



THE HANS INDIA

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Forecast: Light showers. More clouds than sun. Temp: Max.33°C. Min.26°C. Humidity: 52% Sunrise: 05:57 Sunset: 06:45

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A test flight of a manned flying car at Toyota Test Field in Toyota, central Japan. Japan's SkyDrive Inc, among the myriads of flying car projects around the world, has carried out a successful though modest test flight with one person aboard

Japanese PM Abe quits on health grounds

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday announced that he was resigning from the post due to health concerns. The 65-year-old made the announcement at a press conference in Tokyo, reports Xinhua news agency. Abe said that he needed to be treated for a flare-up of his intestinal disease that led his first one-year stint to end abruptly in 2007. He said he will receive new treatment but required prolonged care. The Prime Minister said he did not want his illness to get in the way of decision making, and apologised to the Japanese people for failing to complete his term in office.

12 CSK squad members test Covid +ve

New Delhi: In a shocking development, as many as 12 Chennai Super Kings squad members, including players and coaching/support staff, have tested positive for coronavirus, just 22 days before the IPL begins in the UAE. According to the sources, the entire team has been quarantined after the development. "A total of 12 members are have been affected and the entire team has been told to go quarantine again. It is learnt that they got infected during a camp in Chennai," said the sources.

NATION



SONU SOOD OFFERS TO HELP NEET, JEE MAIN STUDENTS

P3

SPORTS



DJOKOVIC TO OPEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST DZUMHUR, PLISKOVA FACES KALININA

P8



NO EXAMS, NO DEGREES

Can't promote students without test: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday affirmed the University Grants Commission's (UGC) decision to have final year exams conducted by September 30.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that there was no infirmity in the July 6 circular that asked universities across the country to complete final year exams by the said deadline.

It also maintained that states and universities will have to hold exams to promote students and confer degrees, and that internal assessments will not suffice the requirements of the UGC.

About the decision taken by some states to not conduct exams by September 30, the bench held that although the states will be authorised to postpone exams under the Disaster Management Act, they will not be able to confer degrees on students without exams.

The top court further said that states should approach the UGC with their problems and asking for suitable reliefs regarding the final year exams.



The bench was adjudicating a clutch of petitions against the UGC's July 6 directive to the universities for holding the final year/semester exams by September 30.

Student petitioners sought cancellation of exams in view of the soaring cases of Covid-19 and demanded that they should be assessed on the basis of internal assessments and past performances.

Four states and Union Territories – Maharash-

tra, Delhi, West Bengal and Odisha – supported this in the top court and apprised the bench of their decision to cancel the exams.

The UGC and Centre, on their part, maintained that holding exams was in the best interest of students and that a SOP was in place to ensure safety of students at the examination centres.

They also submitted that states have no power to cancel degree exams or devise their own way of assessing students since UGC was the only authority under the law to provide for standards and confer degrees.

The bench was told that students' degrees might not be recognised unless UGC's mandate is followed by all universities.

RLDA invites bids to redevelop New Delhi railway station

PURNA SINGH



Traffic snarl near Dalit Prerna Sthal due to waterlogging on roads following monsoon shower in Noida on Friday

Rains trigger traffic snarls in Delhi

New Delhi: As rains lashed the national capital on Friday, bringing respite from the humidity, Delhiites experienced traffic woes and waterlogging as they stepped out on the roads.

According to the MeT department, the Safdarjung Observatory recorded 23.2 mm rainfall while Palam recorded 35.8 mm rainfall between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm.

The Lodhi Road and Ridge areas received 23.6 mm and 44 mm rainfall respectively in the said period.

The minimum temperature in the city was recorded at 26.8 degrees Celsius, a notch above the

season's average. The maximum temperature was recorded at 32.8 degrees Celsius with the weatherman predicting light rains for Saturday.

Waterlogging was reported from some parts of the city, including Janpath, Indraprastha and Minto Bridge.

Commuters experienced traffic snarls near the ITO, central Delhi and east Delhi due to waterlogging. "Traffic is heavy on MB Road due to water logging at Vayusenabad. Motorists heading towards Badarpur from Saket are advised to take Outer Ring Road," the Delhi Traffic Police said in a tweet.

RLDA invites bids to redevelop New Delhi railway station

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has invited bids from private companies for redevelopment of an area of 5 lakh square meters at New Delhi railway station and another area of 2.6 lakh square meters around it. The authority has said that the project is expected to be completed in about four years.

The estimated cost of redevelopment of the station in the Request for Qualification (RFQ) sought by RLDA is Rs 4,925 crore. This includes redeveloping this iconic railway station, road connectivity through flyovers, relocation of railway offices and buildings and construction of social infrastructure. In addition, the RFQ also includes development of retail space, hotels, offices and service apartments at fixed locations. The estimated cost of this entire project is Rs 6,500 crore.

RLDA Vice President Ved Prakash Dudeja said the New Delhi Railway Station would be developed as a world-class commercial and hospitality business destination.



Rajath to formally induct Rafale on Sept 10

New Delhi: In a major boost to the Indian Air Force (IAF), Defence Minister Rajath Singh, India is also inviting the French Defence Minister Florence Parly for the event," top government sources said.

The first five aircraft had arrived from France in India on July 29. The Indian Air Force had then stated that the planes will be inducted into the IAF

after a formal ceremony. In the first tranche, India got five fighters from France including three single-seated and two twin-seated trainer aircraft.

The Air Force has been training on the planes soon after they arrived from France and have flown extensively over the Ladakh region where India is locked in a conflict with China on the border.

into the Indian Air Force on September 10 by Defence Minister Rajath Singh. India is also inviting the French Defence Minister Florence Parly for the event," top government sources said.

The first five aircraft had arrived from France in India on July 29. The Indian Air Force had then stated that the planes will be inducted into the IAF



Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) members stage a protest against holding of the JEE and NEET examinations in September, outside Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi, Friday

LISTEN TO STUDENT VOICES: SONIA

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday urged the government to listen to the voices of students on the issue of conducting NEET and JEE and act according to their wishes.

Various opposition parties, including the Congress, have demanded that the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and the Joint En-



trance Examination (JEE) be deferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic and floods in parts of the country, even as the

Union government has made it clear that they will be held as per schedule with due precautions. Six ministers of Opposition-ruled states on Friday also moved the Supreme Court seeking review of its order permitting the Centre to conduct NEET and JEE this year amid the persisting pandemic.

Continued on Page 5



Jan Dhan Yojana a game-changer, says PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) launched six years ago on this day has been a game-changer.

"Today, six years ago, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana was launched with an ambitious aim of banking the unbanked. This initiative has been a game-changer, serving as the foundation for many poverty alleviation initiatives, benefitting crores of people," the Prime Minister tweeted.

PMJDY under the National Mission for Financial Inclusion was launched initially for a period of four years (in two phases) on August 28, 2014. It envisages universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every household, financial literacy, access to credit, insurance and pension. The scheme has provided a platform for the three social security schemes -- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).

The Government decided to extend the comprehensive PMJDY program beyond August 28, 2018 with the change in focus on opening accounts from 'every household' to 'every adult'. As per the government plan, new modifications in the scheme include Existing Over Draft (OD) limit of Rs 5,000 revised to Rs 10,000, no conditions attached for active PMJDY accounts availing OD upto Rs 2,000, age limit for availing OD facility revised from 18-60 years to 18-65 years.

Centre permits meals, beverages on flights

Flyers without masks can be put on no-fly list

New Delhi: The Union government has permitted the airlines to serve pre-packed snacks, meals and beverages on domestic flights and hot meals on international flights, according to an official order.

Moreover, any passenger who refuses to wear a face mask in a flight can be put on the no-fly list by the airline, said a senior official of the aviation regulator DGCA.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in-flight meal service was not permitted on domestic flights since their resumption on May

25. On international flights, only pre-packed cold meals and snacks were being served depending on the flight duration since May this year.

In an order, the Civil Aviation Ministry said, "Airlines may serve pre-packed snacks/meals/pre-packed beverages on domestic flights depending on the duration of flight."

Airlines and charter flight operators can "serve hot meals and limited bev-



verages" on international flights "as per the standard

practices", it added. The ministry said only

single-use disposable trays, plates and cutlery should be used while serving food or beverages in domestic and international flights. "Crew shall wear a fresh set of gloves for every meal/beverage service," it noted.

