



WINDOWS



In view of Covid guidelines, a devotee immerses a Ganesha idol in a drum, during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, in New Delhi on Sunday

TTD to release Sept tickets quota today

Tirumala: Tirumala- Tirupati Devasthanams will release the September quota of Rs 300 special darshan online tickets at 11 am on Monday. However, TTD has cancelled these tickets on September 15 and from September 18-27 in view of Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam on September 15 and thereafter Srivari annual Brahmotsavams from Sep 18 till Sep 27. TTD has appealed to devotees to notice the changes while booking their online advance Rs 300 special darshan tickets.

New low pressure in Bay of Bengal

Bhubaneswar: With a fresh low pressure area brewing over the Bay of Bengal, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to lash many parts of Odisha for at least four days, the Meteorological Centre here said. In view of the forecast, the state government has asked the district administrations to remain prepared to deal with possible water-logging, landslides and flash floods. A cyclonic circulation lies over Bangladesh and neighbourhood and under its influence a fresh low pressure area is likely to develop over north Bay of Bengal and neighbouring areas on Monday, the MeT Centre said.

SPORTS



MORE MATCHES, EXPOSURE HAVE HELPED INDIA'S IMPROVEMENT, SAYS BHUTIA

P8



Sonia indicates she doesn't want to carry on

New Delhi (IANS): Ahead of the Congress Working Committee meeting on Monday, interim chief Sonia Gandhi has communicated to members of the party's highest decision-making body that she was not interested in continuing and asked them to find a new chief, sources said, even as two Chief Ministers have come out to back the Gandhis' leadership.

Congress Communication Department chief Randeep Surjewala, however, denied any such move, saying nothing has been communicated by the interim President or said on her behalf.

A top aide of Sonia Gandhi too denied any such move and said that everything will depend on

the Congress Working Committee meet.

The Gandhi family has found strong backing from Punjab and Chhatisgarh Chief Ministers, with the former, Captain Amarinder Singh saying that "this is not the right time to raise this demand (of a leadership change)".

State Congress units are likely to hold emergency meetings to back the Gandhis for the top post.

Even some of the leaders who have written a letter to the party, said that there is no dispute on the leadership issue of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

The pro-Rahul brigade is likely to take on the dissenters



SPLIT WIDE OPEN

A letter dated August 7 and signed by senior leaders like Kapil Sibal, Shashi Tharoor, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Prithviraj Chavan, Vivek Tankha and Anand Sharma, sought sweeping changes in the Congress. Pointing to the decisive support among the youth for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it said the party is in decline as the country faces "gravest political, social and economic challenges since Independence"

in the CWC meet, while many names have started doing the rounds, especially two Dalit leaders - Mallikarjun Kharge and Sushilkumar Shinde, as likely replacements if Sonia Gandhi doesn't want to continue.

While Kharge is close to Rahul Gandhi, Shinde has been a former Home Minister and Maharashtra Chief Minister.

Sources say that a collective system may also be proposed or a team of leaders may be appointed as Vice Presidents to assist Sonia Gandhi in case there is no consensus on the change of the leadership and Rahul Gandhi does not want to return to the leadership role.

Centre gives nod for films, TV shoots

New Delhi (IANS): Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on Sunday announced the reopening of the film and TV production industry that has been shut for several months since March due to the corona virus pandemic, subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

"The new SOP will be like a 'Sanjeevani' for the media production industry. Social distancing and masks will be an integral part of this SOP. The general principle behind the Standard Operating Procedure would help create a safe working environment for both the cast and the crew," Javadekar said.

The SOP ensures adequate distancing at shoot locations and other workplaces and includes measures like proper sanitisation, crowd management, and provi-

SOP suggests that sharing of costumes, props, wigs, makeup, etc., shall be kept to the minimum and persons handling shared equipment shall wear gloves. Lapel mics shall be avoided and never shared while direct contact with diaphragm of the mics shall be avoided. A strict physical distancing of six feet shall be adhered to at shoot locations, recording studios, and editing rooms

sion for protective equipment.

The Minister said that the core principle of this SOP is 'contact minimisation'.

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Lapel mics shall be avoided and never shared while direct contact

with diaphragm of the mics shall be avoided. A strict physical distancing of six feet shall be adhered to at shoot locations, recording studios, and editing rooms etc. The SOP also suggests that minimum cast and crew shall be present during the shoots.

The new SOP, however, prohibits the entry of visitors or audience at shooting spots.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi feeding a peahen and a peacock, while some peacocks are seen walking around as PM performs his morning routine exercise, inside his official residence in New Delhi

PM Modi shares 'unbreakable bond' with peacocks

New Delhi (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday posted a video on his social media accounts in which he is seen feeding peacocks at his residence during his morning exercise routine.

The 1.47-minute video also has a few glimpses of the prime minister's daily walk from his home to his office within the Lok Kalyan Marg residence. Peacocks are often a regular companion of the prime minister during his exercise, sources said, noting that he has long shared an "unbreakable bond" with the environment and has also written two books on the matter.

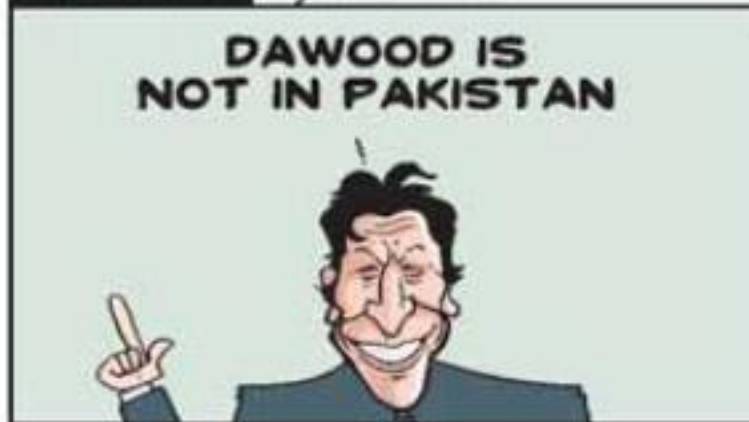
At his residence, Modi has placed elevated structures, often found in rural India, where birds can make their nests, they said. Modi also posted a Hindi poem, an ode to nature, with the video. He first put the video on his Instagram account and shared on Twitter later.

The two books written by the prime minister to highlight his vision for the environment are 'Convenient Action: Gujarat's Response to Challenges of Climate Change' and 'Convenient Action- Continuity for Change', the sources noted. His other book, 'Aankh Aa Dhanya Che',

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has poems on nature. It was originally written in Gujarati and then translated to several other languages. When the world spoke of climate change, Modi talked about "climate justice" and linked human value systems with the fight against climate change, they said. "The prime minister pioneered the launch of International Solar Alliance to harness solar energy for a better future. He appeared on the show 'Man Versus Wild' where he highlighted India's ethos of living in harmony with nature," the sources added. As chief minister of Gujarat, Modi ensured that it was among the first states in India and the world to have a climate change department, they said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



f t i n @MANJULtoons



River meet with AP, TS put off indefinitely

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: A solution to the imbroglio over the alleged illegal projects taken up by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on river Krishna and Godavari is unlikely to be found soon as the Apex Council meeting, which was scheduled to be held on August 25, has been postponed following Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat testing positive for coronavirus.

The Union Ministry has sent an official communication to the effect to the state government on

Apex Council meeting, which was scheduled to be held on August 25, has been postponed following Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat testing positive for coronavirus

Sunday. The revised dates would be intimated soon. The first scheduled meeting on August 5 was cancelled on the request of Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao, who scheduled a Cabinet meeting on the same day.

The council meeting is unlikely to be held until September

second or third week as the Union minister will have to recover from the viral infection, officials said.

Official sources said that the senior Irrigation officials of Andhra Pradesh had already submitted the details of the 'illegal' projects taken up by the

Telangana government, including Palamuru Rangareddy lift irrigation scheme. They said the AP government was ready to explain to the Apex Council that the allegation leveled by Telangana in regarded to the proposed Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme were baseless. Even Telangana officials submitted the details of the illegal projects taken up by Andhra Pradesh and how its efforts to exploit Krishna water from the proposed Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme would harm the interests of Telangana.

Mahatma Gandhi spectacles set 260,000 pounds auction record

London (PTI): A pair of gold-plated spectacles believed to have been worn by Mahatma Gandhi and presented as a gift in the 1900s to a family from England have broken all records for a UK auction house after a US-based collector acquired them with a whopping bid of 260,000 pounds.

The glasses, which were dropped through the letterbox of East Bristol Auctions in Hanham, south-west England, four weeks ago were estimated to fetch between 10,000 pounds and 15,000 pounds but the on-line bids for the lot kept multi-

plying to finally go under the hammer of the six-figure sum. The auction house said that the lot had attracted interest from all over the world, including bids from India, Qatar, American, Russia and Canada.

"An incredible result for an incredible item! Thanks to all those who bid," said auctioneer Andy Stowe of East Bristol Auctions, as he closed the bid for the online auction on Friday. Stowe said it was a new record for East Bristol Auctions and described it as "the star lot of the century". "These glasses have been lying in a drawer for the best part of



50 years. The vendor literally told me to throw them away if they were 'no good'. Now he gets a life-changing sum of money,"

he said. "It's the 'good news' story that we all want - as an elderly gentleman, our vendor has probably had a rough time

in recent months and to be able to change his life is just incredible. The price is outstanding, but it's not about the money," he added. "It's completely spellbinding, and a wonderful thing to be a part of," said Stowe.

"It's been a complete honour to handle these spectacles and find them a new home. These glasses represent not only an auction record for us, but a find of international historical importance. Gandhi's glasses have surpassed all expectations, and previous house records. It's been a great day," added Stowe.

The glasses had been left in a plain white envelope in a letterbox at East Bristol Auctions on a Friday night and were not collected until the following Monday morning. "They could quite easily have been stolen or fallen out or just ended up in the bin," Stowe said. He said the owner had no idea of their value and "nearly had a heart attack" when he was told they might be worth 15,000 pounds. The lot, titled "Pair of Mahatma Gandhi's Personal Spectacles", was part of the auctioneers' Military, History and Classic Cars online sale. "A pair of early

20th century c1920 gold plated circular rimmed spectacles by reputed owner and worn by Mahatma Gandhi," read the auction lot details.

"The spectacles of usual form, with sprung gold plated arms and prescription lenses. Jointed by a gold plated nose bar. The spectacles formed an important and somewhat iconic part of Gandhi's overall appearance," it said. "It was known that he would often give away his old or unwanted pairs to those in need or those who had helped him. A rare and important pair of spectacles," it said.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



SAMANTHA AKKINENI
@SAMANTHAPRABHU2

The King ♥.. honoured to release the CDP to celebrate @iamnagarjuna 's birthday.. to know him is to love and respect him forever.
A king at heart 🙏 KingNagBirthdayCDP



Make your WFH hours happy, positive

MRIDUL SAWHNEY

During a time when we are all locked up in our houses for more than 5 months now, it has become very important to have positive and happy environment to make our work easier

A beautifully curated workspace in your home inspires you to keep going every day during this unfortunate lockdown period. Your workspace should be a reflection of who you are and what you love.

It is important to surround yourself with things and people that spark posi-

tivity and make you happy. Here are a few tips that worked for me in the last few months:

Keep it clean and simple

It is important to get into a ritual of organising your work desk. If you organise it well before to get into the hustle, it keeps your mind clear and increases productivity throughout the day.

Keep books or inspiring references around

Whatever field you are in, it always helps to keep elements that you can dive



into during short breaks. The screen time massively has increased for all of us, it's good to turn to traditional reading material for an hour or so during the day.

Stay hydrated

Keep a quick snack or a beverage I love keeping a jar full of my favourite green tea bags and a healthy snack bar, so I can get a boost of refreshment in between meals at my table.

Keep soothing elements on your desk

I love keeping scented candles, essential oil drops in a diffuser or just simple art material, so whenever I want to switch from the monotonous schedule, I take 15 minutes to dive into guided meditation or do some random art. It is important not just to decorate your workspace but to create a meaningful arrangement that promotes your growth. It is our new normal and we must make it as positive as possible. It should be something we look forward to every single day!

The 'vocal for local' edit

Recognising the importance of local crafts, talent and supply chains for artisans, Nykaa Fashion announced its "Vocal For Local" Edit. The curated collection will feature over 50 labels from across clothing, accessories, footwear and jewellery shining a spotlight on brands made in India and offering them a platform to showcase their craft. "We are proud to showcase homegrown fashion labels from across the country, with a focus on traditional crafts & textiles as well as innovative contemporary design. There is a rich talent of design and craftsmanship in India which allows us to not only keep our traditions alive but also translate them into modern silhouettes with a conscious message. We will continue to build on this edit to allow our customers to discover the best of Indian brands", says Adwaita Nayar, CEO - Nykaa Fashion.

The first edition of the "Vocal For Local" Edit on Nykaa Fashion presents upcoming local fashion labels such as Ambaree, Bunaai, Beej, Desi Weaves, Dhaaga Handcrafts, Fuchsia by Aashka Mehta, Lavanya The Label, Imlee, Preet Kaur, Mati, Nuuh, Rangpur and many more where the mainstay is traditional Indian crafts like Hand Block Printing, Gota Patti, Chikankari, Ikat, Banarasi Weaves and Bandhani amongst many others.

