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• Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Amaravati | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095 •

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## Alvida Pranab Da EX-PRESIDENT DIES AT 84

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi:** Former President, Bharat Ratna Pranab Mukherjee (84), is no more. Pranab Da, as the illustrious son of India was affectionately called by one and all, was admitted to the Defence Hospital at New Delhi for a brain surgery for the removal of blood clot, but also tested positive for Covid-19. He breathed his last on Monday evening.

He was admitted to Army hospital on August 10 and had undergone surgery for the clot in brain. He was later found to be Covid positive and he slipped into coma, deep Coma and on Monday he went into septic coma.

He leaves behind a daughter, Sharmishta Mukherjee and two sons, Indrajit Mukherjee and Abhijeet Mukherjee.

Pranab was born in a Bengali family in Mirati, a village in the Bengal Presidency of British India (now in Birbhum district, West Bengal) on December 11, 1935. His father, Kamada Kinkar Mukherjee was active in the Indian independence movement and was a member of West Bengal Legislative Council between 1952 and 1964 as a representative of the Indian National Congress and was the member of AICC. His mother was Rajlakshmi Mukherjee. **Continued on P 5**

► **More reports: P3**

## A scholar par excellence PM condoles Pranab's death

**P**ranab Mukherjee made Rashtrapati Bhavan accessible to common citizens, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he paid his tribute to the former President -- the "scholar par excellence and a towering statesman". "India grieves the passing away of Bharat

Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He has left an indelible mark on the development trajectory of our nation. A scholar par excellence, a towering statesman, he was admired across the political spectrum and by all sections of society," the Prime Minister said in a series of tweets.



## FRESH FACEOFF IN LADAKH

# Army staves off China bid to change status quo

**New Delhi:** Even as the talks between India and China to resolve the nearly four-month long standoff in eastern Ladakh have been stuck in a stalemate since mid-July, the Indian Army said on Monday that China had tried to create fresh trouble at a new point over the weekend.

The Army mentioned that the Chinese troops tried to change the status quo on the south bank of Pangong Tso on the night of August 29 and 30, an attempt that was thwarted by the Army.

"On the Night of 29/30 August 2020, PLA troops violated the previous consensus arrived at during military and diplomatic engagements during the on-going standoff in Eastern Ladakh and carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo," the Army said in its statement.

"Indian troops preempted this PLA activity on the Southern Bank of Pangong Tso Lake, undertook measures to strengthen our positions and thwart Chinese intentions to unilaterally change facts on ground."

**Continued on Page 5**



## China builds missile site at Kailash-Mansarovar

**New Delhi:** Amid tensions with India over the standoff in Eastern Ladakh sector, China has reportedly built a site for surface-to-air missile launch near a lake, which is a part of the Kailash-Mansarovar.

The development of the missile site, according to experts, is a continuation of the aggressive provocation by the Chinese and it could further complicate the border tensions between the two countries, The Epoch Times reported.

Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar, commonly known as the Kailash-

Mansarovar site is revered by four religions and is linked to culture and spiritual scriptures in India. While the Hindus consider the site as the abode of Shiva and his consort Parvati, the Tibetan Buddhists call the mountain Kang Rinpoche, the "Precious One of Glacial Snow," and revere it as the abode of Demchog and his consort, Dorje Phagmo. The Jains call the mountain Astapada and consider it to be the place where the first of their 24 spiritual masters achieved liberation.

**Continued on Page 5**



## Modi holds meet after fresh faceoff

**New Delhi:** Hours after India thwarted China's attempt to change the status quo by carrying out "provocative military movements" in Ladakh, R K Mathur, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, reached Delhi to brief the authorities about the latest face-off. Sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is holding continuous meetings with persons concerned to understand the situation and it was established during the discussions that India is prepared for any eventuality. Sources added that the situation is currently under control. Army Spokesperson Col Aman Anand said a Brigade Commander level meeting is in progress at Chushul to resolve the issues.

## GDP SEES SHARPEST DIP EVER

India's GDP shrank by the steepest ever 23.9 per cent in the April-June period, as per provisional estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday. The government had imposed a nationwide lockdown from March 25 to curb the spread of Covid-19, which adversely impacted all sectors of the economy. Agriculture was the only outlier as all other sectors, including manufacturing, construction and services, suffered steep declines. **► P6**



## Physical hearings in Delhi HC from today



PURNA SINGH

**New Delhi:** Physical hearings will begin in the courts of Delhi from Tuesday. During this period, only five benches of the Delhi High Court will hear important matters. Dwaraka and Karkardooma courts have also released duty rosters for the conduct of court proceedings.

In a cautious attempt to return to normalcy amid the raging corona pandemic, the court administration announced standard operating procedures for lawyers, litigants, clerks and others. Due to pandemic, the Delhi High Court had been hearing cases since March 24 through video-conferencing.

According to the standards set by the High Court regarding the Covid-19 epidemic, preparations have been made to start physical

hearings in some courts of Dwarka court, although the rest of the courts will hear cases through video conferencing.

Courts under the duty roster will be heard in two sessions. The court will be completely cleaned up in the interval time between the two sessions. During this time, only 25 cases will be heard in these coats in a day, and out of these, necessary cases will be given priority for hearing. According to the duty roster, a person will be allowed to appear in the court on behalf of a lawyer, a court worker and the litigants concerned in the court during the hearing.

During this time, junior law interns and their fellow lawyers and relatives will not be allowed to enter the court. Also, lawyers and clerks over 65 years of age and ill will not be allowed to enter the court.

## BAN ON INT'L FLIGHTS EXTENDED TILL SEPT 30

PURNA SINGH

**New Delhi:** The suspension of scheduled international passenger flights has been extended till September 30, said Indian aviation regulator DGCA on Monday.

"However, international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis," noted the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in a circular.

India has so far created air bubbles with USA, UK, France, Germany, UAE, Qatar and Maldives. India is in talks with many more countries to create air bubbles like Australia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Bahrain, Israel, Kenya, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan.

The idea of these bubbles is to ensure continuity of travel between India and these countries by eligible categories of people till schedule flights resume.

**Continued on Page 5**

## 43% Covid cases from Maha, AP, K'taka

**New Delhi:** Around 43 per cent of the total coronavirus cases in India have been recorded from just three states, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, the Union health ministry said on Monday.

It asserted that the Centre is regularly engaging with the states and Union Territories that are reporting a spurt in cases and those with a higher fatality rate.

Such states and Union Territories have been advised to undertake aggressive measures to ensure higher testing, effective clin-



**A medic collects samples for COVID-19 tests at a road side free clinic, as coronavirus cases surge across the country, in Bengaluru, Monday**

ical management to lower fatality and save lives along with efficient monitoring at

various levels, the health ministry said.

"India has registered

78,512 cases in the last 24 hours (August 30). Hence the report by certain media entities of about 80,000 cases in the last 24 hours is without any basis," it said.

The ministry also said that seven states have contributed to 70 per cent of these new cases in the last 24 hours. Of these, Maharashtra has contributed the maximum caseload amounting to almost 21 per cent, followed by Andhra Pradesh 13.5 per cent, Karnataka 11.27 per cent and Tamil Nadu with 8.27 per cent.

**Continued on Page 5**



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# Womenia

## Imparting entrepreneurial skills to schoolchildren



Ms. Lisa Heydlauff

ASKARI JAFFER

Launched a few weeks ago the initiative called Map of Me (MoM) is soon to address probable entrepreneurs across India. For Lisa, MoM is a mo-

bile/digital set of stories to enable young people to learn 21st Century Entrepreneurial Skills and explore new problem solving enterprises.

MOM is about skills and how to be an entrepreneur in near your locality, how to get

**Former school teacher Lisa Heydlauff who came from UK two decades ago to understand the 'school education in India', has launched an initiative for the schoolchildren and youth to help them cultivate their instincts to turn into problem solvers**

people together around your idea, how to start a profit making enterprise and create jobs. MOM is designed for two kinds of youth, one for those in age group of 18-23 who have smart phones and travel by public transport and other for teens studying in grade 11 and 12. Through MoM these youth can explore the 26 steps to make working plan.

Lisa, founder of 'Going to School' NGO, shares, "After relocating to India most of the times I forget I'm a woman and here there are many restrictions. Someone keeps reminding me every time I land myself in such a situation or place. But It's also a reminder that we must keep visiting these places to change the mentality restricting women."

The young women are battling gender based norms like getting married, bearing chil-

dren and being a homemaker, no motivation for choosing professional career, etc.,

However, she says her first book was possible only because of a group of men from Bharti Foundation believed in her idea," adds Lisa.

About her NGO, she says, "We run a large scale skill development programme in around 1,000 Government Secondary Schools in partnership with the Bihar government and supported by IKEA Foundation. We created 30 graphic novels to enable students of grade 9 -12 to choose their own adventure to explore sustainable enterprises as career options locally. With schools closed due to Covid pandemic, the graphic novels have been made into a DIY youth skill series which is being telecast on television by DD in the state of Bihar reaching 20 million youth."

TWEET PATROL



**KEERTHY SURESH**  
@KEERTHYOFFICIAL

Happy Birthday Yuvan Shankar Raja sir! Wishing you a blessed year ahead @thisisysr  
#HBDDearYuvan #HappyBirthdayYuvan #HBDYuvanShankarRaja



## How to choose the right denim

Jeans are a staple in every person's wardrobe. They can be dressed up for a fancy look or be dressed down for a casual, stress-free look. Jeans also exude personality and signify a sense of freedom in millennials. However, the right fit is inevitable to ensure it enhances the look of the wearer.

To find the right pair of jeans, one needs to understand their body type and shape. Every woman is known to have a different body. There are always elements of your body that you want to enhance and draw attention to more. Here are a few tips to help you to find out what fits you perfectly.

### Don't rely on trends

High-waisted skinny jeans might be the biggest fashion trend right now when it comes to jeans, but that doesn't necessarily mean those are the jeans you should buy. Just because a style of jeans is currently trending doesn't mean that it will flatter your body.

Some women look great in trendy jeans, while others just don't. Don't rely on the current fleeting fashion trend to dictate which pair of jeans you should purchase. Instead, ignore the trends and choose the jeans that look good on YOU, not the ones you see on models.

### Remember jeans stretch

Jeans are made out of denim, and denim is a very stretchy fabric. When you first try on a pair of jeans in the store, they might feel slightly tight and uncomfortable, which can naturally tempt you to purchase a larger size.

However, sizing up when a new pair of jeans feels uncomfortably tight in the fitting room is not necessarily always the best choice. Once you get the jeans home and wear them all day, they'll stretch



out and likely get unattractively baggy. Opt for the slightly tighter pair of jeans and trust that they'll stretch to fit your skin.

### Find the right

There's a simple trick for finding jeans with a waistband that fits you perfectly and won't bother you by being too loose or too tight after you buy the jeans.

You should never be able to slide your entire hand into the back of the waistband of your jeans. If you can, this means that the waistband is too loose and can look baggy or make your waist look wider. However, you should be able to fit one or two fingers down the back of your waistband without a struggle. If you can't, the waistband is too tight and will likely be uncomfortable and squeeze your waist and stomach in an unattractive way.

### Consider the crotch

The crotch area of your jeans will stretch just like the rest of the denim fabric. When you first buy a pair of jeans, you should never be able to easily grab loose fabric in the crotch area.

The crotch area of your jeans should fit tightly and snugly against your skin when you first buy a pair of jeans; it will stretch to a more comfortable fit after you wear the jeans for a while. If the fabric in that area doesn't fit up against your skin and hangs down between your legs instead, you shouldn't buy the jeans.

### Pick bootcut or high-waisted if you're curvy

If you have a curvy figure, opt for high-waisted jeans if you want to go for a trendy skinny jean style. The higher waist of the jeans can help create the illusion of smaller hips and longer legs. Bootcut jean styles are also complementary to curvy figures, as they add balance and harmony to your curves.

However, you should never pair bootcut and high-waisted together in one pair of jeans. This style is outdated and can make you look like you're wearing 'mom jeans', which is a look you should always try to avoid whether you have kids or not.

### QUICK TIP

### Filling in eyebrows too dark

Filling in eyebrows too heavily is perhaps the biggest makeup blunder of all. For blondes, filling in your eyebrows with a shade that matches your hair color or even one shade darker looks best. If you have darker hair, we wary of going darker on your brows to avoid brows that look harsh. We recommend that you apply your brow product with feathery upward strokes concentrating on sparse or uneven areas, rather than uniformly filling in the entire brow, for the most realistic finish. Lastly, lightly comb through your eyebrows with a brow brush to smooth out the lines and even out the look.

It can take years and dozens of trips to the dermatologist to discover how to get rid of acne on your unique skin. Everyone has unique skin types, skin tones, lifestyles, and genetic histories that make it impossible to have a single piece of one-size-fits-all advice.

### Wash your face daily

The first and most important rule isn't groundbreaking: Remember to wash your face! Cleansing and treating your skin twice a day is the best way to keep breakouts away. For those emergencies when you're just too tired to wash your face, keep a stash of face wipes in the drawer of your nightstand.

### Use the right face cleanser

For a cleanser to be most effective, you have to pay attention to your skin's needs and pick the ingredients accordingly. If your skin tends to be oily, choose products with salicylic acid, benzoyl peroxide, or glycolic acid. For sensitive

skin, look for gentle cleansers with lactic acid or hydrating ingredients like glycerin, which aren't as drying as those made for oilier types.

