes under State Legislative Act is 61.2 per cent," the report said.



"Share of female students in state public universities is 50.1 per cent and in central universities it is 48.1 per cent," it said. The survey found female participation in professional courses is lower in comparison to academic courses at both under graduate and post graduate levels. "Female participation is very high and has also increased sharply at MA, MSc and MCom levels during the last 5 years. However, female participation is still very low at undergraduate courses like BCA, BBA, BTech or BE and LLB," it said. The report pointed out that it may be seen that percentage share of male is higher than female in almost every level, except MPhil, post graduate and certificate. "Student enrolment at under graduate level has 50.8 per cent male and 49.2 per cent female. Diploma has a skewed distribution with 65.1 per cent male and 34.9 per cent female. PhD level has 55 per cent male and 45 per cent female. Inte-

grated levels have 56.2 per cent male and 43.8 per cent female. PG Diploma student enrolment is 53.6 per cent for male students and 46.4 per cent for female students," it said.

The relatively higher share of male enrolment than female enrolment of students is also seen across the levels in the most of the states. Uttar Pradesh, with its highest student enrolment in India, has 49.1 per cent male and 50.9 per cent female students. Maharashtra has the second highest student enrolment with 54.2 per cent male and 45.8 per cent female students. Thereafter, Tamil Nadu has 50.5 per cent male and 49.5 per cent female students, and Rajasthan has 52.2 per cent male and 47.8 per cent female students. In Karnataka, the percentage of female students enrolled is 50.2 per cent whereas in Madhya Pradesh more male students are enrolled as compared to female students.





## TODAY's QUOTE

### Need to make CSR an actionable agenda


“ We need to make CSR an actionable agenda. CSR is dynamic, scalable and sustainable and we should also look at the impact of CSR. There should be a report on what impact we have actually created. That CSR projects must have measurable targets and impact disclosures.   
-Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister



## SALARY

### Wipro CEO gets \$8.7 mn pay package

Wipro Chief Executive Officer Thierry Delaporte drew a pay package of \$8.7 million (around Rs 64.3 crore) in the financial year 2020-21. Delaporte's compensation is for the period from July 6, 2020, to March 31, 2021, and includes components such as a one-time cash award and annual stock grant.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	73.78	South		
Euro	89.75	African Rand		6.16
UAE Dirham	20.48	Hong Kong Dollar		10.83
Thai Baht	2.58	Japanese Yen		0.77
British Pound	103.99	New Zealand Dollar		53
Australian Dollar	57.1	Saudi Riyal		21.42
Canadian Dollar	60.93	Swedish Krona		10.14
Swiss Franc	82.31	Singapore Dollar		56.22

DELHI FRIDAY 11 JUNE 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Katerra India to continue biz

Following a thorough review of strategic business alternatives, certain Katerra US and Cayman Island entities have voluntarily filed for relief under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas. This filing does not affect the operations of Katerra's international affiliates, such as Katerra India. Business at Katerra India continues to be positive with a strong pipeline and handovers scheduled during 2021-2022. "Our construction, design, and factories continue doing business as usual. We remain committed to the completion of all on-going projects and we are actively seeking new projects. Our customers and vendors should know that we remain steadfast in our business and in our commitment to them," said Ankur Gupta, President Katerra India

### AIIMS conducts study

AIIMS Patna has confirmed the efficacy of Alchem Life's Phytorelief in the management of mild and moderate cases of Covid-19 by acting as a natural anti-viral agent which helps in limiting Covid-19 spread in initial stages of the disease. In a recent clinical study conducted by AIIMS Patna, 100 Covid-19 positive cases with mild and moderate symptoms were tested with Phytorelief. It was interesting to note that after ten days of treatment with the drug along with standard management, 83 per cent of Covid-19 patients, with mild or moderate symptoms, turned negative. Dr. Yogesh, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Additional Professor, AIIMS Patna, said: "Since, Phytorelief improves immunity, as observed in the study; it helps in the recovery and improvement of the general well-being of Covid-19 patients."