Additionally, established brands like Doodlage, Saaksha & Kinni, Urvashi Kaur, Suhani Pittie, Aprajita Toor and Valliyan that work with indigenous crafts and employ local artisans are a part of this initiative as well.

To further highlight the importance of building local fashion brands, Nykaa Fashion will host a webinar bringing together fashion thought leaders and designers. It has also launched specially curated stores to celebrate homegrown brands on its beauty platform.



LFW invites applications from startups to bootcamp

A three-module bootcamp in 'Capital Raising', 'Business & Financial Modelling' and 'Investor Pitch Development' to enable young change-makers in sustainable fashion

N LOTHUNGBENI HUMTSOE

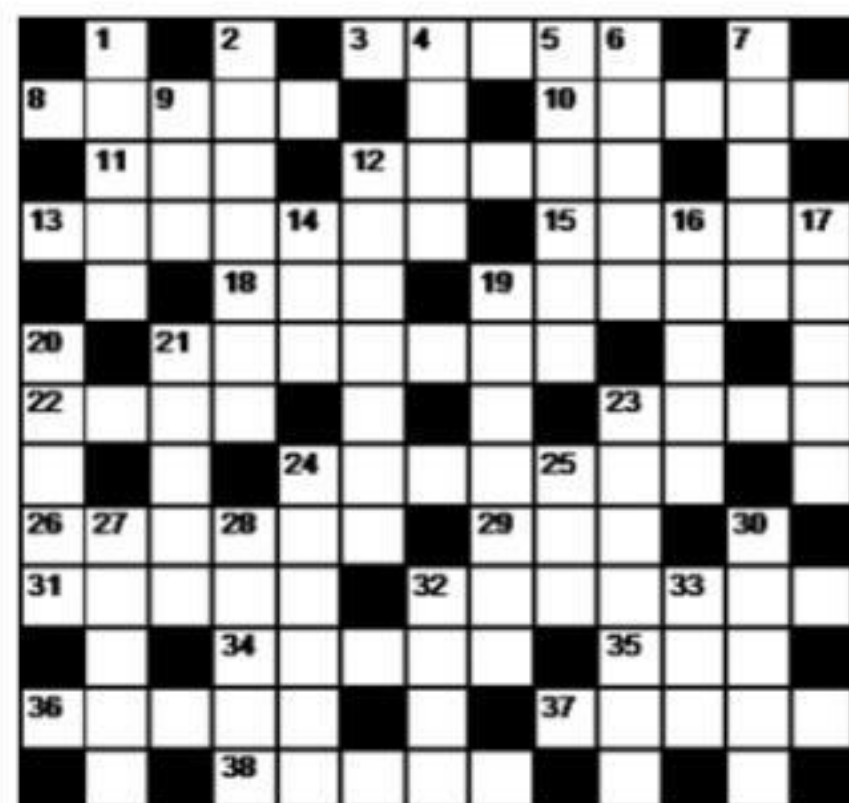
The fashion conscious are no longer looking at fast fashion to make a style statement, especially in the current scenario. Lakmé Fashion Week (LFW) recognises this, and in a bid to promote sustainable fashion, it will hold a sustainable fashion bootcamp for a handful of selected labels to pitch their value proposition and business model to an esteemed panel of investors on Sustainable Fashion Day at the upcoming edition of LFW. They will get the opportunity to receive investments and partnerships through their pitch to a group of potential strategic investors from reputed impact investment funds.

Circular Changemakers welcomes applications from start-ups across the country to take part. One of the key criterias will be the increasing the use of alternative and sustainable inputs and minimizing wastes. From the pool of applications, up to 6 start-ups will be chosen to participate in a bootcamp by industry experts. The three-module bootcamp focuses on providing visibility to change-makers in the sustainable and circular fashion space, exposing them to important aspects of 'Capital Raising', 'Business & Financial Modelling' and 'Investor Pitch Development'.

Vikas Bali, CEO, Intellectap said: "As a first of its kind investor readiness program designed to surface innovations in the sustainable fashion space, we were excited by the industry's response to the first edition of Circular Changemakers. At Intellectap and Circular Apparel Innovation Factory, we recognize the need to build the ecosystem and capabilities through such initiatives and heartened to see the cohort from the first edition gaining access to leading accelerator programs like FPG, Target etc and becoming attractive investment avenues for the funders and investors in the ecosystem. Circular Changemakers is an example of Intellectap CAIF's continued commitment to providing such innovators with access to capital, networks and knowledge all through their journey and we are excited to bring the second edition along with IMG Reliance".

Darshana Gajare, Lead Sustainable Fashion at IMG Reliance said, "Circular Design Challenge and Circular Changemakers is our commitment to provide a platform for upcoming brands and start-ups working tirelessly towards making fashion and textiles a cleaner business. The first edition of Circular Changemakers brought to the fore promising start-ups across fibre to technology innovations and gave them access to key industry investors and partners. With Sustainability at the forefront, now more than ever, we're looking forward to the upcoming edition with CAIF."

Circular Design Challenge (CDC), an initiative by R Elan's 'Fashion For Earth', Lakmé Fashion Week and UN Environment- India's first and largest sustainability award in fashion partnered with Intellectap's Circular Apparel Innovation Factory (CAIF) to launch the program.



OWNER GIFTING
V I U R A S H
ENNOBLE WORSE
R J S Y I N A N
SLAM E N W E N T
A A D V I C E L
W E L T E O A I L S
I G N O M E S C
U P O N L E H U S H
L N P Y A V N O
C A C T I I N I T I A L
E U N D E T A
R E B U K E S W I S E R

SOLUTION TO AUGUST 22

CROSSWORD

Across

- 3 Beginners (5)
- 8 ___ percent : half (5)
- 10 Bookcase part (5)
- 11 Cavity (3)
- 12 Guru in our country (5)
- 13 Quicken (7)
- 15 Organ meat (5)
- 18 Gist (3)
- 19 Crafty or sly (6)
- 21 Venerate (7)
- 22 Ages (4)
- 23 Advance slowly (4)
- 24 Ambassador's residence (7)
- 26 Forcibly compel (6)
- 29 Deface (3)
- 31 Fourth month (5)
- 32 Chief Hindu philosophy (7)
- 34 Confronted (5)
- 35 Slender fish (3)
- 36 Garlic mayonnaise (5)
- 37 Derive (5)
- 38 Muse of poetry (5)

Down

- 1 Informally quick or

bitingly cold (5)

- 2 Is present at (7)
- 4 Yelp (4)
- 5 Undergo osmosis (6)
- 6 Dislodge (5)
- 7 Gaze exultingly (5)
- 9 Interjection denoting disgust ? (3)
- 12 Majestic (7)
- 14 Pair or group of two artistes (3)
- 16 Humorous (5)
- 17 Forgetfulness river (5)
- 19 Abashed, humiliated or mortified (7)
- 20 Hajj destination (5)
- 21 Deduce (5)
- 23 Native of modern Israel (7)
- 24 Cream cake (6)
- 25 Grief stricken (3)
- 27 Pertaining or referring to sight or the eye (5)
- 28 Firearm (5)
- 30 Book of maps (5)
- 32 Means of release (4)
- 33 Maiden-name (3)

SUDOKU



NEWS ROUNDUP

Yami Gautam on how she recovered from serious neck injury

Actress Yami Gautam has tried to give proper time to her fitness and well being during the lockdown.

On Sunday, Yami took to Instagram and shared how she dealt with the serious neck injury.

"This post is very personal... Having suffered a serious neck injury, I have always had to be extra cautious -- especially owing to the fact -- amount of physical exertion due to dance, workout, non stop travel, physical activity, action, painful footwear, etc., and this list is endless, resonates with being an actor... somehow it's always been about never expressing the pain beneath the surface and rather conditioning your yourself to bear it and like its said, the show must go on," she wrote.

Yami added: "But this lockdown, I got to explore something which I couldn't before! Everytime I would try practising Yoga, I would be left more in pain owing to my condition, hence my experience never encouraged me to continue.. but this time I self-tutored my way through and allowed my body to heal itself inside out and it has worked like never before!

"This lockdown was not about 'looking fit' or a workout of the day' ... it was the time where I listened & just went with the flow! I am no expert (which you shall clearly see in the images)! I took my first baby step towards this journey, which shall not stop."

On the work front, Yami will be seen opposite Vikrant Massey in "Ginny weds Sunny".



9 kg of explosives, suicide vests seized from ISIS suspect's house

New Delhi (IANS): A Delhi Police Special Cell team seized around 8 to 9 kgs of explosives apart from suicide jackets and vests following a search at arrested ISIS operative Mohammad Mustakim Khan alias Abu Yusuf Khan's house in Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

"Khan was taken to his native village by the Special Cell team on Saturday for the search operation at his house. A jacket fitted with 3 packets of explosives and another jacket with 4 packets of explosives were

among the seized items," said Special Cell DCP P.S. Kushwah.

Yusuf was bringing gunpowder and other material in small quantity and storing them at home, for the past two years, informed his wife Ayesha on Sunday. According to police, each of the packets removed from the seized jackets was wrapped in transparent tape and contained explosive material and cardboard sheets on which ball bearings were glued. "A leather belt fitted with around 3 kgs of explosives was also seized along with a



total of 8 to 9 kgs of explosive material," the officer said. Three cylindrical metal boxes containing explo-

sives along with taped electricity wires and two other cylindrical boxes containing ball bearings were

also seized. "A wooden box used for target practice by firearms and an ISIS flag were also seized from the house, apart from two mobile chargers, a table clock attached with electric wires, ball bearings, two lithium batteries of 4V each, one lithium battery of 9V along with one-ampere meter," Kushwah said. The officer said the ISIS operative was arrested along with two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) after an exchange of fire in central Delhi's Ridge Road area on Friday night. Two pressure cookers fitted with IEDs, a pistol

Father regrets son's deed

Balrampur (IANS) Kafeel Ahmed, the father of the alleged ISIS operative Abdul Yusuf Khan, who was arrested in Delhi, has said he knew his son as a 'very good person' and he could have never imagined that his son would take to terrorism. Ahmad said that his son was polite and never fought with anyone. "I regret he was involved in such activities. I wish he could be forgiven for once, if possible, but his act is wrong. Had I known about his activities, I would have asked him to leave us," he said in an interview to a channel. Ahmed said his son had left home on Friday and after that, his whereabouts were not known. "On Saturday, we learnt that he has been arrested in Delhi," he said.

with four cartridges and one Apache motorcycle were seized from him.

India crosses 30 lakh corona positive cases

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 tally hurtled past the 30-lakh mark on Saturday night, just 16 days after it crossed 20 lakh, while the total number of recoveries too surged to 22.71 lakh, according to data from States and Union Territories.

Union Health Ministry data showed a record single-day spike of 69,874 infections, taking the country's COVID-19 caseload to 29,75,701, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 55,794 with 945 fatalities reported in the last 24 hours.

However, by night, a PTI tally showed India's COVID-19 caseload at 30,37,657, death toll at 56,762 and recoveries at 22,71,054. The tally has been compiled as per information provided by the states and union territories.

India is the third worst-hit nation in terms of COVID-19 cases after the US and Brazil.

The Union Health Ministry said the total number of recoveries has surged to 22,22,577 pushing the recovery rate to 74.69 per cent while the case fatality rate has further declined to 1.87 per cent. Recoveries exceeded active cases of the coronavirus infection by more than 15 lakhs.

India also crossed a significant milestone of testing more than 10 lakh samples for COVID-19 in 24 hours on Friday, taking cumulative tests to 3,44,91,073, the health ministry said on Saturday.



There are 6,97,330 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 23.43 per cent of the total caseload, it stated.

The Indian Council of Medical Research said India has been conducting on an average 8,89,935 tests in the last five days. The country has tested 3,44,91,073 samples across the country till August 21, it said.

India also has been testing around 74.7 people per lakh population, much higher than WHO's guidelines of testing 14 people per lakh population, the apex health research body said.

According to health ministry data, of the 945 fresh deaths, 339 are from Maharashtra, 101 from

Tamil Nadu, 93 from Karnataka, 91 from Andhra Pradesh, 64 from Uttar Pradesh, 55 from West Bengal, 34 from Punjab, 15 from Jammu and Kashmir, 14 each from Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, 13 from Delhi, 12 each from Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan and 11 from Jharkhand.

Ten fatalities were reported from Odisha, nine from Goa, seven each from Haryana and Telangana, six each from Assam, Bihar and Puducherry, five from Uttarakhand, two each from Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, while the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh and Tripura have registered one fatality each.

10-year-old girl married off to rapist, given Triple Talaq

Muzaffarnagar (IANS): In a shocking incident, a ten-year-old girl was allegedly married to her rapist and then given Triple Talaq by him, police said on Sunday.

The incident came to light when a team from the child care helpline visited the girl for counselling at a village in Budhana police station area earlier this month.

According to the helpline in-charge, Punam Sharma, the victim alleged that she was 'married' to her sister's brother-in-law on February 16 after a rape.