### Don't over-exfoliate your skin

Scrubbing your face daily with grainy cleansers and exfoliating products can do more harm than good. When done too often, it can cause redness, inflammation, and irritation. Exfoliating a pimple can pull away healthy skin cells and create an open wound and higher risk for scarring. Exfoliation should be done with caution, and not more than 2-3 times a week maximum.

### Regularly change your face towel

When you think about it, consistently reaching for your go-to face towel every day is like reusing a dinner napkin over and over again. Using dirty towels can harbor bacteria, and they can even introduce new bacteria to your skin, which may lead to more pimples. As long as you're truly washing off all of your makeup, you can

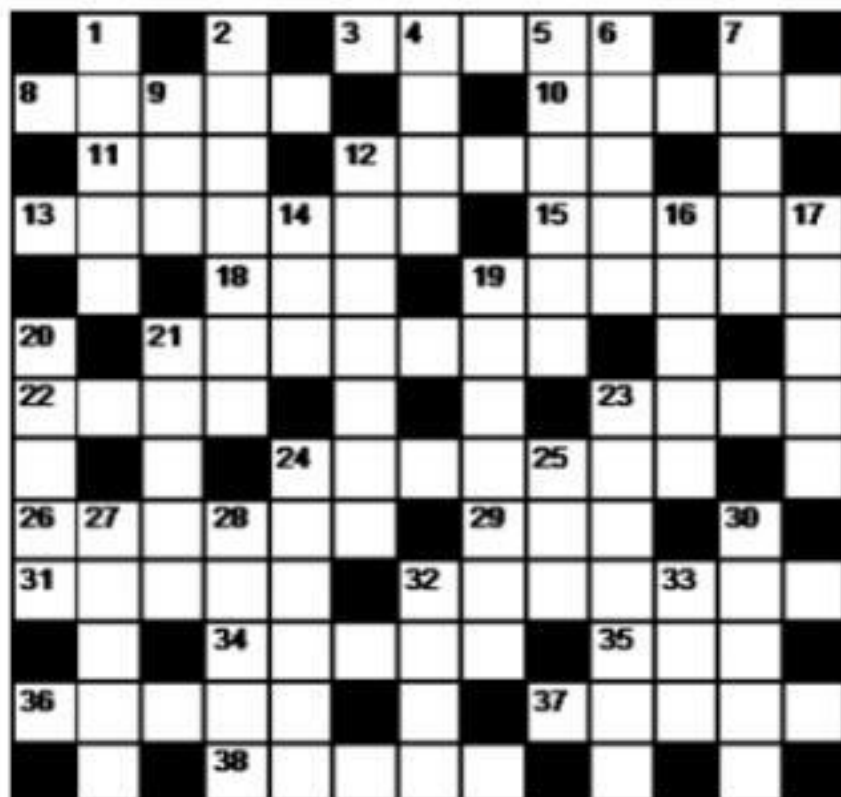
stick to switching out your towels on a weekly basis.

### Moisturise

Worried moisturiser will make your acne worse? Think again. It can actually help improve your skin. If the skin surface is dry and dehydrated, the oil glands tend to overproduce oil and this can make acne worse. Hydrating the skin surface can re-balance oil glands and help control acne and improve healing. When buying a moisturizer, look for a lightweight, oil-based product that won't clog your pores.

### Use sunscreen that doesn't clog pores

While SPF is a must, some sunscreens can trigger breakouts. You want to look for oil-free and non-comedogenic formulas that won't clog pores. Use products that are specifically tested on acneic skin so you can get your dose of SPF without having to worry about clogged pores.



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 31

### CROSSWORD

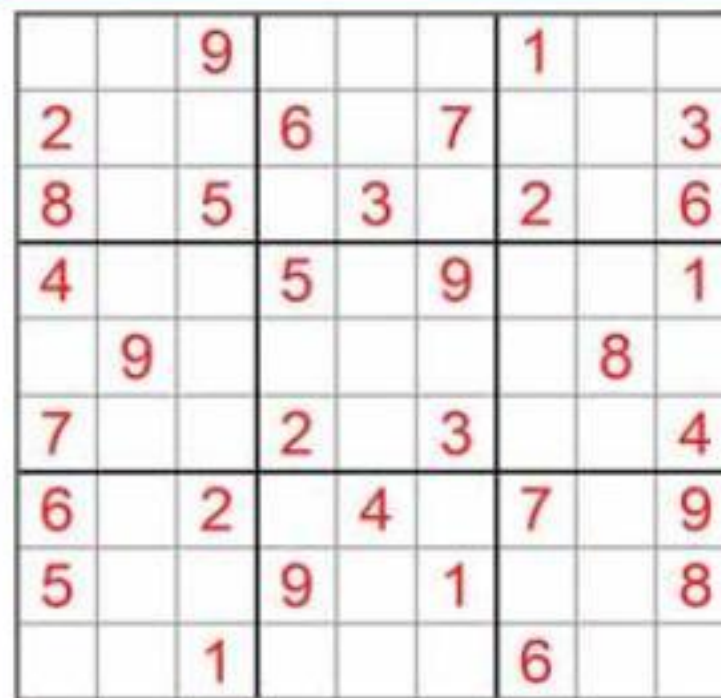
#### Across

- 3 Put to death illegally (5)
- 8 Of or pertaining to blood (5)
- 10 Regarding (5)
- 11 Japanese honorific (3)
- 12 Brass instrument (5)
- 13 Turbid (7)
- 15 Come after (5)
- 18 Crazy or insane (3)
- 19 Lets up (6)
- 21 Forces acceptance (7)
- 22 Small bird (4)
- 23 Air (4)
- 24 Small amount (7)
- 26 Gridlock (3-3)
- 29 Decay (3)
- 31 Antisocial type (5)
- 32 Ponds (7)
- 34 Benefit (5)
- 35 Seventeenth letter of the Greek alphabet (3)
- 36 Express opinions (5)
- 37 Fable writer (5)
- 38 Glossy (5)

#### Down

- 1 Nikola \_\_\_\_ : U.S. electrician and inventor - "Tales" anagram ? (5)
- 2 Sacred langur (7)
- 4 \_\_\_\_ Better Come Home : 1965 hit song (4)
- 5 Famous people (6)
- 6 Dog-like carnivore (5)
- 7 Entail or necessitate (5)
- 9 Ex-Chinese Chairman ? (3)
- 12 Somewhere to sleep (7)
- 14 Beavers' project (3)
- 16 Pluck strings (5)
- 17 English county (5)
- 19 Naval officer (7)
- 20 Live (5)
- 21 Kingly rule (5)
- 23 Trained or coached, in a way (7)
- 24 Be in awe (6)
- 25 Gear tooth (3)
- 27 Pizzazz (5)
- 28 Denim trousers (5)
- 30 Pry (5)
- 32 Similar (4)
- 33 Surprised reactions? (3)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 31

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## SANYA MALHOTRA MISSES DANCING

Actress Sanya Malhotra has shared a throwback video that captures her dancing to a number by rapper Naezy. She says she really misses dancing.

"Throwbackkkkkk .. argh I miss dancing, Choreography @jueevaidya Aafat waapas@naezythebaa," she captioned the clip, where she dances even as Naezy's "Aafat waapas" plays.

Sanya sports an all-black ensemble paired with white sneakers in the clip. The actress was recently seen in the digitally-released film, "Shakuntala Devi", starring Vidya Balan. Even as garners praise for her performance in the film, Sanya is gearing up for her upcoming roster of releases.

She will be seen in "Ludo", Anurag Basu's dark anthology comedy film co-starring Abhishek Bachchan, Rajkummar Rao, Aditya Roy Kapur, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Pankaj Tripathi, Rohit Suresh Saraf, Pearle Maaney and Asha Negi. The film has entered post production stage. Her other forthcoming project is "Pagglait", a dramedy that also features Shruti Sharma, Ashutosh Rana and Raghubir Yadav.





# Pranab Mukherjee: A man for all seasons

THE CONGRESS HEAVYWEIGHT FROM WEST BENGAL ROSE IN POWER AND POSITIONS STEADILY WITH HIS INTELLECTUAL ACUMEN AND SHREWD POSITIONING IN THE PARTY

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi:** In a political career spanning five decades, Pranab Da rose in power and positions steadily with his intellectual acumen and shrewd positioning in the Congress party.

He was the number two practically in the Congress governments chairing nearly as many as 60 committees or so in the latter part of his career.

Pranab Da was one of those who had seen all faces and phases of modern Indian politics and who knew the nuts and bolts of the governance systems. His advice was the most sought after by the Congress governments. In 2012, he defeated P A Sangma to become the President with 70 per cent of the vote.

In 2017, Mukherjee decided not to run for re-election and to retire from politics after leaving the presidency due to "health complications relating to old age". His term expired on 25 July 2017. He was succeeded as President by Ram Nath Kovind. In June 2018 Mukherjee became the first former President of In-

dia to address a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) event, where he neither compromised on his long cherished principles of secularism nor lost a chance to drive in his philosophy.

Pranab Da 'was a man for all seasons', literally.

His term was noted for his work in improving the finances of the government that enabled Indira Gandhi to score a political point by returning the last instalment of India's first IMF loan. As Finance Minister, Mukherjee signed the letter appointing Manmohan Singh as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

Pranab Mukherjee was "very well respected within the party social circles. Media accounts describe him as having "a reputation as a number-crunching politician with a phenom-

enal memory and an unerring survival instinct." As for the Congress, Mukherjee became a member of the Congress Working Committee on 27 January 1978. He also became a member of the Central Parliamen-

tary Board of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) that year. Mukherjee briefly held the position of treasurer of the AICC and the Congress party in 1978.

Mukherjee was appointed chairman of the Campaign Committee of AICC for conducting National Elections to Parliament in 1984, 1991, 1996, and 1998. He was chairman of the Central Election Coordination Committee of the AICC from 28 June 1999 to 2012. He was appointed to the Central Election Committee on December 12, 2001. Mukherjee was appointed general secretary of the AICC in 1998. In 1997 Mukherjee was voted Outstanding Parliamentarian by the Indian Parliamentary Group.

After Sonia Gandhi reluctantly agreed to join politics, Mukherjee was one of her mentors, guiding her through difficult situations with examples of how her mother-in-law, Indira

Gandhi would have done things. His talents were on display during the negotiations for the Patent's Amendment Bill in early 2005. The Congress was committed to passing an IP bill, but their allies in the United Progressive Alliance from the Left front had a long tradition of opposing some of the monopoly aspects of intellectual property. Pranab Mukherjee, as Defence Minister, was not formally involved but was roped in for his negotiation skills.

He drew on many old alliances including the CPI-M leader Jyoti Basu (former Chief Minister of West Bengal), and formed new intermediary positions, which included product patent and little else. Then he had to convince his own colleagues including Commerce Minister Kamal Nath, at one point saying: "An imperfect legislation is better than no legislation." Finally, the bill was approved on 23 March 2005.

Mukherjee's role in "skillfully pushing through the historic 123 Agreement and treaty with the Nuclear Suppliers Group" may have saved the UPA-II government from the 2008 motion of no confidence.

Mukherjee was the recipient of "The Best Administrator in India" award in 2011. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh commented: "Mr. Mukherjee's knowledge of parliamentary matters was stupendous. The wide respect he commanded and his long association with the political leaders across the spectrum had proved invaluable in conducting the parliamentary business."

## THUS SPAKE PRANAB DA...

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi:** If one ever wonders what Pranab Mukherjee was all about, go through the following lines he delivered at Nagpur RSS meet.

“We accept and respect our pluralism. We celebrate our diversity. These have been a part of our collective consciousness for centuries. Any attempt at defining our nationhood in terms of dogmas and identities of religion, region, hatred and intolerance will only lead to dilution of our national identity.

“When Bal Gangadhar Tilak gave voice to the phrase coined by Barrister Joseph Baptista, 'Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it', he referred to Swaraj for the Indian people encompassing various castes, creeds, and religions, spread across British India, and princely states. This 'nation' and 'nationalism' was not bound by geography, language, religion, or race.

“For us, democracy is not a gift, but a sacred trust. The Indian Constitution, consisting of 395 articles and 12 schedules, is not merely a legal document but a Magna Carta of (the) socio-economic transformation of the country. It represents the hopes and aspirations of the billion plus Indians. From our constitution flows our nationalism.

“Secularism and inclusion are a matter of faith for us. It is our composite culture which makes us into one nation. India's nationhood is not one language, one religion, one enemy. It is the 'perennial universalism' of 1.3 billion people who use more than 122 languages and 1,600 dialects in their everyday lives, practice seven major religions, belong to three major ethnic groups — Aryans, Mongoloids, and Dravidians live under one system, one flag and one identity of being 'Bhartiya' and have 'no enemies'.

“A dialogue is necessary not only to balance the competing interests but also to reconcile them. Divergent stands in public discourse have to be recognised. We may argue, we may agree, or we may not agree. But we cannot deny the essential prevalence of multiplicity of opinion.

“Every time a child or woman is brutalised, the soul of India is wounded. Manifestations of rage are tearing our social fabric. Every day, we see increased violence around us. At the heart of this violence are darkness, fear, and mistrust. We must free our public discourse from all forms of violence — physical as well as verbal.