The ministry also permitted the aircraft operators to let passengers use the in-flight entertainment system on international as well as domestic flights wherever available. "Dis-

posable earphones or cleaned and disinfected headphones will be provided to passengers at the start of the journey," it noted.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said, "A passenger who refuses to wear a face mask can be put on no-fly list by the airline." The official said no new order has been passed in this regard as the airline and its cabin crew are sufficiently empowered under the existing DGCA rules to take action. Continued on Page 5

Womenia

TWEET PATROL


ANUPAMA PARAMESWARAN
@ANUPAMAHERE

Happy to be releasing the teaser of Maraiyadha Kanneer Illai
<https://youtu.be/5wnf3J2NS80>
 #redwhitestudios @Gouravy @redwhitestudios
 @mathanrajoffl @DineshElango_ @AtchaySv @JenMartinmusic
 @VishnuEdavan1 @praveen_kumar
 @VFrackz



Remove unwanted hair at home

While it doesn't pose any health risks, unwanted hair can be an embarrassing condition for many people. Hormonal imbalances, irregular menstrual cycles, certain medications, and post-pregnancy hormonal changes, can all cause unwanted hair issues for women. Aging also seems to bring about more unwanted hair too.

But before shelling out big money for treatments like laser hair removal, permanent waxing and electrolysis there are plenty of natural home remedies for hair removal that you may want to try first! These at-home treatments can save you a lot of money, while removing unwanted hair naturally and without any side effects. To make it, you'll only need a few simple ingredients that may already be in your kitchen!

How To Make Sugar Wax

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 Tbsp water
- 1 1/2 Tbsp lemon juice
- Candy thermometer
- Popsicle sticks or craft sticks

Fabric strips (from spare fabric or flour sack towels)

Combine the sugar, water and lemon juice in a small saucepan.

Heat on low until the mixture reaches the "firm ball" stage on your candy thermometer (about 245°F). Make sure not to cook it too long, and don't let it get any hotter than 250°F.

Remove from heat and let the wax cool to almost to room temperature. When it's still a little warm, but cool enough to handle, it's ready. Use a craft stick to spread the sugar wax over the area where you want to remove hair, working in the same direction that the hair is growing. Then firmly press a clean strip of fabric onto the sugar wax. Let it sit for a few seconds so the wax can firm up. Then hold your skin taut, and quickly pull the strip of fabric in the opposite direction of the hair growth. (If there is any sugar wax residue left on your skin, you can easily clean it up with a bit of warm water.)

You can store any extra sugar wax in a jar and microwave it for about 30 seconds to reheat.



Accentuate for a picture perfect bridal look



Designer Rachel J Amirtharaj with her muse

ASKARI JAFFER

For heavier looking arms you can go for a dress with sleeves. If you are wearing a gown for your engagement or wedding investing in a ball gown is a good choice as this will give you the look of a princess. Go for an off-shoulder gown if you have a slim and lean body type, or go for a straight fit western wedding dress which can accentuate your curves.

You can also wear a sweetheart neckline as this shows off your collarbones beautifully. Plunging V necklines look great on a curvy girl

but boat necks and classic U shaped necklines look simply the best. Low backs look sexy in pictures, go for an A-line gown with low back and plunging neckline, even if you are heavier built you can safely go for a long ball gown with a low back. Fish cut style gown with plunging neckline also enhances your curves for good. Go for a lot of laceworks as this looks very vintage and feminine in pictures and creates a very feminine and delicate appearance.

Don't go overboard with jewellery

Avoid wearing too much bling as it outshines in your wedding

Fashion designer and styling expert Rachel J Amirtharaj shares insightful information with you to look picture perfect and make your wedding look Instagram worthy

pictures and makes you look overly decked up, also in the picture it can attract attention to places you want to camouflage. Jewelry in excess can also mar the look of your dress. Just because you only get to marry once doesn't mean you necessarily have to go overboard with jewelry and heavily embroidered outfits with all the fancy work. Embroideries never work to enhance your look on the camera and least likely to make you look slimmer. Go breezy and feminine

Cover the problem areas

You must also ensure that all problematic areas of your body appear slim and to do so you must cover them cleverly. In the case of traditional Indian attire, you can go for high waist lehenga that covers your tummy and waist if it's on the heavier side. With western gown for

your engagement, wedding, or reception, easier to cover the waist area more.

Stay comfortable and composed

Don't look stressful hence wear something you feel comfortable in. Many of us tend to blink when a picture is about to be clicked, so another trick is to keep your eyes closed just before the picture is about to be clicked and open your eyes slowly before your picture is taken.



QUICK TIP

Experiment with scarves

Scarves can be worn in many more ways than simply wrapped around your neck, and winter is the perfect time to experiment. People can belted on top of a jacket, or even tied in a knot around your shoulders.



At 29, Dutch author youngest International Booker Prize winner

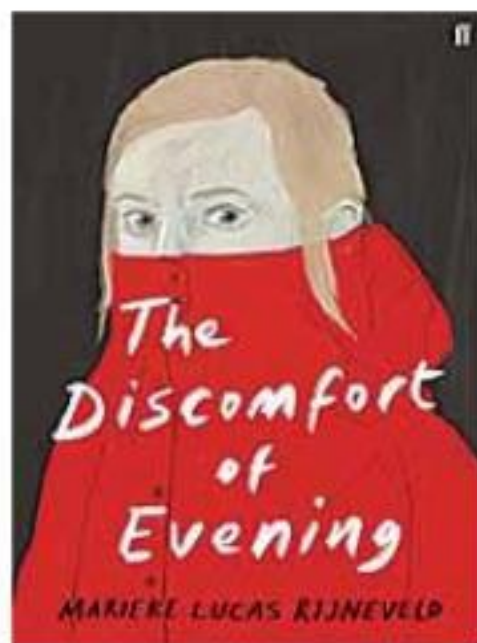
SIDDHI JAIN

'The Discomfort of Evening', the debut novel written by 29-year-old Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld and translated from Dutch by Michele Hutchison, has been announced as the winner of The 2020 International Booker Prize. Rijneveld has become the youngest author to win prestigious award.

The Dutch edition was a best-seller in the Netherlands, where it won the ANV Debut Prize.

The £50,000 prize will be split between Marieke Lucas Rijneveld and Michele Hutchison, giving both the author and translator equal recognition. The winner was announced by chair of the judges, Ted Hodgkinson at a digital livestreamed event.

'The Discomfort of Evening' tells



the story of Jas and her devout farming family in a strict Christian community in rural Netherlands. One winter's day, her older brother joins an ice skating trip. Resentful at being left alone, she attempts to bargain with God pitting the life



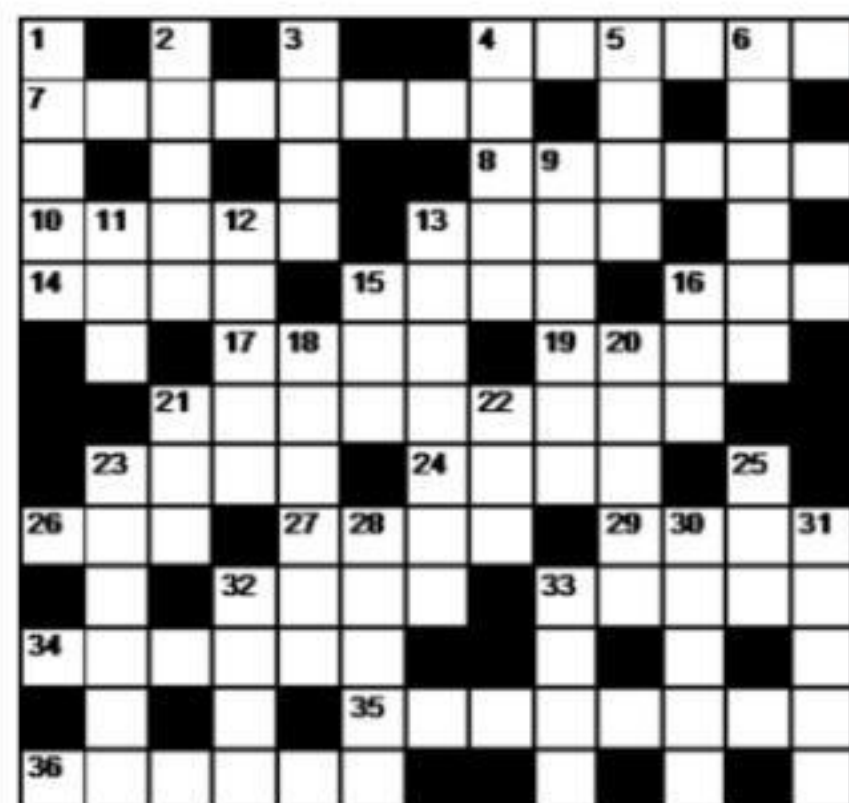
Marieke Lucas Rijneveld

of her pet rabbit against that of her brother; he never returns. As grief overwhelms the farm, Jas succumbs to a vortex of increasingly disturbing fantasies, watching her family disintegrate into a darkness that threatens to derail them all.