### Vivo launches new phone

Vivo has announced the launch Vivo Y73 in India. The product features 8GB+128GB storage, 3GB extended RAM, 16.37 cm amoled display with FHD+ ultra-high resolution, providing a seamless experience for both videos and photos. The smartphone will be available in two attractive colour diamond flare and roman black on Vivo India E-store, Amazon, Flipkart, Paytm, Tatacliq, Bajaj EMI Store. Nipun Marya, Director- Brand Strategy, Vivo India said: "Vivo's youthful Y-series is known for its comprehensive product offerings that are innovative, trendy and designed to meet the evolving demands of the consumers across price brackets. With vivo Y73, we are taking one step further to bring joy in our consumers' lives by introducing class-leading features like ultra-slim design, superior camera specifications."

### Lifelong unveils IoT solution

Lifelong has launched smart home, an integrated IoT solutions for Indian households. It is available on its website and various e-commerce websites like Amazon and Flipkart. Lifelong will offer the widest range of end-to-end IoT solutions that include gadgets, appliances, and security solutions. For now, the company has launched smart bulbs, smart smoke detectors, smart plugs, etc. Varun Grover, co-founder, Lifelong Online Retail Private Limited, said: "We plan to launch an end-to-end smart home solution, all under one IoT umbrella. In effect, we offer consumers the convenience of managing their homes."

# IT exports from TS zoom 13% in FY21

Jump to ₹1.45 lakh cr from ₹1.28 lakh cr in FY20

HANS BUSINESS  
HYDERABAD

THE ongoing Covid-19 pandemic notwithstanding, Telangana registered a healthy 13 per cent upswing in IT and ITeS exports at over Rs 1.45 lakh crore in the last financial year, according to Minister for IT and Industries KT Rama Rao. The IT exports from Telangana stood at Rs 1.28 lakh crore in FY20.

Releasing the annual report on IT, Electronics and Communications Department for FY21, the IT Minister said Telangana added 46,489 new jobs in FY21, taking the total IT/ITeS employment to 6,28,615, year-on-year increase of 7.99 per cent.

"Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Telangana once again proved its mettle by boasting a growth of 12.98 per cent in the IT/ITeS Exports over the previous year recording a total of Rs 1,45,522 crore in IT/ITeS Exports. Telangana has seen more than double the estimated average national growth rate during this period and the employment in the IT/ITeS sector has increased by 7.99 per cent," he said in the report.

He noted that Telangana attracted several marquee companies such as Amazon Web Services, Goldman Sachs, and MassMutual last year.



According to the report, Amazon Data Services is setting up three Data Centres in Fab City, Pharma City and Chandanvally in Telangana with an investment of Rs 20,761 crore.

Telangana has always been on the forefront of promoting the use and development of new-age technologies like AI, ML, Drones and Blockchain not only as business opportunities, but as torchbearers of innovation within the government, the Minister said. The State has launched mar-

quee projects such as Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Innovation (AI4AI) and Medicine From The Sky (MFTS) along with our partners at the World Economic Forum and NITI Aayog, he added. The government has come up with Growth in Dispersion (GRID) policy with a view to promote dispersed IT growth across Hyderabad. The government IT services also increased with apps like TAppFolio, T-wallet and through Meeseva centres in the State, Minister said.



Telangana has seen more than double the estimated average national growth rate during this period and the employment in the IT/ITeS sector has increased by 7.99 per cent

- KT Rama Rao, IT and Industries

## ‘AP got ₹34k-cr investment, employed 1.3L in 2 yrs’

AMARAVATI (AP)

SENIOR YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and Member of Parliament V Vijayasai Reddy on Thursday said the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government accords equal importance to welfare and development.

"Reddy-led State government gives equal importance to welfare as well as development. After coming to power in the past two years, investments worth Rs 34,000 crore have been garnered, leading to the employment of 1.3 lakh people," said Reddy.

Citing the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the MP said AP got better investments than the neighbouring States.

According to DPIIT's statis-

tics, the YSRCP leader claimed that the southern State received investments worth Rs 40,000 crore under N Chandrababu Naidu's five-year rule, compared to Rs 30,000 crore investments in Jagan's two-years alone.

"Under Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership, the State won Niti Aayog's accolades on various fronts," he noted.

Meanwhile, he took a jibe at Naidu that he doesn't talk about the 'vote for notes' scam but always used to claim that he gave everything such as toilet, tumbler, plate and others.

"Few leaders still hanging in with Naidu are his partners in crime, from backstabbing NTR (N Rama Rao) to cheating, betraying and looting people," alleged Reddy, commenting on Naidu's close circle of associates.