“We have lived with pain and strife for long enough. You are young, disciplined, well trained and highly educated. Please wish for peace, harmony, and happiness. Our Motherland is asking for that. Our Motherland deserves that.

“Happiness is fundamental to the human experience of life. To lead healthy, happy, and productive lives is the basic right of our citizens.

“People are at the centre of all activities of the state and nothing should be done to divide the people and create animosity amongst them. The aim of the state should be to galvanise them to fight a concerted war against poverty, disease, and deprivation and to convert economic growth into real development. Let the objective of spreading peace, harmony, and happiness inform the formulation of our public policy and guide all the actions of our state and citizens in their everyday life.

## How Pranab missed PM bus

● In his memoir, Pranab Mukherjee says many thought he will not join the Manmohan Singh government because he could not work under him, who had been his junior when he was the Finance Minister. Sonia Gandhi, however, insisted that he should join the government also to support Dr Manmohan Singh



It is absolutely an account of how one looked at men and matters as an active political participant

- Pranab on his book

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi:** As President, Pranab Mukherjee oversaw two very different governments, one led by the Congress where he was the most prominent person and was known as a trouble-shooter in the party and the other NDA government led by Narendra Modi.

"It is absolutely an account of how one looked at men and matters as an active political participant," Mukherjee said on the occasion of release of his new memoir.

In his tell-all memoir, he explains the during the coalition years, Congress president, Sonia Gandhi in 2012, gave him the impression that she would nominate Manmohan Singh as presidential candidate and elevate him as the Prime Minister of the Congress-led UPA government.

"There was an intense speculation, about her choice. Within the Congress party, the consensus was that the incumbent must be a political leader with experience in party affairs and administration. Finally, So-

nia Gandhi named Dr Manmohan Singh as her choice and he accepted," Mukherjee recounts of his understanding that he would be the next prime minister after Sonia declined.

Many were of the view that "I would not join the government because I could not work under Manmohan Singh, who had been my junior when I was the Finance Minister. Sonia Gandhi, however, insisted that I should join the government also to support Dr Manmohan Singh," Mukherjee added.

## Pranab played key role in formation of TS

PATAN AFZAL BABU

**Hyderabad :** Former President Pranab Mukherjee had maintained a special bond with Telangana ever since the statehood demand took the centre stage in the national politics.

The departed leader had played a key role in according the separate state status to Telangana at the Centre. Soon after the Congress-led UPA came to power at the Centre in 2004, the Union government appointed a three-member UPA Sub Committee on Telangana headed by then Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee. The two other Union Ministers Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Dayanidhi Maran were the members of the Subcommittee which had sought the opinions and views of all political parties on Telangana statehood.

The subcommittee succeeded in eliciting the views of every political party on the Telangana struggle during UPA - One between 2004 and 2009.

Pranab had also played a key role in

adopting a resolution by Congress party's apex body CWC in favour of Telangana statehood before the AP Reorganization Act came into force. As the President of India,

- Had special bond with the youngest State and its CM KCR
- Pranab had also played a key role in adopting a resolution by Congress party's apex body CWC in favour of Telangana and ensured no major resistance from the Congress leadership
- As the President of India, Pranab gave his final nod to the statehood for Telangana on June 2, 2014



the AP Reorganization Act. KCR also maintained a special bond with Pranab.

At the time of demitting office in 2017, Pranab's special meeting with TRS meeting was enough to prove the friendly relations maintained by the senior with the ruling Telangana party.

Pranab gave his final nod to the statehood for Telangana on June 2, 2014. The senior most Congress leader also maintained a cordial relation with TRS chief K Chandrababoo Naidu during the intensified Telangana movement.

Political observers said that Pranab had extended all possible help to KCR at the time of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh ensuring no major resistance from the Congress leadership. As President, Panab also helped the first Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu in addressing the issues mentioned in

The five-time Rajya Sabha member from 1969 and two term Lok Sabha member, Pranab's style of explaining things was like that of a teacher which was his original profession

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi:** Pranab Mukherjee, fondly known as 'Pranab Da', became the 13th President of India and was in office from July 25, 2012 to 2017 and won the admiration of all.

He was respected and his words were heard with attention not only by those in power politics but by the common man as well. Mukherjee worked with two Prime Ministers — Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi — and shared an excellent equation with both of them.



A quintessential Congressman who served for 23 years as a member of the Congress Working Committee, the highest policy-making body of the party. His decision to visit the RSS headquarters at Nagpur despite appeal by several Congress leaders not to do so created a stir. His speech was widely watched. Contrary to what the Congress leaders feared, Pranab da emphasised on India's pluralism.

As president, Mukherjee laid a lot of stress on innovation and on boosting country's rankings in higher education as none of Indian universities is in the top 100 rankings. He sought to start an eco-system that fostered creativity of young minds and valued innovations at the grassroots.

The five-time Rajya Sabha member from 1969 and two term Lok Sabha member, Pranab's style of explaining

things was like that of a teacher

which was his original profession. His speeches were heard with rapt attention in Parliament by all leaders. He was known for his sharp memory and grasp over issues. The leader from Bengal had earned a rare distinction of serving the country as Defence Minister, Commerce and Finance Minister and External Affairs Minister and was seen by many as a potential prime minister. He was also a Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

As a minister in UPA governments from 2004 to 2012, Mukherjee was instrumental in spearheading critical decisions on a range of issues such as administrative reforms, Right to Information Act, Right to Employment, Food Security Act, energy security, Information Tech-

nology and telecommunication, setting up of UIDAI and Metro Rail through chairmanship of over 95 Groups of Ministers constituted for the purpose.

In seventies and eighties, he was instrumental in setting up regional rural

banks (1975) and the EXIM Bank of India as well as National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (1981-82).

A prolific reader, Mukherjee has authored several books. He was conferred with the highest civilian title Bharat Ratna in 2019.



## The continuing battle with Covid-19

The number of new coronavirus cases in India continues to skyrocket. September, the feared month of escalation, is setting in now. Even though states are ramping up testing, getting the pandemic under control is easier said than done. India reported 78,761 cases on August 30. This is the highest single day tally reported by any country since the pandemic began earlier this year. It surpassed a July 16 figure of 77,299 cases in the United States.

This means that the outbreak in India currently is worse than it was at the peak in the United States – the worst-hit nation in the world. This pushed the nationwide tally to 3,542,733. Eight states – Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha and Telangana – contribute around 73 per cent of the active caseload of the country. Of these, no one is sure of the statistics reeled out by West Bengal and Telangana. Both are tightlipped

about the same and in addition, try to suppress information. The death in the country stands at 63,657, after 948 deaths in the last 24 hours.

The country has overtaken Mexico as the nation with the third-highest Covid-19 deaths. The health ministry, meanwhile, said that the country's recovery rate has reached 76.47 percent which it said has been made possible by the strategic policy of "testing aggressively, tracking comprehensively and treating efficiently" in supervised home-isolation, facility-isolation and hospitals. The case fatality rate (CFR) has also been low when compared to the global average. It is on a continuous decline and currently stands at 1.81 percent, the health ministry said.

A significant feature of India's management of Covid-19 cases is the growing rate of recovered patients. A higher number of patients are recovering and being discharged from hospitals and home isolation, the ministry has continued to highlight. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan chaired a meeting of the group of ministers on Covid-19 on Aug 30 where he said that India has one of the lowest cases per million and deaths per million compared to the global average of 3,161

cases and 107.2 deaths, respectively.

Though India has significantly ramped up testing, it still has to go a long way compared to the best performers in the world and commensurate with the scale of Covid-19 in the country. India carried out more than one million coronavirus tests on Aug 21, realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge to ramp up tests to one million a day. (It fell to 801,147 and 609,917 tests in the next two days.) No doubt, India has achieved success to that extent. But, the fight in India is not uniform. Universally, epidemiologists recommend that 10 per cent of the population be tested. Unfortunately, doing this requires cooperation from the state governments.

At over 19,000 tests per million, West Bengal remains far from catching up with the national average as well as its neighbours. Then there is the case of Madhya Pradesh, which does not figure high in the list of states with most confirmed cases. The ostrich strategy of not wanting to know the extent of the problem is the worst way to deal with this pandemic, be it in Telangana, West Bengal or Madhya Pradesh. Powers that be should not fail the country.

### LATEST VERDICT OF SC ON PRASHANT BHUSHAN

## 'Contempt' is a serious limitation on 'criticism'



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

Bhushan should not have used media to publicise his defence, while the case is sub judice. This article explains the role of media, use of media and dos and don'ts regarding the 'freedom of speech' vis-à-vis Contempt of Court with excerpts from latest judgment.

After adjudging Prashant Bhushan guilty of contempt on August 14, Bhushan pointed out that (a) the copy of the petition filed by Shri Mahek Maheshwari, was not furnished. It is an important issue of sharing information. Because of non-supply of this petition Bhushan said that he could not ascertain whether the complaint was mala fide or even personally or politically motivated, (b) the factors relevant for sentencing are the offender, the offence, the convicting judgment, statutory or other defences relating to a substantial interference with justice, truth, bona fides, and public interest indislosure. Referring to his standing of 35 years, Prashant Bhushan said that he brought certain corruption cases and cautions to the Court such as V. Ramaswamy case, Coal Mining case, Goa Mining case, Orissa Mining case, an issue relating to the appointment of CVC, CBI Director's case, Lok Pal case etc. In the public interest, he has filed several petitions like Narmada case, Bofors case, Police Reform case, Passive Euthanasia case, HPCL Privatization case, Street Vendors case, Rickshaw Pullers case, Singur Land Acquisition case, Drought Management, Gram Nyayalaya, and Electoral Bond cases.

On offence of scandalizing he wrote: "The nature of offences is another ingredient to be taken into consideration while imposing sentence; (i) Offence must be clear without ambiguity. (ii) The potential offender must know/understand whether the/she is guilty of the offence. The offence of scandalizing the Court is notoriously vague. It has not been defined by the Statute. It is called "vague and wandering" jurisdiction. Reliance has been placed on Shreya Singhal v. Union of India, 2015 (5) SCC 1. Such an offence has to be handled with care and used sparingly, as observed in Baradakanta Mishra v. Registrar of Orissa High Court & another, (1974) 1 SCC 374. There is inconsistency in various decisions relating to the conviction and sentence due to vagueness. The decision in E.M. Sankaran Namboodripad v. T. Narayanan Nambiar, (1970) 2 SCC 325, has been superseded by P.N. Duda (1988) 3 SCC 167.

Bhushan raised another important

objection, that "Article 19(1)(a) guarantees Freedom of Speech and Expression and the provisions in Articles 129 and 142(2) of the Constitution of India, cannot override Article 19(1)(a) and 19(2) of the Constitution of India. Free Speech is a highly valued right and is essential for democracy. In a democracy, there is a right to dissent. There is the freedom to build an opinion. Publication in good faith is suggested for the Press, as defined in General Clauses Act in Section 3(22), it is a valid defence, if done honestly, whether it is done negligently or not".

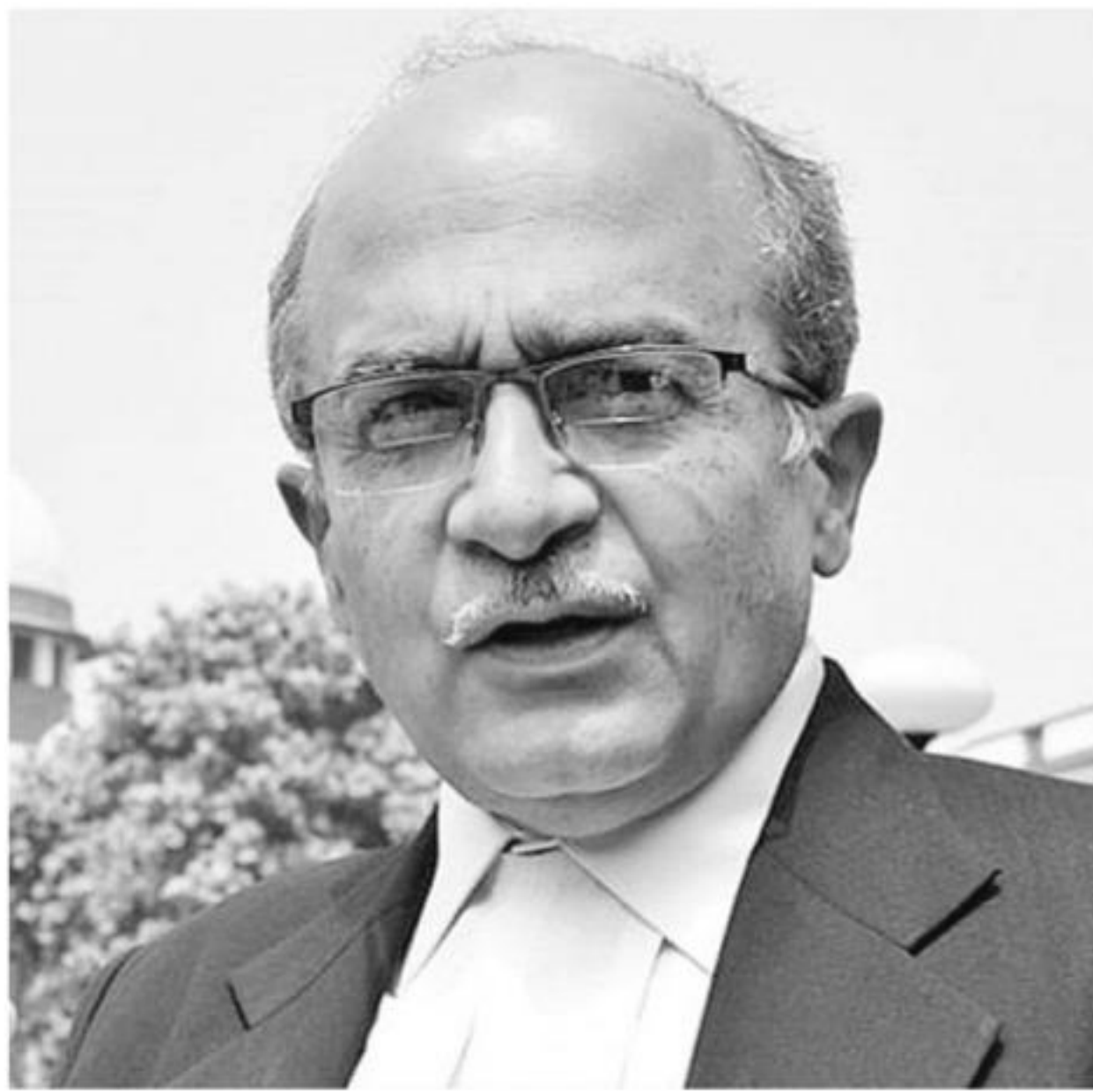
Bhushan submitted that "while applying the Principle of Proportionality the balance will have to tilt in favour of the rights as against restrictions, in as much as the rights are fundamental in nature. The opinions of the contemnor were bona fide and devoid of malice. Thus, the decision with respect to the conviction is required to be recalled, and in such an event, no sentence can be imposed. It was submitted that the judgments are open to scrutiny and this Court should welcome outspoken comments including criticism by ordinary citizen". Debarring an advocate from appearing is to be done only in rare cases, as a last resort, only after giving requisite notice for the same, as held in R.K. Anand v. Registrar, Delhi High Court, (2009) 8 SCC 106.