The child care helpline later informed the police.

The accused, a resident of Shamli district, left the girl at her parents' house on August 4 after which the family approached the helpline.

Budhana SHO KP Singh said they have started an investigation into the allegations and called the accused for questioning.

Meanwhile, sources said that the minor's family had married the girl on the insistence of her sister.

MP Health Min tests positive

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Health Minister Prabhuram Choudhary tested positive for coronavirus. "My COVID-19 test report came out positive. I request those who had come in my contact to undergo a coronavirus test. Those in close contact should quarantine themselves," he tweeted. Meanwhile, e-passes are not required to travel to and from Puducherry, announced the Union Territory administration.



500 jail inmates quarantined



coronavirus. The infected persons include the deputy jailor.

The jail is being sanitized by the district administration. Mathura district jail Senior Superintendent, Shailendra Maitreya, said, "Even though we are taking care of everyone at the jail, the fact that some staff members are coming from outside and the food products being delivered in the

Mathura (IANS): More than 500 prisoners in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district jail have been quarantined after 24 inmates tested positive for

'Chetan Chauhan died due to poor treatment at SGPGI'

Lucknow: A Samajwadi Party (SP) leader has alleged that Uttar Pradesh minister Chetan Chauhan, who succumbed to COVID-19 in a Gurugram hospital, died not because of the disease, but due to carelessness in his treatment at the state-run SGPGI at Lucknow.

Chauhan (73), who was admitted to the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) after he tested positive for COVID-19, was shifted to the Medanta hospital in Haryana's Gurugram when his condition deteriorated. The cricketer-turned-politician died last week due to COVID-related complications, after being put on life support for nearly 36 hours.

Raising the issue in the Upper House of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature, SP MLC Sunil Singh Sajjan alleged on Friday that Chauhan received poor treatment at the SGPGI.

The SP leader also claimed that Chauhan and he were admitted to the same ward of the hospital.

"Once during a round, a doctor and a nurse asked who is Chetan, to which the minister raised his hand since he was a simple per-



son. He was asked as to when he got infected with the virus, to which he explained the entire matter to the hospital staff. At that time, another personnel asked Chauhan what do you do, to which he said he is a minister in the Yogi Adityanath government," Sajjan said.

He added that he was angered by the behaviour of the hospital staff with Chauhan.

"When I could not control my anger, I told the doctor that Chauhan had played cricket for India, to which the doctor said 'oh, he is that Chetan'. After this, the doctor and the other staff left," the SP leader said.

The footage of Sajjan's speech in the Legislative Council went viral on social media platforms on Saturday.

Bihar Assembly polls to be held on time

New Delhi: The assembly elections in Bihar, due later this year, would be held on time, highly placed sources in the Election Commission said on Sunday amid demands by some political parties for postponing the polls in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The term of the 243-member Bihar legislative assembly comes to an end on November 29. Indications are that the polls could be held sometime in October-November.

"Bihar elections are definitely happening on time," a senior official of the poll panel said on Sunday.

The state's principal opposition party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, has questioned the need for holding the elections amid the pandemic. The Lok Janshakti Party, a constituent of the ruling NDA, has urged the poll panel to postpone the polls in view of the pandemic.

jail could be the source of infection. Two separate barracks have been formed to put Covid positive patients who are asymptomatic."

The district prison, which is already overcrowded, has 1,516 prisoners, including 96 women inmates, against the capacity of 554.

'Missing school worse than Covid-19 for kids'

London(IANS): Professor Chris Whitty, the UK's chief medical adviser, has said that children were more likely to be harmed by not returning to school next month than being infected with the novel coronavirus, it was reported on Sunday.



Millions of pupils in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are due to return to schools in September, while Scotland has already resumed in-person classes. Speaking to the BBC, Whitty, who is also England's chief medical officer, said "the chances of children dying from Covid-19 are incredibly small" - but missing lessons "damages children in the long run".

6 mn vaccine doses a month: Russia

Moscow: Russia expects to produce between 1.5 million and 2 million doses per month of its potential coronavirus vaccine by the year end, gradually ramping up production to 6 million

doses a month, the RIA news agency cited Industry Minister Denis Manturov as saying on Sunday. Large-scale testing of the Covid-19 vaccine, developed by Moscow's Gamaleya institute, is due to start in Russia next week.



Homeo pills given to half of Guj

Surat: The Gujarat health department has said it distributed homeopathic drug Arsenicum Album-30 to more than half of the state's population as prophylaxis since March after the outbreak of COVID-19.

In its presentation made before the World Health Organisation on August 20 on Gujarat's COVID-19 prevention strategy, the health department said it distributed Arsenicum Album-30 to 3.48 crore people, which is more than half of the state's population of 6.6 crore.

There is no scientific evidence that the drug works against COVID-19, a fact stressed not only by medical scientists but by some homeopathic practitioners themselves.

Protest erupts in US over police shooting of black man

Washington: The mother of a man fatally shot by Louisiana police said her son was intelligent, shy and had sought therapy for social anxiety. Her lawyers said they plan to sue over the death of Trayford Pellerin, who police said had a knife and was trying to enter a convenience store. The shooting was captured on video, and the state ACLU condemned what it described as a "horrific and deadly incident of police violence against a Black person." Both the ACLU and the Southern Poverty Law Center quickly called for an investigation. Pellerin's death prompted a crowd of protesters to gather Saturday and demonstrate against the latest fatal police shooting. Officers in riot gear fired smoke canisters on Saturday night to keep the crowd to disperse, Trooper Derek Senegal said.

Doctor reported missing in UP, search on

Mirzapur (IANS): A senior consultant at the divisional hospital in Mirzapur district, Dr JP Tripathi, has been reported missing under mysterious circumstances, police said on Sunday.

Tripathi went missing on Saturday after he alighted from his car near the Bhattauli bridge on the Ganga river in the district.

Mirzapur Superintendent of Police Ajay Singh, who is monitoring the search operation, said that while an alert has been sounded across the district, teams of NDRF and divers had been asked to search in the Ganga river.

Dawood Ibrahim's name in terror sanctions list: Pak

Lahore: Days after including India's most wanted terrorist Dawood Ibrahim on its new sanctions list, Pakistan on Sunday tried to wriggle out of its admission on his presence in the country by claiming that its notifications about the 88 banned terror groups and their leaders were based on the details provided by the UN.

Seeking to escape from getting blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, Pakistan on Friday imposed tough financial sanctions on 88 banned terror groups and their leaders, including Ibrahim, 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind and Ja-maat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar. The Pakistan government ordered the seizure of all movable and immovable properties of these outfits and individuals, and freezing of their bank accounts. Underworld don Ibrahim, who heads a vast and multifaceted illegal business, has emerged as India's most wanted terrorist after the 1993 Mumbai bombings. In 2003, the US declared Ibrahim as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. India has repeatedly asked the Government of Pak-



istan to hand over Ibrahim to India so that he can be prosecuted for the crimes committed by him. It is reported that Ibrahim is based in the southern port city of Karachi.

Pakistan's Foreign Office issued a midnight statement in response to the media reports that Islamabad had admitted in the two new notifications issued on August 18 that Ibrahim was residing in the country.

It said that the SROs (Statutory Regulatory Orders) issued reflect the information contained in the list entry of UN designated individuals/entities. It said the reports in certain sections of the media about Pakistan imposing new sanctions measures, through these SROs, were not factual.

The assertions made by some sections of the media, as to Pakistan admitting to the "presence of certain listed individuals on its territory, based on the information contained in the SRO, are baseless and misleading", it claimed.

Gorillas, orangutans, whales too at high Covid-19 risk: Study

New York (IANS): Humans are not the only species facing a potential threat from the novel coronavirus, but several critically-endangered gorillas, orangutans, gibbons, gray whales and bottlenose dolphins as well as Chinese hamsters are also at an equal risk of getting infected, say researchers.

Domestic animals such as cats, cattle and sheep have been found to have a medium risk and dogs, horses and pigs were found to have low risk for contracting the deadly disease to date.

According to a new study

from the University of California, Davis (UC Davis), endangered species are predicted to be at Covid-19 risk.

An international team of scientists used genomic analysis to compare the main cellular receptor for the virus in humans called angiotensin converting enzyme-2 (ACE2) in 410 different species of vertebrates, including birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals.

ACE2 is normally found on many different types of cells and tissues, including epithelial cells in the nose, mouth and

lungs.

In humans, 25 amino acids of the ACE2 protein are important for the virus to bind and gain entry into cells.

The researchers used these 25 amino acid sequences of the ACE2 protein, and modeling of its predicted protein structure together with the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, to evaluate how many of these amino acids are found in the ACE2 protein of the different species.

"Animals with all 25 amino acid residues matching the human protein are predicted to be at the highest risk for contract-

ing SARS-CoV-2 via ACE2," said Joana Damas, first author for the paper and a postdoctoral research associate at UC Davis.

"The risk is predicted to decrease the more the species' ACE2 binding residues differ from humans," Damas said in a paper published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Several critically-endangered primate species, such as the Western lowland gorilla, Sumatran orangutan and Northern white-cheeked gibbon, are predicted to be at very high risk of infection by SARS-CoV-2 via

their ACE2 receptor.

Other animals flagged as high risk include marine mammals such as gray whales and bottlenose dolphins, as well as Chinese hamsters.

Research has shown that the immediate ancestor of SARS-CoV-2 likely originated in a species of bat.

Whether bats directly transmitted the novel coronavirus directly to humans, or whether it went through an intermediate host, is not yet known, but the study supports the idea that one or more intermediate hosts was involved.



Amaravati capital farmers' fate hangs in balance

Farmers in Andhra Pradesh never took to streets as in the case of some northern States. We have seen how farmers of Haryana had protested in Delhi for their demands and got justice. We have seen how farmers of Tamil Nadu protested in Delhi and how the government finally came up with a solution. We have seen how Gujjars had protested in Rajasthan demanding five per cent reservation in jobs and how the government was forced to act.

But the Andhra farmers who are known for nonviolent protests have completed 250 days of agitation with the slogan 'Save Amravati, Save Andhra Pradesh,' still feel left out with no response from the government. They have been on relay hunger strike opposing the move of the State government to implement the three-capital formula. Not just the farmers, even NRIs and the Opposition parties and various civil society organisations also extended their support to this agitation. Everyone has his own logic to argue about whether or not the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh should have three capitals. But

the issue here is not just the capital. It is an issue which needs to be examined impartially. Though some States were divided in the past, never did this kind of situation arise. There were no Pedamma's and Chinnamma's (Sonia Gandhi and late Sushma Swaraj) to claim the credit for successful bifurcation and there was no Act made to divide a State. For the first time, AP State Re-Organisation Act 2014 was passed amidst high drama in Parliament. After bifurcation, the residuary State of AP was left without a capital city.

When the new coalition government, (TDP-BJP) came to power both at the Centre and in the State, a unanimous resolution was passed in the Assembly to establish the capital city in Amravati. YSRCP and BJP were party to it. The then leader of the Opposition YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said that 33,000 acres of land should be there for the capital city. It was time for land acquisition to attract major projects both in the private and public sector. Though it took nearly two years to acquire the land due to several political reasons and legal hurdles, the fact remains that the farmers voluntarily gave away their lands for Amaravati. This made headlines and everyone started visualising a dream capital.

The land pooling concept in Amaravati was hailed as a great model for development in India by several experts. It gained greater importance when the Prime

Minister himself carried earth and Yamuna water from Delhi and laid the foundation stone for the capital. But six years later, farmers are now staring at uncertain future as the YSRCP government has passed Bills in the Assembly and got the nod of the Governor to have three decentralised capitals. Visakhapatnam as executive capital, Amaravati as legislative capital and Kurnool as judicial capital —, the farmers, anxious over their fate, have spilled onto the streets. The hope of farmers to have a modern capital has gone haywire. They feel they have lost their land and the future of their next generations as well. "A socio-political and economic model that should have been the pride of Andhra Pradesh is now in tatters," the farmers rue. The government says that justice will be done to the farmers. But how no one knows yet. The land cannot be given back to them since roads have come up on the lands given by farmers, plots have been given on other lands. The agriculture land has become fallow. The farmers who gave away their lands as part of a social contract without receiving immediate compensation are now in doldrums. That is why the 250-day old agitation has assumed importance. If the impasse is not resolved, then the land pooling concept in Amaravati which was hailed as a great model will become a major lesson for the people particularly the farmers and in future no one would come forward for voluntary participation in nation building exercise.

Covid-19: People in TS left to their fate

GUDUR NARAYANA REDDY

Situation arising out of the spread of coronavirus in the State is becoming worse day by day as the government is negligent and non-serious in handling it. The entire State has become a virtual minefield of corona patients and people are feared about their lives. Though the number of patients dying due to the virus and those facing critical situation is low, the people are much afraid of their lives due to lack of affordable treatment in private hospitals. Absence of proper health services and looting of corona patients by the private hospitals have left the people in panic. Most of the people are keeping themselves indoors and praising the gods to protect them from the pandemic. The schools are shut, and the entire academic sector is in doldrums. Tourism, public transport and hospitality segments are facing acute fund crunch. Lakhs of private teachers are facing severe financial hardships due to closure of schools. The government is unable to decide when to open the schools and colleges and the academic year is delayed by about one month. People are not ready to send their children to schools fearing their safety. The private schools are looting the parents in the name of online education.

