

embassy. Tagging the post, Ramesh later tweeted, "What say you now, Mr. Minister? @DRSJaishankar." The New Zealand high commission reportedly deleted its tweet reaching out to Srinivas seeking oxygen, and later put out a fresh post. "We are trying all sources to arrange for oxygen cylinders urgently and our appeal has unfortunately been misinterpreted, for which we are sorry," it said. In his statement, Bagchi said the MEA is responding to the medical demands by the foreign missions.

"The chief of protocol and heads of divisions are in continuous touch with all high commissions/embassies and MEA is responding to their medical demands, especially those related to Covid. This includes facilitating their hospital treatment," he said. "Given the pandemic situation, all are urged not to hoard essential supplies, including oxygen," Bagchi said responding to media queries.

Hospitals across the national capital are reeling under a severe shortage of medical oxygen in view of a massive surge in COVID-19 cases.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



PRIYANKA @PRIYANKACHOPRA
The battle to stop the ravaging effects of Covid-19 in India still continues unabated. Your contributions to @GiveIndia will make a huge, tangible difference! Your contributions will save lives #TogetherForIndia Click the link below to donate. <http://bit.ly/Toge>



‘Refreshing to see independent productions, global cinema on Indian screens’

LOCKDOWN TRULY PUT PRIORITIES INTO PERSPECTIVE, SAYS ACTOR MASUMEH MAKHIJA

SIDDHI JAIN

Actor and entrepreneur Masumeh Makhiya, who is part of Shiladitya Bora's upcoming film 'Bhagwaan Bharose', and has appeared as a child actor in 'Banegi Apni Baat' (1994) and several TV commercials, finds it refreshing that independent productions and international cinema are finding a home on Indian screens.

Excerpts from an interview with the '3 Storeys' actor about her work:

You started your career at the age of 11 and now you are an actor, entrepreneur and producer. How has the journey been so far?

It has been an exciting journey since the beginning as a child actor and having the privilege to work in amazing films like 'Maqbool', 'Chupke Se' and 'Three Storeys'. I am looking forward to exploring new more challenging directions as an actor, producer and writer.

What are you currently working on?

The film titled 'Bhagwaan Bharose' directed by Shiladitya Bora and produced by Platoon One films. It explores a very hard-hitting subject that has immense relevance in contemporary India.

What is keeping you going during these trying times?

Yoga and meditation are my anchors. It isn't easy being locked down again but I am grateful that my family and I are safe and healthy. It is important to stay positive and help however and whenever we can.

I was lucky enough to spend the lockdown with my family. We were all caught up with our busy-ness before the lockdown. It truly puts priorities into perspective.

You are the CEO and Founder of 'The Creative Tribe', how are things going on that front?

'The Creative Tribe', is a film and advertising production company, which I started with my business partner a few years back. We have created and worked on several popular campaigns which speak with a young, vibrant voice.

Over the past few years, we have collaborated with many agencies, including Mirum on 'Mutual Fund Sahi Hai' campaigns and also designed campaigns for brands like AGL Tiles, PGIM and Reliance Digital. Besides, we have been working with platforms to create AFP's and branded content. One of the highlights was creating and writing 'Eat.Love.Live with Masumeh' a lifestyle program for Disney+ Hotstar, which garnered more than 6 million organic views.

It is a show that explores a holistic approach to life and food. We are currently developing feature films and web series with some of the leading studios.

Online content and streaming received a major leg-up in 2020. What worked, what didn't, and what trends we can expect this year?

I think it is refreshing that independent productions and international cinema are finding a home on Indian screens. In the past week I have watched Indian, Spanish, French, and Japanese content. It is a very thrilling time to be an actor, producer and writer. I think last year we saw a lot of mysteries and crime thrillers. In the coming years, I feel young adult shows and movies will find their niche.



Some cool and exciting beauty tips for your daily routine

GRUSHA KHANNA

Night Care Routine

Before going to bed always clean your face with a facewash and apply a little bit of the moisturizer to pamper your skin. You can also apply Vitamin C serum onto your skin. This will help your skin to stay healthy for a longer run.

Replace Foundation

Being home can make you lazy enough and you might not feel the need of apply foundation all the time. To have the perfect and light weight base to your skin you can always use a good BB cream. BB cream can be a daily product to be used as a base whenever you don't feel like applying foundation.

Multani Mitti

Try to use multani mitti twice in a month. Multani mitti is one of the best and natural products that can help you keep your skin healthy. We use a lot of products which comprises of a lot of chemicals so always try to moisturize your skin naturally, and Multani mitti is the best source for it.

Replace Liner

To try something new and different replace your eyeliner with smudged kajal. Apply a thin layer of kajal instead of liner on your eyelid and smudge it slowly and gradually. This will be give you a smudgy smokey effect enhancing your beauty. These amazing tips can help you skin stay healthy and glowing during with lockdown.

Being home doesn't mean that you can't get ready or take care of your skin, look at it the other way and utilize it in the best way you can. Some tips that will help you take care of your skin as well as help you in your make-up.

CTM

The 1st and foremost import part is to do CTM – cleanser, toner, moisturiser. Always do your CTM on a daily basis to make your skin health and moisturized. Whether you want to apply make-up or not this is the perfect way to prep up your skin.

Natural Makeup Look

Whenever you are home you might not feel like applying a lot of makeup but a basic makeup is never too much. After your CTM to have that natural makeup look you can apply kajal, mascara and any light shade lipstick. This will give you a natural makeup look with just 3 basic products – kajal, mascara and lipstick/lip balm.

Makeup Remover

Whenever you want to remove your makeup, don't just directly wash your face with face-wash. Always wipe off your makeup with a wipe tissue or a makeup remover first and then wash your face with face-wash. This will help you remove your makeup completely.

Different ways to style dupatta

FASHIONISTA



Women are always keen to make their outfits look stylish and always want to add a different touch to their usual suits or kurti or even style your jeans top with a dupatta. Here are few ways to style your dupattas:

Folded Diagonally: Tuck one end of the dupatta on either side of your bottom wear. Wrap it around your waist and tuck it on the opposite side on the shoulder.

Loose Back Drop: Tuck one end of the dupatta on either side of your bottom wear. Turn it around your back and bring it to the front. Make pleats and tuck it on the opposite side of the shoulder. You can leave it as it is or can take the front end and tuck it on the other side of the shoulder like a normal dupatta.

Shawl Drap: Pleat the dupatta and tuck it on right side of the shoulder. Tuck it in such a way the length is longer in the back and bring it in front from under or over the shoulder and pin it on the right shoulder.

The Cape Drap: Pin the dupatta in the center at the back of the top/ kurti. Tuck the two ends of the dupatta in the center of the top/ kurti like old Punjabi culture. This style will be best with a plain top/ kurti along with a heavy printed or embroidered dupatta.

Cuff style: Pin one side on the right side of the shoulder and let it fall freely. Bring the other backend of the dupatta and tie it like a cuff on the left wrist and you are ready to go. This style is best suited on a heavy suit or kurti. These styles will surely help you carry that look elegantly and perfectly.



NEWS ROUNDUP

Why Covid positive Hina Khan is a 'helpless daughter'

Actress Hina Khan says she is a "helpless daughter" as she can't be with her mother after her father's recent death, because she is currently under quarantine. Hina posted her thoughts with a picture on Instagram, where she is seen looking outside of the window with a mask on. "A Helpless Daughter, Who can't even be with her mother to comfort her, when she needs her the most. Dear people times are tough very tough for not just us, but everyone around," she wrote.

"But thrs a saying, Tough times don't last, Tough people do. And I am, was and will always be my Daddy's Strong Girl. Send in your prayers plz... Let thr be light.... Dua," she said. Hina tested positive on April 27. Her father passed away a week before owing to a heart attack.

Getting back to normalcy after childbirth

Motherhood changes a woman inside out. After having a baby, the body changes in multiple and mind-blowing ways. The transition from pregnancy to postpartum brings with it a variety of new symptoms and questions. We spoke to Dr Gayathri Kamath, Senior Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore.

She shares some tips that you need to know to get back to regular life as a new mom.

Take hot showers or soak in hot baths to ease aches and pains

It is best to take a sitz bath during the postpartum period to cleanse and relax the perineal areas. The temperature of the water increases blood flow to the vaginal area and promotes faster healing and helps in relieving pain.