## Agri exports up 17% to \$41.25 bn

Huge growth has been seen in the export of cereals, non-basmati rice, wheat & millets

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S export of agricultural and allied products in 2020-21 grew by 17.34 per cent to \$41.25 billion, and this growth momentum is expected to be sustained in the current fiscal as well, a top government official said on Thursday.

Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan said huge growth has been seen in the export of cereals, non-basmati rice, wheat, millets, maize and other coarse grains. The largest markets for India's agricultural products are the US, China, Bangladesh, UAE, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Iran and Malaysia. He also said that exports have taken place from several clusters for the first time, for instance, the export of fresh vegetables and mangoes



from Varanasi, and black rice from Chandauli.

Exports of only agricultural products (excluding marine and plantation products) increased by 28.36 per cent to \$29.81 billion in 2020-21 as compared to \$23.23 billion in 2019-20. "Agriculture Exports have performed well during 2020-21. After remaining stagnant for the past three years (\$38.43 billion in 2017-18, \$38.74 billion in 2018-19 and \$35.16 billion 2019-20), the exports of agriculture and allied products (including marine and plantation products) during

## NHAI debars Gayatri Projects from bids

NEW DELHI

THE National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Thursday declared Hyderabad-based Gayatri Projects Ltd as a non-performer and has prohibited the firm to participate in the ongoing and future bids of NHAI till the defects on the current project are not completely rectified as per contract requirement.

NHAI said the construction firm was engaged in four-laning of Sultanpur to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and has repeatedly violated the conditions of the agreement.

"During audit by quality inspection team and regular inspection by NHAI officials, deficiencies in the project work were observed and were shared with the contractor for rectification," NHAI said adding that upon non-compliance, a show-cause notice was issued to the firm.

According to NHAI, the reply given by the contractor explaining the deficiencies were found to be unsatisfactory. It said some major deficiencies in the project included: Cracks in concrete pavement at many places; poor progress of work and lack of safety measures on the project; and road signages and furniture missing; and compromising road safety of the users. NHAI said it has launched quality checking drive where all the projects are being checked by special teams of experts being sent from headquarters. The quality inspections are not only ensuring adherence to standards, but also verifying compliance to contractual obligations on part of contractors and consultants, it added. NHAI said enforcement of such quality control measures will increase the accountability of contractors to deliver good-quality national highway projects.



## Use Uniken's REL-ID, TS Govt tells State agencies

**Hyderabad:** THE Government of Telangana has asked the State agencies to use Uniken's REL-ID Security Platform to secure State-owned and managed mobile applications. Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, announced the recommendation after a rigorous evaluation and a thorough proof-of-concept. In his statement, Ranjan said, "The credentials of Uniken are impressive and the fact that an India based technology has gone global is a matter of pride. State government departments and agencies, which are using mobile applications for service delivery can benefit greatly from this technology." Mobile interactions with the government are on the rise, and for good reason.

## Markets snap 2-day losing streak

Financial stocks surge; Bajaj Finance rallies 7%; Bulls take charge on expiry day

MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmarks returned to winning ways on Thursday after two days of declines as investors snapped up financial, pharma and IT stocks amid firm Asian cues.

The 30-share BSE Sensex soared 358.83 points or 0.69 per cent to finish at 52,300.47. Intraday, the index swung between a high of 52,346.35 and a low of 51,957.92. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 102.40 points or 0.65 per cent to end at 15,737.75.

Bajaj Finance topped the Sensex gainers' chart, rallying 7.29 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, SBI, IndusInd Bank, Dr Reddy's, Tech Mahindra, ITC and Kotak Bank. On the other hand, Bajaj Auto, Maruti, HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement, PowerGrid, ONGC and Nestle suffered losses. Of the 30 shares in the Sensex pack, 23 ended with gains.

Vinod Nair, head (research) at Geojit



Financial Services, said: "Ahead of US inflation data and European Central Bank policy meeting outcome, Indian equities reflected its Asian counterparts to trade on a positive note. With faster vaccine coverage and offloading of fiscal measures, the economic impact of Covid second wave will most likely be restricted to Q1 FY22, as per the monthly report of the Department of Economic Affairs. Gains in the market were broad-based with all major sectors except auto."