'The Discomfort of Evening' was chosen from a shortlist of six books during a lengthy and rigorous judging process, by a panel of five judges, chaired by Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature and Spoken Word at Southbank Centre. The panel also includes: Lucie Campos, director of the Villa Gillet, France's centre for international writing; Man Booker International Prize-winning translator and writer Jennifer Croft; Booker Prize longlisted author Valeria Luiselli and writer, poet and musician Jeet Thayil, whose novel Narcopolis was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in

2012. Chair of the judges, Ted Hodgkinson says, 'We set ourselves an immense task in selecting a winner from our superb shortlist, filled with fiction bold enough to upend mythic foundations and burst the banks of the novel itself. From this exceptional field, and against an extraordinary backdrop, we were looking for a book that goes beyond echoing our dystopian present and possesses a timeless charge. Combining a disarming new sensibility with a translation of singular sensitivity, 'The Discomfort of Evening' is a tender and visceral evocation of a childhood caught between shame and salvation, and a deeply deserving winner of The 2020 International Booker Prize.'

The Dutch author, whose preferred pronouns are they/them, is one of the most exciting new voices in Dutch literature.



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 28

CROSSWORD

Across

- Former Portuguese money (6)
- 70s Soviet leader (8)
- Book of the Bible (6)
- Crazed or crazily enthusiastic (5)
- Audible return (4)
- Edge (4)
- Not in favour of; against (4)
- Piece of work (3)
- Saucy (4)
- Starting at a particular place (4)
- German parliament building (9)
- Ill-gotten gains (4)
- Sunbeams ? (4)
- Ultimo, in short (3)
- Strip skin off (4)
- Long time periods (4)
- Intuitive ability (4)
- Crooked (5)
- Canterbury saint (6)
- Strengthen (8)
- More enthusiastic (6)

Down

- Nuclear weapon (1-4)
- Former Monetary unit of Finland (5)
- Fashionable (4)
- Force out (5)
- Farewell in Firenze (4)
- A various tiny planktonic algae (6)
- Evasive (6)
- Blakey or Tatum (3)
- Drive forward (5)
- Hold spellbound (7)
- Lob trajectory (3)
- Slow run (3)
- Parisian tower (6)
- Demolishes or ruins (5)
- Soap flax (3)
- Express, put into words (3)
- Dive (6)
- A single item (3)
- Animal (5)
- Giraffe's kin (5)
- Golf stroke (5)
- Flowerless plant (4)
- Highest point (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 28

NEWS ROUNDUP

Twinkle Khanna roots for mom Dimple Kapadia in 'Tenet'

Author Twinkle Khanna is super proud of her mother, veteran actress Dimple Kapadia. On Friday, Twinkle took to Instagram and shared a glimpse of Dimple from the sets of her forthcoming Hollywood film, Tenet.

"East Or West, Dimple is the Best! I never thought I would riff on an Anu Malik song but this one had to be done:) #Tenet #ProudDaughter #behindthescenes," Twinkle wrote.

Along with it, she shared a brief clip of Dimple Kapadia sharing her experience of working with the film's director Christopher Nolan.

Dimple Kapadia's nephew Karan Kapadia also shared the video.

"I'm so proud of you #tenet," Karan captioned the clip. The movie, which stars Robert Pattinson and John David Washington, has been described as "an action epic evolving from the world of international espionage".

It has been released in select theatres in the US, Europe, and New Zealand.



No remote learning for at least 463 million children: Unicef



United Nations (IANS): At least 463 million children were unable to access remote learning after their schools were shut due to the coronavirus pandemic, a Unicef report said.

"For at least 463 million children whose schools closed due to Covid-19, there was no such a thing as remote learning," Xinhua news agency quoted Henrietta Fore, Unicef executive director, as saying in the report.

"The sheer number of children whose education was completely disrupted for months on end is a global education emergency."

"The repercussions could be felt in economies and societies for decades to come," she added.

It used a globally representative analysis of the availability of home-

based technology and tools needed for remote learning among pre-primary, primary, lower-secondary and upper-secondary school children.

The report considered access to television, radio and the internet. Then it took into account the availability of curriculum delivered across those platforms during school closures. Even when children have the technology and tools at home, they may not be able to learn remotely through those platforms due to competing factors in the home, including pressure to do chores, being forced to work, a poor environment for learning and lack of support in using the online or broadcast curriculum, the report said. Children from the poorest households and those living in rural areas

Pandemic affecting mental health of millions: WHO

Geneva (IANS): Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), said that the ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic has affected the mental health of millions of people. "For many people, the lack of social interaction caused by the pandemic has had a profound effect on their mental health," Tedros said at a virtual press briefing from Geneva. The WHO chief said that people in long-term facilities such as care homes and psychiatric institutions are at an increased risk of infection, Xinhua news agency reported.

are by far the most likely to miss out during closures, the report said. Globally, 72 per cent of school children unable to access remote learning live in their countries' poorest households.

In upper-middle-income countries, school children from the poorest households account for up to 86 per cent of students unable to access remote learning, Unicef said.

Sonu Sood offers to help NEET, JEE Main students

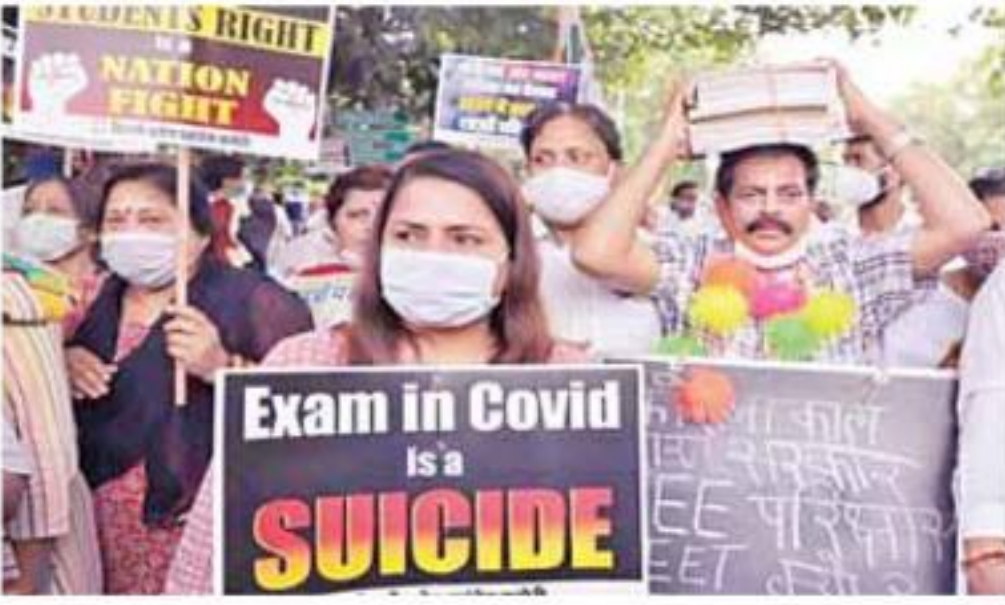
Centre not listening to students' 'Mann ki Baat': Mamata

Mumbai: JEE Main 2020 and NEET 2020 has become the national headline now. Students, parents, celebrities, activists, and politicians are demanding to postpone the upcoming JEE Main 2020 and NEET 2020 exams, however, NTA has made it clear that it will conduct the exams as per the schedule.

Due to the covid-19 situation in the country, the public transportation service in many states is still on hold, therefore, students will have to arrange private transportation.

In the light of recent events, Bollywood actor Sonu Sood took to this Twitter account and posted that he will help those students who are stuck and can't reach their exam centres.

The actor has posted that in case JEE and NEET doesn't get



Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) members stage a protest against holding of the JEE and NEET examinations in September, outside Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi

postponed, he will help students reach their exam centers. "I am standing with you. If you are stuck anywhere, let me know your areas of travel. I will help you reach your examination centres."

"No exams will be held in September for sure. We will take a call on whether exams can be held before Durga Puja and other festivals in October. Our education department will take a decision on the exam

schedule by next week. The Centre is forcing exam schedule on students, it is not listening to the 'Mann ki Baat' of students and their parents," said West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

Mamata said that the UGC is changing its stance at will. In April, they issued a circular to stall exams but in July they took a U-turn on that. The country is headed towards an unprecedented crisis."

India sees new single-day record of 77,266 cases

4 crore tested so far; over 1 crore samples tested in past 2 weeks

New Delhi: India has once again posted a massive spike in new coronavirus cases with over 77,000 new cases being recorded in the past 24 hours. Coronavirus cases in India have crossed the 33 lakh-mark with the death toll going past 61,000. Among the 33 lakh total coronavirus cases, the total number of active cases now stand at 7,42,023 while the number of recovered cases have gone up to 25,83,948.