Set realistic expectations about losing weight gained during pregnancy

Each mother has different postpartum weight loss goals. Various celebrity moms have showed-off their slim bodies just months after their deliveries. While there is no



harm in aspiring to be that way, it is essential to ensure your weight loss journey is healthy and you do not end up exerting yourself beyond the ideal limit. Strenuous physical activity can reduce milk production so one needs to do it judiciously.

See a women's health physiotherapist
After delivery, it is extremely im-

portant to see a physiotherapist who can assess your pelvic floor muscles and abdominal muscles, chart the appropriate plan for your body to get back to a workout regime. Include exercises in your workout routine to strengthen the core. Performing Kegel exercises can help you to strengthen pelvic floor muscles that can regain bladder control more quickly.

der control more quickly.

Eat healthily, but watch what you eat

When you breastfeed, the food that you eat nourishes your baby too. Hence it is essential to follow a balanced diet of carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals, also increase the intake of fruits and veggies. A nutritious diet and a workout also help with losing weight gained by the mother during pregnancy. Drink plenty of fluids and limit junk food.

Breastfeed and take good care of your breasts

Breastfeeding has umpteen benefits – it provides immunity to the infant and protects the baby from falling ill. It reduces the risk of breast and ovarian cancer in you. Breast milk contains nutritional components, antioxidants, and live antibodies from the mother in abundance. It also contains substances that naturally soothe the infant. Use warm compress or ice packs and gently massage. Wear comfortable bras and after each session, let your breasts air out. Also, use ointments as prescribed by your doctor to treat cracked nipples.

Lemonade day

A tall, icy glass of yellow (or pink!) lemonade is refreshing and terrific no matter what time of year. However, it does have particular benefits when consumed on a super hot, super sticky summer day.

Lemonade day celebrates the long-standing tradition of drinking lemonade and opening lemonade stands. It encourages others to celebrate too, by supporting these children in their business. Whether it's for a charity cause or for that very special thing that child wants to earn for themselves, Lemonade Day is all about drinking lemonade and having a good time.

Sweet but tart, and perfectly refreshing, Lemonade day celebrates everything wonderful about this delicious beverage! Lemons were originally discovered around 1st century AD when the Romans and Greeks established routes to India, where this yellow, tart citrus fruit is believed to have first originated.

After its discovery in India, the cultivation of lemons began to spread to the Middle East and throughout Southern Europe, where the climate was still hospitable for growing the lemon trees. During this time, lemons were considered a bit of a luxury item in cooking as well as in decoration.

The activity of squeezing the juice from the lemon to make 'lemonade' probably happened in the Mediterranean region during the 13th century and was considered medicinal. And it probably didn't taste sweet the way we expect it today! However, because lemons are so filled with Vitamin C and other healthy nutrients, it is easy to see why it would have been used for its important health benefits.

Lemonade is believed to have been introduced to America by European settlers in the 17th century. It wasn't until the beginning of the industrial revolution that lemonade stands would become a popular way of teaching children about leadership and money.

Lemonade Day was founded by Lisa and Michael Holt-house in 2007 to honor the way lemonade stands are a useful tool to teach children about running a business. The tagline says it all: Teaching Kids the Power of Entrepreneurship.

As the coronavirus pandemic persists, many people are looking for ways to boost their immunity against infections and diseases. In fact, some people are drinking or gargling with lemon juice or lemon water in an attempt to kill the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Not only is lemon water delicious, but it's also one of the easiest home remedies that can help treat a wide range of ailments - from a cough and cold to treating indigestion and preventing kidney stones. Perhaps, you may have been told that this vitamin C-rich beverage is one of the best drinks to boost your immune system naturally.



Set up Covid care centres in all circles: CS Somesh Kumar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AS per the directions of the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar held a tele-conference with Zonal Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of GHMC in regard to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic from BRKR Bhavan on Sunday.

Chief Secretary directed Deputy Commissioners to start out-patient clinics centre at every Government Hospital, Urban Health Centre and Basthi Dawakhanas. He further directed that all symptomatic persons should be handed over home treatment kit and said that all the circles must have Covid care centres. "Constitute teams with Municipal Staff, ANM and two Asha



workers who will visit every household to identify people suffering from fever and other symptoms," he directed. Apart from handing over the home isolation kits with medicines the team will also follow up about the patients' health conditions.

He also instructed the GHMC officials to take up cleanliness drive in all the Government Hospitals, Urban Health Centres and Basthi Dawakhanas. "Illuminate the hospital premises and take up white washing to maintain hygienic conditions in the hos-

pitals," he added.

Secretary Health S.A.M.Rizvi, Commissioner GHMC Lokesh Kumar, Director of Medical Education Ramesh Reddy, Director of Public Health G.Srinivas Rao and other officials were also present.



Five tankers loaded with 124.26 tonnes of liquid oxygen arrive

Empty tankers were sent from Secunderabad on April 28

HYDERABAD

THE first Oxygen Express for Telangana, with five tankers loaded with 124.26 tonnes of liquid oxygen, arrived at Secunderabad Railway Station here on Sunday from Angul in Odisha.

The five empty tankers were sent from Secunderabad on April 28 and after getting filled with liquid oxygen, commenced their journey back to Secunderabad on Saturday.

According to the South Central Railway (SCR), the liquid oxygen being transported in these tanks is a cryogenic cargo which has many limitations like maximum speed at which it can be carried, maximum acceleration and deceleration and loading restrictions like availability of liquid oxygen tankers, loading

ramps etc. The route mapping of the train along with green corridor is done taking in to consideration of all these factors including ensuring adequate clearance along the route in terms of curves, RoBs and FOBs, etc.

The Oxygen Express trains have been started by the Indian Railways to provide safe, secure, hassle-free and fast transportation of oxygen to the different parts of the country during these critical times.

Under this initiative, the road tankers (both empty as well as loaded) are transported by the railways through Ro-Ro (Roll on-Roll Off) service. The Oxygen Express trains are operated at the request of the State governments. While the States provide the tankers, the Railways under-

take to bring the oxygen supplies to the requisitioning state in fastest feasible mode.

Accordingly, SCR has been operating these trains to meet the needs of the states. The Zone has operated two empty Oxygen Express trains from Secunderabad, with five empty tankers each. The second one had left on Saturday.

SCR General Manager Gaganan Mallya has assured that the Railways will continue to provide utmost priority to the running of the Oxygen Express trains. Any request received on this front will be immediately processed so as to operate the trains at the earliest. He advised all officers and staff to maintain continuous monitoring of the movement of this train along the green corridor.

Property tax payers to get 5% discount till May 30

The State government extends the offer once again in view of problems being faced by the people due to Covid

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE State government on Sunday one more time extended the early bird offer for property tax payers in all municipalities and municipalities corporations of the State. With this the tax pay-

ers can pay the tax till May 30 by availing the discount of 5%.

The principal secretary of Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) department Aravid Kumar issued orders to this effect and extended the date from April 30 to

May 30.

In his orders, he said that the State government had extended the orders by keeping in view of the problems faced by the people of the State. Under the scheme, the people can pay their tax dues by availing a discount of five per cent.

SCR cancels eight trains from May 1-31

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SECUNDERABAD

DUE to poor occupancy, South Central Railway (SCR) have temporarily cancelled eight trains from May 3 to May31.

Including Train no 02735(Secunderabad - Yesvantapur), train no -02736 (Yesvantapur- Secunderabad), train no 07625(Kacheguda-Repalle), train no 07252 (Kacheguda- Guntur), train 07002 Secunderabad - Sainagar Shirdi), train no 07001 (Sainagar Shirdi- Secunderabad, train no 02204(Secunderabad - Visakhapatnam), train no 02203 (Visakhapatnam- Secunderabad).

Youngsters delivering free food to Covid patients

MEGHNA NATH
JUBILEE HILLS

COMING to the rescue of Covid positive patients, who are finding it difficult to get food, a group of youngsters have come forward to provide free food for them. Under the name 'Free Kitchen' these youngsters are providing food at the doorsteps of those under home isolation.

Manya Mitra, who is voluntarily helping Covid patients, resident of Jubilee Hills said, "As many non-charitable organizations have extended their helping hand but also it is not sufficient, so I wanted to help those people who were in need of food. Along with my elder sister Manvi Mitra and six friends we have started providing free food under the name Free Kitchen."

In the third week of April, we have started this initiative, as for the first week only delivered food packets in and around Jubilee Hills. So to reach many people who are in need across the city, we have



put our details on social media platforms, so that more people would be able to reach out. Along with the request of food, we also received calls from people living in surrounding areas who wanted to help us with the deliveries.