The poor students who do not have smart phones, tablets and personal computers are lagging behind the children of the rich and the middle classes. At the same time, the children of upper classes are unable to follow the lessons taught through the online classes. Several psychologists are advising against online classes as they would impede the natural learning process. The administration is complacent and insensitive to the problems of the people. They have been getting their act together with great difficulty after the admonishments of the courts.

Several months have gone by since the outbreak of the virus in the State and still the government do not have a proper strategy to face the situation. Though the Chief Minister had announced in Assembly in March, this year, that government would spend Rs 1,000 crore to face the situation

arising out of coronavirus, there is no proper system in place to handle the pandemic. It seems that the Chief Minister still has been following the same approach which he stated in Assembly on March 6. Responding to the questions in the Assembly, he said there was nothing to worry about and the disease and it could be controlled easily. Even though the situation has gone out of control, still he is behaving in the same non-serious manner. With the criticism of people and political parties, he has changed the Principal Secretary of Health which did not have any impact on the preparedness of the State in fighting the coronavirus.

Right from the beginning of the spread of the virus in the State, the Chief Minister has adopted the denial mode and is trying to cover up the bad situation in the State. As the Chief Minister did not take the situation seriously, the administration has also taken it easy and it has aggravated the situation. All over the world, the governments of nations have adopted the approach of trace, treat and track, the 3 T approach, to handle the situation. The strategy is to find the infected, treat them and track the infected from the primary contacts. This has proved to be the right strategy and most of the countries have come out of the clutches of the virus.

Number of tests per million shows the efficiency of the governments in fighting with the coronavirus and their sincerity in handling the situation. If the per million tests are any indication, the efficiency and sincerity of Telangana government is much low. The number of tests on each day is much low than Andhra Pradesh and positivity rate is also low, giving a false picture of the State. The average positive cases rate in Andhra Pradesh is 7,000 in the past one month's time and it is about 2000 in Telangana. In Telangana, total number of tests carried out so far is 7 lakhs and at the same in Andhra Pradesh, it is 29 lakhs and it means that four times more tests have been done in that State. The positivity rate in Telangana is 12 per cent and if four times more tests are conducted the number of positive cases would have reached to 3.50 lakh by now. So, this shows how the State government has covered up the situation.

As the number of positive cases has been rising at a rapid pace, people of Hyderabad have gone to villages and the disease spread all over the State which were free from it till the end of June. Rise in the number of Covid-19 cases have caused a pathetic situation in the rural areas as at some places the patients were driven out of the villages and no one was coming forward to cremate the dead. There are no health facilities in the rural areas to treat the critically ill patients.

But the situation is not great in Hyderabad as private hospitals have been charging abnormally. A patient in critical condition is facing severe financial hardships as they have been forced to cough up lakhs of rupees for treatment. Some patients have been forced to sell out their assets to meet the expenses of hospitals. People are afraid to go to government hospitals as gory stories about the treatment there have made rounds in the social media.

Under these circumstances, there is a need to put more focus on the treatment and improving the medical facilities. The government should immediately add treatment to Covid-19 in the Arogya Sri scheme so that treatment could be taken in private hospitals with less financial burden. The government may pay the premium to the insurance provider for limited months than paying it for the entire year as the requirement for the treatment may come down in the next six months.

As the vaccine might be made available by end of this year, the next four months would be critical in providing the assistance to the people. The coronavirus spread may reach the peak in September and more numbers of patients would emerge in the next four months.

The State government is not serious at all on establishing a plasma bank which would help the patients. Private organisations, including the one I have established, Telangana Plasma Donors Association, are striving hard to establish data banks of plasma donors. In Andhra Pradesh, the government has been giving Rs 5,000 to each plasma donor to encourage them to donate plasma. Similar steps could be taken to encourage plasma donation in the State for the benefit of critically ill patients. The State government should also strive to encourage the people for undergoing tests so that they could be identified and treated. This would improve the availability of plasma donors. Unfortunately, stigma is attached to corona patients and this has become a big hurdle in taking care of infected persons. The government should take steps to drive away the stigma from the minds of people so that testing and treating and tracing could be made easy. The number of tests should be raised substantially so that infected could be identified and isolated and it must conduct at least 20,000 tests per day to bring the situation under control. It must reach the 50,000 tests per million mark which would provide a better picture of the situation at the ground level.

While the entire State is in the grip of panic, the State government is trying to divert the attention from the handling of the Covid-19 situation. The Chief Minister and Ministers are quite busy with inaugurations and laying foundation stones than monitoring the Covid-19 situation. The Chief Minister did not conduct a review on the situation in the past two weeks. The responsibility of handling the corona has been entrusted to the Health officials and the government washed off its hands.

(The writer is president of Telangana Plasma Donors' Association and Treasurer of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee. Views expressed are personal)

EIA notification disregards Mother Earth

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala

The Union government has sought to dilute many provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment notification (EIA notification) in order to speed up the establishment of factories and mega cities and making of highways. The requirement of public hearing is to be removed for certain projects, the Ministry is to be empowered to grant post-facto Environment Clearance (EC) to projects that are presently operating without EC, large numbers of projects such as irrigation and dredging of rivers are to be exempted from obtaining an EC, etc. The intention of the government appears to be to help quickly establish mega cities and industries; and enable the making of highways promptly. A prompt EC is indeed necessary for securing an increase in our GDP.

However, the damage to the environment also pushes back our GDP. A large numbers of our High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs) have migrated from India and taken their money with them. One of their grouse has been that the air and water in India is polluted. Thus, establishment of polluting industries may increase GDP directly but can lead to an even greater reduction in GDP by fleeing of our money. We are also not able to attract tourists despite having the Taj Mahal, Himalaya, Ganga and beaches of Goa because of poor environment.

One of the reasons for this poor state of our environment is that a number of projects ostensibly for the increase in GDP are actually leading to the opposite result. Take for, example, the National Waterway No 1 (NW1) being made on the Ganga. The cost of transporting one ton material over a distance of one kilometer on NW1 said to be Rs 1.06 per ton against Rs 1.36 by rail. It is said that the NW1 would lead to a saving of 30 paise per ton kilometer. But we forget that the distance from Haldia to Varanasi by rail is about 800 kilometers against about 1,300 kilometers by NW1 because the river meanders like a snake while the rail runs in a straight line. Thus, the cost of transporting one ton material from Haldia to Varanasi is about Rs 1,370 by waterway and Rs 1,080 by rail despite the NW1 having a lower per ton kilometer cost. This project clearly harms the GDP. More so, if we add the loss of dolphins, Hilsa and other fish, deterioration in water quality, etc. Yet, the officials of the Inland Waterways Authority of India are pushing the project for obvious reasons that are best left unsaid. At their behest, moreover, the government has sought to allow dredging of the rivers saying that the environmental regulation was a hurdle in the growth of GDP. The truth is that GDP will increase



if such ill-planned projects are stalled. The environmental regulations will do a yeoman's service to the GDP by stalling such projects. They should be strengthened to help grow the GDP.

One specific area that requires attention is that the costs and benefits of the projects must be assessed dispassionately. At present the environmental regulations do not require any assessment whether a project is beneficial for the GDP or not. Also, the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), which is a precondition for the grant of an EC, should be made by an independent agency to be appointed by the government. At present the project proponent appoints the EIA Agency. Needless to say, he who pays the piper calls the tune. Thus, EIAs suppress more environmental impacts than they disclose. For example, the environmental assessment of NW1 got done by no less than the World Bank ignored the fact that the distance is more through the waterways. The third area requiring attention is that an EC remains should be made valid only for a specified number of years. Every project has a "commercial life" built into its financial assessment. The project is supposed to pay back the investment in this period. The hydropower projects in the United States, for example, are given clearance for 30 years and the project proponents are required to obtain fresh EC at that time. The underlying idea is that the project proponent has already recovered its investment and it suffers no loss if the project is scrapped.

There is yet a need for reform of the EC process. It needs to be fast-tracked. The projects are hit by the long time taken in the grant of the Environment-, Forest-, Wildlife-, Coastal- and Pollution Clearances. The government could make a unified clearance process which looks at all these laws in one go while, at the same time, strengthening these laws.

The other area calling for reform is the interference of the courts. The copper plant of Vedanta has, for example, been

The other area calling for reform is the interference of the courts. The copper plant of Vedanta has, for example, been closed down by the courts due to the violation of environmental regulations. This has forced the country to import copper leading to a huge loss. There is a need to take a balanced view on this matter. I reckon that if the courts have stopped the operation of one beneficial project such as Vedanta; they allowed hundreds if not thousands of harmful projects to go on despite disastrous environmental impacts. I can say from my own experience that the Srinagar Hydropower Project is wholly harmful for the GDP. It is producing electricity at Rs 9 per unit while the same is available on the India Energy Exchange at Rs 4 per unit. The GDP of the country falls by Rs 5 with every unit of electricity made by the project. Yet the Supreme Court allowed this project to continue only on the consideration that a lot of money had been invested

closed down by the courts due to the violation of environmental regulations. This has forced the country to import copper leading to a huge loss. There is a need to take a balanced view on this matter. I reckon that if the courts have stopped the operation of one beneficial project such as Vedanta; they allowed hundreds if not thousands of harmful projects to go on despite disastrous environmental impacts. I can say from my own experience that the Srinagar Hydropower Project is wholly harmful for the GDP. It is producing electricity at Rs 9 per unit while the same is available on the India Energy Exchange at Rs 4 per unit. The GDP of the country falls by Rs 5 with every unit of electricity made by the project. Yet the Supreme Court allowed this project to continue only on the consideration that a lot of money had been invested. At the same time, I would like to say that the only institution that stands for the protection of the environment today is the courts.

That said, there is need for speedy disposal of cases in the courts. The Prime Min-

ister should meet with the Chief Justice of India to fast track disposal of case involving economic activities. Secondly, the government should increase the strength of judges in National Green Tribunal, High Courts the Supreme Court by 5 times so that projects that are truly beneficial for the GDP are decided speedily. Most courts today have a number of vacancies because of the lackadaisical attitude of the government and the Supreme Court. Thirdly, the number of working days of our courts should be increased. According to one study, the Supreme Court works for 190 days in a year, the High Courts an average of 232 days and lower courts 244 days. They all should be made to work 280 days.

Environment protection and GDP go hand-in-hand. The problem lies in the slow working of the government officials and the judges. We must strengthen the environmental laws along with speedy implementation to secure and increase in GDP.

(The writer is formerly Professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)

Virtual leaning helps improve skills

During the time of global pandemic, teachers, parents, and students made the largest pivot worldwide from face to face learning in brick and mortar colleges to online classrooms. While for professionals across industries it has been an easier transition as many of them work on their laptops and smart devices even in office. But students have had to make far bigger adjustments as learning has always been in classrooms which they can't go to now. Besides, many of them may not be that well equipped with technology tools to avail of remote learning. Virtual classrooms and various online tools today allow us to make the engagement between the teacher and students as close to a real, in-classroom type experience, as possible. These tools can also make the teachers and parent meetings as well as staff/management meetings more time and cost saving while providing the necessary interactivity. Educational process becomes more flexible, especially in terms of time. Students are free to work at their own pace. Everyone can read the texts and watch the videos as many times as they need to understand the topic. Having permanent and free access to all the learning materials, students can easily align their studies with other plans, and it gets simpler for students to continue education even having a full-time internship or job. Since learning can be done online, there is less need of books to learn the concept. The virtual learning system also facilitates a non-stop educational process as one can continue studies even on vacation, business trip or lying in bed with a cold. This makes high-quality education available for disabled



LETTERS

people as well as for those living in remote areas or even on other continents. Classroom learning has certain limits, but virtual learning goes beyond, students have plenty of options to understand one topic in multiple forms like video lecture, Power Point Presentation, short notes, e-Books etc. During Covid-19 pandemic, students can easily update their skills by virtual learning and keep themselves busy with some appropriate or meaningful work. The virtual learning environment is friendly to experiments with formats of content and new approaches. It empowers educational roadmap with online tests and quizzes and videos. Make sure to avoid surfing the web excessively. It is easy to become distracted by the news or your favourite celebrity gossip site. Stay focused, and avoid social platforms like FB, Twitter, and other social media tools when you need to concentrate on your studies. This can be the best time to be enrolling yourself into an online course. The course might not be necessarily related to their academics but there is a vast variety of online courses available for practically anything nowadays. They can take up a new hobby or perfect an already existing one. This way, you can easily learn a new skill which might come in handy for your future job.

Virtual Learning is not the perfect substitute to the classroom setting, but there is no better alternative for now. Learning should never stop and technology is the best channel for that. There should also be some provision for clear-

ing the doubts. Besides, the students should utilise this time and learn life skills.