S Ranganathan, head (research) at LKP Securities, adds: "Bulls were charged up on weekly derivatives expiry day and broader markets saw selective buying in stocks which looked reasonable compared to their expensive larger peers. While the Bajaj twins provided the firepower to the index, the small and midcaps put up a stellar show yet again despite apprehensions on higher valuations in select seg-

ments." Sectorally, BSE realty, healthcare, finance and telecom indices emerged as the top performers, with gains of as much as 3.27 per cent. Broader BSE smallcap and midcap indices rose 1.73 per cent and 1.26 per cent, respectively. The largecap index followed with 0.73 per cent gains. Elsewhere in Asia, stock markets closed with gains ahead of crucial US inflation data for May. Bourses in Europe were mixed, with investors looking ahead to the ECB policy meeting for further cues. On the forex market front, the Indian rupee lost 9 paise to end at 73.06 against the US dollar on Thursday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Wednesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 846.37 crore, as per exchange data. Daily Covid-19 cases in India remained below the 1 lakh-mark for the third day at 94,052, taking the tally to 2,91,83,121, according to the Union health ministry's data updated on Thursday.



Investigation into alleged racist tweets

# Utterly ridiculous, witch hunt has to stop: Vaughan



LONDON

THE probe into England cricketers' old tweets is a "witch hunt" that must stop, says former skipper Michael Vaughan as the ECB investigates alleged racist remarks on social media by many of its cricketers.

Country's white-ball skipper Eoin Morgan and wicketkeeper batsman Jos Buttler are under investigation by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) after their tweets, mocking Indians, surfaced on the social media on Wednesday.

"No one at the time of Morgan's, Buttler's & Anderson's tweets seemed offended at the time they tweeted but it's amazing how they now seem offensive a few years later !!!!! Utterly ridiculous ... The witch hunt has started but has to stop," Vaughan tweeted.

The posts, in which Buttler and Morgan used the word 'sir' to mock the Indians, started doing the rounds on social media after the ECB suspended pacer Ollie Robinson for some of his offensive tweets dating back to 2012-13.

According to a report, "Screenshots have also been shared of a message by Buttler in which he says 'I always reply sir not else like me like you like me' and, separately, Morgan includes Buttler in a message which says, 'Sir you're my favourite batsman'."

A homophobic tweet dating back to 2010 from veteran pacer James Anderson has also emerged. The ECB has promised "relevant and appropriate action", saying each case will be considered on an individual basis.

Buttler and Morgan both feature in the Indian Premier League (IPL) with the former playing for the Rajasthan Royals and the latter leading the Kolkata Knight Riders. (PTI)



## Buttler, Morgan's non-participation in remainder of IPL could save KKR, Royals blushes

NEW DELHI

THE likely non-participation of Eoin Morgan and Jos Buttler in the second phase of the IPL could save them from being sanctioned by their respective franchises Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals for posting allegedly racist tweets about Indians in 2017.

The English cricket system has been shaken after pacer Ollie Robinson got suspended by the ECB for his racist and sexist tweets about Muslims and Asians when he was 18.

The posts, in which Buttler and Morgan used the word 'sir' to mock the Indians, started doing the rounds on social media after the ECB suspended Robinson.

The IPL is set to resume on September 19 in the UAE. "KKR and RR will be in a fix as these are players earning from Indian Premier League and as late as 2017 were making fun of how Indians speak English," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Now you can be dismissive of these posts but this also speaks about what their general perception about Indians is. It's a tricky terrain but both KKR and Royals have a way out," he said.

The source, who has worked as a BCCI official since the first edition of IPL, said that an "unconditional apology" is fine but beyond that, the Board and the franchises "shouldn't stretch it".

"Firstly, if Shah Rukh Khan and Manoj Badale are mindful of their respective franchises' image, a statement of apology from both Morgan and Buttler would suffice.

"Now with ECB not allowing them for second phase of IPL due to their own commitments,

the suspension would count for very little. You are suspending players who are not coming for the second phase. It will be mere posturing," the official said.

Many in BCCI feel that it would only be prudent not to stir a hornet's nest as "there could well be some YouTube videos of some players making sexist remarks or body shaming others which could now come out in public domain."

Suspending Morgan is also convenient for KKR as there is very little chance of the franchise making it to top four when the remainder of IPL is played in the UAE between September 19 to October 15. McCullum's case could be trickier

While Morgan and Buttler can avoid the embarrassment by simply not showing up as per England and Wales Cricket Board's Director of Cricket Ashley Giles' diktat, things aren't as simple for McCullum, whose unforgettable 158 on the first day of IPL-1 had set the tone for the world's most watched cricket entertainment show.