"This kitchen is providing home cooked lunch and dinner. Keeping in the mind the health of Covid patients all the food is being cooked in less oil and salt, providing only vegetarian food. In a day, we are receiving nearly 30 phone calls. We are



delivering 100 to 150 food packets and our volunteers are putting the food parcels at the doorsteps of the patients. As from next week we are trying to use biodegradable boxes instead of using plastic boxes and bags for packing food. With the support of crowd-funding we are able to support those people in need. People who are in need can message us on our Instagram page @ Free Kitchen or can contact us on 75695 55698," said Manvi Mitra, interior designer.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

THE Tirupati Lok Sabha bye-election is an overwhelming approval by the voters of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government successful implementation of welfare schemes, said YSRCP Chittoor district In-charge and TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy.

Speaking to the media here on Sunday, Subba Reddy reacting to the party retaining the Tirupati seat with 2.71 lakh vote majority, said the people rejected outright the opposition TDP and BJP propaganda against the YSRCP government.

"Within one year after assuming office, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy was able to implement 90 per cent of the promises of the party manifesto," he said adding that YSRCP welfare schemes and developmental initiatives laid the path for the party achieve a resounding victory in the byelection. Admitting that the victory margin is below the expectations of party getting three to four lakh majority, he said this

TIRUPATI LS VERDICT

A big thumbs up for Jagan's welfare schemes: YSRCP



TTD chairman and YSRCP Chittoor In-charge Y V Subba Reddy, along with Panchayat Raj Minister Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister K Narayanaswamy, addresses media in Tirupati on Sunday

was due to fall in the voting percentage which came down to 64 per cent as against 70 per cent in 2019 mainly due to severity of Covid second wave.

Thanking party MPs, MLA, functionaries, leaders and activists who worked for the party in the election, he wanted them to work with renewed vigour for effective implementation of

welfare schemes to ensure the benefits reach every eligible poor.

Replying a question, he said people did not believe the opposition TDP's allegations against YSRCP government, adding that the TDP received five per cent less votes than it polled in 2019 election indicating that the people were no

more ready to believe TDP.

Panchayat raj minister Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy said party's win with huge margin in the byelection enhanced their responsibility and wanted the party activists to work with renewed vigour to serve people.

Deputy Chief Minister K Narayana Swamy was also present.

Lokesh thanks Minister for deferment of exams

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP national general secretary and MLC Nara Lokesh on Sunday thanked minister for education Audimulapu Suresh for saving lakhs of students and their parents from coronavirus threat by postponing the examinations for the first and second year Intermediate students in the state.

Lokesh termed it as a bold decision on the part of the minister not to blindly follow the adamant stand of the Chief Minister with regard to the exams. It was indeed a victory for the virtual agitation and legal struggle waged by the students against the government's initial decision to hold the exams compulsorily.

Addressing a press conference at party state office in Mangalagiri, the TDP MLC said that a great threat to over 15 lakh students was averted with Sunday's postponement of exams. Had the government taken the decision in the first week of April itself, over 10,000 students would have been

protected from Covid infections. The practical exams conducted during the initial stages of Covid spread had led to infections among some students. When all other States took early decisions to postpone or cancel the examinations, the YSRCP government woke up from its slumber only after so much protest from the students and the general public.

Lokesh appealed to the government to take a conscious decision on the Class X exams which were scheduled to begin in a month's time. Any decision on going ahead with the exams should be taken only after a close review of the prevailing coronavirus situation at that time. Studies from IIT Kanpur said that the epidemic would peak during May 6 to 10. Already, the second wave highest single day infections rose to 20,000 in the state. Even for these patients, the government was not able to provide hospital beds, oxygen supply and also ambulances. Only in a single village in Mangalagiri Assembly constituency, over 36 villagers got infected.

Panabaka claims moral victory for TDP in bypoll

- Accuses ruling party of indulging large scale irregularities in the poll
- Dares the ruling party leaders to swear at Kanipakam temple that their victory is in accordance with the democratic principles
- Party leader and former Minister Amaranatha Reddy points out that despite widespread malpractices the YSRCP could not get the 5 lakh majority it claimed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

TDP candidate in Tirupati Lok Sabha byelection Panabaka Lakshmi claimed that the moral victory belongs to her party as the ruling party has indulged large scale irregularities in the polling in all the seven Assembly constituencies. They have polled a huge number of bogus votes with fake ID cards



which is detrimental to democracy. Saying that the real voters have voted for TDP only, she challenged the ruling party leaders to swear at

Kanipakam temple that their victory is on lines of democratic principles. She thanked party president N Chandrababu Naidu, general

secretary N Lokesh other leaders and party workers for their hard work.

Echoing the same sentiment,

former minister and TDP leader P Amaranatha Reddy said TDP has achieved moral victory in Tirupati Lok Sabha byelection and added that the result should serve as an eye opener to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to media in Chittoor, Amaranatha Reddy said, "Though YSRCP ministers Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy, K Narayanaswamy and several ruling party legislators of the district have categorically declared that YSRCP candidate M Gurusamudraiah will win with an historical majority of 5 lakh votes, but the party could get only 2.5 lakh majority despite the rampant malpractices resorted by the YSRCP during the election."

He said that panchayat raj minister P Ramachandra Reddy and his supporters have used every opportunity to lure voters with false promises and money power during the election campaign. "We are not disappointed with the bypoll result. It is significant that YSRCP's influence and popularities are fading which is reflected in the election result," he said. District TDP convenor P Nani and others were present.

‘Sitalkuchi firing one of the reasons BJP lost in Bengal’

Team BJP did not reflect in villages where an odd BJP flag and poster was present

Logans like “2 Mai, Didi Gayi” (May 2 Didi is losing) and “200 Paar” (we will cross 200 seats) reverberated in Bengal during the BJP’s campaigning for the assembly elections. Now, on counting day, Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee has answered them, according to News18 report.

On the face of it, the TMC had its backs to the wall this time given public resentment and anger against the party on the issues of cut-money, corruption and lawlessness and many senior leaders deserting her for the BJP. But the Trinamool managed to turn the sentiment around on the face of Banerjee, projecting her as the sole woman fighting the “big BJP men from Delhi”, invoking Bengali pride, the insider-outsider card and rallying the women and Muslim voters in its favour. The BJP, which had the momentum in Bengal

since the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, failed to tap the anti-incumbency sentiment against Banerjee, given a sheer lack of organisation on the ground. As a result, the BJP which led in 121 assembly segments in Bengal in 2019, and thought the anti-incumbency push will take it beyond 147-mark, had dropped below 78 seats in a major blow to it.

There were two clear turning points in the election. One was Banerjee’s injury sustained in Nandigram on March 10 after which she began her campaign on a wheelchair and blamed the BJP for the trauma. Though the BJP made light of her injury as a “sympathy-gaining drama”, the image seems to have worked on the ground especially amongst the women voters with Banerjee “the fighter Didi” being projected as the one who was under attack. Her iconic image of sitting



alone on a dharna in Kolkata for several hours after a one-day ban by the Election Commission further reinforced the perception that she was under attack from all sides and had been left alone.

The second major turning point was the Sitalkuchi firing incident on the day of the fourth phase of polling when four Muslim boys were killed in poll-related violence in firing by central security forces. This incident gave Banerjee a chance to rally the Muslim voter behind her and she went to Sitalkuchi to give the message that she was the sole saviour of the community. In doing so, the impact of the Left-Congress-ISF combine in Muslim-dominated districts like Malda, Murshidabad and Dinajpur was completely negated and the TMC for the first time has won a record number of seats in these districts.

In fact, an audio tape released by the BJP of a conversation between the CM and the TMC candidate in Sitalkuchi to “play politics over the bodies”, as BJP described it, only worked in the favour of the Trinamool Congress as its message reached the Muslims that voting for the Third Front meant bringing the BJP into the state. Though the BJP made claims that it has committees on 85% of the booths in the state and had made rapid progress in building up its organisation in Bengal, the same did not reflect in the villages where an odd BJP flag and poster was present but there was a lack of local leaders. The TMC instead was a well-oiled machine, specialising in the “last-mile delivery of the vote” when it mattered while the BJP did not have the boots on the ground to encash the disillusionment that many people felt with the Trinamool.