P C Chhabra, Executive Director, Sanskriti University, UP

Srisaillam fire mishap an eyeopener to authorities

It was extremely shocking and painful to read about the fire accident at the 900 MW Srisaillam left bank hydro-electric plant on August 20 late at night. This appears to be one of the rarest fire accidents in the history of the hydro-electric projects. This incident took away the lives of 5 young engineers and four young persons present in the plant on duty. Sympathies are with the bereaved families and we wish God may provide them with the required strength and courage to face the situation and come out of the grief as early as possible. This incident caused huge loss to the nation which in turn severely affect the people at large. This incident should become an eyeopener to the sector and all precautions and planning should be taken not to occur such incidents anywhere in the country. It is expected that the investigation in the incident will bring out the facts.

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RIVER KRISHNA IN SPATE

PULICHINTALA GETS INFLOW OF 2.94 LAKH CUSECS

- 2.29 lakh cusecs released from Pulichintala
- 3.08 lakh cusecs of water released from Prakasam Barrage into sea
- Krishna district administration on high alert
- Rehabilitation centres opened in Vijayawada
- Over 10,000 cusecs of water released from canals for irrigation purpose

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: With release of floodwaters from Srisaillam and Nagarjuna Sagar, the Pulichintala reservoir, the last important and big reservoir in Krishna basin, received more than 2.90 lakh cusecs water on Sunday.

As per the latest information furnished by the Irrigation Department, the inflow was 2.94 lakh cusecs and the outflow was 2.29 lakh cusecs. The reservoir will reach to its full level soon.

The officials have opened eight spillway radial gates to release the floodwater. The FRL of the Pulichintala reservoir is 53.34 metres and so far the water levels reached 52.40 metres.

The released floodwaters are reaching the Prakasam barrage. By Sunday evening, 3.08 lakh cusecs of water was released from Prakasam barrage with continuous inflows from the catchment areas and from Pulichintala reservoir. Over, 10,000 cusecs of water released from canals for irrigation purposes from the Prakasam barrage.

The Krishna district administration is on high alert in the upstream and downstream areas of



Floodwater being released from Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada on Sunday

(Bottom) Houses inundated in Krishna floodwater near Kanakadurgamma Varadhi in Vijayawada on Sunday

Photos: Ch Venkata Mastan

Prakasam barrage in view of the release of floodwaters from Pulichintala and Sagar. District Collector Md Imtiaz reviewed the flood situation with officials and informed that floodwater may affect some villages in Chandralapadu, Nandigama and Kanchikacharla mandals of upstream of Prakasam barrage.

In the downstream of Prakasam barrage, residents of Krishna Lanka, Taraka Rama Nagar, Balaji Nagar and other areas were affected on Sunday as floodwaters entered the homes in riverbed.

District Collector Md Imtiaz visited some flood-affected areas and appealed to the residents to take shelter at the rehabilitation centres opened at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation



stadium and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation schools.

Municipal Commissioner Prasanna Venkatesh visited IGC Stadium and supervised the arrangements. He instructed the officials to maintain physical distance and Covid guidelines for the flood-affected people, who come to rehabilitation centres. Due to fear of Covid and theft at their homes in their absence, many residents in the flood-affected areas are not willing to

leave their homes. They are taking shelter in their relatives' homes and nearby areas so that they can keep an eye on their homes and belongings.

The Irrigation Department is releasing floodwater from Srisaillam and Sagar for the past few days as floodwater has nearly reached to their full capacity with inflows continuing due to release of water from upper dams and heavy rains in the catchment areas.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: The State government is poised to launch YSR Sampoorna Poshan and YSR Sampoorna Poshan Plus from September 1 for the benefit of the pregnant, lactating mothers and infants, said T Vijay Kumar Reddy, commissioner of I&PR.

He said in a statement here on Sunday that the two schemes would benefit 30.16 lakh people under the purview of 55,607 Anganwadis in the State at a cost of Rs 1,863.11 crore.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will be launching the two schemes on September 1.

Under YSR Sampoorna Poshan programme, 47,287 Anganwadis in the plains would supply nutritious food to 26.36 lakh beneficiaries at a cost of Rs 1,555.56 crore under YSR Sampoorna Poshan Plus would provide nutritious food to 3.8 lakh beneficiaries through 8,320 Anganwadis in the 77 Girijan mandals in the Agency area.

Likewise, the government would supply in the Girijan mandals the midday meal every day and also nutritious food stuff every month to 2.16 Lakh pregnant women, lactating women and infants in the age group of 3 to 6 years in the Agency area. The midday meal includes rice, dal, leafy vegetable curry, sambar with vegetables, an egg and 22 ml milk.

The nutritious food per month includes 2 kg multigrain atta, half kg jaggery, half kg groundnut chikki, half kg dry dates, half kg flour of Ragi/Sajja/Jowar to the 66,000 pregnant women and lactating mothers. In addition, the 1.64 lakh infants in the age group of six to 36 months would be supplied

- CM Jagan to launch YSR Sampoorna Poshan and YSR Sampoorna Poshan Plus schemes on Sept 1
- The two schemes will benefit 30.16 lakh people under the purview of 55,607 Anganwadis in the State at a cost of Rs 1,863.11 crore
- Objective is to provide nutritious food to pregnant and lactating women and children in the age group of 3 to six years both in Agency areas and plains



plied 2.5 kg Balamrutam, 30 eggs, six litres milk.

In the plains, the government would supply 12.86 lakh pregnant women and lactating mothers and infants in the age group of 3-6 years the midday meal including rice, dal, leafy curry, Sambar with vegetables, an egg and 100 ml milk for children and 200 ml milk for adults.

Every month, the pregnant women and lactating mothers would be supplied at their doorsteps one kg Ragi flour, 250 grams jaggery, 250 grams groundnut chikki, 250 grams dry dates, 250 grams Sajja/Jowar flour, one kg flattened rice. The 13.5 lakh infants in the age group of six to 36 months would be given 2.5 kg Balamrutam, 25 eggs and five litres milk.

The commissioner said that the previous government spent only Rs 210 per each benefici-

ary on an average and the YSR Government is spending Rs 1,100 per head for the pregnant and lactating mothers in Agency areas and Rs 553 per child in the age group of 3 to 6 years and Rs 620 per infant in the age group of six to 36 months in the agency area.

Likewise, the government is spending Rs 850 per person for the pregnant and lactating mothers in plains, Rs 350 and Rs 412 per child in the age group of 3 to 6 years and six to 36 months respectively.

He recalled that the previous government spent Rs 2,761.23 crore on nutritious food for pregnant, lactating mothers and infants in its five-year term whereas the present dispensation is spending Rs 1,076.23 crore in the first year after coming to power. In the second year, so far the government spent Rs 1,863.11 crore for the same beneficiaries.

Narasaraopet MLA tests Covid +ve

- Confines himself to home quarantine
- Asks people who met him during the last five days to get tested for coronavirus

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Guntur: Narasaraopet MLA Dr Gopireddy Srinivas Reddy tested positive for coronavirus on Sunday. He went on home quarantine.

In a video released to the media, he said people need not worry about his health condition and expressed confidence that he will recover very soon.

He called upon the people in

the constituency not to worry about his health and requested those who met him during the last five days to undergo Covid-19 test immediately.

MLAs Kilaru Rosaiah, Ambati Rambabu and Deputy Speaker in the State Legislative Assembly Kona Raghupati were earlier infected with Covid-19 and they had recovered from the virus.

Meanwhile, TDP deputy floor leader in the State Legislative Assembly K Atchannaaidu was shifted to NRI General Hospital in Mangalagiri town for Covid-19 treatment from Dr Ramesh Hospital in Guntur city on Saturday.

He was on judicial remand in connection with ESI scam and undergoing treatment.

Floodwater in Godavari recedes

- However, 176 island villages in EG district are still in floodwater
- No power supply in the marooned villages for the last 10 days
- 18 lakh cusecs of water released into sea from Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage on Sunday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Rajamahendravaram: The flood in River Godavari is receding from Sunday morning as the inflows from its upstream were reduced and second warning at Bhadrachalam was withdrawn.

But, second warning at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage is continuing and will be withdrawn. As many as 18 lakh cusecs of floodwater was discharged into the sea from the barrage and the water



Floodwater receding at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram

level at the barrage stood at 17 feet.

Meanwhile, as many as 176 island villages in the district mainly in Konaseema area and tribal habitations in Devipatnam are still in floodwater.

The people in many villages in

AP farmers' Rana Bheri against 3C move

Continued from P1

The farmers expressed their displeasure over the shifting of stand on the issue of capital by the Bharatiya Janata Party. Initially, the BJP had strongly resisted the decision of the YSRC government to have three capitals in the name of decentralised administration and demanded that Amaravati should be retained as the capital of Andhra Pradesh. But, of late, it seems to have changed its stance. The Central party of the BJP seems to have taken a decision not to interfere in the three capitals issue. During the ongoing legal battle between the Amaravati farmers' Joint Action Committee and the state government, it had also filed an affidavit in the state High Court saying that it maintains a neutral stand.

CID raids continue on APCO ex- chairman

Kadapa: As part of ongoing raids on the properties of APCO former chairman G Srinivasulu, the Criminal Investigation Department officials have conducted searches on the house of Weavers Association president V Mallikarjuna and his relatives houses in Proddaturu, Yerraguntla towns on Sunday. It is learnt that CID officials have recovered some valuable documents from the house on Vupputuru Siva, a close relative of weavers association president and they also conducted raids at the godown belongs to former APCO chairman at Yerraguntla town.

Energy Dept seeks German support in research, training

- German State-owned KfW responds positively to the request of Energy Department in promoting low carbon technologies and energy efficiency programmes
- Help of GIZ, a German development agency sought in the areas of energy research, development and training

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: As part of objective of the State government to bring affordable, quality and sustainable energy to all its citizens and industrial sector, the government is taking significant steps to improve energy efficiency with the assistance of global agencies such as KfW.

During a conference call with Energy Secretary Srikanth Nagulapalli, the German State-owned KfW has responded positively to the request of Energy Department which sought the support of bank in promoting low carbon technologies and energy efficiency improvements in various sectors. The secretary informed that AP is implementing certain energy efficiency and energy conservation programmes with the support of Union Ministry of Power led Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

The KfW also wrote a letter to Energy Department in which it said that AP was progressing reasonably in identifying opportunities of implementing different energy efficiency measures in several sectors namely in rural water supply, micro, small, medium enterprises (MSME), domestic, municipal and agriculture sectors. "The KfW and AP government share a common objective of the judicious use of electricity and promotion of energy efficiency and demand side management," the KfW said.

The Energy Department has also requested the support of the German development agency GIZ to extend technical support to AP in the area of energy research, development and training. "As part of energy conservation and energy efficiency measures, the power utilities have been striving hard towards reduction of technical losses in transmission, distribution and generation sectors. The further reduction of technical losses in a cost-effective manner and finding solutions for technical challenges are the big challenge," the Energy Secretary said.

Covid-19 tally breaches 3.5 lakh mark in State

93 deaths reported in 24 hours

Amaravati: Coronavirus cases in the State crossed the 3.5 lakh mark on Sunday as 7,895 were added afresh while the State reported 93 more fatalities.

The latest bulletin said the total number of those recovered from the viral infection increased to 2.60 lakh after 7,449 more got cured in 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday.

The number of active cases in the State now stood at 89,742.

With 7,895 new cases being reported, the overall tally rose to 3,53,111. The infection positivity rate spiked to 10.91 per cent after 32.38 lakh tests were done so far while the recovery rate too showed an improvement at 73.66 per cent.

East Godavari district inched closer to the 50,000 cases mark,

adding 1,256 in 24 hours and taking its gross to 49,245.

According to the health authorities, 92.8 per cent of the cases being reported in the district were asymptomatic, as per a recent sero-prevalence survey.

The district now has 17,228 active cases, the highest in the State.

Guntur district crossed the 30,000 cases mark on Sunday while West Godavari, Chittoor and Visakhapatnam are just round the corner, each now having over 29,800. Kurnool district climbed back to the top spot in the toll chart at 335, adding 10 new casualties in 24 hours.

SPS Nellore reported 16, West Godavari 13 and Chittoor 11 fresh deaths in 24 hours.

The overall mortality rate in the State continued to be 0.93 per cent, about one per cent less than the national average, according to government data.



Never put your hard earned money without proper research. Never invest according to 'Stock tips'

- Rakesh Jhunjhunwala



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FII inflows broadening mkt rally

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

On expectations of economic activity picking up and earnings normalizing, running on hope and liquidity, the benchmark indices moved up. The NSE Nifty climbed 193.20 points to 11,371.60 and the BSE Sensex rallied 557.38 points to 38,434.72. However, the broader markets continued to strongly outperform the benchmark indices on expected lines as Nifty Mid-cap and Small-cap indices gained over 3.6 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively. It is pertinent to observe that the Nifty Mid-cap and Small-cap indices gained 54.5 percent and 68 percent from March lows, and fell 0.7 percent and 3 percent year-to-date respectively against 49.5 percent rally and 6.55 percent fall in Nifty 50 in same period. The market breadth, which defines the strength of the market, has seen significant improvement as currently 68 per cent constituents of the Nifty Mid-cap, Small-cap indices are sustaining above their long term 200-day SMA compared to last week's reading of 58 per cent, which signifies broadening of participation that augurs well for durability of ongoing up move. Showing strong correlation with the global markets, Indian markets have also notched multi-month highs. FII inflows have been a 'big' supporting factor for the market. The month of August so far reported (Rs 33,386.92 crore) highest ever monthly FII inflow since March 2017 (Rs 33,781.93 crore), whereas DIIs remained net sellers to the tune of over Rs 8,600 crore so far in August in addition



MARKET KHBREIN

It's pertinent to observe that FIIs have invested substantially in mid & small-caps broadening the market rally

to Rs 10,000 crore outflow in previous month. In the week ended, FIIs net bought Rs 2,068.18 crore worth of shares, whereas DIIs net sold Rs 2,117 crore shares.