The cumulative tests for detection of COVID-19 have reached 3,94,77,848 in the country, and more than one crore samples have been tested in the past two weeks, the Union Health Ministry said, highlighting that the Tests Per Million have increased to 28,607.

India has tested more than 9 lakh samples for the detection of COVID-19 for the second consecutive day, keeping a sharp focus on the 'test, track and treat' strategy of the Union Government.

India has already created a capacity of doing 10 lakh tests per day. A total of 9,01,338 samples were tested in a span of 24 hours on Thursday taking the cumulative tests to 3,94,77,848 so far.



Mobile testing clinic

Chandigarh (IANS): Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday flagged off a well equipped corona mobile testing clinic and ambulance donated by Vikramjit Sahney, Chairman of Sun Foundation and international president of the World Punjabi Organisation. The mobile clinic, which will operate in Punjab, will have contactless thermal testing with nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab tests. The fully air conditioned mobile unit also has a separate ambulance zone to evacuate critical patients.

Covid no ground for postponing polls: SC

New Delhi (IANS):

The Supreme Court on Friday said Covid-19 cannot be a ground for postponing elections, as it declined to entertain a petition seeking postponement of the Assembly elections in Bihar till the state is free from the Covid-19 pandemic. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said Covid-19 cannot be a ground for postponement of elections, and the court cannot tell Election Commission, what should be done on this issue. The petitioner argued before the top court that it should stop the notification for elections. The bench replied: "How can we ask the EC to not hold elections?"



No social, religious programmes in UP

Lucknow (IANS):

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has said it will not grant permission for holding any religious or public programmes till September 30 in view of the corona pandemic. Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Avnish Kumar Awasthi, said Yogi Adityanath in a meeting with senior officers told the district magistrates to not give permission for religious or public programmes till September 30. The state government had also instructed officials to ensure that the restrictions, including closure of markets on Saturday and Sunday, were strictly implemented, Awasthi added.



EU signs first deal to buy vaccines

Brussels (IANS):

The European Commission (EC) has signed its first deal to buy Covid-19 vaccines from pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides said. She told the media after signing the agreement at the EC premises in Nicosia with AstraZeneca on Thursday that the deal makes it possible for EU countries to purchase up to 300 million vaccines, reports Xinhua news agency. According to an EC statement, through the contract all EU members will be able to purchase 300 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, with an option for further 100 million doses, to be distributed on a population-based pro-rata basis.



Maha police records 346 fresh cases

Mumbai: As many as 346 personnel of Maharashtra police tested positive for coronavirus, while two died of the infection in the last 24 hours, an official said on Friday. With the addition of the new cases, the state police's COVID-19 tally has reached 14,641 and the casualties stood at 148, the official said. A total of 2,741 police personnel are currently undergoing treatment at various hospitals, whereas 11,752 have so far recovered from the infection, he said.



'Sadak 2' 2nd-most disliked video in YouTube history

Mumbai: Mahesh Bhatt-directed Sadak 2 is set to release on Friday on OTT platform Disney-Hotstar amid a raging controversy over nepotism debate in Bollywood that was sparked after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The controversy has led to the film's trailer, which was released online on August 12, receiving over 12 million dislikes on YouTube. It is the second-most disliked video in the history of YouTube, with over 94% thumbs down, followed by Justin Bieber's 'Baby' which received 11.64 million dislikes. The topmost disliked video is 'YouTube Rewind 2018: Everyone Controls Rewind'.

The trailer of the film has faced a massive rejection online because a large number of people are considering it to be a product of nepotism. The film is directed by Ma-



hesh Bhatt who is also being questioned by Mumbai Police in Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

The film has landed in the eye of controversy as fans are demanding justice for Sushant. The film features Sanjay Dutt, Alia Bhatt, Aditya Roy Kapur & Pooja Bhatt. Sadak 2 is a sequel of the 1991-hit Sadak, which had Sanjay Dutt and Pooja Bhatt in the lead roles. With Sadak 2, Ma-

hesh Bhatt makes a directorial comeback nearly after two decades.

According to PTI reports Mukesh Bhatt (Mahesh Bhatt's brother) says, "I am compelled to come (on digital platform) because I don't see any light in the near future. This is the best I can do to survive. There are certain things that you do, not out of choice but out of compulsion. This is the only option left. It is a no-brainer."



Sushant Singh Rajput case CBI questions Rhea for first time

Mumbai: Actress Rhea Chakraborty, accused of abetting the suicide of filmstar Sushant Singh Rajput, reached the DRDO guest house in Mumbai on Friday for questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), an official said. This is for the first time that Rhea Chakraborty (28) is being questioned by the CBI in the Sushant death case. She was summoned by the central agency to appear before its probe team on Friday around 10.30 am, the official said. Rhea Chakraborty, Rajput's girlfriend, left her residence around 10 am to reach the DRDO guest house in suburban Santacruz, where the probe team is stationed, he said. Before Rhea Chakraborty's arrival, Rajputs friend and flatmate Siddharth Pithani and manager Samuel Miranda had reached the DRDO guest house to join the investigation, the official said. The CBI team, which is in the city since the last eight days to investigate the Sushant death case, on Thursday recorded the statement of her brother Shovik Chakraborty. The recording of statement lasted for more than eight hours.

China builds 5G infra along LAC, fresh construction at Pangong Tso



New Delhi (IANS): As India and China continues to be in a border dispute deadlock, Beijing has started laying fibre optics cables and installing other equipments for Fifth-generation wireless technology -- commonly known as 5G -- along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The Chinese People's Liberation Army troops were also found constructing barracks and other structures near the Pangong Lake.

The intelligence agencies flagged that construction for 5G was noticed near Demchok area, one of the disputed sites at LAC, in the first week of August. The agencies noticed installation of equipment for new spectrum

bandwidths, laying of fibre optics cables and the development of cellular transmission technology.

The agencies also alerted that fresh construction works were seen along the Pangong Lake despite China having stated they will move back.

New huts and sheds have come up at Pangong Lake.

This is happening even when both the countries are in dialogue for disengagement.

The India-China standoff is nearing four months after tensions broke out in early May. While initial disengagement took place in Galwan Valley and Patrol Point 15; Pangong Lake and Gogra-Hot Springs area also

known as patrol point 17A remains volatile. At Pangong Lake, China has strengthened their positions between Finger-5 and 8 and India is to take up this move very strongly.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has refused to pull back eastwards from the 8-km stretch it has occupied from Finger-4 to Finger-8 by building scores of new fortifications there since early May. The mountain spurs jutting into the lake are referred to as Fingers in military parlance.

On June 15, as many as 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops were killed in a violent clash in the Galwan Valley

Cops active participant in Delhi riots: Amnesty

New Delhi: An Amnesty International India field investigation has documented several human rights violations committed by the Delhi police during the February 2020 Delhi riots, which claimed at least 53 lives.

"These violations include Delhi police officers indulging in violence with the rioters; torturing in custody; using excessive force on protesters; dismantling



protest sites used by peaceful protesters and being mute bystanders as rioters wreaked havoc," says the almost 10,000

word report on the investigation released Friday.

Titled "Six Months Since Delhi Riots, Delhi Police Continue To Enjoy Impunity Despite Evidence Of Human Rights Violations", the report says that "As the Delhi police investigate who is responsible for the riots, there have been no investigations till now into the human rights violations committed by the Delhi po-

lice during the riots."

The riots were sparked after protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act spiralled into violent clashes incited by virulent speeches by political leaders. Amnesty International India has called for the repeal of CAA, describing it as a "bigoted law that discriminates on the basis of religion. The law is specifically exclusionary towards Muslims."

UP cop booked for social posts against PM, CM

Kanpur (IANS): A suspended sub-inspector of Uttar Pradesh Police, has been booked for posting derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on social media.

According to police, sub-inspector Vijay Pratap had also made a derogatory remark against a particular religion.

A case has been registered following complaints by district BJP President Ajay Pratap Dhakre and Shaileendra Chowdhary, president Akhil Bhartiya Brahmin Sabha at Kotwali police station.

Circle officer (City) Vaibhav Pandey that that the guilty police official has been booked under various sections of IPC and IT Act.

Vijay Pratap had made headlines when he embarked on a 65-km run to protest his transfer to Bitholi police station in November 2019.

He had then also posted a tweet stating, "I am being transferred due to the dictatorial attitude of RI (reserve inspector of police). I was asked by the SSP to stay back at reserve police lines but I am being forcibly transferred to Bitholi by the RI. You can call it my anger or unhappiness but I will run and go to Bitholi."

Punjab police raids ex-DGP's house

Chandigarh (IANS): Punjab Police on Friday morning raided the residence of former state Director General of Police Sumedh Singh Saini, but could not find him there.

Sumedh Singh Saini, who is now above 60, was considered a blue-eyed boy of militancy-era police chief K.P.S. Gill, who was credited with eliminating militancy in the state.