WINDOWS

2 army men booked for minor's rape

HATHRAS: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by two army men in Hathras district when she was returning home after meeting her neighbour. The police have arrested one of the alleged accused Mukesh, who had come to the village on a leave. The other accused, Saurabh, is absconding. According to Superintendent of police (SP) Hathras, Vineet Jaiswal, Mukesh is posted in Jodhpur as a jawan. Saurabh, a new recruit, has not got his posting yet.



A TMC activist celebrates party's win in Kolkata on Sunday

Rakesh Tikait, 12 others booked

AMBALA CANTT: A case was registered by the Haryana Police against Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait and 12 others, who held a ‘maha panchayat’ in a village in the state, for allegedly violating prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPc, officials said on Sunday. Tikait and some other BKU leaders addressed the ‘kisan mazdoor maha panchayat’ in Dhuruli village near Ambala Cantt on Saturday. In view of a massive surge in coronavirus cases, the district magistrate had imposed Section 144, which bars assembly of four or more persons.

Medical, nursing grads set to join Covid duty

NEW DELHI

PM Narendra Modi reviewed various measures to augment human resources for effective management of the Covid-19 situation, discussing, among other ways, the possibility of incentivising medical and nursing college graduates for joining the pandemic duty. The final details are likely to be announced on Monday, they added. “Decisions may include delaying NEET and incentivizing MBBS pass-outs studying for it to join the Covid-19 duty. The decisions may also include utilising services of final-year MBBS and nursing students,” a government source added. The medical personnel

doing the Covid-19 duty may be given preference in the government recruitment and financial incentives as well, the source said. The review meeting took place amid reports of healthcare personnel feeling overwhelmed in some parts of the country due to the surge in the Covid-19 cases.

Following multiple meetings held by Modi on Sunday to review the Covid-19 situation, a statement said the government has also explored the feasibility of conversion of existing nitrogen plants to produce oxygen, and various such potential industries where the existing nitrogen plants may be spared for production of oxygen were identified.



Family members of COVID-19 patients wait to fill their empty cylinders with medical oxygen outside an oxygen filling agency in New Delhi on Sunday

India records highest Covid deaths of 3,689

NEW DELHI: A day after recording over four lakh cases of corona infections, India on Sunday recorded 3,92,488 new Covid-19 cases and 3,689 fatalities, highest daily death toll due to infections, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

It is the 11th day in a row when India recorded more than 3 lakh cases while over 3,000 casualties have been reported for the past five days.

India’s total tally of Covid-19 cases now stands at 1,95,57,457, the highest since the pandemic started in 2020, with 33,49,644 active cases and 2,15,542 deaths so far. According

to MoHFW, 3,07,865 people have been discharged in the last 24 hours after getting cured, taking the total recoveries to 1,59,92,271.

The Health Ministry said that a total of 15,68,16,031 people have been vaccinated so far in the country, including 18,26,219 people administered vaccines in the last 24 hours. Odisha and Haryana on Sunday announced fresh restrictions to check the spread of coronavirus in the states.

The Odisha government announced a 14-day lockdown in the state, starting May 5, while Haryana opted for a sharp weeklong lockdown.

Pundits smell chance for regional parties say in natl politics

NEW DELHI

With the results of five assembly polls delivering a chastening blow to BJP’s electoral juggernaut and virtually decimating its main rival Congress, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s massive victory over the formidable saffron machinery may help bring regional satraps to the fore of the national politics yet again, analysts believe.

Under flak from the opposition for its government’s handling of the Covid-19 crisis, the BJP’s big loss in West Bengal polls has denied the party a face-saver it might have hoped for to claim the popular endorsement of its policies and has lent further ballast to the view that it often falls short against a popular regional force. While the BJP will draw some satisfaction from its comfortable win in Assam, the overall mood in the party was sombre as it

appeared drawing a blank in Kerala and also fared poorly in Tamil Nadu where its senior ally AIADMK was set to lose power to the rival DMK but defied some exit poll predictions of its rout. The BJP-led NDA, however, trumped its rivals in Puducherry. BJP sources claimed that a melt-down of the Left-Congress alliance, consolidation of Muslim votes behind Banerjee-headed Trinamool Congress, and a fall in the polling percentage, especially in the last few phases as the Covid-19 cases surged, played a role in its defeat. The saffron party’s West Bengal unit chief Dilip Ghosh, however, said that the leaders who came to BJP from Trinamool somehow did not fare well in the elections, while another senior party leader Kailash Vijayvargiya credited Banerjee for the TMC’s astounding performance.

Manindra Nath Thakur, an associate professor at the Centre for Political Studies of JNU, said the West Bengal



results may trigger a new realignment with Banerjee, whom he described as the strongest woman leader after Indira Gandhi, emerging as a key force. Noting that she does have a party structure outside Bengal, he said the second phase of coalition politics may emerge with regional satraps playing a strong role.

The Congress will have a role in states where it remains strong, he added. The regional forces used to have a significant presence in the national politics till 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi steered BJP to its maiden majority in Lok Sabha polls diminishing the say of state satraps in power corridors of the national capital. Even in defeat, a BJP leader said, the party emerged as the only capable challenger to Banerjee. “From three seats (2016), we now have nearly 90 MLAs. Analysts will write whatever they have to but the BJP is now an obvious alternative to the TMC, which was not the case until

a few years back,” he said. Thakur also noted that Bengal is now “between the BJP and Mamata” with the Left and the Congress having been wiped out. “The BJP has gained ground in the state. With the kind of party structure and resources it has, it may create problems for her in the next five years,” he said.

However, judged against its rhetoric of winning over 200 seats, such is the scale of the BJP’s loss that it was reminiscent for some of its drubbing in the 2015 Bihar assembly polls where it was simply no match to the popular support the RJD-JD(U) alliance enjoyed despite its high-decibel campaign. According to the Election Commission’s data, the gap between the TMC and the BJP vote share was almost 10 per cent. This meant a loss of nearly 3 per cent for the saffron party and a gain of about 5 per cent for the TMC since the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

“We are never in lack of money. We lack people with dreams who can die for those dreams – Jack Ma



HANS INVEST

Stocks.MFs.Bonds.Commodities



Gold prices dip on concerns over Covid-19

DR HC UPADHYAY

Amidst acrimonious debate over US President's revealing the home plan on his completion of 100 days in office, the global markets remained uncertain about the future growth, not that Biden administration has an eye on the pockets of its citizens by way of imposing higher taxes, but more for the looming fear of devastation likely to be caused by the new mutants of corona virus throughout the world.

Consequently, New York gold closed at \$1,769.10 (per Ounce), while silver closed at \$25.91 (per Ounce). Platinum and palladium closed at \$1,195 (per Ounce) and \$2,842 (per Ounce) respectively. Other economic parameters continued to remain moderate. Brent closed at \$66.76 (per barrel) while Crude MCX oil was quoted at Rs 4,716 (per barrel). While Gold MCX stood at Rs 46,785 (per 10 grams), MCX Silver appreciated and closed at Rs 47,492 (per kg). Copper MCX closed at Rs 753.95 (per kg). Sensex and Nifty 50 closed at 48,782.36 and 14,631.10 points. On the closing day, leading foreign currencies' exchange rates were: \$: Rs 74.10, British Pound: Rs 102.37, Euro: Rs 89.06, Singapore \$: Rs 55.67, Swiss Franc: Rs 81.14, Australian \$: Rs 57.22, Saudi Riyal: Rs 19.76, New Zealand Dollar: Rs 53.07, Kuwaiti Dinar: Rs 246.04, Omani Rial: Rs 192.47 and UAE Dirham: Rs 20.17, Japanese Yen: Rs 0.68 and Hong Kong Dollar: Rs 9.54.

In local markets, due to lower demand standard gold (24 carats) declined by Rs 1,110 and closed at Rs 47,770 (per 10 grams). Ornamental gold too, followed the suit and was quoted in the range of Rs 43,690 - 43,790 on the closing day. Silver (999) retained its higher position with a small appreciation of Rs 100 and closed at Rs 474,100 (per kg).

Mkts ignore Covid wave amid better Q4

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

Buoyed by better-than-expected Q4 earnings, positive global cues like US Federal Reserve's accommodative stance and short covering; the domestic markets ignored rising number of Covid cases and logged gains during the week ended.

The BSE Sensex rallied 903.91 points or 1.89 percent to 48,782.36, and the Nifty climbed 289.75 points or 2.02 percent to 14,631.10. Broader markets also performed impressively with the BSE mid-cap index gaining 1.9 percent and small-cap index rising 3.2 percent.