Heard on the Street: The stock markets across the globe might be logging new highs, but the economies of several countries are not closer to being out of the woods. Observing carefully, it looks

like a risk-on strategy emerged in the global equity markets triggered by the highest ever-Quantitative Easing by the US Fed and record fiscal stimulus by the US government. A part of this liquidity has come to emerging markets, like India and others also. Markets expect FDI inflows to improve much better in future due to attractive corporate tax (amongst the lowest

in the world), incentive to set up best manufacturing capacity in India to meet domestic and export demand (example, PLI scheme) and eagerness of countries and corporates to diversify away from China to other resourceful emerging countries like India.

It is pertinent to observe that FIIs have invested substantially in mid & small-caps broadening the market rally.

F&O/ SECTOR WATCH

Ahead of the settlement week, derivatives segment witnessed brisk trading. Track rollovers to spot winners of September series. Maximum Put option Open Interest (OI) was seen at 11,000, while maximum Call option OI was seen at 11,500. The Implied Volatility (IV) of Calls closed at 18.81 per cent, while that for Put

options closed at 19.21. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.23 slightly down from the previous week. The volatility index India VIX fell by nine per cent to end below 20 levels suggesting positive sign for the markets.

However, if India VIX moves above 25-30 range, it would be a cause of concern. Bank Nifty is facing strong hurdle in zone of 22,450 to 22,550 levels. Stock futures looking good are Berger Paints, Canara Bank, Cummins India, DLF, Federal Bank, ICICI Bank, LIC Hsg, PNB and Power Grid. Ujivan, Equitas and Century Textiles are moving out of F&O from next series. Expect volatility in the counters say punters.

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

Punjab National Bank (PNB) is the second largest public-sector bank. The country's second largest lender had posted a net profit of Rs 1,018.63 crore during the corresponding April-June period of 2019-20. Total income rose to Rs 24,292.80 crore during the June quarter of 2020-21, as against Rs 15,161.74 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal. On the assets front, the lender's GNPA's fell to 14.11 per cent of gross advances at the end of June 2020, as against 16.49 per cent at the end of June 2019. Net NPAs declined to 5.39 per cent as against 7.17 per cent earlier. However, provisions for bad loans more than doubled to Rs 4,836.40

STOCK PICKS

crore from Rs 2,147.13 crore. Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) improved to 80.75 per cent from 70.37 per cent. During the quarter, the bank availed dispensation for deferment of provision in respect of frauds amounting to Rs 1,693.68 crore as per RBI guidelines. Short term target of Rs44 in the next few weeks say industry observers. Once it crosses Rs44 level, it can easily move to Rs60-65 level. PNB can be two bagger in one year's time.

Firstsource Solutions Ltd, part of RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group is a provider of a range of business process management services

across the customer life cycle delivered through transaction processing. The company's segments include banking, financial services and insurance and non-banking, financial services and insurance. Its geographic segments include USA and Canada, UK, India and Rest of the world. Strong growth momentum in BFS across US and UK; macro tailwinds coupled with sales wins driving growth. Communications, media & tech decline has attributed to volume compression due to Covid-19; volume starting to recover. Volume compression in Healthcare as elective treatments delayed; expected to pick-up in the next few quarters. Buy on de-

clines for medium term target of Rs100.

Sunshield Chemicals Ltd is engaged in manufacture and sell of specialty chemicals in domestic and international markets. The company's principal products include Sun Theic, Alkoxyates, Antioxidant and Miscellaneous. Its geographical segments include India and Others. Its specialty chemicals are used across a range of industries, such as wire insulation enamel, polyvinyl chloride stabilizers, inks, colors, coatings, textiles, agro chemicals, polymers, plastics, rubber, latex, tire and tubes, conveyor belts, lubricants, additives and home care. Buy for medium term target of Rs275.

Wait for a decisive trend

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

After many mischievous moves and whipsaws, the market closed higher on a weekly basis. During the week, NSE Nifty gained by 193.2 points or 1.73 per cent. With the out performance from the metal, auto and IT sectors, the Nifty was able to close at 11,370. The BSE Sensex also gained by 1.5 per cent. The out-performance of Midcap-100 and Smallcap-100 is continuing with 3.7 per cent and 5.4 per cent gains respectively.

Technically, the NSE Nifty doesn't have any bearish signs as it closed at the highest level February 28 on a weekly basis. Non-trending moves and lack of momentum are creating confusion among the traders. A series of gaps and Doji candles are creating discomfort for intraday traders as they are not able to catch the good moves. Let us examine the present price structure in Nifty.

As shown in the Nifty directional chart, the yearly, weekly and daily trends are up. Half-yearly, quarterly and monthly trends are down. The patterns are up in the all-time frames. In any case, the Nifty closes above 11,145 this month-end, and the monthly direction also changes to the upside after February. At the same time, if it closes below the 11,144.50, the weekly and the daily directions will turn to the downside. So, it is important to protect the 11,144 level for the bulls. The above price structure does



not give any bearish signs on short to medium term. For the 13th week, the Nifty is able to protect the previous week's low. Unless a weekly low is breached, it can't be bearish. During last week, it is actually registered a new weekly high close. If it moves above 11,537, the gap of February 28 will be filled. This is the last gap of March sharp fall. Now, the question is whether it will move beyond 11,537 and make a new high.

There are enough technical studies, including Elliot wave, pointing out that there are chances of making a new high in the near future. Before making a new high, there is a possibility of correction towards 10882-11528. The first sign of weakness will be available at close below 11,144. The Nifty will enter into a bearish trend only below 10,528.

But if you look at the indicators set up, which shows the price internals, is not encouraging picture. The divergences are everywhere. The RSI is moving in a downward channel, and unable to make new swing highs. The trend strength indicator ADX is moving downwards. Even though the Nifty is

has flattened. This forces us to think about booking profits at the current level.

In an interview, for the first time, the RBI came out with comments on stock market last week. He believes that there's a disconnect between the real economy and the stock market. The governor pointed out the excess liquidity is fuelling the stock market exuberance, and a correction will be witnessed in the near term.

Markets are trading at historical high PE of 32. The earnings did not give any pleasant surprises. When the Small and Midcaps are outperforming, please take it as a first caution sign. The same thing happened during the second half of 2018. The moratorium will end on September 30. The actual NPA skeletons will come out of the system. Let us see how the economy and financial institutions deal with a new situation arising from rising debt and lower incomes. Stay cautious.

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



K Naresh Kumar

The rebound of equity markets from the March-lows was as stunning as the earlier fall. If the steep fall was less anticipated, the recovery caught most off-guard.

Particularly, the US markets have gone past their previous all-time highs with an increased participation across the spectrum of investors. Though, domestic markets are a bit away from their historic highs, the amount of revival has been nothing short of astonishing. But that's how the equity markets work, if we look at history, predicting the next leg of action is almost impossible.

This period also has witnessed active inquiries from investors willing to take part in the current boom, it could either be out of pure FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) or knowledge dawned about the fickle market nature, their experience would be known only in the future.

The market participants are facing different predicaments at this point of time broadly on three aspects. Investors, who have entered after the huge fall, are the ones who wanted to enter now after the confirmation of the rally and the ones who invested all through the cycle were exposed to market pre-fall levels. I've utilized this space to create multiple literature on how to construct a portfolio, the various risks to consider, the biases to acknowledge and some useful

Striking a balance in realigning portfolios

strategies to tackle equity investing. Here, I wouldn't want to repeat all of it but would like to address the quandary facing these three types of investors at this point of time. The POMO is the greatest envy the market creates.



Innumerable studies have proven that equity investing rewards those who are disciplined and FOMO just alters all the good behavior one has been associated with. For investors who're willing to take fresh positions or looking to plunge into the market, have to remember that the need to stick to the timelines is critical, come what may - the recent market behavior is a classic example of bust to boom in just weeks.

For those investors, who have begun exposure after the fall, their timing could have been never perfect. Here again, studies have

proven that timing right is not always possible and the returns over a long period trump disciplined investing. Many of these have experienced super-sized returns in a very short span of time, most of which were never discounted at

the time of entry. For these investors, who have a portfolio and if all their components have given higher returns and thus not skewed their allocations then it's ideal to continue.

Of course, no one could predict the future, but if they find any stocks within the portfolio are facing headwinds due to the competition, technological change, regulations, etc., could trim their exposures by pulling down to the earlier allocation levels. On the contrary, these very parameters are causing tail winds, they could increase allocations depending

upon the available liquidity and risk appetite. The crucial part here is the portfolio creation and if one hasn't done earlier, it's time to organize this. One can't be lucky all the times.

Further, making an exit is always difficult as most are unplanned and this rally clearly surprised the most. The other way to address this is to pull out the capital and leave the rest. For those investors, who have remained invested all through this quick cycle, the best way out is to realign their portfolios as newer leaders emerged or would emerge. One has to remember that there's no investment strategy that fits everyone or at every time, but to keep learning and aligning to the changing environments. So, even the winners of this cycle still have to be vigilant and aware of the new cycle. What every investor has to keep in mind are those things that are in their control. None can dictate markets, policies, economies and all the larger macros, but what's in our control is to have a plan, which is in-line to our goals, timelines and risk appetite. Not getting carried away by the market attractions and sticking to disciplined investing, nevertheless, is easier said than done.

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

F&O data signals narrowing options band

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

Options data points to lowering resistance level, while the support level remained at previous week's 11,000 points for NSE Nifty. The resistance level for previous week ended August 14 was 11,300 strike. Highest Open Interest (OI) buildup is seen at 11,500CE and 11,000PE strikes. Analysts predict that the NSE Nifty may continue its positive bias in the settlement week as well with support near 11,200 points.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives), SMC Global Securities, said: "From derivatives front, Call writers at 11,300 strike triggered short covering, while Put writers added hefty Open Interest at same with nearly 31 lakh shares. On higher side, now 11,500 strike hold with maximum Open Interest in calls,

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

which should act as immediate hurdle for Nifty."

The 11,500 strike has highest Call OI of 36.95 lakh contracts followed by 11,600 strike, which has maximum Call OI addition of 6.91 lakh contracts, with 27.02 lakh contracts, 11700 strike, which witnessed Call OI buildup of 6.20 lakh contracts, with 26.20 lakh contracts and 11,400 strike with 25.30 lakh contracts.

Coming to Put side, the 11,000 strike recorded highest Put OI of 36.61 lakh contracts, 11200 strike with 29.25 lakh contracts and 11300 strike with 27.89 lakh contracts. The 11,300 strike witnessed maximum Put OI addition of 9.93



lakh contracts. 11,200/11,400 strikes recorded reasonable Put OI buildup.

"After consolidating in range of 11,100 to 11,350 from past few sessions, Nifty indices once again continued its positive momentum and tested 11,400 mark as bulls took the charge, while getting support from private banks, auto and cement stocks," added Bisht.

For the week ended August 21, 2020, BSE Sensex closed at

38,434.72, a marginal net gain of 557.38 points or 1.47 per cent, from the previous close of 37,877.34 points. Similarly, NSE Nifty too gained by 193.2 points or 1.72 per cent, and closed the week at 11,371.60 points as against last week's 11,178.40 level.

Bisht forecasts: "From technical front, Bank Nifty is facing strong hurdle in zone of 22,450 to 22,550 levels, above which follow up buying can be seen in the index, which

Put OI buildup points to upside movement of support levels; VIX declines ahead of expiry

will support next up leg into Nifty as well towards 11,500 levels in coming sessions."

The highest Put for the series was placed at 11,000 strike and is unlikely to be tested. Moreover, gradual build up of positions was seen at 11,200 Put strike, which is an immediate and important support for Nifty for the coming week. Moreover, the VWAP at 11,220 should be an immediate support. On the higher side, Call base at 11,500 strike should act as immediate hurdle.

The Volatility Index (VIX) remained subdued throughout the week and is hovering just above 20. Considering settlement week, a round of upside in volatility can't be ruled out. However, the positive bias should be maintained till it does not move above 23 levels. The Nifty may face a hurdle around 11,500 as India VIX is consistently

falling. It is leading to the rise in gratification among the market participants. Furthermore, the US dollar is reverting from near two-year lows and a pullback cannot be ruled out in the near term. This may trigger profit taking action in equities. Meanwhile, Nifty outperformed most of its Asian peers as FII buying was seen throughout the week.