He also said: There should not be an attempt to coerce him into making an apology on the basis that nothing else would be acceptable.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal suggesting the Bench to show magnanimity in this case, also said that apart from sending a right message to the contemnor, it will also send an appropriate message to all the members of the Bar as well as all citizens throughout the country. He further suggested should give a quietus to this matter by giving warning to him instead of sentencing him that one should be careful and cautious while making any statement with regard to the judges or the institution of administration of justice.

Arguing for Prashant Bhushan, Dr. Rajiv Dhavan, learned senior counsel, fairly stated that publication of the supplementary statement of the contemnor in various print as well as other media in advance was not proper, and he also stated that no lawyer or litigant should either give an interview, talk to the press or make any statement with regard to pending litigation before any Court. He submitted that though a fair criticism of judgment after the judgment was pronounced was permissible in law, making any statement or giving press interviews during the pendency of the litigation was not permissible.

In paragraph 34 of Judgment dated 31.8.2020, bench answered questions on freedom of speech as follows: Though there is a Freedom of Speech, freedom is never absolute because the



makers of the Constitution have imposed certain restrictions upon it. Particularly when such Freedom of Speech is sought to be abused and it has the effect of scandalising the institution as a whole and the persons who are part of the said institution and cannot defend themselves publicly, the same cannot be permitted in law. Though a fair criticism of judgment is permissible in law, a person cannot exceed the right under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution to scandalize the institution".

Bench took serious objection that Bhushan has not only gave wide publicity to the second statement submitted before this Court on 24.08.2020 prior to the same being tendered to the Court, but also gave various interviews with regard to sub judice matter, thereby further attempting to bring down the reputation of this Court.

Why defence of truth is not available?

Referring to the defence of truth in public interest, as pleaded by Bhushan in his response to guilt verdict, the bench said: "If the averments are considered for taking truth as a defence, it would amount nothing else but the aggravation of the contempt" and held that defence was not taken in public interest. It is more derogatory to the reputation of this Court and would amount to further scandalizing and bringing administration of justice in disrepute, in which the common citizen of this country has faith and approaches this Court as a last resort for getting justice". Hence the defence of truth was not made available to Bhushan.

The bench found no justification to make such a remark/tweet, particularly

when it is made by a lawyer with 35 years standing like Shri Prashant Bhushan, who is an officer of the Court and advocates enjoy equal dignity in the system. That further makes it clear that while insisting with the unjustifiable defence and insistence to go with it makes the entire episode the one which cannot be ignored. Bench further pointed out impropriety of Bhushan using the media, saying: In a subjudice matter, releasing such statement to the press in advance is an act of impropriety and has the effect of interfering with the judicial process and the fair decision making and is clearly an attempt to coerce the decision of the Court by the influence of newspaper and media, which cannot be said to be conducive for the fair administration of justice and would further tantamount to undue interference in the independent judicial making process which is the very foundation of institution of administration of justice. If such kind of action is resorted to in a subjudice matter, that too by an advocate who is facing a criminal contempt mpt, it virtually tantamount to using a forum or platform which is not supposed to be used ethically and legally. More so, in a serious case of criminal contempt and particularly after the conviction has been recorded by Court, it indicates that the tolerance of the Court is being tested for no good reasons by resorting to unscrupulous methods". Thus, the contempt of court is a sword that cuts the scope of freedom of speech on social media.

*(The writer is Dean, School of Law, Bennett University, and former Central Information Commissioner)*



## 'Chaotic, innovative time for Indian businesses'

SIDDHI JAIN

Social entrepreneur and author of the book 'Doing Business in India', Jamie Cid, feels that the pandemic has changed the way we do things and is pushing us all to be creative, and think outside the box, especially for business owners and entrepreneurs.

In her book, Cid, who is also a business consultant, explains the intricacies and complexities of doing business in India to help inspire entrepreneurs and business owners who may find it overwhelming, confusing and even intimidating to set up shop in the vast country. She discusses topics like culture, market opportunities, finance, legal, and business wisdom.

"The biggest lesson has been the value of digital business models and marketing. With brick-and-mortar shops closed, customers are purchasing their products on-line from e-commerce platforms. The importance of making your product available online and staying connected to your customer is essential. Business owners need to learn, if they haven't already, how to leverage these online marketplaces to expand their business, predominately to stay in-business. While this was crucial before COVID-19, the pandemic has now accelerated the need to adopt digital business models, not just in India, but globally too," Cid told IANSLife in an email interview.

Covid-19 has greatly impacted small businesses as many business owners were forced to shut down in order to comply with the implemented government safety measures as a result of the lockdown. Businesses that remained open, however, used the pandemic as an opportunity to reinvent their business models, creating products that were in high-demand like face masks and shields, or hand sanitizer and soap, for example.

The need to change is greater than ever, and if businesses hope to remain profitable, they will need to adapt as our environment and technology changes, she notes.

What does she think has been the psychological impact on budding/small entrepreneurs? "While the pandemic has triggered negative emotions, I feel strongly that we will see an emergence of entrepreneurs, as well as better working environments. The pandemic has made us all more empathetic and compassionate to one another, which again can impact the types of products and services companies create and provide in the future."

The author and business consultant lists some strategies can they employ to bounce back stronger:

Don't worry about failure, just do it!

Communicate with your teams: even though we are all working remotely, it's important to check-in with your team in order to build strong bonds for overall health and productivity of your employees.

Think about the problem you're trying to solve, and what you think it will look like in 10 years.

SPRINT: The concept of 'sprint' is to work, review and test an idea or product in a specific amount of time from start to finish. This is a great model for testing new ideas and to get feedback from colleagues and customers.

Ayurveda and yoga: India is known for practising both of these disciplines because of the connection between mind and body, and how it helps to create optimal wellbeing. The healthier you are, the easier it is to get things done efficiently and successfully.

Networking: Expand your network and seek out communities and people who can mentor, inspire, or help you launch or expand your business.

Happiness: We all know that happiness isn't about how much money or power we have. And while those may help your business succeed, it is equally, if not more, important to be happy in the work we produce. When we are happy and believe in what we do, there's a higher chance that we, and/or our business, will be successful.

Create small goals: One strategy that has worked great for me and other entrepreneurs I know, is to achieve little goals while working towards the big one. Take your goals and break them down into actionable items. As you perform these tasks, you will get closer to achieving the larger goal. Small wins will help you stay focused and motivated.

It's been a very confusing, yet exciting, time for business. While it's been chaotic to adapt to the 'new normal', it has also been innovative and creative all at once, she signs off.

## LETTERS

### Safeguarding oneself in cyberspace

In 2020, India had nearly 700 million internet users across the country. This figure is projected to grow to over 974 million users by 2025. Apart from this, there are many mobile companies which are contributing to grow the telecom industries by providing smart phones at affordable cost as a result, in the present time, more than half of the population have smart phones.

Actually, the smart phones are user friendly device therefore everyone can easily operate their functions. However, in the 21st century nobody can imagine the world without internet due to its advisability and it has made human life convenient as well. The campaign of the digitalisation is the best idea by the government therefore telecom ministry is also trying to reach internet service every corner of the country so that every citizen may take benefit of the internet service.

However, internet service and smart phones have also invited new problems and challenges. Last time, two miscreant boys uploaded a girl's pictures on a porn website and the girl is from Bangalore and user of Instagram. The images were taken through screenshot when the girl came to know she lodged a complaint.

Many hackers send the emails to download their applications for stealing important data by offering irresistible offers. Moreover, after hacking the data some of them demand ran-

som. I have noticed around me specially villagers are so negligent. They share their email and ATM password without any hesitation on the phone and with kith and kin and the nearest person consequently, carelessness leads to cyber crime. For their safety smart phone and internet users must take some steps like, they should not share their passwords even closest person.

Many parents share their baby images on social media of their beautiful images but some hackers sell them to paid website so parents must aware of it. Images of young girls are being uploaded by various purposes. Users should aware of red flags these helps to Identifying email hacking. Using paid Anti Virus application protect users to download doubtful application. User must aware of basic do's and don'ts so as to they can protect themselves from internet threat or bullying.

Nishant Mahesh Tripathi, Nagpur

### Strange 'Mann ki Baat' address of Modi!

In his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' radio address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has exhorted his compatriots to rear swadeshi breeds of dog in more numbers and make more swadeshi toys to meet domestic and global market for toys. This is while the country is facing far more serious problems than inadequate numbers of swadeshi dogs and toys.

The Prime Minister can take credit that he has thought out of the box and linked rearing more Indian dogs and manu-



facturing more Indian toys to his pet theme of Atmanirbhar Bharat. But it is not known how the two endeavours will in themselves go to alleviate the distress caused by Covid-19, contain the spread of the disease, revive the economy, halt the loss of jobs, and create new jobs in any significant measure.

The other day the Prime Minister was preening himself on feeding peacocks and peahens on the lawns of his residence. Most of his countrymen are not in the fortunate position he is in to emulate him and feel light-hearted.

Given his carefully cultivated image as a nationalist of the first order with a Hindutva halo, Modi escapes being evaluated dispassionately for the kind of leadership he is providing to the nation when it is in the middle of multiple crises. The support for him bordering on worship of him has not dwindled despite his multiple failures. His popularity has not been on the wane despite the sinking feeling among the populace on

account of the rapid spread of Covid-19 and economic hardships. With any other leader, the people would have become disillusioned by now.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi draws no flak from most people for displaying no great leadership in this testing time, mainly because he represents the right-wing Hindutva populism and the interests of the ruling elites. He draws his strength from tapping people's subservience of material circumstances to devotion to religion and not from demonstrable public service. In the context of Covid-19 pandemic, education is widely regarded as the only weapon to fight the spread of the disease. Indeed, it is also the weapon to fight the scourge of blind allegiance to anyone or anything in the all-important political sphere.

G.David Milton, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

### Sonia and internal democracy

Sonia calling Modi a person of dictatorial propensities is akin to devil quoting scriptures. The so-called internal democracy in Congress is nothing but a facade. Any constructive criticism is nipped in the bud by the Congress high command. It was Indira Gandhi who brought an amendment which kept the prime minister and the Governor out of the ambit of civil and criminal jurisdiction which was later struck off. Even she advocated a committed judiciary. Given a chance, for sure, Congress will behave no differently.

DSP Rao, Kakinada

thehansreader@gmail.com



# Drones, rovers to be part of land survey from Jan 1



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy holding a review on land survey at his camp office in Tadepalli on Monday. Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) Dharmana Krishnadas and officials seen.

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials to conduct a comprehensive land survey from January 1, 2021, and complete it by August 2023, including the urban areas.

During a review meeting on land survey held at his camp office at Tadepalli on Monday, the Chief Minister instructed officials to increase the number of survey teams from the strength of 4,500 and set up drones, rovers, marking stones and base stations for a comprehensive land survey, which will be taking off from January 1. The marking stones should have special design.

In addition, the Chief Minister also directed officials to provide land registration services of sub-registrar offices in all village secretariats across the state for quick redressal and updating of records.

Mobile tribunals should be pressed into service for quick disposal of disputes on the spot.

All the equipment for the survey shall be made available at the

► **Chief Minister sets a deadline of Aug 2023 for completion of the comprehensive land survey, including in urban areas**

► **Orders increase in survey teams from the current strength of 4,500**

► **Tells officials to provide land registration services in village secretariats**

village secretariats and the surveyors should be trained in the latest technology.