Perturbed by the record rising number of Covid cases and weak rupee, FIIs sold over Rs 8,500 crore in April after buying in previous six consecutive months. However, markets remained stable on the back of more than Rs 9,900 crore buying from DIIs. Early part of coming week will see market response to the Assembly election results and results of RIL. With economic recovery sustaining, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record ₹1.41 lakh crore in April. This is seventh successive month of the mop-up exceeding ₹1 lakh crore. More than economic activity closer monitoring against fake-billing, deep data analytics using data from multiple sources including GST, Income-tax, Customs IT systems and effective tax administration have also contributed to the steady increase in tax revenue.

Earnings season will gain more pace in the coming week with as many 125 companies releasing their Q4 numbers. Companies to watch include Kotak Mahindra Bank, SBI Life Insurance Company, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Hero MotoCorp, HDFC, Tata Consumer Products, Dabur India and Ultratech Cement. Market observers expect the volatility to continue given

US Fed stance, short covering, DIIs propel indices upwards

the rising Covid cases, uncertainties regarding vaccination, while stock-specific action will continue given the March quarter earnings season along with global cues.

Heard on the Street

What happens when stocks only go up. Losing your fear of bear markets can lead to complacency - and new risks. Bear markets haven't gone extinct. They've evolved into teddy bears. That's what some investors seem to believe - and who can blame them? The stock market used to take years, sometimes decades, to recover its prior peak after the start of a bear-market decline. After last year's 34 per cent meltdown, however, stocks regained record highs in only 126 trading days. Post this year's Union Budget, many market players estimated the probability of another crash in the ensuing 12 months at only five per cent.

"Sure, stocks only go up. They only go up-until they go down!" This isn't the first time, people have thought that bear markets had been rendered extinct. The best way not to be overwhelmed by fear during a bear market is to retain a trace of it in bull markets, too.

Quote of the week

"We don't prognosticate macroeconomic factors, we're looking at our companies from a bottom-up perspective on their long-run prospects of returning." - Melody Hobson
It's very difficult to predict when



Earnings season will gain more pace in the coming week with as many 125 companies releasing their Q4 numbers. Market observers expect the volatility to continue given the rising Covid cases, uncertainties regarding vaccination, while stock-specific action will continue given the March quarter earnings season along with global cues

the next recession or stock market crash will come, so many of the best investors don't even try. Instead, look for good companies with the strength to make it through the occasional challenging economic environment.

F&O/ Sector Watch

Settlement week witnessed brisk trading in the derivatives segment. Rollovers in Nifty futures declined

to 66 per cent compared to last month 82 per cent and also well below the 3-month average of 79 per cent. However, in value terms it has increased at Rs 15,249 crore versus Rs 14,087 crore. On other hand, market wide rollovers stood at 83 per cent compared to last month 93 per cent. In value terms it was Rs 1,35,039 crore which is higher than last month Rs 1,22,782 crore. Maximum Call Open Interest (OI) was seen at 15,000, 14,900 and 14,800 strikes, while Maximum Put OI was seen at 14,000, 14,500 and 14,600 strikes. Call writing was seen at 15,000, 14,800 and 14,900 strikes with Call unwinding at 14,100 and 13,900 strikes. Put writing was seen at 14,000, 13,900 and 14,200 strikes with Put unwinding at 14,900, 15,000 and 15,200 strikes. The Implied Volatility (IV) of Calls closed at 22.19 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 24.19 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 23.31 per cent and is expected to remain volatile. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.68. Fresh uptrend should be expected only if volatility index starts declining.

Stock futures looking good are Aurobindo Pharma, Cipla, Coal India, Granules, Jubilant Food, Sun TV, Sun Pharma and Zee Entertainment. Stock futures looking weak are AU Bank, Bajaj auto, L&T Info, Dabur, PVR, and Mindtree.

Stock picks

SH Kelkar and Company Limited now renamed as Keva is an fragrance and flavors manufacturing company. The company is engaged in offering fragrances in various categories, such as personal care, hair care, skincare

and cosmetics, fabric care, household products and fine fragrances.

The future of the fragrances and flavours industry is secure, as it caters to end-user industries that will remain an indispensable part of global consumers' lives. Fragrances segment continued to dominate the revenue share of business with approximately 90 per cent share. Fragrances find application across wide spectrum of daily consumption items. The company's team of specialised perfumers' crafts innovative complex compounds and ingredients which are used across a wide range of the fragrance portfolio. Why we are recommending

- The entry barriers are high in this field and the new entrants have to make a huge effort to grow.
- The seamless relocation of the company operations from Barnveld, in the Netherlands, to Mahad, in Maharashtra (India), was concluded and led to a significant lowering of expenses. The Mahad facility began operating at full capacity by December 2019, within one year of commencing operations, which is exceptional for bulk chemical manufacturing.
- First sampling of an Ayurvedic product for a major MNC client already done and is a breakthrough for company. There is huge scope in the natural ingredients and immunity-boosters business after this contagion and company is exploring several opportunities here.
- Fragrance division went beyond FMCG products and made inroads into industrial applications.

Buy between Rs130-140 for medium term price target of Rs275. In the event of sharp correction in markets, keep stop loss at Rs115. Risk / Reward ratio is 1:8.

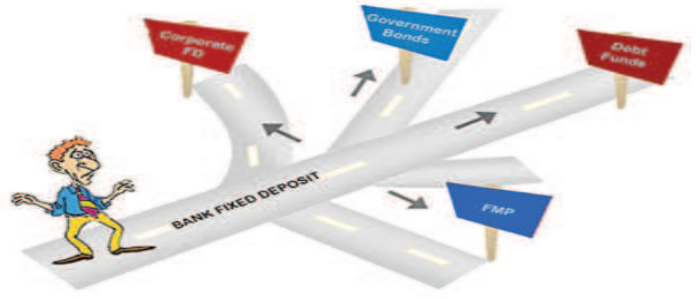
(The author is a stock market expert. He is former vice chairman of AP Planning Board)



K Naresh Kumar

Beware of alternative debt options

An investor with a moderate risk appetite and a medium to long-term horizon could take an exposure up to 10% in the portfolio



The interest rates have been on a south bound journey for the last couple of years and pandemic only compounded to the bottom. It's not an endemic to India, but most of the world has been on this path for the last two decades. The productivity gains and deflationary pressures have had a tremendous impact on the interest rates across the board, a phenomenon seems to remain, at least looking from the experience of the developed world.

This has put stress on the investors who were looking to eke out income from interest earning assets. The continued falling rates would favour the borrowers, but impact the lenders/savers, who make less returns out of their investments. It has altered the behaviour of some of the conservative investors and has led to overstep on the risk boundaries. Particularly, senior citizens and other conservative investors are forced to seek investment options that have a relatively higher risk profile than they're otherwise comfortable with, for generating an additional return.

The favourite among the conservative investors was and has been bank fixed deposits. This is evident from the enormous chunk of individual savings that these occupy. Of course, they come with a

convenience of easy process of deposit/withdrawal, paperwork and trust of the bank with a fair amount of regulation and supervision. Despite the tax inefficiency especially with investors at higher tax slabs and lower real returns (inflation adjusted), they remain popular among most investors.

Possibly, the next best thing comes through the option of debt mutual funds, though, there are multiple variants serving various purposes (depending upon the timelines of the investors). The underlying asset among all these funds mostly being same, the structure, time horizon and investment mix calls for better understanding of the constituents.

We very well know that India is a capital starved nation, but with a high requirement of capital as the infrastructure is being developed. The government spend increased, but is insufficient relative to the demand, the gap was earlier funded by financial institutions and Non-Banking Financial insti-

tutions (NBFCs). The collapse of IL&FS and the amplified scrutiny of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in identifying the non-performing assets (NPA) has only constrained further infusion of the capital into these sectors. This re-evaluation of exposure to infrastructure projects has aggravated further leading to imbalance in the capital inflows.

Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT) are designed to address this gap by allowing the infra developers to monetize their assets to raise capital. These are trusts, registered with the Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi), hold the operational infrastructure assets with consistent cashflows, while the investors in these are allocated units through public or private placement. These are an intermediate between debt and equity, assist in deleveraging the balance sheet of the infra companies. The unitholders (investors) earn revenue through annual distribution of dividends and/or interests. Sebi has levied certain guidelines

to bring transparency and uniformity in the way InvITs are operated.