"The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 13.55 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 14.79. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 19.94 per cent and is expected to remain sideways. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.26 slightly down from the previous week," remarked Bisht.

Bank Nifty

Recovering by 620.20 or 2.86 per cent for the week, Bank Nifty closed at 22,299.60 points as

against previous week's closing of 21,679.40 points.

Bank Nifty, for a major part of the August F&O series, traded in a range with stock-specific action. Additions were seen in both ATM Calls and Puts along with declining IVs, which gave more confidence to option writers. The Bank Nifty has the highest Call base at 23,000 strike, which should be the immediate target on upsides. At the same time, the index found support near 21,500. In the current leg of consolidation, additions were seen in 21,500 and 22,000 strike Puts, which should provide cushion, according to ICICI Direct.com.

Private bank stocks recorded addition in ATM strikes for the series, while Axis Bank and HDFC Bank saw closure in ATM Calls whereas supportive action was also there from PSU banks, which recovered most of its selling last week. This can be a positive trigger for the expiry week, forecast derivatives analysts.

Why Warangal slippery slope in Swachhta ranking!

- The city witnessed a gradual fall in the rankings from 28th in 2017 to 31 in 2018 and to 81 in 2019 before finally settling in the mid-200s this year
- Weightage for solid waste management. This is where we fell behind in the ranking. This apart, absence of underground drainage (UGD) system in the city is also a major drawback, says Municipal Commissioner Pamela Satpathy

ADEPU MAHENDER

Warangal: The latest rankings of the Swachh Survekshan-2020 certainly strip the myth surrounding Warangal's 'destination next after Hyderabad' tag. The 29,233 Warangalites who participated in the feedback of Swachh Survekshan tell that their city is falling apart. Why not? The city that stood at 28th place in the country in 2017 is on a slippery slope at 144th spot. In fact, the city witnessed a gradual fall in the rankings from 28th in 2017 to 31 in 2018 and to 81 in 2019 before finally settling in the



mid-200s this year. While many of the lesser-tagged cities like Karimnagar, Siddipet and Nizamabad are making great leaps in development, it is apparent that Warangal is lagging behind. The other two municipal corporations - Karimnagar and Nizamabad fared better than Warangal in Telangana. Surprisingly, Karimnagar which scored 3602.16 is way ahead of Warangal's 2868.44. Nizamabad stood second in the State by securing 2986.09 score. The evaluation was based on four key parameters - ULB performance, citizen feedback, service level progress and certification, each of it carrying 1500 points. The survey was carried out by the Quality Council of India.

According to Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation officials,

the city which is in three to 10 lakh population category is lagging behind in solid waste management including door-to-door collection, processing, and disposal. The city has ODF++ certification. The construction of another 6,500 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) is pending.

Dwelling on reasons that fell Warangal in the rankings, Greater Warangal Municipal Commissioner Pamela Satpathy said, "Weightage for solid waste management is high and we are in the process of establishing three sewerage treatment plants (STPs). This is where we fell behind in the ranking." This apart, absence of underground drainage (UGD) system in the

city is also a major drawback.

Speaking to The Hans India, Urban Administration Commissioner of Madhya Pradesh, Parikipandla Narahari, who played a major role in the success of Indore which finished first in Swachh Survekshan for a fourth straight year, said, "If we can make people understand the benefits of hygienic surroundings, things fall into place automatically. The citizens themselves go after leaders and administration to get things done. We managed to inculcate that spirit among all civic bodies and as a result 20 municipalities of MP are able to find a place in the top 100 Swachh rankings." It may be mentioned here that Narahari belongs to Chintagattu village near Warangal.

HOPING AGAINST HOPE

Senior TRS netas stare at hazy future

Young leaders are said to be giving them tough fight for survival; while some look at Opposition parties, others expect nominated posts in the government

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Some of the senior leaders of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), who used to call the shots during the previous regime, seem to be undergoing bad times as new entrants are giving them a tough fight. Consequently, most of the old hands have become either inactive or are looking for greener pastures.

Senior leaders like K Swamy Goud, S Madhusudhana Chary, Jupally Krishna Rao and others are said to be facing competition from their own party men in their constituencies. These senior leaders used to take call on all issues when the TRS came to power for the first time after the bifurcation of the State, but after the party came into power for the second term, many



of the leaders seem to have gone into hibernation. Their loss in the last elections is also one of the reasons why they are said to be sidelined in the party.

Former Legislative Council Chairman K Swamy Goud, who was active during the Telangana movement, had gone silent after the end of his term. He has been away from the party activities for a long time. Sources said that he was unhappy over being sidelined in the party. Swamy Goud wanted to con-

test elections from the Rajendranagar constituency. However, his chances got hampered after MLA T Prakash Goud joined the TRS and stabilized his place in the party.

In a span of four days, Swamy Goud has made a few comments which have irked the party. After giving statements that the power was in the hands of a few upper caste leaders, the TRS leader on Sunday said that Congress leader A Revanth Reddy was striving for the welfare of weaker sections. He called upon people to support Revanth Reddy, who was fighting for weaker sections even though he is from a Reddy community. Sources said that Swamy Goud is looking at Congress for contesting in Rajendranagar in the next elections.

Former Minister J Krishna Rao was also an important leader in the

party. However, he had also gone silent after the entry of B Harshvardhan. Jupally tried to prove his supremacy by making his followers contest in the municipal elections and also ensuring their victory. But, the party leadership ignored this and did not support the senior leader. Many other seniors are said to be confused over their future in the party and they expect that they would be awarded nominated posts. The defeat of senior leader T Nageswara Rao in the Assembly elections had an impact on his political career. Transport Minister P Ajay Kumar has taken over the district politics. Similarly, party leaders like former Speaker S Madhusudhana Chary, former MPs P Srinivas Reddy, A Sitaram Naik and Naini Narasimha Reddy are also expecting nominated posts.

KCR, family celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with fervour

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and his family members celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with fervour at Pragati Bhavan on Saturday. A few leaders were only invited to attend the rituals performed on the festive eve due to corona pandemic.

The Chief Minister's wife

Shobha Rao and his son and State Industry minister KT Rama Rao and his family members performed the puja. KTR's son Himanshu Rao was seen attending all the main rituals. TRS MP J Santosh Kumar, State Planning Board Vice Chairman B Vinod and Telangana Rythu Samanvaya Samithi Chairman P Rajeshwar Reddy were also present.

Four-member dept panel to probe into power plant mishap

Hyderabad: Apart from CID probe ordered by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, a departmental committee with four members was also constituted to investigate into the fire mishap in Srisailem Left Bank Canal Hyderabad Electric Generation centre in which nine officials died and three others seriously injured recently.

The four-member investigating team

headed by TSSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Raghuma Reddy has been asked to submit a report on the incident in 15 days' time.

TSTRANSCO and TSGENCO Chairman and Managing Director D Prabhakar Rao said that ventilation inside the power plant was completely shut soon after fire broke out inside the plant. The probing official team will also analyse the reasons

behind failure of automatic tripping of the entire system after the fire accident.

An official said that power generation in full installed capacity of 900 MW will resume in a two-week time as the repair works in the damaged power plants needs to be completed first. He claimed the government has provided the best compensation to the bereaved families of the deceased officials.



TRLD leader K Dileep Kumar speaking at Opposition party leaders' meeting on Covid awareness in Hyderabad on Sunday

Take Health dept under your control: Opposition to Guv

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Condemning the negligent attitude of the government in taking Covid controlling measures, the Opposition parties and medical experts on Sunday urged Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan to take the Health Department under her control using the special powers as per the AP Reorganisation Act to save the lives of people in the State.

An awareness meeting on Covid was organised by former MLC and Telangana Rashtriya Lok Dal leader Kapilavai Dileep Kumar, here, on Sunday where speakers criticised both the Central and the State governments for mishandling the Covid pandemic.

Dileep Kumar alleged that the government did not react on the expected lines during the Covid-19 pandemic. "In spite of Hyderabad being a hub for pharma companies, there is such a situation in the State and all this is because of the negligence of the government," said Dileep. The TRLD leader urged the Governor to take over the Health Department in her control being a doctor. He said that the leaders would meet the Governor with a representation in the coming days. Health professional Dr Vasanth Kumar alleged that the governments not only the present but also the previous ones did not focus on health. "Gandhi (Hospital) does not take patients without RT-PCR report and private say- this is a Covid case and

there are no beds. Why should it be like this? Why not Gandhi admit the patient and start the treatment," questioned Kumar.

Psychiatrist Dr Devulapally Keshav Rao said that some of the patients are committing suicide as they are afraid of the expenditure their family would have to incur on the treatment. He also said that the government needs to educate people that the virus does not spread by the dead bodies of the patients.

Criticising government's eagerness to construct a new secretariat during the pandemic, Congress leader A Dayakar demanded that there should be proper coordination between the State and Central governments in controlling the pandemic.

ON GREEN DRIVE...



Young actress Urvasi Rautela planting a sapling in her residence at Jubilee Hills after receiving challenge from director Sampath Nandi as a part of RS member Joginipalli Santosh Kumar's initiative

SRISAILAM POWER PLANT MISHAP

Cong reiterates demand for CBI probe

- Shabbir Ali, Revanth Reddy meet families of fire mishap victims
- Shabbir Ali demands Rs 1 crore compensation for all victims
- Book criminal cases against those responsible for fire incident: Revanth

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir, along with TPCC Working President & MP A Revanth Reddy met the family members of Deputy Engineer Bathini Srinivas Goud and Assistant Engineer Uzma Fatima of TS GENCO who lost their lives in the fire mishap at Srisailem Power Station on August 21.

Later speaking to media persons, Shabbir Ali said that the fire mishap at Srisailem power plant occurred due to the carelessness



Former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir, along with TPCC Working President & MP A Revanth Reddy calling on family members of Assistant Engineer Uzma Fatima of TS GENCO who lost their life in the fire mishap at Srisailem Power Station, in Hyderabad on Sunday

and mismanagement of the State government. However, the staff, including Uzma Fatima who saved four lives, tried to extinguish the fire to save the public property worth hundreds of crores.

Shabbir Ali, who had earlier served as Energy Minister, praised the efforts made by the power staff to control the fire. Just like the soldiers who fight

with the enemy at borders to protect the country, the staff members confronted the fire with the intention of saving precious public property. Therefore, the State government should treat all nine victims as martyrs and pay them compensation of Rs 1 crore each. Further, he said their families should be given a plot of at least 500 sq yards each besides giving

suitable government job to one member of their family. He said the victims, who lost their lives, could not be differentiated as per their rank or post in payment of compensation. He said all families have lost their loved ones and they must be paid Rs 1 crore each as compensation.

Revanth Reddy reiterated the demand for CBI enquiry into the incident which claimed nine lives. He said technicians had already warned the government about some glitches at the unit and also feared that they could lead to an accident at the power unit. However, he said that the authorities simply ignored those issues by not conducting any review. He blamed Power Minister Jagadish Reddy and TS GENCO Chairman and Managing Director D Prabhakar Rao for the incident. He announced that he would raise the issue in Parliament seeking a CBI enquiry. He said criminal cases should be booked against all those responsible for the incident.

Congress party on verge of implosion, says Saagar Rao

The letter from around 23 senior Cong leaders vindicates BJP's stand on Congress being an undemocratic formation, says BJP spokesperson, K Krishna Saagar Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: BJP Telangana State chief Spokesperson, K Krishna Saagar Rao said that his party's stand vindicated that the Congress - an undemocratic formation is on verge of an implosion.

In a statement on Sunday, he said that the party has been in the iron grip of the Nehru family dynasty.

An open call for a shake-up of the Congress party from top to toe by about 23 senior leaders in a letter to the party president Sonia Gandhi proves BJPs stand towards that party, he added.

Senior leaders of the Congress, including the members of the Congress Working Commit-



tee (CWC), floor leaders, former CMs and sitting MPs making such a demand and asking for reform in the party exposes the real colours of Congress, he said.

Rao pointed that the letter by senior Congress leaders is a veiled attack on the current leadership. It was a clear demand for the resignation of Sonia Gandhi. Also, the recent statement by Congress leader Priyanka Vadera stating that the president of the party should be from outside the family, is the direct effect of this letter.

He also said that BJP strongly believes that the game is over for Congress as a national alternative. The party has lost organisational strength with no acceptable and competent leadership at the helm for almost a decade.

For these developments, Congress can't blame anyone else than its organisational construct for its downfall.

More matches, exposure have helped India's improvement, says Bhutia

New Delhi (IANS): Legendary striker BhaichungBhutia, the first Indian to have 100 international caps to his name, spoke about the changes he has seen in Indian football since he hung up his boots in 2011.

In a TV interview, Bhaichung spoke about the increased number of matches as well as the vast improvement in exposure and infrastructure that players are getting these days.

"The kind of support, the platforms, the level of competition, the players, the coaching staff -- all are much, much better than what we got previously. Now, the number of matches played by the national team is three or four times the number we played in the initial stages," he averred.

"We had fewer games in comparison and often would get drawn against tough teams in the qualification games. Players now are getting many more matches and so much exposure. It has helped them to improve and get better with time," he said.