The Chief Minister said that the survey should begin simultaneously in all mandals and emphasised the need to create awareness on the comprehensive land survey among the people through gram sabhas and village secretariats, as it is the first land survey being done after 1930. Hoardings should be placed to this effect for public view.

Meanwhile, the officials informed that Andhra Pradesh will emerge as the first state in the country to take up a comprehensive land survey with the latest technology.

In regard to the comprehensive survey, all the staff will be undergoing training including the technical sessions.

All the survey details will be updated online on a regular basis directly from the rover.

The pilot survey project conducted at Takkellapadu in Jaggaiahpet mandal in Krishna district revealed that the count of survey numbers was more than the land holdings.

The land holdings number has gone up from 182 to 631 while the count of survey numbers went up to 829, the officials said.

The officials said that necessary steps were being taken to solve the pending land disputes. While 52,866 disputes are pending in revenue courts, a drive has been taken up to rectify 79, 405 issues pertaining to webland, the officials said.

Deputy Chief Minister Dharmana Krishnadas, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, CCLA special chief secretary Neerabh Prasad, commissioner of stamps and registrations Siddarth Jain, and other officials took part in the review meeting.

## State records 10,004 new cases

**Amaravati:** For the sixth day in a row, more than 10,000 fresh Covid-19 cases were reported, as the state pandemic graph continued its steep spiral to reach 4,34,771 on Monday. Andhra Pradesh has become the second state behind Maharashtra to have more than one lakh active coronavirus cases, the latest statistics revealed.

After 3,30,526 recoveries and 3,969 deaths, the state has 1,00,276, the latest bulletin said. On Sunday, AP took the second place in the national Covid-19 chart, relegating Tamil Nadu to the third spot.

With more than half of the 13 districts reporting cases daily in excess of 800 each, the number of active cases has been piling up though overall more than 8,500 patients are getting discharged from hospitals. In 24 hours ending 9 am on Monday, East Godavari, West Godavari, Nellore and Srikakulam reported more than 1,000 cases each and the state recorded 10,004 fresh infections. Anantapur and Chittoor added more than 900 each while Kurnool and Visakhapatnam registered 600-plus each. The bulletin said 85 Covid-19 patients succumbed in the state in 24 hours, with Nellore accounting for 12, Chittoor and Prakasam nine each.

## Alvida Pranab Da

*Continued from P1*

He attended Suri Vidyasagar College, Birbhum, and became a Master in Political Science. Before his entry into politics, he worked in several government departments and also as a lecturer in Vidyasagar College, Kolkata.

Mukherjee got his break in politics in 1969 when the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi helped him get elected to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament of India, on a Congress ticket. Following a meteoric rise, he became one of Gandhi's most trusted lieutenants and a minister in her cabinet in 1973. During the controversial Internal Emergency of 1975-77, he was accused (like several other Congress leaders) of committing gross excesses. Mukherjee's service in a number of ministerial capacities culminated in his first stint as Finance Minister of India in 1982-84. He was also the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha from 1980 to 1985.

Mukherjee was sidelined from the Congress during the premiership of Rajiv Gandhi. Mukherjee

had viewed himself and not the inexperienced Rajiv, as the rightful successor to Indira following her assassination in 1984. This perhaps led to his political miscalculation in falling out with the Nehru-Gandhi family and he formed his own Rashtriya Samajwadi Congress which he later merged with the Congress in 1989.

After Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991, Mukherjee's political career revived when the then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao appointed him as Planning Commission head in 1991 and foreign minister in 1995. Following this, as an elder statesman of the Congress, Mukherjee was the principal architect of Sonia Gandhi's ascension to the party's presidency in 1998.

When the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) came into power in 2004, Mukherjee won a Lok Sabha seat for the first time. The crowning glory in his political career came when he became the President of India in 2012, a dream he nurtured since his childhood (of entering the Rashtrapati Bhawan).

## 43% Covid cases from Maha, AP, K'taka

*Continued from P1*

Of the total number of cases, around 43 per cent were recorded in just three states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, it said.

Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka also account for about 50 per cent of the deaths added in the last 24 hours due to COVID-19, with Maharashtra leading with 30.48 per cent, the ministry said.

The coronavirus tally in India crossed 36 lakh on Monday with 78,512 new cases, while the number of recoveries surged to 27,74,801, pushing the recovery

rate to 76.62 per cent, according to the Health Ministry data. The death toll climbed to 64,469 with 971 more people succumbing to the infection in 24 hours.

India has exhibited a determination to expand testing. This has led to an exponential hike in the number of COVID-19 testing, the ministry said.

Starting from a single test in one lab in Pune in January, the daily testing capacity has been scaled up to more than 10 lakhs in August 2020. The cumulative tests have crossed 4.23 crore with 8,46,278 tests conducted in the past 24 hours.

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch YSR Sampoorna Poshana and YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus on September 7. The two schemes aim at providing nutritious food for pregnant women and lactating mothers along with children. Though the schemes were slated to be launched on September 1, the programme was postponed for a week following the demise of former President Pranab Mukherjee, according to information and public relations commissioner T Vijay Kumar Reddy.

While YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus is intended to supply nutritious food exclusively in 77 tribal areas covering eight ITDAs, 52 ICDS projects and 8,320 Anganwadi centres, all the remaining urban and rural areas in plain areas will be covered under YSR Sampoorna Poshana.

In order to address malnutrition and anaemia among pregnant and lactating mothers and children aged between

## Jagan told not to budge on GST dues

**PCC chief Sailajanath advises the State govt not to agree to Centre's offer of arranging loans to the State to fill GST shortfall, instead mount pressure to clear the dues**

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) on Monday advised Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to bring pressure upon the Centre to get back the GST dues from it.

APCC president Dr Sake Sailajanath in a statement here flayed the Central government for offering arrangement of loans instead of paying the GST dues to the states and repay the loan amount from the compensation cess collections.

He lambasted the Central government for behaving like a dictator and going against the spirit of the federalism. He suggested to the state government not to agree to the terms set by the Centre and to insist on release of the GST dues to the state. He alleged that the Centre was imposing heavy GST on luxury imports lining its pocket.

He reminded that that when the GST was introduced in 2017, the Centre has agreed to compensate the loss to the states for the first five years. He exhorted all the non-BJP states to unite on this front to exert pressure on the Centre to get compensation.

## China builds missile site at Kailash-Mansarovar

*Continued from P1*

The Bons, adherents of the pre-Buddhist religion of Tibet, term the mountain Tise and revere it the dwelling place of the sky goddess, Sipaimen.

The placing of the missile at the sacred site, which is also the origin of four transnational rivers -- Indus, Brahmaputra, Sutlej and Karnali, a major tributary of the Ganges, menaces India, which has refused to back down against Chinese aggression on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"In my view, first and foremost, it is a continuation of the Chinese provocation against India, which we are seeing all along from the LAC in Ladakh to the eastern and middle sector bordering areas with India," Priyajit Deb-sarkar, author and a geopolitical analyst with the Lon-

don-based think tank Bridge India, told The Epoch Times in an e-mail.

"This move, of deploying a surface-to-air missile in Tibet, should not surprise us. It is pure authoritarian brinkmanship and provocation to India, which has refused to back down against Chinese threats and aggressive aggression," Debsarkar said. India and China are engaged in a standoff since April-May over the transgressions by the Chinese Army in multiple areas including Finger area, Galwan valley, Hot springs and Kongrung Nala. In June, 20 Indian soldiers died in a violent face-off with Chinese troops in Eastern Ladakh.

Talks between the two sides have been going on for the last three months including five Lieutenant general-level talks but have failed to yield any results, so far.

## Army staves off China bid to change status quo

*Continued from P1*

The Indian Army is committed to maintaining peace and tranquility through dialogue but is also equally determined to protect its territorial integrity. A Brigade Commander-level Flag Meeting is in progress at Chushul to resolve the issues."

It is significant as while the north bank of Pangong Tso has been a major point of contention between the two sides in the standoff that began in early May, there has not been any issue regarding the south bank of the lake until now.

On the north bank the Chinese troops continue to hold the ridge-line of the Finger 4 spur, which is

- **CM will launch YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus for tribal areas and Sampoorna Poshana for the remaining areas on Sept 7**
- **Under the scheme, pregnant women, lactating mothers and children aged up to 6 years will be supplied with nutritious food**
- **30,16,000 pregnant women, lactating mothers and children belonging to BPL families will be benefited**



6-72 months, the state government has brought YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus and YSR Sampoorna Poshana schemes to provide supplementary nutrition through Anganwadi centers.

As many as 30,16,000 pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children belonging to BPL families will be benefited from this scheme. While the previous government spent Rs 2,761 crore on providing a nutritious diet for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children in a span of five years,

now the state government will spend Rs 1,900 crore every year under this scheme.

Under YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus, the state government intends to spend Rs 1,100 every month on each pregnant and lactating woman, Rs 620 on each child aged between 6-36 months, and Rs 553 on each child aged between 36-72 months, totalling Rs 307.55 crore per annum on 3,80,000 beneficiaries.

Under YSR Sampoorna Poshana, the state government will spend Rs 850 every

month on each pregnant and lactating women, Rs 412 on each child aged between 6-36 months, and Rs 350 on each child aged between 36-72 months, coming to Rs 1555.56 crore per year on 26,36,000 beneficiaries.

In order to monitor the effective implementation of YSR Sampoorna Poshana, department of women development and child welfare developed a comprehensive mobile application to assess the service delivery and satisfaction levels of the beneficiaries.

# Govt prods students to express thanks to teachers

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The state government will launch a massive campaign across the state among the students from September 5, the 'Teachers' Day meant to promote gratitude among the students towards their teachers. This would be an online campaign aimed at sensitising the students about the important role that the teachers play in the lives of everyone.

As part of the campaign, the government has made two hashtags -- #OurTeachersOurHeroes and #TeachersFromIndia on Twitter. The students would be asked to write

Creates two hashtags on Twitter where students should tweet selfies with names of their favourite teachers on Teachers' Day

the name of their favourite teacher on a white paper and take a selfie holding the poster. These will be tweeted using the hashtag #OurTeacher-

sOurHeroes. The teachers and lecturers will take selfies in the backdrop of their schools and colleges and upload them on social media using the hashtag #OurTeachersOurHeroes.

This academic year will begin from September 5 and the Vidya Kits, comprising notebooks, textbooks, uniforms and other necessary material, would be distributed to the students on the same day. Around 60 per cent of the kits have already reached the schools. As many as 40 lakh Vidya kits would be distributed as part of the programme.

The schools will reopen in the state after a gap of five months owing to coronavirus.

## PIL on govt ads shifted to regular bench

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The special bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar and Justice Uma Devi transferred the public interest litigation (PIL) filed against the state government advertisements, opposing colour and photographs to the regular bench upon hearing the arguments on Monday. Advocate General (AG) Sriram Subrahmanian explained to the special bench that it was benami political interest litigation, as the petitioner moved around with the TDP coteries. The AG also informed that the previous government used the pictures of NTR, Lokesh, and N Chandrababu Naidu in all the advertisements between 2014-19, where the petitioner was comfortable with those advertisements and his conscience suddenly started pricking once the TDP went out of power.

## Ban on int'l flights extended till Sept 30

*Continued from P1*

The circular said the suspension does not affect the operation of international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the DGCA.

The aviation ministry has long maintained that resumption of schedule International flights will be considered once domestic flights reach the 50% mark of the originally approved summer schedule.

India had suspended scheduled international passenger flights on March 22 in wake of the corona pandemic.

Metro to operate services Metro Rail will be operational from September 7 as per the standards issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

50 limit for weddings The maximum number of guests for marriage ceremony in the state will not exceed 50. Also, for funerals, 50 people will be allowed to attend.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Green shoots visible in aviation sector

“Even though there are many mixed signals, current traffic trends suggest a revival. Off-late, we saw a sequential growth in passenger traffic numbers. We expect this trend to continue in August with a total of 3 million passengers being ferried.

– DGCA Director General, Arun Kumar



## FUELS

### Saudi Arabia discovers new oil fields

Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud announced the discovery of two oil and gas fields in the Kingdom. The two fields, Hadat Al-Hajrah gas field in the Al-Jawf region and Abraqa Al-Talul oil field in the northern border region, were discovered by Saudi Aramco

## FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.92	South	
Euro	91.87	African Rand	5.09
UAE Dirham	22.01	Hong Kong Dollar	10.91
Thai Baht	2.71	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	101.83	New Zealand Dollar	51.91
Australian Dollar	56.73	Saudi Riyal	21.56
Canadian Dollar	59	Swedish Krona	9.78
Swiss Franc	84.6	Singapore Dollar	56.73

DELHI TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2020

## BIZ BRIEFS

### More steps from RBI

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday announced additional steps to ensure orderly market conditions and congenial financial conditions, including conducting a special open market operation and a repo term operation. In a statement, the RBI said that recently, market sentiments had been impacted by concerns relating to the inflation outlook and the fiscal situation, amidst global developments that have firmed up yields abroad. "The Reserve Bank will conduct additional special open market operation involving the simultaneous purchase and sale of Government securities for an aggregate amount of Rs 20,000 crore in two tranches of Rs 10,000 crore each," it said.