Saini was booked in connection with the 29-year-old 'abduction' case of Balwant Singh Multani in May this year.

Section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been added last week in the first information report (FIR) against Saini on the direction of a trial court in Mohali near here.

A day earlier, the Mohali court reserved orders on Saini's bail application. Based on the complaint, the case was registered afresh under Sections 364 (kidnapping or abduction in order to murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), 344 (wrongful confinement), 330 (voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession) and 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy) in Mohali on May 7.

The kidnapping case was related to a bomb attack on Saini by the Khalistan Liberation Force militants in 1991. At that time, he was the Senior Superintendent of Police and posted in Chandigarh. He survived with injuries, but his three security personnel were killed.

Time to come together for larger public good

Political scientists would presume that during a pandemic, political leaders will seek to use the situation to increase their power and electability. In the case of Brazil, however, President Jair Bolsonaro has not been able to achieve this, partly due to the government's poor policy response to Covid-19, which is shaped by Bolsonaro's political ideology. Bolsonaro operates within a strong democratic institutional context that limits his policy authority. However authoritarian he may be, the State Governments in Brazil and the democratic institutions just don't care.

It is a big relief to the population of Brazil that the country is surviving on the strength of the coming together of all these groups and institutions. That is the lesson for India which has a namesake federal structure. Brazil's Federal Supreme Court, for example, consistently upholds state physical distancing policies that the Bolsonaro administration opposes. State-level health system investments, such as efforts to rapidly expand emergency bed capacity in intensive care units, have also sustained Brazil's universal public

health system in the context of weak federal coordination and management. Bolsonaro has said he views unemployment as worse than Covid-19 itself.

To prioritise opening of the economy sooner and garner support for his views, Bolsonaro stated that there would be chaos from unemployment and food shortages at home due to school and work closures. Playing to the public's fears during a pandemic does not seem to have strengthened his political support and authority. Bolsonaro has repeatedly resisted recommendations made by scientific experts and governors to engage in physical distancing while his administration initially restricted testing to only the worst Covid-19 cases and patients who were hospitalised.

Bolsonaro fired his Ministers of Health, Luiz Henrique Mandetta and Nelson Teich, over differences and brought in Eduardo Pazuello, a former Army General with no medical experience like some of his predecessors had done, as the interim Minister of Health, a post he has held since early June. The Lancet re-

cently observed that to help avoid these challenges, civil society needs to pressure elected politicians for greater autonomy and technical expertise to be ceded to Brazil's Ministry of Health. This is what they have been doing precisely.

The impact of Covid-19 has been devastating in Brazil, with more than 87,000 deaths and 2.42 million confirmed cases second only to the USA. Yet the country's democratic and health institutions have taken measures to protect society. Alongside consistently voicing opposition to Bolsonaro's Covid-19 policies, the legislative and judicial branches of government have resisted attempts to pursue the president's impeachment; this helps authorities and different agencies remain focused on the business of government. The Federal Supreme Court has consistently recognised the legality of physical distancing policies imposed by state and municipal governments.

The State Governments in India too should adopt a similar stand - not be dependent on the Centre now but do their best in the interest of the public. Or do they? After all those opposing the Centre complain that federalism has become a casualty. Why not follow Brazil? Political interests may differ, but one could come together for the larger public good. Isn't it so?

Congress should become politically accountable



IN MY OPINION

V RAMU SARMA

Congress should target BJP with surgical strike and should hold elections to the key organisational posts from the level of State chief and district chiefs to AICC chief if it does not want to remain in opposition for next 50 years, the "dissenters" feel.

Yes, they are right. If the Congress wants to take on the BJP it cannot do it in this fuddy, duddy, grand old party, style. Unless the Congress utilises this opportunity and re-invents itself, it cannot bounce back and give confidence to the people that they have an alternative to the ruling NDA government led by BJP.

It is the bounden duty of the grand old party to create this confidence among the people if democracy in the country has to survive. There can be anything like one nation one tax, one nation, one election but there cannot be one nation one party at the political level. The Congress party should not see the ongoing crisis in the party as a fight between the old guard and new. It needs to exhibit highest level of political accountability.

It should realise that despite having a weak leadership after its debacle in 2014 and despite taking wrong decisions like allying with some political parties including TMC, AAP and TDP without creating any formidable front and giving a joint fight and in spite of creating lack of trust among the people due to various flip flops, the party managed to get 52 seats in 2019 elections.

It indicates that it has the potential to bounce back. All that it needs is to exercise political accountability at the highest level and someone should come out and say that the blame game has to stop and drastic and dramatic changes need to be made in the party's organisational structure. This is what the 23 Congress leaders had said in their letter to Sonia Gandhi few days before the CWC meeting which resulted in lot of noise by the Durbaris and unfortunately Rahul and Sonia Gandhi also sided with them. Politics is always a dynamic situation and

hence the party too should evolve itself to the changing circumstances and go in for sweeping changes in the party.

In sports if a team loses few matches the coach or the team leader is sacked or at least kept aside for next few matches. But in politics there is nothing like accountability. If Congress does not want to perish, it should go in for major reforms. In Congress party, seniors have been glued to their posts for ages. There have been no organisational elections for past 23 years. Even the Congress Working Committee members were nominated and not elected.

It is unfortunate that the Durbaris in Congress who have been drumming up support for the Gandhi family's hegemony and claim that only they can run the party and none else as they had sacrificed their lives for the party should also recall the history of the party where apart from Pt Jawaharlal Nehru, the party had presidents like Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Sarojini Naidu and P V Narasimha Rao as well.

To say that the party cannot survive without the Gandhi family leading it is only an attempt by those who do not have people's support and could not emerge as cadre based leaders. It clearly indicates that the propaganda that the Congress has too much of internal democracy has no meaning. It shows that the party leaders are not confident of their own individual strength. No army can win a battle just because the commander is strong. The soldiers too need to be strong enough. In Congress unfortunately, neither the commander is strong nor the soldiers.

One thing is clear. If the BJP has to be challenged in the interest of democracy, it is necessary that a real secular, liberal and democratic Congress party with progressive thinking should emerge.

Though the UPA II returned to power in 2009 improving its earlier performance and won over 200 seats, it started facing credibility crisis within one year following charges of corruption and maladministration. Nothing was going right for the government. In 2010 December, the Congress plenary session held at Burari in Delhi gave a call that Rahul Gandhi take over the responsibility and put in place his own team. This demand came from the young and



not so young who belonged to members from political families. It felt that the party badly needs Kayakalp. But Rahul was reluctant to take up the responsibility. The reluctance continues even now. Even after the drubbing it received in 2014, the party failed to come out of the syndrome of nominations at all levels.

Though the reluctant Rahul Gandhi took over as AICC president in December 2017, he could create a functional team comprising of both old and young hands to help him overhaul the party.

In the backdrop of this situation, the letter written by 23 leaders seeking organisational elections which raised lot of hue and cry assumes importance. But the party's top leadership still does not appear to be in a mood for a 'real introspection'. On the other hand it is behaving in a manner which would further damage the party's image. It has now started resorting to clipping the wings of those who were signatories to the letter namely Ghulam Nabi Azad who is the floor leader in Rajya Sabha.

What Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi should understand is if weakest party president Sitaram Kesri and P V Narasimha Rao who did not have the kind of support Sonia and Rahul have could hold organisational elections, why not the Gandhi family? It only shows that they have no intention to democratise the party.

Instead of using the opportunity to announce elections, they not only pounced on the 23 leaders who advocated elections but also went in for a knee-jerk reaction where Sonia

Gandhi tried bring different non Congress chief ministers like West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and others on one platform to take on the Centre for delay in GST compensation. It also wants to make this as an issue for discussion in the monsoon session of the Parliament which would be held in September. But then the GST council meeting virtually bulldozed all the voices that expressed their concern over non-reimbursement of GST money to the states despite promise it had in 2017 to make good any loss of revenue in the first five years. All that the Congress party could say after the GST meeting was that the government has given up consensus and taken to majoritarian attitude.

The party unfortunately always fails to convert crisis into opportunity. If the Corona pandemic has affected GST collection as the Centre claims, then the Congress still has a chance to utilise this for taking on the Government. It can make use of the promises made by NDA-II and how they failed. It can highlight the failure of the Centre to compensate the states in a big way and come with new proposals halfway.

The Congress party can also take on the government explaining that breach of trust in regard to GST was not a first such action by the NDA government. It had breached the promise of special status category to Andhra Pradesh though the Congress PM Manmohan Singh had announced it on the floor of Rajya Sabha. Just as it has now come up with two options in regard to GST, it offered equivalent special pack-

age to AP with weird conditions which goes against the interest of the state exchequer and later dumped it blaming the state government for not utilising the offer.