"The talismanic striker, who made his Indian Senior National Team debut in 1995, shared his views on the positive impact made by the introduction of the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) which began in 2014 and has now seen six editions being held."

"With the Hero ISL coming in, you can see the infrastructure, training grounds, matches, coaching and quality of pitches



are of much higher standards. In my time, we would have some difficult pitches to play on where the ball did not even roll. However, I have many great memories of those matches and I thoroughly enjoyed playing," he quipped.

Quizzed about whether he has any regrets of not being able to play in the competition, he said that he is glad about what he had and in the future he expects things to keep improving.

"I am happy with the opportunities I had in my career. I don't regret not playing in the Hero

ISL. Everyone should be happy with what you have. I was lucky to have the I-League in our time and most of us were fortunate to play in it. Football in India is developing and the standards, infrastructure and coaching level are all improving continuously," he quipped.

Bhaichung, who was bestowed with the Arjuna Award in 1998 and the Padma Shri in 2008, stressed on how important it is to keep producing quality players for the national team and continue working at the grassroots

level of the game. "For the national team, we need to keep producing good quality players. We do have good players at the moment but if we want to compete with the best in Asia, we need to keep producing bigger and better players. AIFF has focused on the grassroots a lot. We need to be strong at the grassroots and we are working on it," he maintained. "Our target for the national teams should be qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup and the FIFA Youth World Cup on a regular basis," he remarked.

ISL: Bengaluru FC add Ajith Kumar to their defensive ranks

Bengaluru (IANS): Indian Super League outfit Bengaluru FC have announced the signing of left-back Ajith Kumar from Chennai City FC. The 23-year-old defender joins the Blues on a three-year-deal, adding depth to the squad ahead of 2020-21 ISL season.

"I am thrilled to have become a Bengaluru FC player. This is a club I admire a lot and while I did have a few options to choose from, Bengaluru was top of that list at every stage of my decision making," Ajith said after joining the 2018-19 ISL champions as per the official ISL website.

"The chance to share a dressing with a legend like Sunil Chhetri who I hope to learn so much from, and so many of the national team boys is very exciting for me." Ajith said after joining the 2018-19 ISL champions as per the official ISL website.

Having joined Chennai City through trials in 2018, Ajith was an important member of the team that won the 2018-19 I-League season. The left-back played a part in all his side's matches during their title-winning campaign.



Kallis, Abbas and Sthalekar inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

New Delhi (IANS): Former South African all rounder Jacques Kallis, former Australian women's captain Lisa Sthalekar and former Pakistan batsman Zaheer Abbas were on Sunday inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame.

The ceremony was held virtually and featured Sunil Gavaskar, Mel Jones and Shaun Pollock as the main guests while Wasim Akram, Graeme Smith and Alyssa Healy also joined in to congratulate the inductees. It was hosted by commentator Alan Wilkins. Kallis is the fourth South African player inducted and Zaheer the sixth from Pakistan. Lisa is the 27th from Australia and the ninth woman player in the list, which includes five from Australia. "It is something that I never expected when I started playing. I certainly did not play the game for any accolades or anything like that, I only wanted to win the games for whoever I was playing for," Kallis said.

"But it is nice to be recognised when one has succeeded in the sport, it is nice to be recognised by people for something that you have achieved in the game, something that I am really proud of."

"I was fortunate enough to learn from the best when I en-

tered the Australia team - Belinda Clark, Karen Rolton and Cathryn Fitzpatrick, all of whom have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, and rightly so," said Sthalekar. "The guidance from them and other teammates along the way kept me focused but also ensured that it was a fun environment. Thanks to all my teammates. It goes without saying that if it wasn't for the support of my family, I wouldn't have been able to achieve what I have."

Abbas meanwhile thanked the Pakistan cricket fraternity, fans and his county side Gloucestershire for helping play the game at the highest level.

"I feel privileged and truly humbled to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame of the class of 2020. I am excited to be in the midst of other illustrious cricketers. This great game has made me the person I am. Thank you cricket," he said. "It is always a pleasure to announce the latest set of inductees into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. These are all players with a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations for years to come. I congratulate Zaheer, Jacques and Lisa on their inclusion in the pantheon of cricket greats," said ICC Chief Executive Manu Sawhney.

'Not surprised by Sarkar, Bardhan snub from Arjuna list'

Kolkata (IANS): The Bridge Federation of India (BFI) is not surprised by the omission of 2018 Asian Games gold medal winners Pranab Bardhan and Shibnath Sarkar from the Arjuna awards list this year, saying they knew that the recognition will take time to come. Sarkar and Bardhan were nominated for Arjuna by the BFI but their names were not there in the list of 27 recommended to the Sports Ministry.

The names picked for the national sports awards this time have raised a few eyebrows with officials and athletes wondering whether merit had been given due recognition. The likes of paddler Manika Batra, an Asian Games bronze medalist in the mixed team event and Commonwealth Games individual gold medalist, being recommended for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award despite her winning the Arjuna Award in 2018 for the same performances, left many bemused.

Manika's form has dipped since 2018 and she has now slipped to No. 63 in the world rankings. But asked if Bardhan and Sarkar got a raw deal, BFI general secretary Anand (KS) Samant told IANS: "There is a process where an athlete's performance is measured over a period of four years and not just one performance."

Unfortunately, Bardhan and Sarkar have not won anything significant after the 2018 Asian Games gold and to be fair to them, this Covid-19 pandemic has also played a big part."

Samant conceded that they wanted to start the process of nominating bridge players for national sports awards and somewhat knew in the back of their mind that it would be unrealistic to expect them winning an Arjuna this time around.

"We were not very hopeful. We needed to start the process. We will again apply next year for them. I am hopeful that till that time they will have played in more international tournaments and add weight to their nomination," the general secretary said. This was the first time that bridge players were nominated for national sports awards.

The game was introduced in Asian Games in 2018 and the Kolkata-based players were hoping that their top-of-podium finish would help them bag the award.

St Lucia Zouks, Guyana Amazon Warriors register wins in CPL 2020

Trinidad (IANS): A brilliant all-round show by Mohammad Nabi, ably supported by Roston Chase and Scott Kuggeleijn helped St Lucia Zouks get a commanding victory over the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in the ongoing edition of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

Put into bat on Saturday, Zouks put up a comprehensive total of 172/6, riding on opener Andre Fletcher's 33-ball 46 and a 22-ball cameo from Nabi in which he scored valuable 35 runs towards the end of the innings.

Chasing the target, only Denesh Ramdin (46) and Even Lewis (29) could stay long at the crease, with Patriots eventually managing 162/8 in their allotted 20 overs. Kuggeleijn (4/33) and Chase (3/12) starred with the ball. Nabi also chipped in with a wicket, giving away just 17 runs in his 4 overs and was thus named the Player of the Match for his all-round performance.

This win bumps Daren Sammy's side towards the top of the table ahead of their next game against the Guyana Amazon Warriors.

In the other match of the day,



Guyana Amazon Warriors defeated Jamaica Tallawahs by 14 runs at the Brian Lara Stadium.

Batting first, Warriors could manage just 118 runs as they were bowled out in the 20th over of their innings. Brandon King (29) and Ross Taylor (21) made noticeable contributions with the bat for them while Mujeeb-ur-Rahman and Carlos Brathwaite starred with the ball for the Tallawahs as they both picked three wickets each.

Brief Scores: St Lucia Zouks: 172/6 (Andre Fletcher 46; Jon-Russ Jaggesar 2/29) beat St Kitts and Nevis Patriots: 162/8 (Denesh Ramdin 46; Scott Kuggeleijn 4/33) by 10 runs.

Brief Scores: Guyana Amazon Warriors: 118/10 (Brandon King 29; Carlos Brathwaite 3/14) beat Jamaica Tallawahs: 104/7 (Andre Russell 52; Chris Green 2/10) by 14 runs.

ENG VS PAK THIRD TEST

Anderson snares four as Pakistan totter at 41/4

Southampton (IANS): England pace spearhead James Anderson snared four wickets to leave Pakistan reeling at 41/4 at lunch which was taken early on Day 3 due to rains, in the third Test between the two sides at the Ageas Bowl on Sunday.

Veteran Anderson added to his three wickets from the second day as he removed Asad Shafiq who was caught at slip by skipper Joe Root for just five runs.

Skipper Azhar Ali was batting on 10 with Fawad Alam for company on 5 when the skies opened up more than half an hour before scheduled lunch time.

Pakistan still trail England by 542 runs. Earlier, England tailenders helped the hosts pile up 583/8d before Anderson knocked off Pakistan's top three towards the end of the second day.

Earlier, Jos Buttler was dismissed by Fawad Alam, who had never bowled before in Test cricket. Looking to steer the ball along the ground, Buttler ended up offering it straight back into the hands of the bowler, thus ending his innings on 152 off 311 balls.

Chris Woakes, Dom Bess and Stuart Broad then put up a combined 53 runs before England captain Joe Root declared the innings.

England then managed to squeeze in about 11 overs. Shan



Masood was the first to go, falling to James Anderson yet again after making just 4. Masood's opening partner Abid Ali was then caught in the slips in Anderson's very next over after which captain Azhar Ali

and Babar Azam stuck around nervously for some time.

Brief scores: England 583/9d (Crawley 267, Buttler 152; Fawad Alam 2/46) vs Pakistan 41/4 A (Anderson 4/21).

PAKISTAN LOOKING LIKE A CLUB TEAM, SAYS SHOAIB AKHTAR

Lahore (IANS): Former Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar slammed the team for their performance against England in the decisive third Test between the two sides underway at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton. Pakistan looked to be in control for much of the first two sessions of the first day before they lost control of the match due to an epic 359-run stand for the fifth wicket between Zak Crawley (267) and Jos Buttler (152). "I have seen the attitude of aggressive bowlers, they have the intent of taking wickets. I do not know what is being taught to the current bowlers of Pakistan. There is no method, Naseem Shah keeps on bowling at just one area, there are no slower balls or bouncers," Akhtar said on his Youtube channel.

Combative midfielder Germanpreet extends Chennaiyin FC stay

Chennai (IANS): Chennaiyin FC on Sunday announced that Indian midfielder Germanpreet Singh has extended his stay at the club after signing a new multi-year contract.

The 2020-21 Indian Super League (ISL) will see the hard-tackling 24-year-old from Punjab turn out in CFC blue for a fourth consecutive season. Germanpreet has made 36 appearances in all competitions for Chennaiyin, playing the crucial midfield destroyer role last season as the Marina Machans reached a third ISL final in six years.

"I am incredibly proud to continue playing for Chennaiyin FC. I have witnessed three great years here already, and the journey so far has been amazing with lots of learning and development. But I believe the best is ahead of me. And Chennai is my adopted home with CFC and our passionate fans are my family. I view this as a fresh start of an exciting journey, and I promise to give my 200 per cent on the pitch and help bring more success to the club," said Germanpreet from his home in Gurdaspur, Punjab. Germanpreet is another fantastic In-



dian talent who has made huge leaps during his time with us. We are delighted to have groomed and nurtured domestic players like him who showcase great potential and are unfazed on the big stage that is the ISL.

An aggressive and resilient presence on the pitch, we are sure to gain further from his energy and exuberance in the coming seasons, commented CFC co-owner Vita Dani on the news of Germanpreet's contract extension. A

product of the AIFF Elite Academy, Germanpreet made his professional bow in January 2015 for Goan side Dempo SC in the I-League, followed by a stint at Minerva Punjab FC in the same competition.

He was then picked up by Chennaiyin FC in the draft leading up to the 2017-18 campaign, which culminated in a second ISL title for the Marina Arena side.

In that season and the next, Germanpreet made vital contributions in the middle of the park, especially coming off the bench and helping see out games. And he came into his own in the 2019-20 campaign, forging a strong partnership with Anirudh Thapa to form one of the few all-Indian central midfield partnerships in the ISL as CFC went all the way to the final.

A tough and versatile medio with a penchant for engaging in a challenge, Germanpreet has represented India in all youth-level teams before making his senior debut in August 2016 against Bhutan in a friendly. He has nine appearances to his name in the Blue Tigers jersey so far.

Sakshi unhappy after Arjuna award snub

New Delhi (IANS): Olympic bronze medalist Sakshi Malik expressed her displeasure at missing out on the Arjuna Award this year in a tweet addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.

"I am proud to have been conferred with the Khel Ratna. Every sportsperson dreams of winning all the awards. A sportsperson puts her life at risk for it. I also dream of seeing Arjuna award winner against my name," the 27-year old wrestler wrote in a message of which she tweeted the screenshot tagging Modi and Rijiju.

"Which other medal should I get for the country to be honoured with the Arjuna award. Or in this wrestling life, I would never have the good luck of winning this award?" Sakshi, who has also won the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award of



India, said. The Justice (ret'd) Mukundam Sharma-led selection committee had recommended 29 names for the Arjuna Award to the Sports Ministry.

The list also included Sakshi and 2017 weightlifting world champion Mirabai Chhanu, but the decision of bestowing the Arjuna on them was left to the discretion of the Sports Ministry.

The Ministry decided against bestowing the Arjuna on Sakshi and Mirabai as the two have already been conferred with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.