### Cyient buying IG Partners

**Hyderabad:** City-based Cyient on Monday announced the acquisition of Australian consulting firm IG Partners for an undisclosed sum. The acquisition will enable the Hyderabad-based firm to strengthen its digital capabilities in the energy and mining industry. Cyient has a growing presence in Australia, providing solutions to the mining, oil and gas, rail, telecom and utility industries. Founded in 2012, IG Partners primarily services large asset and capital-intensive companies within the resources and energy, government, and manufacturing sectors (B2B). "With this investment, the powerful synergy of Cyient's digital execution capabilities and IGP's advisory expertise creates a unique value proposition for the industry. This acquisition also adds to our footprint in Australia, which is an important region for our future growth," said Krishna Bodanapu, MD and CEO, Cyient.

### Asian Paints' new service

**Hyderabad:** Asian Paints has launched 'Beautiful Homes Service' which is an exclusive end-to-end solution that provides consumers a personalised interior design service with professional execution to create their dream home their way. Under this, customers will not only get a personalised and bespoke interior as per their brief, but also within their budget and time. The new service also simplifies the process by offering a professional team to manage the entire interior design journey from beginning to end. A single point contact for the process - the Customer Experience Specialist - will oversee the entire work and coordinate with all the vendors involved. Amit Syngle, MD and CEO, Asian Paints Limited, said, "The new normal has encouraged many consumers to engage with their homes and spaces in different ways. Homes have turned into offices, gyms, classrooms, and much more".

### L&T divests E&A business

**New Delhi:** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Monday announced the closure of the strategic divestment of its Electrical and Automation (L&T E&A) business to Schneider Electric, a global player in energy management and automation for Rs 14,000 crore. The significant and complex divestment deal, one of its kind in India announced in May 2018 has been completed after receiving the requisite regulatory approvals and fulfilment of necessary conditions. The deal for Rs 14000 crore or almost \$ 2 billion has come during the present tough conditions surrounding Covid 19 pandemic. A company statement said the divestment is in line with L&T's stated goal of unlocking value for future growth. L&T continuously evaluates its business portfolio and takes capital allocation decisions from a long-term perspective. Its exit from the Electrical & Automation Business is a part of the strategic portfolio review process.

# Covid chaos: Q1 GDP shrinks 23.9%

## 1ST ECONOMIC CONTRACTION IN 4 DECADES; AGRICULTURE SAVING GRACE DURING APRIL-JUNE

### Q1 CHAOS

- Construction down by 50.3%
- Mfg sector sees 39% decline
- Mining sector output falls 23%
- Agriculture clocks 3.4% upswing

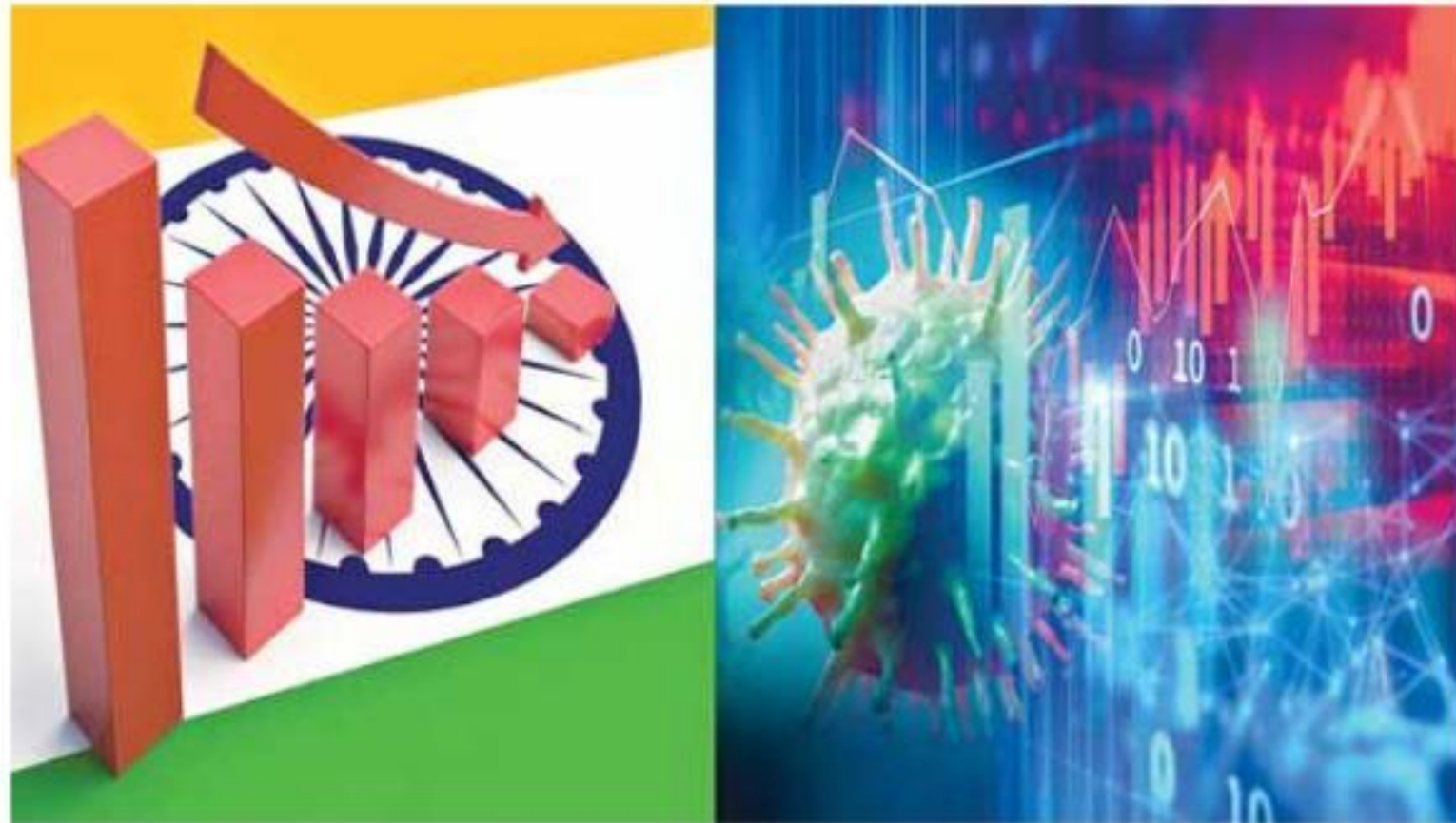
**New Delhi:** India's economy suffered its worst slump on record in April-June, with the gross domestic product (GDP) contracting by 23.9 per cent as the coronavirus-related lockdowns weighed on the already-declining consumer demand and investment.

The GDP contraction in the world's fifth-largest economy compared with 3.1 per cent growth in the preceding January-March quarter and 5.2 per cent expansion in the same period a year back, according to official data released on Monday.

This is the sharpest contraction since quarterly figures started being published in 1996 and worse than what was expected by most analysts.

While the pandemic caused historic GDP contractions in economies around the world, the situation in India has been made worse by more than 78,000 new infections a day and total cases topping 35 lakh - behind only the US and Brazil.

The US economy shrank at a dizzying 32.9 per cent annual rate in the April-June quarter - by far the worst quarterly plunge ever - when the viral outbreak shut down businesses, throwing tens of millions out of work and sending unemployment



surging to 14.7 per cent. Chief Economic Adviser K V Subramanian said that the first-quarter economic performance was "driven primarily due to an exogenous shock that has been felt globally."

During April-June, agriculture was the lone bright spot, growing by 3.4 per cent. Financial services - the biggest component of India's dominant services sector - shrank 5.3 per cent, while trade, hotels, transport and communication declined 47 per cent.

Manufacturing shrank 39.3 per cent, construction contracted 50.3 per cent, mining output fell 23.3 per cent, and electricity and gas segment dropped 7 per cent.

Subramanian said the economy is 'experiencing a V-shaped recovery' after the lockdown eased.

But the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its annual report last week said the economy is likely to contract even in the second quarter (July-September). Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has already warned of a contraction for the full

year because of the "act of God". Economists expect growth to rebound only in the next year, mostly led by pent-up domestic demand and pick up in the manufacturing and services sectors after the easing of lockdown.

While the nationwide lockdown wiped away economic activity for almost half of the first quarter of 2020-21 fiscal, local lockdowns by several states thereafter and continuing restrictions on sectors such as hospitality, transport, and education have dented revival prospects. Analysts say millions of workers lost their jobs and businesses suffered due to the lockdown, but the government has refused any large-scale unemployment.

Even before the pandemic struck, the Indian economy was in the midst of a slowdown as a crisis in the shadow bank sector hurt new loans and took a toll on consumption, which accounts for some 60 per cent of the country's GDP. According to the data re-

leased by the National Statistical Office (NSO), "GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 26.90 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.35 lakh crore in Q1 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 23.9 percent as compared to 5.2 percent growth in Q1 2019-20."

"With a view to containing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, restrictions were imposed on the economic activities not deemed essential, as also on the movement of people from March 25, 2020.

"Though the restrictions have been gradually lifted, there has been an impact on the economic activities as well as on the data collection mechanisms," it added.

It also said the timelines for filing statutory returns were extended by most regulatory bodies.

"In these circumstances, the usual data sources were substituted by alternatives like GST, interactions with professional bodies, etc. and which were clearly limited," it said.

## AP govt steps boosted sentiment: Sri City MD

**Hyderabad:** Ravindra Sannareddy, founder and Managing Director, Sri City, on Monday said that a series of steps initiated by the Andhra Pradesh government boosted investment in the State, leaving a positive impact on the infrastructure sector.

Speaking at a digital conference on the theme 'Reinforcing Growth through Infrastructure Development' organised by CII, he underscored the need to develop world-class infrastructure for attracting investments. Sharing some of his experiences from the development phase of Sri City, he lauded the foresight of Late Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy, and said, "As Chief Minister of the united AP, he encouraged industrial development and extended good support. Sri City was inaugurated



by him and today it emerged as one of the best integrated business cities in the country." Emphasising on the availability of the balanced mix of excellent industrial and social infrastructure in Sri City, he further said, "Developed with world class infrastructure on the concept and principles of 'Work, Live, Learn and Play' Sri City is home for 187 industrial units from 27 countries, offering job opportunities for over 50,000 people. The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us new lessons, to be self sufficient - 'Atmanirbhar'"

## Sensex crashes 839 pts

**Mumbai:** Snapping its six-session winning run, the BSE benchmark Sensex plummeted 839 points on Monday as fresh India-China border tensions triggered a broad-based selloff in domestic equities.

Profit-taking at higher levels and weak macroeconomic data also fuelled the crash, traders said.

After rallying 543 points in the morning session and touching the 40,000-mark, the BSE Sensex surrendered all gains to close at 38,628.29, showing a loss of 839.02 points or 2.13 per cent. Similarly, the NSE Nifty tanked 260.10 points or 2.23 per cent to end at 11,387.50. Sun Pharma was the top loser in the Sensex pack, plunging over 7 per cent, followed by SBI, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank, M&M and Maruti. Only ONGC and TCS ended on a positive note. Indian markets opened trade on a positive note, but the sentiment failed to sustain in the afternoon session following reports of the border tensions with China, said Narendra Solanki, Head- Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi.

Meanwhile, market sentiment was also weakened after the release of core sector data. Investors are now awaiting gross domestic production (GDP) data, scheduled to be released later in the day. Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended in the red, while Tokyo settled with gains.

## LIC celebrating 64th anniversary

### HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** Public sector insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is celebrating its 64th anniversary on September 1.

"LIC has been playing a crucial role in insuring people, spreading the message of life insurance and mobilization of people's money for people's welfare. LIC has extended financial protection through 28.92 crore policies under individual insurance and 11.36 crore persons under group insurance segment," LIC said on Monday. LIC's South Central Zone(SCZ), which covers Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka states, issued more than 31.90 lakh new policies with a total first year premium of Rs 6,999.70 crore during last financial year ended on March 31, 2020.

"The zone covered 145.20 lakh lives under its pension and group insurance business segment apart from 32.73 lakh lives covered under Rythu Bima Scheme under the Telangana government. Premium income from the group business



Mini Ipe, Zonal Manager, South Central Zone

was Rs 17,776 crore," said Mini Ipe, Zonal Manager, South Central Zone, LIC.

During FY20, the zone settled 26.06 lakh maturity claims with a payout of Rs 16,330.66 crore and also settled 1.41 lakh death claims, paying Rs 2,060.74 crore to the families of the deceased.

LIC's investments in SCZ increased to Rs 2.73 lakh crore while total investments of LIC in Government and social sectors across India stood at Rs 30.70 lakh crore as on March 31, 2020. In South Central Zone, LIC has invested Rs 1,06,940 crore in Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 66,084 crore in Telangana and Rs 1,00,143 crore in Karnataka.

## Finally, Adani checks into GVK's airport

### HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** After several twists, turns and legal tangles, Adani Group's relentless efforts to buy stake in Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) paid off with city-based GVK Group agreeing to cooperate with the Gujarat-based infrastructure major. As a result, decks have been cleared for billionaire Gautam Adani-owned Adani Group to buy controlling 74 per cent stake in the Mumbai airport.