The Congress could have also cashed in on how the Centre supported setting up of capital city of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati on the floor of Assembly when it was in alliance with TDP both at centre and in state, how the Prime Minister took holy water and soil from Delhi and presented it to the people of AP and promised hand holding in developing a capital that would be much better than Delhi and how now when the present government wants to shift capital to Vishakhapatnam the Centre says 'Not Before Me'.

But instead of the Congress taking on the government and winning the trust and support of people, it is continuing its fight against its own leaders who want elections at all levels. On one hand the Durbaris say that they want Rahul to become the Prime Minister. They say he now even looks like his father in the new hair style. Well all that makeover is fine and appreciable. But what about the makeover of the party organisation?

Unless, the party undergoes total overhaul and gives a new image to itself and becomes aggressive at the ground level and goes into the people with well planned concrete people oriented agenda and succeeds in effectively exposing the omissions and commissions of the governments both at the Centre and in States and stands by people it cannot dream of coming to power even next time.



Modi govt betrayal on GST assurance

RUDRA RAJU GIDUGU

It was a Great Betrayal by the Modi Government! The Modi Government had gone to town on One-Nation, One-Tax slogan, when it introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST). What, in effect, was introduced was One-Nation, Five-Taxes. In the GST, which universally means One-Nation, One-Tax, the Modi Government brought Five Slabs in GST, starting from a minimum of 5 per cent to a maximum of 27 per cent. This was the first betrayal on GST.

When it came to honouring its commitment to share the GST with the States and payment of compensation to the States for the taxes foregone, it was then that the Great Betrayal of Modi Government came about.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allowed States to raise FRBM limit from 3 per cent to 5 per cent during Corona pandemic. But, it came with conditionality. First 0.50 pc will be unconditional. Subsequently, 1.5 pc will be released on conditions, each linked to "clear, specific, measurable and feasible reforms." Conditional clauses rob States of their independence and make them dependent on Centre for gratis, which militates against the Federal Spirit of the Constitution.

The Modi government has now made it clear that it is reneging on all its constitutional, statutory, moral and ethical obligations, not only to pay up the GST dues, but even the compensation package, which it promised to stand by and honour. The promise to pay compensation to the States was given statutory status as Goods and Services (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.

The Modi government enacted the GST Act and hailed it as a shining example of Cooperative Federalism. The Modi government refusal to abide by the terms of the GST regime will be an affront to the federal nature of Indian polity.

When the GST was being enacted, a dream was sold to the States by the then Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley that not only States will get increased share of amount by way of devolution of taxes, but apart from that the Centre will pay the GST Compensation to the States, as well.

The 14th Finance Commission was set up by the Congress-led UPA government in 2013. It had submitted its report after the Modi government assumed office in 2014. At that time, the financial devolution jumped to as high as 42 per cent for the States pool. The Modi government showcased it



as its own largesse for the States. Highly impressed, the States readily agreed to the GST Dream sold to them, as yet another, bigger largesse from the Modi government.

Now, the Modi government has set the cat among the pigeons. Apparently the entire GST Compensation gap for this year is Rs 2,35,000 crore. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, at the 41 GST Council Meeting on August 27, made it clear that this gap can be met with States borrowing from the Reserve Bank of India. The Centre, itself, will not go in for such borrowings to pay the States, for fear of burgeoning debt and thus attracting Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. The Centre has made it clear that it has no money, as Covid-19 has hit GST revenue collections.

The Modi government, instead, wants States to borrow from RBI, so that dues of the States are cleared. Finance Minister made it clear that once such an arrangement is agreed upon by GST Council, dues will be cleared fast.

The moot point is that just as Centre has to abide by the FRBM Act, it is equally binding on the States, as well. How can the States escape the FRBM Act? Clearly, this could be yet another trap for the States set by Modi Government to drag them down by debt-burden, reducing them to supplicants in the Modi Durbar.

A loss of Rs 6 lakh crore will force States to cut down the expenditure of key programmes. It is shocking to know that instead of taking steps to help the States, it is preparing grounds for betrayal. It is replacing Cooperative Federalism with Coercive Federalism.

Rattled by the latest turn of developments, Congress President Sonia Gandhi has convened seven Opposition-ruled State Chief Ministers Conference. It was attended by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee (TMC), Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray (Shiv Sena) and Jharkhand Chief Minister Arjun Munda. The four Congress-ruled State Chief Ministers to attend the Chief Ministers Conference were Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amrinder Singh, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanaswamy.

Chairing the Chief Ministers Conference, Congress President Sonia Gandhi said, "GST Compensation being paid to States on time according to the laws passed by Parliament is crucial and I know this is not happening. Dues have accumulated. The finances of all States have been affected badly. GST was enacted as an example of Cooperative Federalism. The GST regime came into existence because the States have agreed to forego their Constitutional powers of taxation in the larger national interest and on the solemn promise of Compulsory GST Compensation for a period of 5 years."

Sonia Gandhi further explained, "In the Standing Committee on Finance dated August 11, 2020, the Finance Secretary, Government of India, has reportedly stated that Central Government is not in a position to pay the mandatory GST Compensation of 14 per cent for the current year. This refusal to compensate the States is nothing short of a betrayal by the Modi Government and a betrayal of trust of the people of India. On the other hand, Central Government continues to profiteer from unilateral Cesses, which are non-shareable with States and corner this revenue."

Against such a backdrop comes the State Bank of India announcement that States will lose Rs 6 lakh crore revenue in the Financial Year 2020-2021. These losses arise mainly because of the massive mismanagement of the economy by the Modi Government.

The Congress demands that the Modi Government should compensate the States for the expected Rs 6 lakh crore loss. Extend the GST Compensation Cess collection to 10 years. Any borrowing must be done by the Central Government. It can raise resources at lower cost and can bear the debt burden better than States. It is high time the Modi Government wakes up to its statutory duty and Constitutional responsibility and live up to its promise of Cooperative Federalism and not reduce it to Coercive Federalism.

(The author is AICC Secretary and Former MLC, AP)

Tamilians should learn Hindi

Why Tamil Nadu is averse to learn Hindi when they could adopt English an alien language? Learning Hindi is much easier because both Tamil, Hindi and most of the Indian languages have roots in the same Sanskrit script, vocabulary and words. When Britain ruled India, Tamilians were the first to learn difficult alien English (with no Sanskrit roots or similarities at all) and dominated the British India administrative set up admirably. Once they shun their aversion to Hindi (with the same easy-Sanskrit roots as Tamil), they are sure to dominate the Hindi-belt and share their progressive management and other valuable skills with the Hindi speaking people. This will further enhance the oneness and happy progress of India.

P Vasudeva Rao, Secunderabad

GST meet and after

I would like to compliment the government that at this time, it has accepted that economy is facing an extraordinary "Act of God" which may result in an economic contraction and thank God Finance Minister did not blame India's first PM Nehru. However, even before act of God, economy was not in good shape. One hopes that, someone does not file a case against God which would put government in a difficult situation.

N Nagarajan,
Hyderabad

LETTERS

II

The Centre has put the States on a sticky wicket by asking them to borrow from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to bridge the GST gap amounting to Rs.3 lakh crore. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman termed the pandemic an "act of God" and gave the States seven working days to consider options. One wonders why the Centre passed the buck to the States when it could have availed the loan and distributed it. Besides, the ploy could also leave the States saddled with the burden of forking out sizeable interest. The Congress-ruled States have rightly accused the Centre of thrusting "solutions on States by adopting a majoritarian approach."

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Postpone JEE, NEET examinations

As days are nearing for the JEE and NEET examination it is only anxiety, pressure, tension and confusion that is rising in the minds of the parents and the students who have registered for the exams as it is going to be conducted at a time when the covid pandemic has reached its peak and not a single place is left in our country free from the fatal corona virus infection.

Even in states like Kerala where it was under control a few months ago now the situation has worsened as

Covid clusters have started sprouting causing severe panic among the people. Exams like the NEET and the JEE definitely help students desiring to go for professional courses and these are exams looked forward by every student but then in such a condition where life itself is at stake because of the pandemic conducting such major exams where there will be chances of heavy public movement, transportation and crowding will only lead to disaster.

Now at present when India is witnessing a heavy daily spike in coronavirus figures it will be impossible for students to take the exams in a tension free condition. Climate activist and global icon Greta Thunberg has also voiced her concerns regarding conducting an examination during such a crisis. This definitely is sure to bring global attention and a fair decision has to be taken urgently. By issuing stern orders and enforcing diktats the exams may be executed but then even if one single individual among the lakhs of students, parents, teachers and other officials involved in the examination falls sick due to Covid infection wouldn't that be a failure of the decision made to conduct the exams especially when matters regarding Covid infection is so serious and dangerous. The government should immediately take a decision to see that the exam is postponed and conducted when the time is conducive.