Listed InvITs are required to maintain a maximum leverage ratio of 49 per cent and could be increased to 70 per cent subject to a post-listing track record of six continuous distributions to the unitholders. These instruments currently have been concentrated mostly in the space of roads, power and telecom sectors. The regulation demands that the portfolios should contain at least 80 per cent of their investment in operational assets and also ensure a minimum of 90 per cent of the free cashflows are distributed to the investors.

The minimum subscription amount for a publicly listed InvIT has been amended by Sebi from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 lakh making it suitable for retail participation also. However, these products are not a direct alternative to the debt options. Though all the current listed vehicles bear AAA rating and so solvency risk is limited, the risk of payment (cashflows) is not guaranteed. The other risk is the ability of the sponsor (issuer) to scale up the offering cost effectively and at an economical rate. To sum up, an investor with a moderate risk appetite and a medium to long-term horizon could take an exposure up to 10 per cent in the portfolio.

(The author is a co-founder of "Wealocity", a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealocity.com)

Caution alert for investors as indicators in overbought zones

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

The stock market was in the positive territory for the most of first four days of the last week. After the March derivatives series expiry, the NSE Nifty erased most of the weekly gains. It added 289.75 points or 2.02 per cent during the week.

The BSE Sensex was up by 1.9 per cent. Midcap-100 and Smallcap-100 advanced by three per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively. On the sectoral front, the Nifty Metal index was up mostly by nine per cent. Bank Nifty closed with a 3.3 per cent gain, and the other sectoral indices gained at an average of 2 to 2.5 per cent. The FMCG index declined by 0.3 per cent. The markets are entering a new decisive phase in the short term. A sharp upswing did not sustain the momentum. It retraced 50 per cent in just nine hours. It formed a big shooting star candle on a weekly chart. It entered into the upward channel, but failed to stay inside the channel. For the second consecutive week, the Nifty is below the weekly upward channel. As mentioned in the previous newsletters, support or resistance will not hold more than seven times in the very rarest of the case.

On Wednesday, it decisively closed above the 50 DMA, and lack of follow-through day, it again closed below it. The 20DMA worked as support on Friday. But, both 20 and 50DMAs are trending



down now. The 14,469 support and the 100DMA (14,459) are at a similar place now. The 14,469-14,264-14,191 strikes are the immediate important support levels for Nifty in the short term. A close below this support zone means we got another confirmation to the bear market.

The recent price swings, since February 16 giving many clues on the time and price confluences. The last week's upswing is the sharpest among three upswings in the counter-trend consolidation phase. The earlier swings are nine and eight sessions, but the current swing in just five sessions with 6.31 per cent rise. The length of prior swings is 6 per cent and 5.05 per cent. So, this sharp swing needs follow-through days to continue further. As there are no follow-through days, there is a downswing with an equally sharper one. The current downside move may take very little time of two to three days maximum to reach the support zone.

Interestingly, the downswings are almost equal time-wise and price. Two downswings with eight days of length, and one is nine

days long. All of them declined an average of six per cent. This time and price movement evidence is showing the current swing is at the matured stage. It is time to be cautious, as many of the indicators are in the overbought condition in a shorter period of time frame.

On a monthly chart, the Nifty formed a bearish hanging man and bearish engulfing pattern. It also formed the lower highs and lower lows. The adage of 'Sell in May and Go for a Holiday' may come to a surprising reality this year. History shows that there are several black Monday's and black Fridays in the month of May. As mentioned above, a break below the 14,191 means the market will test at least 13562 levels in the near term.

As the five state elections outcome, particularly West Bengal's result, has disappointed the ruling BJP, the market may negatively react. The epidemiologists and healthcare professionals suggest the lockdown to contain the Covid-19 second strain in the country. In such a case, the market may not repeat the March 2020 rally this time. Be watchful of event risks in the short term.

(The author is a financial journalist and technical analyst. He can be reached at tbchary@gmail.com)

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

Based on the latest options data, the Call base for the weekly as well as monthly expiry is highest at 16,000 Call strike, 1,000 points higher than previous week and it should be a critical resistance. Since mid-March, the Nifty remained largely in the range of 14,300-14,900, while breach of the range should trigger a fresh directional bias. However, on an immediate basis, analysts forecast the highest Put base of 14,000 may act as support. Further, the volatility in the market remained higher near 23 level and closed the week near 23 owing to the short covering.

After high volatility in the April

Modest consolidation amid volatility

Nifty rollover to May series at 66.28% as against 81.67% in April series and 3-mth average of 79.06%

series, Nifty is expected to move towards some consolidation before fresh directional move. On the rollover front, the NSE Nifty commenced the new series, May derivatives, with almost nine million shares, marginally higher than the April futures and options (F&O) series. Nifty Series on Series rose by four per cent and Bank Nifty underperformed marginally as the banking index rose by two per cent. Nifty recorded a rollover of 66.28 per cent to May series as against 81.67 per cent in April series and three-month average of 79.06 per cent.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at

SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "In current week expiry, the Call writers were more aggressive than Put writers and highest Call concentration is at the 15,000 strike. The highest Put concentration is placed at 14,000 strike"

The 16,000 strike has the highest Call OI followed by 15,500/15,000 /15,600 strikes. 16,000/15,500/ 15,600/ strikes recorded significant build-up of Call OI. Coming to the Put side, the 14,000 strike continued to have the highest Put OI for a second week followed by 14,500 /14,700/ 14,200 strikes witnessed reasonable addition of Put OI.

"Nifty again touched the 15,000

F&O TRADING			
Product	Contracts	Turnover (Rs/cr)	Premium (Rs/cr)
Index Futures	3,88,661	37,034.52	--
Stock Futures	9,43,016	71,279.02	--
Index Options	2,09,12,330	19,92,910.83	17,321.81
Stock Options	17,98,710	1,39,467.83	3,822.03
F&O Total	2,40,42,717	22,40,692.20	21,143.84

NSE / As on April 30, 2021

mark in April series and showed some profit booking from there as uncertainty regarding the second wave of pandemic still persists. The April derivatives series closed at a slightly positive note where the advance-decline ratio of futures and options stocks was 2.06 for the full expiry. Metal and pharma showed good strength against the market in the April F&O series, and are expected to continue the same in May series,"

added Bisht.

The domestic stock market witnessed a strong recovery in the settlement week for the April derivatives series and moved towards 15,000 points, but closed the week just above the 14,600 strike. The NSE Nifty gained almost two per cent in the week, the banking index moved up almost three per cent. On the other hand, mid-caps and small-cap stocks found momentum and closed the month

near recent highs. For the week ended April 23, 2021, BSE Sensex closed at 48,782.36 points, a net recovery of 903.91 points or 1.88 per cent, as against 47,878.45 points. NSE Nifty too recouped by 289.75 points or 2.02 per cent and closed at 14,631.10 points from 14,341.35 points. Bisht forecasts: "From technical front, Nifty can be seen trading upwards once it breaches a psychological level and highest Call concentration at the 15,000 level as if the market is trading in a broad range of 15,000-14,500 levels. Beyond these levels, we can see a sharp movement and rise in volatility."

The high volatility suggests a sign of caution for investors. According to ICICI Direct.com, a fresh uptrend should be expected only if the volatility index starts subsiding. Broader markets witnessed a strong recovery in the settlement week and moved towards 15,000 before closing the

week just above the 14,600 strike. Continued buoyancy in metals and short covering move in the banking space led the recent market recovery, while the rest of the sectors remained largely subdued.

"The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 22.19 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 24.19 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 23.31 per cent and is expected to remain volatile. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.68," remarked Bisht. In the F&O space, FIIs were primarily seen in the stock futures and index options segment as foreign investors bought Rs472-crore index futures, Rs5,309-crore stock futures and Rs4,104-crore index options.

Bank Nifty

The NSE's banking index Bank Nifty closed at 32,781.80 points, a net gain of 1,059.50 points or 3.33 per cent from 31,722.30 points.

Jos Buttler of RR celebrates his century during the IPL match against the Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday

NEW DELHI

JOS Buttler announced his return to form with bel-ligerent maiden T20 hundred as Rajasthan Royals made a mincemeat of an out-of-sorts SunRisers Hyderabad, winning Sunday's IPL encounter by a whopping 55-run margin.

Opening the innings, Buttler smashed a breathtaking 124 off 64 balls while Sanju Samson was effective in his 48 off 33 deliveries which powered Rajasthan to a commanding 220 for three.