Under a complex deal reached between GVK and Adani groups, Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL), a part of Adani Group owned by billionaire Gautam Adani, will acquire the debt of GVK Airport Developers Limited (GVKADL) through which GVK Group holds 50.5 per cent equity stake in MIAL. The MIAL in turn holds 74 per cent stake in Navi Mumbai International Airport



Limited (NMIAL). As per the deal, AAHL will acquire the debt of GVKADL from its airport lenders. This arrangement will enable AAHL to acquire GVK's 50.5 per cent stake in MIAL. Further, it will acquire 10 per cent stake from Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA) and 13.5 per cent from Bidvest, taking its total stake in MIAL to 74 per cent. The remaining 26 per cent will be with Airports Authority of India

(AAI). However, the two groups did not give details of the financial terms of the transaction.

"The GVK Group and AAHL have agreed that AAHL will offer a stand-still to GVK, in addition, to release the guarantee given by GVK Power and Infrastructure Ltd with respect to the debt acquired by it," Adani Group said in a statement.

Adani Group said it will also "take steps to complete the ac-



Gautam Adani

The aviation industry has been severely impacted by Covid-19. It was therefore important that we bring in a financially strong investor in the shortest possible time to improve the financial position of MIAL

— GVK Reddy, Chairman, GVK Group

quisition of a 23.5 per cent equity stake from ACSA and Bidvest in MIAL for which it has obtained Competition Commission of India (CCI) approval."

Upon the acquisition of the debt of GVK ADL, Adani Group will take steps to obtain necessary customary and regulatory approvals, as may be required, to acquire controlling interest in MIAL," it said.

## JioFiber unveils free trial for new customers

### HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** JioFiber has revamped its tariff plans and has announced a 'no condition 30-day free trial' for all new customers.

New JioFiber customers activating from September 1, will get the 30-day free trial. Under the unconditional free trial, customers will get 150 Mbps 'truly' unlimited internet, 4K set-top box with access to top 10 paid OTT apps at no cost, free voice calling for 30 days.

If the customer does not like the service during the trial period, the company will take it back and no questions will be asked, a company statement said. Further, plans of all existing JioFiber customers will be upgraded to match the benefits

### 'No condition 30-day free trial' is available for new customers from today

of the new tariff plans and any JioFiber customer onboarded between August 15 and 31 will also get the 30-day free trial benefit as a voucher in MyJio. The tariff plans start from Rs 399 per month and go up to Rs 1,499 a month. Commenting on this development, Akash Ambani, Director, Jio said: "JioFiber is already the largest Fiber provider in the country with over a million connected homes, but our vision for India and Indians is much larger. We want to take Fiber to each and every home and empower every member of the family."



# Minister touts TS as best place for TV serial shoots

- Producers need not search for shooting locations in other States as the State has best shooting locations like waterfalls, sculptures, temples and other attractive places and the shooting teams can reach to these spots in a short time, says Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud
- The Minister assures all support to the industry

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Telangana Tourism department would not only provide best shooting locations for the television serials but, also boarding and lodging facilities to the artists of the serials at their tourism hotels at different places in the State.

This was announced by Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud here on Monday in a meeting with the representatives of Telangana TV Serials Association at Kala Bhavan on Monday. The Minister said that lakh of television serial artists had lost livelihood and had to face difficulties



Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud holding a meeting with the representatives of Telangana TV Serials Association in Hyderabad on Monday

because of the restrictions on shootings in wake of the country-wide lockdown.

Keeping in view the plight of the TV serial artists, the State government gave permissions for shootings with conditions, said the minister.

He said the State had best shooting locations like waterfalls, sculptures, temples and other attractive places in the State and the shooting teams can reach to those spots within a short time. The Minister suggested the association members to produce a documentary on tourist loca-

tions, temples and archaeological sites in the erstwhile ten districts of the State. Earlier the serial makers used to visit other States for shooting but now all the facilities are available in the State, which can be used as readymade studios.

He informed about the probable shooting sites like Anantagiri Hills, Bhogata waterfalls, Samakka Sarlamma site for forest site, Srisaillam Laknavaram, Mannanuru, Tadwai Ramappa, forest area in Adilabad, which are attractive with natural beauties. Hence, the producers from the

Telugu States should focus on the locations in the State instead of going to other States. This would also help in promoting the Telangana State worldwide.

The Minister said that the government is ready to provide all types of facilities to the industry through a single window system and assured to form a team with TV serials production managers' association members and the Tourism department officials for visiting all places and prepare a road map. He assured that the government would provide all the support for the industry needs.

## KHAIRATABAD GANESH

# In a U-turn, Utsav Samithi to take out Shobha Yatra today



- Earlier, the Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Samithi had decided to immerse the idol at the Khairatabad itself
- Now it will take out a procession and immerse the idol at Tank Bund

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Going back on its promise of immersing the Dhanwantri Maha Ganapati idol at the pandal itself, the Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Samithi would be taking up immersion procession

of Maha Ganapati in the form of Shobha Yatra on the occasion of Ananta Chaturdashi on Tuesday.

The Samithi members had earlier decided to immerse the Maha Ganapati's clay idol in pandal itself but they changed their decision after devotees wanted them to follow the customs and take up procession as per tradition. The journey of Maha Ganapati to Tank Bund would start at 10.30 am and reach crane number 4 on Tank Bund passing through Telephone Bhavan, Telugu Talli Flyover, NTR Marg and reach the immersion point. The Samithi members have asked people not to come to the immersion programme. The

Samithi members had also urged the police officials to support the immersion procession and added that they would use private security if they cannot provide them the necessary security arrangements.

The Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi has cancelled this year's mass immersion programme in wake of the Corona pandemic. However, many pandal organisers have been taking out processions with limited gatherings. There will be no welcome stages in the city this year and neither the police have allowed philanthropist organisations to distribute prasads to devotees.

## FIRST DISHA MEETING OF HYDERABAD DISTRICT

# Kishan tells officials to strictly implement mid-day meal scheme

- Kishan Reddy tells officials to strictly implement mid-day meal scheme
- The minister also took stock of issues on women safety, school education and mid-day meals, medical and hospital services, and civil supplies among others

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy asked for the strict implementation of the mid-day meal scheme with a focus on poor and minority children in all government schools in the Hyderabad district.

Presiding the first DISHA Meeting of Hyderabad District held virtually on Monday, he reviewed the progress of various centrally sponsored schemes including MUDRA Yojana, PMAY, Ujjwala, Poshan Abhiyan, Pension schemes, Aatma Nirbhar package, PM Svanidhi among others with district officials.

He also suggested that the construction of new buildings for the schools currently pending should be completed expeditiously. Toilets and sanitary pads for girls should be made available in all government schools, the Union Minister said.

That apart, he asked under the current Covid conditions, generic medicine shops should be made available at all government hospitals for the poor people in the district.

Kishan Reddy suggested that Basti hospital should be connected with wellness centres and manage them more efficiently, and told the district collector to increase Covid tests and curb the exploitation of Covid treatment in private hospitals. He directed early completion



of double bedroom houses and allocation of the same to the poor, setting up Anganwadi centres in the newly formed double bedroom colonies in the district, in the Basti community halls and to take necessary action to implement at the district level, the nutrition campaign is being implemented across the country in September.

He asked the authorities to provide information to all the members of the DISHA Committee from time to time. Kishan Reddy inquired specifically about the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. He also directed the officials to provide training and employment opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors under the Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

He assured full cooperation from the Union Home Ministry to the Hyderabad Police Department.

The minister also took stock of issues on women safety, school education and mid-day meals, medical and hospital services, and civil supplies among others. The meeting was co-chaired by MP Keshava Rao, MLAs and public representatives from the District, nominated members of the Committee.

Commissioner of Hyderabad City Police, District Collector (Member Secretary), CEO of Secunderabad Cantonment, District Education Officer, District Medical Officer, Officials of GHMC and various Departments also joined the first meeting.

# KTR eligible for any post, feels Council Chairman

- If KCR desires, the TRS working president could become Chief Minister of the State, says Sukhender Reddy
- Says the Telangana government would not keep quiet if the AP government tries to take away water illegally

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** State Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy on Monday said that the Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao has all eligibility to assume any post, and if the TRS president K Chandrashekar Rao desires, he could become Chief Minister of the State.

In an informal chat with the media persons here, Sukhender Reddy said that he has confidence that the Chief Minister will not do injustice to the 'Udyamakarulu' but inclusion of leaders from other political parties cannot be avoided because of the political equations.

Sukhender Reddy said that Minister KTR has all eligibility to handle any post and if Chief Minister KCR makes up his mind, he may make KTR as the Chief Minister. He said he is happy with the



constitutional post given to him by the Chief Minister and also added that he would be ready to accept any responsibility the TRS chief gives.

The Council Chairman said that Pothireddypadu project in Andhra Pradesh is an illegal project and calling it as a Rayalaseema Lift is wrong. Sukhender Reddy recalled that when he was in the Congress party, he along with K Jana Reddy had written letters to the government on Pothireddypadu. Not even one minister in the government at that time had talked about the project. During the TDP rule, there were controversies on Devadula project, he said.

He said that the redesigning of the projects was going on and would continue only on Godavari River because there are many projects on Krishna River constructed by Telangana, Andhra Pradesh,

## TS Covid tally nears 1.25 lakh with 1873 fresh cases

**Hyderabad:** Telangana reported 1873 fresh cases pushing the total Covid cases tally nearer to 1.25 lakh. As Monday, the Covid tally was 1,24,963 cases. With 9 new deaths, the total death count rises to 827.

Authorities who were doing tests in the region of 60k for the last few days could do just 60 percent of that

number on Sunday due to public holiday. With 37,791 tests in 24-hours period the total tests done so far rose to 13.66 lakh.

Among fresh cases, GHMC reported 360 cases, Karimnagar (180), Ranga Reddy (129), Khammam (103), Nizamabad and Warangal (94 cases each), Siddipet (85) cases.

## Pharma firm offers free Covid medicine to corona warriors

**Hyderabad:** Pharmaceutical company MSN Group (MSN) has announced free Favilow tablets to corona warriors including doctors, nurses, journalists, police & sanitation personnel across 170 cities if tested Covid-19 positive.

MSN will distribute free Favilow 200 mg tablets (Favipiravir) as an attempt to salute the selfless spirit of doctors, nurses, journalists, po-

lice & sanitation personnel. They can avail the benefit by providing the test report, doctor's prescription, and work ID at the customer care desk for free delivery of the drug, the company said in a statement. Dr MSN Reddy, CMD, MSN Group, said "We want to express our solidarity with all the front-line fighters for displaying exemplary service during this pandemic situ-

ation. We feel as an organisation it is our responsibility to acknowledge & to service all the brave hearts," he said.

The drug 'Favipiravir' has been granted approval by DCGI for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed cases of Covid-19 in adults and children, hospitalised with mild to moderate symptoms of the disease.

# Hyd medical experts sound alarm bells on metro travel

They feel the AC system and closed windows help the virus to thrive for longer duration and infect passengers

MAHESH AVADHUTHA

**Hyderabad:** The Union government has decided to allow metro rails to resume services and accordingly different States are working on procedures and protocols to get rail coaches back on tracks.

Hyderabad Metro Rail is yet to come out with a statement on resumption of services but according to medical experts, this comes with great risk and danger. Chances of passengers getting virus infection are high if they travel by this rapid mode of transport, they opined.

Dr M Naresh, a pulmonologist from the city said that AC (Air-



Conditioning) system in the metro rail will be a safe haven for coronavirus to stay for a long time if any asymptomatic passenger sneezes or coughs during the course of the journey.

"Virus will thrive in cold temperatures through AC system in

closed coaches. Authorities might take various safety measures like thermal screening of passengers, ensuring physical distancing in coaches, ensuring no-contact measures at stations but the in-built AC system which centrally connects all coaches is a big chal-

lenge," the doctor said. Perhaps a thought of resuming metro services could be taken after two to three months when corona cases reduce and the situation comes under control, he felt.

The best option is to stop the air-conditioning facility and let all windows of rail coaches be open. However, this is not possible in metro rail coaches unlike in normal rail coaches where side windows are equipped with shutters that can be pulled up or down easily as per the convenience of passengers seated next to window seats.

Metro coaches have plenty of side windows that are fitted with glasses that cannot be opened. The windows are fixed permanently with glasses to allow ample lighting and help passengers to look at the breathtaking outside view while zooming past them in the high-speed metro.

Delhi Metro has decided to halt with all the doors open for a considerable time at terminal stations to allow fresh air to enter the coaches. The temperature inside the coaches will be between 24 and 28 degrees celsius.

Most nations in the world have resumed metro services after lifting lockdown, but they ensured ridership is just 25 percent of the full train capacity. Normally a train that can carry 700 passengers during normal times is being allowed to run only with 180 passengers or less.

Dr VV Ramana Prasad, a senior pulmonologist from city pointed out that metro service resumption could be put on hold for quite some time till there is a big decline in cases. He pointed out that Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan hinted at the corona situation coming under control around Diwali time.



## INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

# Hyderabad FC appoint Marquez as new head coach

**Hyderabad (IANS):** Indian Super League (ISL) side Hyderabad FC on Monday announced the appointment highly-experienced Spaniard Manuel 'Manolo' Marquez as their new head coach.

Spain's Albert Roca was slated to coach Hyderabad FC but a call from new FC Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman forced him to sever ties and join the Spanish giants' coaching staff.