In case of McCullum, he might have to

tender an apology and it will be interesting to see if the KKR management, including principal owner Khan, is fine with him sitting in the dug-out for the remainder of the tournament. (PTI)



## Five Indian women cricketers to play in The Hundred

LONDON

FIVE Indians cricketers -- Shafali Verma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Smriti Mandhana, and Deepti Sharma -- have joined The Hundred women's competition, the official website of the tournament said on Thursday.

Shafali Verma has joined Birmingham Phoenix as a replacement for Sophie Devine while Harmanpreet Kaur, who will star in the opening match at the Kia Oval on July 21, has joined Manchester Originals.

Jemimah Rodrigues will feature for Northern Superchargers while Smriti Mandhana will represent Southern Brave. Deepti Sharma has joined England captain Heather Knight at London Spirit.

The tournament, to be organised by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and played in a 100-ball format, will see some of the best women cricketers from around the world compete for different franchises.

"It's very exciting that I am going to get to play in the first ever game of The Hundred," Harmanpreet was quoted as saying by the tournament website.

"It will be special to make history, especially with a women's match at such a big ground. We've played in front of some large crowds in India and it's always a great experience for the players," she added. Beth Barrett-Wild, who heads The Hundred Women's Competition said, "It's so good to finally be able to confirm the involvement of some of the superstars from the India team. They are a hugely exciting group of players and they'll bring a lot to the competition." (IANS)

## ICC to induct 10 legends from 5 eras into Hall of Fame to mark inaugural WTC final

DUBAI

THE ICC will induct 10 legends of the game into its illustrious Hall of Fame, with two players each from five eras, dating back to cricket's early days, joining an existing list of 93 of the world's greatest.

The global cricket body on Thursday announced a special edition of the ICC Hall of Fame to coincide with the first-ever World Test Championship final, to be contested between India and New Zealand, from June 18 in Southampton.

As many as 10 legends of the game who have made a significant contribution to the history of Test cricket will be inducted to join the 93 players, who are already in the illustrious list, taking the total to 103.

"It is an honour for us to announce a one-time induction of ten cricketing greats into the ICC Hall of Fame to coincide with the first-ever final of the World Test Championship in Southampton," ICC acting chief executive Geoff Allardice said in a release.

"We are celebrating the history of the game and what better

way than to honour some of the greats that founded and played the game across different eras. These are all players with a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations for years to come."

The special intake will see two players from each of the following five eras join the ranks of the world's greatest players: Early Cricket Era (pre-1918), Inter-War Cricket Era (1918-1945), Post-War Cricket Era (1946-1970), ODI Era (1971-1995), Modern Cricket Era (1996-2016).

The 10 legends inducted as part of the special edition have been voted by the ICC Hall of Fame Voting Academy, comprising living Hall of Fame members, a FICA (Federation of International Cricketer Association) representative, prominent cricket journalists and senior ICC figures.

The announcement will be made during a live show streamed via ICC's digital media channels. The special edition ICC Hall of Fame show will be hosted by Alan Wilkins and streamed live on all ICC digital channels, including Facebook and YouTube on June 13. (PTI)

## Djokovic sets up semis clash with Nadal in French Open

PARIS



WORLD No. 1 Novak Djokovic, who set up a clash with Rafael Nadal after his win over Matteo Berrettini, said he was under pressure throughout the quarter-final that he won in fourth set to enter a Grand Slam singles semi-final for the 40th time.

"This match had it all: falls, crowd, break. It was a lot of intensity. I just felt under tension the entire time," Djokovic said after the end of the match. "It was just super, super stressful to constantly be under pressure on my serv-

ice games, because his service games were quite smooth with the big serve. The reaction in the end was just me liberating that tension that was building up for the entire match," added the world No. 1.

The Serb tennis star said he is happy with the level of tennis he is playing. "The quality and the level of tennis that I have been playing in the last three, four weeks on clay - Rome, Belgrade and here -- is giving me good sensations and feelings ahead of that match. I am confident. I believe I can win, otherwise I would not be here. Let us have a great battle," added Djokovic and called the semi-final clash with Nadal as the biggest challenge that anyone can face on a tennis court. (IANS)

## Dingko Singh—Boxer with a deadly left hook-right cross combo dies

NEW DELHI

FORMER Asian Games gold medalist in boxing Ngangom Dingko Singh, who passed away on Thursday morning, will be remembered as a person who revolutionised boxing in particular, and sports in general, in Manipur -- and in India.