Even a change in captaincy couldn't bring in luck for SRH as they could manage only 165 for eight in their 20 overs. Chris Morris (3/29) and Mustafizur Rahman (3/20) did the bulk of the work with the ball while Kartik Tyagi (1/32) Rahul Tewatia (1/45) picked a wicket apiece.

With the win, the Royals moved up to fifth spot while SRH continued to stay at the bottom, having won only one match all season.

Looking to register their second win of the season, SRH raced to 57 for no loss in the first six overs. However, Bangladesh pacer Rahman struck right after the first strategic time out, getting rid of Manish Pandey (31). The dangerous Jonny Bairstow (30) and Vijay Shankar (8) soon followed.

With the pressure mounting, skipper Kane Williamson (20) went for the big shot only to be caught at deep midwicket by Morris off Tyagi as wickets tumbled at regular intervals. Mohammad Nabi (17 off 5) injected some hope in the SRH camp, as he smashed Tewatia for two sixes in the 14th over. However, the Afghan was back in the dug out after a quick cameo. With 91 needed in the last five overs the lower and middle order struggled. In the end the, top heavy SRH did not have enough fire-power to pull off the mammoth chase.

Earlier, put in to bat, Buttler and Samson stitched a 150-run partnership for the second wicket after the Royals lost opener Yashasvi

Buttler's sublime cooks SRH's goose

Opener hits maiden IPL ton (124 off 64 balls) in RR's 55-run win

Jaiswal (12) cheaply. While the Englishman hit the ball 11 fours apart from eight maximums, Samson also had four fours and two sixes to his credit. For SRH, Rashid Khan (1/24), Vijay Shankar (1/42) and Sandeep Sharma (1/50) picked a wicket each.

Put into bat, the Royals were off to a sedate start as they managed just five runs of the first two overs. Williamson, searching for wickets early on in the innings, introduced spin in third over by bringing in star bowler Rashid.

Jaiswal smashed three fours, before the Afghan showed

Shankar in the seventh over.

Having successfully navigated Rashid's four overs, Buttler and Samson upped the ante in the 13th over, plundering 17 runs. The Englishman muscled a six over wide long on before lofting one over extra-cover for boundary.

With all bowlers leaking runs, Williamson turned to Mohammad Nabi, who is playing his

his class and trapped the youngster leg before. RR skipper Samson, who was dropped on 23 by Manish Pandey in the 10th over, announced his arrival with a six over mid-wicket off pacer Khaleel Ahmed.

At the other end, Buttler, who looked in sublime touch, also hit Bhuvneshwar Kumar for two boundaries in the sixth over as the Royals amassed 42 runs for the loss of one wicket in the Powerplay. The duo continued to hit boundaries at regular intervals at the small Feroz Shah Kotla ground, collecting 18 runs, which included two sixes, off all-rounder Vijay

SCOREBOARD

Rajasthan Royals

Jos Buttler b S Sharma124
Y Jaiswal lbw b Rashid Khan12
S Samson c A Samad b V Shankar48
Riyon Parag not out15
David Miller not out7
Extras: (LB-5, W-8, NB-1)14
Total: (For 3 wkts in 20 overs)220
Fall of Wickets: 17-1, 167-2, 209-3.
Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-37-0, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-50-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-24-1, Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-41-0, Vijay Shankar 3-0-42-1, Moham Nabi 1-0-21-0.

Sunrisers Hyderabad

Manish Pandey b Mustafizur31
J Bairstow c A Rawat b R Tewatia30
K Williamson c C Morris b K Tyagi20
V Shankar c Miller b C Morris19
K Jadhav b C Morris18
M Nabi c A Rawat b Mustafizur17
A Samad c A Rawat b C Morris10
Rashid Khan c C Morris b Mustafizur0
Bhuvneshwar Kumar not out14
Sandeep Sharma not out8
Extras: (LB-1, W-7)8
Total: (For 8 wkts in 20 overs)165
Fall of Wickets: 57-1, 70-2, 85-3, 105-4, 127-5, 142-6, 142-7, 143-8
Bowling: Kartik Tyagi 4-0-32-1, Mustafizur Rahman 4-0-20-3, Chetan Sakariya 4-0-38-0, Chris Morris 4-0-29-3, Rahul Tewatia 4-0-45-1.

Substitutes put Inter on brink of Serie A title

ROME

A Europa League final in his first season. An almost-certain Serie A trophy in his second year.

Just like at Juventus and Chelsea, Antonio Conte is leaving his mark at Inter Milan. The Nerazzurri won at last-placed Crotone 2-0 on Saturday to give themselves a chance to clinch the Serie A before the weekend ends. Inter moved 13 points clear of city rival AC Milan with four games to play.

If third-placed Atalanta doesn't win at Sassuolo on Sunday, Inter will seal its first league title since 2010. What's more, Inter is poised to end a nine-year stranglehold on the Serie A title by Juventus — with Conte himself having started the Bianconeri's run.

"This is satisfying and the players deserve congratulations," Conte said before joining his already-celebrating team to sing and dance in the changing room. It was quite a different scene in the home team's changing room, as Crotone was relegated.

"I made the most difficult choice by coming to Inter," Conte added, referring to the club's long dry spell.

"I love a challenge and came here to challenge myself." Conte also excels at challenging his players.

Players like talented Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen, who was largely an enigma during his first year with Inter after transferring from Tottenham midway through last season.

Eriksen, who has developed into one of the keys of Inter's unbeaten run during the second half of this campaign, scored the opening goal midway through the second half on a play that began with a backheel flick from fellow substitute Alexis Sanchez. (AP)



Happier with my two wickets than the 87-run knock: Pollard

NEW DELHI

MUMBAI Indians (MI) batsman Kieron Pollard said that the unbeaten 87 he scored against arch-rivals Chennai Super Kings (CSK) "has to be somewhere near the top" among the scores of match-winning knocks he has played in his more than decade-long stint in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

But, despite the stroke-filled knock that included eight sixes and six boundaries, the West Indian was "more impressed with his bowling" which fetched him two wickets for 12 runs in two overs.

The allrounder dismissed South African Faf du Plessis on 50 and then got rid of Suresh Raina for

two, as CSK made 218 for 4 in the allotted 20 overs. But thanks to Pollard's pyrotechnics, MI reached the imposing target off the last ball of the innings.

"All I want to do is make my father and my family proud," said an emotional Pollard after the match on Saturday.

"The last couple of months have been very difficult for me losing a close person, a dear person to my heart who introduced me to cricket. He was here a couple of years ago in the IPL as well. He got the opportunity to see us win in 2019 and he passed away. All I want to do is to continue to make him proud. Make my family proud," said Pollard.

'Corona wave ruined plans to train Indian athletes for Olympics'

NEW DELHI

THE second wave of Coronavirus in India has ruined plans to prepare top athletes for the Tokyo Olympic Games, says Adil Sumariwalla president of Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

However, Sumariwalla points out that the top athletes gave a good account of themselves during the Federation Cup Athletics Championships in March.

"It raised hopes of a good season ahead, but AFI's road map for the Tokyo Olympics got disrupted due to a surge in pandemic in India. Foreign exposure tours for top athletes didn't go as planned due to travel restrictions put in place by several European nations for Indians and it made things more challenging to send the athletes abroad for training," Sumariwalla said in the latest AFI newsletter.

Ten individual athletes, including javelin thrower Neeraj



Chopra and Shivpal Singh, have achieved quota places for the Tokyo Olympics. The national mixed 4x400m relay team, by virtue of being finalist at the 2019 Doha World Championships, has also qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

SQUADS

Kolkata Knight Riders

KKR: Eoin Morgan (c), Dinesh Karthik, Shubman Gill, Nitish Rana, Tim Seifert, Rinku Singh, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Kuldeep Yadav, Shivam Mavi, Lockie Ferguson, Pat Cummins, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Sandeep Warrier, Prasad Krishna, Rahul Tripathi, Varun Chakravarthy, Shakib Al Hasan, Sheldon Jackson, Vaibhav Arora, Harbhajan Singh, Karun Nair, Ben Cutting, Venkatesh Iyer and Pawan Negi.

Royal Challengers Bangalore

RCB: Virat Kohli (c), AB de Villiers (w), Devdutt Padikkal, Mohammed Siraj, Navdeep Saini, Pavan Deshpande, Shahbaz Ahmed, MS Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Daniel Sams, Harshal Patel, Glenn Maxwell, Sachin Baby, Rajat Patidar, Mohammed Azharuddeen, Kyle Jamieson, Dan Christian, Suyash Prabhudessai, K S Bharat and Finn Allen.