Marquez, who previously worked at the helm in the Spanish LaLiga and the Croatian top-flight, has penned a one-year deal till the end of the 2020-21 season.

"It's a big challenge for me to join Hyderabad FC as we are set to begin our season soon. The club has already been preparing and working on a lot of things over the last seven months so that makes it a comparatively smoother process for me to settle in," said the 51-year-old.

"Given that Hyderabad FC intends to follow the same philosophy which I've worked with over so many years, I believe there are common goals already present. Now it's just about hitting the ground running and imparting those ideologies to the players," he added.

Hyderabad FC co-owner Varun-Tripuraneni said: "We have worked towards a unified goal over the last seven-eight months while building our team. It has been one of our top priorities to continue the good work that everyone has put in and we strongly believe that Manuel Marquez is the perfect choice to do that."



## Jamshedpur FC add midfielder Alex

**Jamshedpur (IANS):** Alexandre Monteiro de Lima, simply known as Alex, has become the latest acquisition for Jamshedpur FC, being signed for the 2020-21 Indian Super League (ISL) season.

Alex is a midfielder who comes at the back of a star-studded career across the world and becomes the club's fourth foreign player (along with Aitor Monroy, David Grande and Nerka Valskis). The 31-year-old has the experience of playing in Asia with stints in the highly competitive K League 2 (South Korea) with Suwon FC

and FC Anyang and most recently with Ho Chi Minh City FC in V.League 1 (Vietnam). The midfielder has amassed a total of 43 goals and 23 assists in a total of 337 appearances in his career so far.

The Brazilian began his career in the youth system of Gremio Mauense in Brazil. In 2008, he went on to sign as a professional player for FC Wohlen in Switzerland. He became a regular starter for the Swiss 1 Liga club where he spent four years and also enjoyed a spell on loan at FC Gossau of the same league.



## Odisha FC ropes in Diego Mauricio

**Bhubaneswar (IANS):** Odisha FC on Monday announced the signing of striker Diego Mauricio ahead of the seventh edition of the Indian Super League. The Brazilian has signed a one-year contract with the Bhubaneswar-based side. The 29-year-old striker has the experience of playing at many top football leagues around the world. He made his senior club debut for Brazil's Flamengo in 2010 where he linked up with football legend Ronaldinho. He has played for other Brazilian teams like Sport Club do Recife, Bragantino and Centro Sportivo Alagoano. The Rio de Janeiro-born forward was part of Brazil's U-20 squad and played in a team that had superstars like Philippe Coutinho, Casemiro, Oscar, Felipe Anderson, Firmino and the mercurial Neymar. He



has also travelled around the world playing in South Korea for Busan Park and Gangwon FC, Saudi Arabia for Al Qadisiyah, Portugal for Vitoria FC, Russia for FC Spartak Vladikavkaz and China for Shijiazhuang Ever Bright FC. Welcoming Mauricio at OFC, head coach Stuart Baxter said, "We are delighted to secure the services of Diego. He is a player who can both combine with his teammates and also create chances on his own. When he gets to know the squad he will be a major asset for us."

"He has the credentials, and more importantly the experience to fit into our club. He has consistently proven himself at various levels and we expect a seamless transition."

A defender by trade, the Barcelona native turned out for various sides in the Spanish leagues, before hanging up his boots at the age of 28. During his

two-decade-long coaching career, Marquez has worked with the likes of PB Anguera, AE Prat, CE Europa, CF Badalona, RCD Espanyol B, UE Sant Andreu, and UD Las Palmas B in the Spanish league system.

He took charge of LaLiga side UD Las Palmas in 2017 before working with Croatian top-flight side NK Istra 1961 in 2018.

## CPL: Spinners win it for Zouks; Pooran shines in Warrior's victory

**Trinidad (IANS):** Some prudent captaincy coupled with masterful spin bowling helped St Lucia Zouks defend the lowest-ever total in the history of the Caribbean Premier League, as they edged the champions Barbados Tridents by three runs.

In a game dominated by the bowlers, the part-timers of Zouks had the final laugh at the Brian Lara Cricket Stadium in Tarouba, as they managed to defend a paltry score of 92 on Sunday.

Put into bat, Zouks batsmen found it extremely difficult against the Tridents' bowlers as none of them was able to score freely. Only Nabibullah could hold some ground as he scored 22 runs from 31 deliveries before Zouks were bundled out for mere 92 runs.

For Tridents, it was Hayden Walsh who starred with the ball as he picked three wickets, giving away just 19 runs in his four overs.

In other game, Guyana Amazon Warriors rode on a brilliant unbeaten century from Nicholas Pooran as they defeated St Kitts and Nevis Patriots by seven wickets.



## IPL 2020: BKT Tires announces collaboration with 6 franchises

**New Delhi (IANS):** Balkrishna Industries Ltd. (BKT Tires), the Indian multinational group and global player in the off-highway tire market, has announced that it will be sponsoring six teams -- Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals, Kings XI Punjab, Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals -- in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"Cricket is a very popular sport in India. Everyone loves the game and we at BKT are unstoppable when it is about sport. We are pleased and excited to be a part of an event that is much followed in our home country," Rajiv Poddar, Joint Managing Director of BKT, said. "We believe in sharing values such as resolution, fairplay, persistence, and self-confidence as well as the

awareness of one's limits. We are a keen supporter of several national sports all around the globe, but it fills me with immense pleasure that we are now supporting such a significant sporting event of India," he added. BKT has already been promoting cricket by supporting the Big Bash League (BBL) based on an agreement with Cricket Australia.

It has also been supporting Indian sports and has partnered with Patna Pirates, Purni Paltan, Tamil Thalaivas, U Mumba, Gujarat Fortune Giants, U.P. Yoddha, Dabang Delhi, and Haryana Steelers Kabaddi in the 2019 season - eight out of 12 teams of the Pro Kabaddi League.

The 13th IPL edition is slated to be played in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

## US OPEN

## Djokovic overwhelming favourite, Serena targets 24th Grand Slam

**Washington (IANS):** In a major delight for tennis fans across the globe, the US Open will become the first Grand Slam of the Covid-19 era when it begins on Monday in a spectator-less bubble at the Flushing Meadows, New York.

Novak Djokovic, fresh from his recent Cincinnati Masters title, will be seeking his 18th Grand Slam in a roster that misses Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for the first time since the 1999 edition of the tournament.

The Serbian launches his bid for a fourth US Open crown at Arthur Ashe Stadium as he squares off with Bosnia and Herzegovina's 107th-ranked Damir Dzumhur.

Austrian second seed Dominic Thiem, third-seeded 2019 US Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev of Russia, Greek fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas and German fifth seed Alexander Zverev are also in the fray. Britain's Andy Murray also could pose a threat as he lurks in Thiem's quarter of the draw.

Indian fans too have something to be excited about the tournament. India's number one singles player Sumit Nagal could face Thiem in the next round if he clears American Bradley Klahn in his opening contest.

It will be second straight US Open singles main draw for Nagal, who came through the qualifiers last year and played a memorable match against Federer.

The tournament will also witness Indian veterans Ro-



han Bopanna and Divij Sharan feature at the event. While Bopanna will partner with Denis Shapovalov, Sharan has been tagged with Nikola Pietrangeli in the men's doubles event.

Meanwhile, in the women's field, Serena Williams will be eyeing a 24th Grand Slam which will equal Margaret Court's all-time record. World No.1 Naomi Osaka withdrew from the Cincinnati Masters due to a hamstring injury which puts her out of the reckoning in the main draw. World number two Simona Halep is missing along with reigning US Open champion Bianca Andreescu of Canada and Elina Svitolina, Kiki Bertens and Belinda Bencic.

However, it's not going to be easy for 38-year-old Williams, who could meet 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens in the third round, Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin in the semi-finals and potentially Czech top seed Karolina Pliskova in the final.

Considering the ongoing situation, the tournament has decided to dismiss the mixed doubles event for the year.

All the action from the tournament can be watched live on the Star Sports Network.



## Proud moment for nation, says Rahane as India win gold in chess Olympiad

**Dubai (IANS):** India's Test cricket team vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane has congratulated the Indian chess team that won the first FIDE Online Chess Olympiad along with Russia on Sunday.

"Many congratulations to team India on being declared the joint winners for the #ChessOlympiad. Proud moment for us as a nation," Rahane, who is with his Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Capitals in the UAE, said in a tweet.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the team and said: "Congratulations to our chess players for winning the FIDE Online #ChessOlympiad. Their hard work and dedication are admirable. Their success will surely motivate other chess players. I would like to congratulate the Russian team as well."

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju tweeted: "I congratulate our Indian contingent that won the gold at the @FIDE\_chess Online Chess Olympiad. India was declared the joint winner with Russia. My heartiest wishes to all players!"

"Congratulations India on being joint winners of the #ChessOlympiad along with Russia. Shatranj ke khiladi, bahut khoob," tweeted Virender Sehwag.

In a dramatic finish, the global chess body FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich declared India and Russia as joint winners as the final match was interrupted by a computer server problem.

The decision to declare India and Russia as joint winners was taken after an appeal made by India, saying three of its players were disconnected from the server.

## Messi can only leave Barcelona if release clause is paid: LaLiga

**Barcelona (IANS):** Spanish football league LaLiga has said Lionel Messi cannot leave Barcelona on a free transfer by stating his release clause that will have to be paid if he is to sever ties with the club.

The Messi transfer saga took another step forward last week with the news that he would not go to the club's training ground to take a planned coronavirus test. Messi and the rest of the Barcelona squad, who played in their ill-fated Champions League campaign, were required to take the tests on Sunday before returning to pre-season training under new coach Ronald Koeman.

The talismanic striker had notified Barcelona that he intends to walk away from the club by exercising a clause in his contract that allows him to leave for free at the end of each season.

LaLiga though bolstered Barcelona's stance, with the club insisting the clause has expired and the only way Messi will be allowed to leave is if his €700m release clause is paid in full.

"With regard to the various interpretations (some of which are contradictory) published by a number of media outlets in recent days in relation to the con-



tractual situation surrounding FC Barcelona player Lionel Messi, after having studied his contract with the club, LaLiga considers it appropriate to clarify that:

1) The contract is currently in force and features a release clause to be applied in the event that Lionel Andres Messi should decide to activate the early unilateral termination of the contract, pursuant to Article 16 of the Royal Decree 1006/1985 of 26 June, which regulates the specific labour status of professional athletes.

2) In line with the regulations and procedure that apply in such instances, LaLiga shall not proceed with the release required for the player to be de-registered from the Spanish Football Federation unless the afore mentioned clause has been paid," a LaLiga statement read.

## Thauvin inspires Marseille to win in Ligue 1 opener



Car's double in the 27th and 80th minute, reports Xinhua news agency. "I'm really happy to have scored. It was a very long time out, the first long injury of my career," Thauvin told Telefoot after the match.

"I admit I went through a difficult period but I worked a lot and I'm proud because I didn't give up. I think I'm at 70 or 80 per cent," he added. "But if you had told me after so long without playing I was going to be at this level, I would have signed right away. Romain Faivre scored for the hosts in first half stoppage time, and Gaetan Charbonnier's goal in the 89th minute caused Marseille a few nervy moments, but it was not enough to take the win away from last season's runners-up.

**Paris (IANS):** Florian Thauvin came back in style from a 15-month layoff with one goal and two assists as Marseille launched their new Ligue 1 season with a 3-2 win. On Sunday, the French international struck the opener for Andre Villas-Boas' side 20 minutes into the game, before turning provider for center-back Djed Spalletti.

## Lyon win 5th straight Women's Champions League title

**Madrid (IANS):** Olympique Lyonnais defeated Wolfsburg 3-1 in the final of the Women's Champions League to lift the title for the fifth consecutive year. First-half goals from Eugenie Le Sommer and Saki Kumagai put the French side in the driving seat on Sunday evening and a late goal from Sara Bjork Gunnarsdottir sealed the victory, reports Xinhua news agency. With the win, Lyon have equalled the record of five consecutive European titles won by the Real Madrid men's team in the 1950s. In the summit clash, Lyon were the better side in the first half, with Delphine Cascarino being a constant threat down their right flank. The 23-year-old winger helped Le Sommer open the scoring. Le Sommer reacted sharply to fire home a loose ball after goalkeeper Friederike Abt had blocked the original shot with her legs. Lyon looked to seal their seventh Champions League title in the opening minutes of the second half as well-placed Le Sommer twice fired over the bar.

## Ivona Dacic makes highest 2020 heptathlon score



But for these conditions it was really amazing to achieve 6,419 points. This is an incredible result in these conditions," coach Philipp Unfried said. It was the third best performance of Dacic's career, trailing just her 6,552 tally at the 2018 European Championships and a 6,461 score in Ratingen last year.

**Vienna (IANS):** Ivona Dacic came out with this year's highest-scoring performance in heptathlon and tallied a world-leading 6,419 points to win the title at the Austrian Combined Events championships in Gotzis.

Despite difficult weather conditions on Sunday, Dacic bettered the previous 2020 world lead of 6,383 set by Ukraine's Alina Shukh two weeks ago.

"I am really proud about this competition," Dacic was quoted as saying by the World Athletics website. "It was my best heptathlon ever." The 26-year-old further said that this weekend's competition was her main goal for this season. "I was looking forward this whole season to this event. So I didn't care about the weather.