M Pradyu, Kannur

thehansreader@gmail.com

CM launches Vedadri LI scheme work



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy lays stone in remote mode for YSR Vedadri Lift Irrigation Scheme from his office in Tadepalli. (Right) Leaders and official at the project site.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Jaggiahpet (Krishna district): Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy unveiled the pylon remotely from his camp office at Tadepalli to mark the launch of Vedadri Lift Irrigation scheme works at Vedadri, a noted pilgrim centre in Jaggiahpet mandal, on Friday. He said that the scheme, which will irrigate several thousands of acre and provide drinking water to Jaggiahpet town and 30 villages in three mandals, will be completed by February 2021.

Irrigation minister P Anil Ku-

- Says the scheme that will irrigate 38,600 acre and provide drinking water to Jaggiahpet town and 30 villages, will be completed by Feb next year
- Faults the previous TDP govt for not taking up the scheme earlier

mar Yadav, transport and Information minister Perni Venkata-maiah (Nani), civil supplies minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani), Government Whip and Jaggiahpet MLA Samineni Udayabhannu, MLAs M Jaganmo-han Rao, K Anil Kumar, district collector A Md Imtiaz, joint collector Dr K Madhavi Latha and and YSRCP leader Boppana

Bhava Kumar were present at the foundation stone laying spot.

The Chief Minister said that the previous government did not care to undertake the lift irrigation scheme though it would help a lot to the people of the area. The scheme, which would provide 2.7 tmc ft water to the area to irrigate 38,627 acre, was undertaken since the water from

Nagarjunasagar left canal is reaching the region, he said.

Government Whip Udayabhannu said that the scheme could be treated as the Chief Minister's wedding day gift to the farmers. He said that the 26-km long pipeline would bring water to the tail-end farmers also adding that farmers were happy that their land price had gone up to Rs 10 lakh immediately.

AP Women's Commission chairperson Vasireddi Padma, irrigation SE K Narasimha Murthy, chief engineer C Narayana Reddy and several others participated.

Intra-state trains to be run based on demand

Railway Board permits zonal railways to run intra-state special trains in consultation with the respective state governments

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: With the onset of the pandemic Covid-19, all trains services were cancelled till further advice as a preventive measure to combat spread of the infection.

With the first unlock announced by the Government of India, Indian Railways opened its passenger reservation counters across its network from May 22. Further, Indian Railways decided to run 200 special trains from June 1 across the country with restricted entry to stations.

Meanwhile, requests were received from various state governments to eliminate some stoppages to check the spread of the virus.

In this context, discussions were held for the running of intra-state special trains with the Chairman of Railway Board.

They concluded that an assessment can be made based on the public demand, representations from public representatives and in consultation with the state government for the possibility of running of intra-state special trains. Railway Board has permitted zonal railways to run intra-state special trains in consultation with the respective state governments.

Intra-state special trains will be operated based on the state government's permit, according to senior divisional commercial manager of Waltair division, A.K. Tripathi.

TDP ex-MLA Panchakarla joins YSRCP

- Says he is impressed by Jagan's decision to set up executive capital in Vizag
- MP Vijayasai says no one can stop setting up of capital in Vizag

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP Former MLA from north Andhra Panchakarla Ramesh Babu joined the YSRCP in the presence of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy here on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, party national general secretary and MP V Vijayasai Reddy said that the party would utilise the services of Ramesh Babu who has a long innings in north Andhra as a seasoned leader. He said TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu was "anti-people and communal leader and that nobody can push back the government decision to establish executive capital in Visakhapatnam and nobody need to have any doubt in this regard.

The MP said it was only Jagan Mohan Reddy who was



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy welcomes Panchakarla Ramesh into YSRCP at his camp office in Tadepalli on Friday

striving for the development of the SC, ST, BC and Minorities in the state. He said over the past 14 months, Rs 60,000 crore was spent for the welfare of these sections. He said Chandrababu Naidu had deceived these sections during 14-year rule of the state.

Ramesh Babu, who was elected to Assembly from Yalamanchali and Pendurthy earlier, said he was impressed by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's decentralisation of administration and plan to set up executive capital at Visakhapatnam. He said he was vexed

with TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu's insistence of opposing Jagan Mohan Reddy who was striving for the all-round development of the state, especially the north Andhra districts by setting up the executive capital in Vizag.

The defected leader said Naidu has not conducted a post-mortem of why the TDP lost the elections so badly and was only bent on mud-slinging against the Chief Minister. He said even if an internal audit is conducted by the TDP on Lokesh's leadership, he would turn out to be a disaster.

HC grants bail to Atchannaidu

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP deputy floor leader K Atchannaidu was granted bail by the High Court 71 days after he was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for his alleged involvement in the multi-crore ESI procurement scandal.

The bail was granted by a single judge bench comprising C Manavendrantah Roy. The ACB had charged him with endorsing some illegal contracts in procuring medical supplies and services for ESI.

It was alleged the contracts were given to certain companies on his recommendation. He was also accused of recommending allotment of a call centre, ECG services and patient case management systems in the ESI hos-

- He has been asked to provide surety for Rs 2 lakh, not to leave the country without court's permission
- ACB court earlier refused bail
- He is now undergoing treatment for Covid-19



pitals to a Hyderabad-based company flouting all norms.

His arrest had taken place in a filmy style where a large number of policemen jumped over the walls of his house and arrested him early in the morning while he was recuperating a day after undergoing surgery for fissures at his native village Nimmagadda in Srikakulam district.

He was made to travel for about 16 hours which resulted in

rupture of surgery wound and was treated in Government General Hospital. About a week ago, he was admitted to NRI Hospital after being tested positive for Covid-19.

Atchannaidu's earlier attempts to get bail from ACB courts failed.

But on Friday, the High Court granted him bail and asked him to provide surety of Rs 2 lakh and not leave the country without permission from the court.

Govt's apathy worsened Covid, flood woes: Naidu

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP national president and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday accused the YSRCP government of failing to protect the people from both coronavirus threat and floods in the state. Naidu said that the ruling party's negligent attitude became another problem for the people who were already badly hit by rising infection rates and submergence of their villages. Addressing a teleconference with the party leaders of Godavari districts, the TDP chief strongly objected the discrimination being shown between flood victims and beneficiaries along political lines. "Flood relief is not being provided to poor families that are considered not supporters of the ruling party. The TDP government provided food to 1.35 lakh people per day during the Titli cyclone in Srikakulam. In 10 days, 13 lakh people were served food. That kind of service orientation is lacking in the present government.

There is need to rescue the farmers who lost their crops in the floods. Seed for alternative crops should be provided to them with 100 percent subsidy," said the former chief minister.

Naidu asserted that on its part, the TDP has provided whatever relief it could to the flood victims and lauded the TDP leaders who took part in the rescue activities.

RLIS ROW

Experts' panel report vouched for AP stand, says TS

- TS argues that the AP government has plans to double the drawal of water by increasing the capacity of the project from 40,000 cusecs to 80,000 cusecs, which makes it clear that it will construct a new project at Pothreddypadu
- NGT Chennai Bench posts the case to Sept 3

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The Chennai Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which heard the arguments of the Telangana state government on Friday against the proposed Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS), posted the case to September 3.

The arguments followed a petition filed by one G Srinivas who accused the AP government of unilaterally scaling up the Krishna water drawal plan through the proposed LI scheme. He contended that the experts committee report that no environmental clearances were required for the project was false.

Advocate General (AG) for Telangana, Ramachandra Rao, presenting the government's contention argued on Friday that the experts committee's opinion was a reflection of the AP government stand and did not reflect the ground realities. The committee had gone solely by the AP version without verifying the actual position. The proposed project was a new one and hence it required the clearances from the environment ministry before being taken up, he said.

Moreover, the Telangana AG argued that the AP government had plans to double the drawal of waters by increasing the capacity of the project from 40,000 cusecs to 80,000 cusecs which clearly proved that the AP government had planned a new project

'EC not needed'

Vijayawada: The RLIC does not need environment clearance since it is not a new project, it is neither an irrigation project nor power generation component and the project is also not qualified under expansion and modernisation of existing project, said Dr Sunamani, director of Union Ministry of Environment in an affidavit filed before the NGT on Friday.

at Pothreddypadu. Hence, he pleaded that the experts committee report be trashed and sought directions from the tribunal to the AP government to prevent it from going ahead with the project.

The AG submitted to the tribunal that his government would organise a tour of the proposed project site for the members of the experts committee for an aerial survey if they so wished to realise the gravity of the situation. The AP government had misled the committee and also was trying to mislead the tribunal in claiming that it was an existing project, Ramachandra Rao submitted.

He further stated that the Telangana state would face an irrevocable injustice if the AP government was allowed to go ahead with the project and completed it.