Star-studded RCB stand in way of KKR revival

AHMEDABAD

Star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore would look to get their mojo back when they face struggling Kolkata Knight Riders who need a complete overhaul for their IPL revival here on Monday.

From leading the table with four wins on the trot, the Virat Kohli-led team has slipped to third spot at the halfway stage after suffering two defeats from their last three matches. In fact, RCB would have lost three in a row if pacer Mohammed Siraj had not defended 14 runs in the final over against Delhi Capitals' explosive duo of Rishabh Pant and Shimron Hetmyer.

The onus would be on their famed batting lineup of Kohli, AB de Villiers and Glenn Maxwell to start firing once again and put pressure on the KKR batsmen. Talented opener Devdutt Padikkal would also be keen to get back among runs as he has not clicked after his unbeaten 101 against Rajasthan Royals. Having started the season with much promise under Eoin Morgan, KKR so far have failed to inspire, suffering five defeats in seven matches.

AHMEDABAD

IPL franchise Punjab Kings skipper K L Rahul has been diagnosed with acute appendicitis and has flown to Mumbai for surgery and further treatment, which will keep him out of action for at least a week. Mayank Agarwal will lead the side in Rahul's absence, starting with Sunday's match against Delhi Capitals here.

"K L Rahul complained of severe abdomen pain last night and after not responding to medication, he was taken to emergency room for further tests which revealed that he was diagnosed with acute appendicitis," the team said in a statement.

"It will be resolved surgically and for safety measures, he has been transferred to the hospital for the same," it added. Rahul is expected to be operated on Sunday night at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai. The team expects him to return to action within a week or 10 days.

"Post his surgery, his recovery will be in a bubble so

They are at the sixth spot in the eight-team table, starting at early elimination for a third season in a row. The biggest letdown for KKR this season has been their top-order batting as the top three Shubman Gill, Nitish Rana, Rahul Tripathi have failed to give the team a decent start.

Supremely-talented Gill is struggling in the T20 scheme of things and has failed to convert his starts at the top, while the likes of Nitish Rana and Rahul Tripathi have been patchy.

Head coach Brendon McCullum had questioned their batsmen's "intent" after they posted a below-par 154/6 to go down to Delhi Capitals by seven wickets in their last match. At the same stage, under Dinesh Karthik in IPL 2020 in UAE, the team had fared a shade better with four wins and three defeats, before he relinquished the captaincy to let English World Cup-winning skipper Morgan lead the side.

Given the current scenario, skipper Morgan needs to take some tough calls with regards to his top-order, something he has stuck to since match number one against Sunrisers Hyderabad this season. It's a pity that KKR are yet to give an opportunity to new signing Karun Nair who has a strike rate of 155.49 and has two centuries as a T20 opener.

They also have uncapped talented batsman Venkatesh Iyer. The bowling on the other hand has impressed, especially the spin duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy. Their eight overs against the likes of Kohli, De Villiers and Maxwell would be key as they look to avenge their first leg defeat. (PTI)

Rahul hospitalised with appendicitis, Agarwal to lead Punjab in his absence

that he remains in a protected environment (amid the COVID-19 pandemic)," said a BCCI source.

Rahul's absence is a big blow to Punjab Kings, who are trying to get their campaign back on track. The skipper has led from the front, scoring 331 runs at an average of 66.20. His friend and Karnataka teammate Agarwal will lead the side at least for the next three games.

Agarwal had missed the last game against RCB due to an injury he suffered in the previous match against Kolkata Knight Riders. He has now regained full fitness. Being an Indian player and an integral part of the playing eleven, the management chose Agarwal to lead the side while Rahul is recovering. (PTI)

Former national selector Rungta dies of Covid-19

NEW DELHI

FORMER BCCI selector and Rajasthan captain Kishan Rungta died of COVID-19 at a hospital in Jaipur. He was 88.

The veteran administrator tested positive for the virus last week and died on Saturday. "Former Rajasthan first class cricketer and ex-national selector Kishan Rungta has died of COVID-19," a BCCI source confirmed to PTI.

Rungta served as a national selector from Central Zone in 1998. He played 59 first class games between 1953 to 1970, scoring 2717 runs. His late elder brother Purushottam was a BCCI treasurer in the 1970s. Purushottam's son Kishore held the same position in the early 2000s.

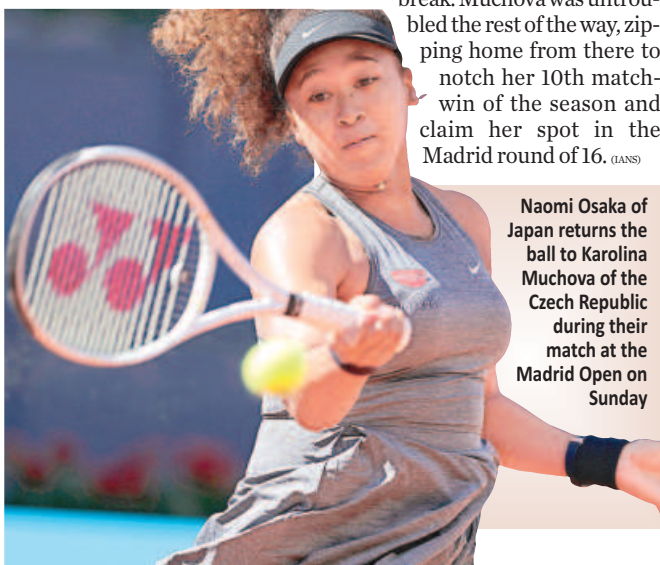
The Rungta family dominated Rajasthan cricket for nearly five decades before Lalit Modi beat them in the elections and wrested control in mid 2000s. (PTI)

Hindustan Football Club chief DK Bose passes away

NEW DELHI

DILIP Kumar Bose, chairman of the Hindustan Football Club, passed away at a hospital in Delhi on Saturday evening. He was in his early 70s. Bose, whose team has played the I-League second division several times and won the Delhi Soccer Association (DSA) Senior Division League several times, was admitted to the Indian Spinal Injury Centre at Vasant Kunj on April 29.

Bose was also a member of the executive committee of Football Delhi (FD) for several years. FD president Shaji Prabhakaran said, "The departure of DK da is a personal loss." (IANS)



Naomi Osaka of Japan returns the ball to Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic during their match at the Madrid Open on Sunday

Madrid Open: World No.2 Osaka shocked

MADRID

KAROLINA Muchova added yet another stunning win over a top player to her collection with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 upset of world No. 2 Naomi Osaka in the second round of the Madrid Open on Sunday.

The rising Czech captured her third win over a top-5 player this season, and her 10th top-5 win in her career overall, with her one-hour and 49-minute victory over reigning Australian Open champion Osaka.

Fresh off her top-20 debut in the WTA singles rankings on Monday, Muchova continued to impress in her Madrid tournament debut, as she plays only her second event since her breakthrough semi-final run at the Australian Open earlier this year, according to wtatennis.com.

Muchova struggled with an abdominal injury after her Melbourne exploits, which included a win over world No.1 Ashleigh Barty. But the Czech looked in fine form against Osaka, as she survived a second-set comeback by the No. 2 seed. Muchova had 29 winners, two more than Osaka, and converted half of her eight break points on the day.

Both players displayed power-

ful serving in the first set, but Osaka faltered early, double faulting down break point to cede a 2-1 lead to Muchova. Osaka could not recover that break, as Muchova punched away a volley in the next game to save the only break point she faced in the set. Muchova eased to the one-set lead, ending the opening frame with another unreturned serve.

Muchova took control early in the second set as well, breaking for another 2-1 lead with continued aggression. However, Osaka was up to the task, increasing the intensity with her stellar forehand and earning her first break of the day with that wing to level the set at 3-3.

Osaka grabbed the momentum and dominated behind that shot, knocking off five games in a row to sweep through the rest of the set and tie up the match at one set apiece. While the players had roughly equivalent success behind their first serve in each set, Muchova's first-service percentage dropped from 73 in the opener to 52 in the second set.

In the decider, though, Muchova got back on track. At 1-0, the Czech fired a passing winner to set up break point, then used a deep return to earn an early break. Muchova was untroubled the rest of the way, zipping home from there to notch her 10th match-win of the season and claim her spot in the Madrid round of 16. (IANS)