Dingko, was suffering from liver cancer, and he passed away aged 42. He had to undergo radiation therapy for liver treatment in January last year. He even had to sell his house for his medical treatment. He had also tested positive for Covid-19, and later recovered from it.

Dingko, who was deadly with his left hook-right cross combination, had won the bantamweight title in Bangkok in 1998 to end India's 16-year boxing gold medal drought at the Asian Games. Kaur Singh had won gold in 1982 Asian Games in heavy-weight (91 kg).

"I was one of those who was inspired by Dingko's 1998 Asian Games gold. Later, I had the opportunity to polish my boxing skills under him when he was chief boxing coach of the Navy from 2009 to 2012," Manipur's Suranjoy Singh, the 2010 Commonwealth Games flyweight champion, told IANS from Mumbai.

Suranjoy, who is chief boxing coach of the Navy, said all the boxers observed two minutes of silence before they started their routine on Thursday.

"Dingko is the man who inspired me. He later became chief boxing coach of the Navy. I never thought one day I will be at the same post. I can't believe he is no more," he said.

Jitender Kumar, Olympian and Commonwealth Games silver medalist, remembers Dingko as a boxer with integrity.

"He was a junior to me in the national camp, and he was a thorough gentleman. His indomitable spirit made him a good boxer," said Kumar, who was also a member of the Indian team at the 1998 Asian Games.

According to Kumar, Dingko was initially dropped from the 1998 Asian Games squad. "There was a big drama. He was later included in the Indian team. But he shut his critics by winning the Asian Games gold," he said.

Kumar said Dingko had a tough Thai opponent in the semis at the 1998 Asian Games.

"The local fans rooted for the Thai boxer, but Dingko didn't get nervous. The unruly crowd even threw empty bottles at the Indian team after Dingko won his semi-final bout. We had to duck empty bottles and other stuff thrown at us. Even Dingko was hit by an empty bottle. We all escaped unhurt," he recalled.

S. Suresh Singh, another international boxer from Manipur who represented India at 2000 Sydney Olympics, said that after the Bangkok Asian Games gold winning performance Dingko couldn't prolong his international career due to injury.

"He got injured in 1999 and wasn't impressive at the Sydney Olympics. He wasn't able to train hard and became a coach of the Navy team. Later, he joined Sports Authority of India (SAI)," said Suresh.

Dingko was conferred the Arjuna Award in 1998 and honoured with Padma Shri in 2013.

Last year, Dingko tested positive for coronavirus. He recovered from it but had to undergo radiation therapy for liver treatment. (IANS)



## Siraj has shown remarkable improvement, should play WTC final: Harbhajan

NEW DELHI

PACER Mohammed Siraj's "remarkable improvement" should be rewarded with a place in the playing XI in the World Test Championship final against New Zealand, reckons former India spinner Harbhajan Singh.

Harbhajan also says young opener Shubman Gill must get back to his groove after a cheap run against England and in the IPL at home since a good start is paramount in seam and swing friendly conditions in England.

Asked about his preferred team combination for the final, Harbhajan gave his reason why he feels Siraj can pip Ishant for a place in the final XI. "If I was the

captain, I would go with three pure fast bowlers. In that case, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami pick themselves. In this final, I would like to go with Mohammed Siraj ahead of Ishant Sharma," Harbhajan told PTI on Thursday.

"Ishant is a brilliant bowler but for this game, my choice is Siraj, who has shown remarkable improvement in the last two years."

For Harbhajan, a player's current form should always be taken into account and that's where Siraj, whose five-wicket haul in Brisbane was crucial in India's series win, should get a look-in. "You have to look at present

scenario. Siraj's form, pace and confidence makes him a better choice for this final match. The kind of form he is in last six months, he looks like a bowler who is hungry for his chances. Ishant has gone through some injuries of late but has been a great servant of Indian cricket no doubt," the off-spinner said.

"If you leave some grass on the surface, Siraj with his pace will be lethal. Trust me, New Zealand batters won't find him easy as he not only hits the deck but also gets to move the ball off the pitch at brisk pace. He can create awkward angles for batsmen," India's third highest wicket-taker in Test cricket observed.





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