HC displeased over lack of evidence in PIL

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nelapadu (Amaravati): The Division Bench of Andhra Pradesh High Court comprising Chief Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheswari and Justice Kanneganti Lalitha expressed displeasure over the insufficient evidence while filing public interest litigation.

Hearing a petition filed by Chalasani Ajay Kumar on behalf of petitioner Umamaheswar Reddy which stated that the funds of the endowments department from Brahmin Welfare Corporation were diverted to implement Amma Vodi scheme by the state government, the division bench on Friday gave time to the petitioner to file necessary documents.

Earlier, advocate general Sriram Subrahmanyam requested the High Court not to entertain every Public Interest Litiga-

- Hearing a Public Interest Litigation alleging diversion of Brahmin Welfare Corporation funds to Amma Vodi scheme, the court observes there is no evidence to support the charge
- Advocate General submits to the court it should not entertain PILs filed by vested interests and based on mere talk on the street
- But, the court gives another week's time for the petitioner to file supporting documents

tion (PIL) filed by vested interests based on mere street talk or speculations. "Every talk in the street against the state government cannot be converted into a PIL. I request that such PILs should not be enter-

tained in the court of law," he said.

The petitioner did not submit any document showing that the funds were diverted from Brahmin Welfare Corporation to the Amma Vodi scheme. He also did not

produce the earlier GO issued by the finance department on budgetary allocations to the Amma Vodi scheme. Apparently, the petitioner relied on a GO issued by endowments department.



The advocate general opposed it saying that the Brahmin corporation was not a part of the endowments department. The commissioner of endowments is the head of the department of the corporation and it is just under the administrative control, he said. He further pointed out that the petitioner, being a lawyer, had not shown any basis for the plea that the endowments department funds have been diverted to Amma Vodi. The GO of the endowments department did not speak of any diversion, he said.

The High Court agreed with the advocate general's argument and expressed its displeasure at the petitioner. It said there was nothing wrong with the action of the government. The court wanted to dismiss the PIL, but the petitioner sought a week's time to file further documents in support of his petition.

Centre permits meals, beverages on flights

Continued from p1

As per the DGCA rules, an airline can choose to put an unruly passenger on its no-fly list after internal deliberations. Subsequently, other airlines may follow suit in putting that passenger on their no-fly lists.

Scheduled international passenger flights continue to remain suspended in India since March 23 due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, special international flights have been operating under the 'Vande Bharat Mission' and bilateral air bubble arrangements that have been signed with various countries.

Continued from p1

The six ministers who have filed the petition are Moloy Ghatak (West Bengal), Dr Rameshwar Oraon (Jharkhand), Dr Raghu Sharma (Rajasthan), Amarjeet Bhagat (Chhattisgarh), Balbir Singh Sidhu (Punjab) and Uday Ravindra Samant (Maharashtra).

NEET for students seeking admission to medical and dental courses is scheduled to be held on September 13 and the JEE for those aspiring to join top engineering schools is scheduled to be conducted from September 1 to 6.

A three-judge bench headed by justice Arun Mishra had, on August 17, rejected a plea filed by 11 NEET/JEE candidates seeking postponement of the exams until after the Covid-19 crisis has passed.

Justice Mishra, while hearing that case on August 17, had said "life has to go on" despite the outbreak of the viral disease and the court cannot put the career of students in jeopardy by interfering with the decision of the National Testing Agency (NTA) to hold the examinations in September. "Life has to move on even in Covid times. Covid may continue but postponement of exams is a loss for the country. Are you (petitioners) ready to waste a whole year," Justice Mishra had said.

On July 3, the NTA, the Central government body tasked with conducting JEE and NEET, came out with public notices to hold the exams in September.

"The career of students cannot be put in peril. We find no merit in

the petition. The petition is dismissed," the bench, which also comprised justices BR Gavai and Krishna Murari, had ordered on August 17.

The review petition filed on Friday stated that the Supreme Court's order of August 17 failed to consider that the decision to conduct examinations amid the ongoing pandemic increases the vulnerability of the students and their families to the risk of infection.

It was further submitted that the Centre had adequate time to make preparations for safe and successful conduct of the examinations but the intervening months from April to September were characterized by inaction and lethargy.

"Now the Union government has suddenly woken up to realise that

their inertia is going to cost lakhs of students their academic year and therefore as a knee jerk reaction, the Union government has haphazardly and hurriedly fixed the dates of examinations," the petition said.

Further, the petition also said that students from rural areas and semi-urban areas might be forced to use unsafe modes of transportation to reach examination centres and would thereby expose themselves and everyone else to Covid - 19.

"Students in tribal pockets and remote areas will face an unfair hurdle to reach and stay at the examination centres compared to those already residing in urban areas or in the vicinity of exam centres," the plea said.

Listen to student voices: Sonia

Continued from p1

As part of the Congress' day-long campaign of holding protests and voicing opposition on social media to holding of the entrance examinations, the party posted Sonia Gandhi's message to students and the government on the issue of conducting the exams.

"I feel for you because you are now facing a very difficult situation. The issue of your exams, of when they should be taken up is the most important issue, not only for you but for your family," Sonia Gandhi said in a video addressing students. "You are our future. We depend on you to build a better India," she said.

Therefore, if any decision has to be taken regarding students' future, it is important that it is "being taken with your concurrence", the Congress leader said.

"I hope the government listens to you, listens to your voices and acts upon your wishes. This is my advice to the government," she said in the nearly minute-long video posted on the Congress' Twitter handle with the hashtag 'Speak Up For Student Safety'.

While the NEET is slated to be held on September 13, engineering entrance exam JEE-Main is scheduled between September 1-6.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Robinhood investors heart of the mkt

“ In the mid and smallcap segments, liquidity is a very key factor for the market and penny stock investors, or Robinhood investors, are the heart of the market. They are a healthy part of the market as they provide the liquidity that goes around.


- Sundaram MF CEO **Sunil Subramaniam**



COVID

US jobless claims above 1mn for 2nd wk

The number of initial jobless claims in the US last week remained above 1 million mark for a second straight week, painting a gloomy outlook for the recovery of a labour market ravaged by the Covid-19 crisis. It's the 22nd time in past 23 weeks that figure was above 1 million

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	77.79	South		
Euro	91.66	African Rand		5.03
UAE Dirham	21.98	Hong Kong Dollar		10.89
Thai Baht	2.71	Japanese Yen		0.8
British Pound	101.31	New Zealand Dollar		51.55
Australian Dollar	56.37	Saudi Riyal		21.52
Canadian Dollar	58.96	Swedish Krona		9.77
Swiss Franc	84.44	Singapore Dollar		56.63

DELHI SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Dinesh Khara selected as next SBI chief

New Delhi: The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) on Friday recommended SBI's senior-most Managing Director Dinesh Kumar Khara as the next Chairman of the country's largest lender. Khara will replace SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar, whose three-year term comes to an end on October 7. Members of BBB, the headhunter for state-owned banks and financial institutions, interviewed four managing directors of State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday for the upcoming vacancy. "Keeping in view their performance in the interface and their overall experience, the Bureau recommends Dinesh Kumar Khara for the vacancy of Chairman in State Bank of India (and) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the candidate on the Reserve List for the said vacancy," BBB said in a statement.

Campaign from The Body Shop

Hyderabad: The Body Shop, a cosmetics and skin care company, launched Safe Space campaign. Under this, it mandated social distancing of two metres at all its stores and warehouses. It is undertaking extensive sanitization of products and other touch points as per WHO and government guidelines, and is encouraging contactless payments. Additionally, all the staff members have been thoroughly trained and equipped with regards to protective gear and measures. Harmeet Singh, VP, Marketing Merchandising and E-Commerce, Asia South, The Body Shop, said: "Nothing makes us happier than being able to serve our customers in our stores as we start to see the market open up in phases. At The Body Shop, we have taken this time to prepare for this step with a laser sharp view and aim. Our Safe Space campaign has ensured to make our customers and staff feel safe inside our stores."

3RD WAVE OF OUTSOURCING

Indian IT set to benefit from post Covid boom

Indian IT sector gained from previous 2 waves in 2020, 2008-09: Report

New Delhi: Post Covid-19, a third wave of IT outsourcing after the previous ones in the year 2000 and 2008 is expected, which would benefit Indian IT companies and tech jobs.

Marquee financial services house, Goldman Sachs said in a report, "Post Covid-19, we expect a third wave of outsourcing and an increasing number of technology roles globally finding their way to India as work from anywhere becomes the new accepted norm".

With the most efficient supply chains, we believe India IT services companies are positioned favourably to benefit from a third wave of outsourcing after previous waves in 2000 (post Y2K) and in 2008-09 (post Global Financial Crisis), said Goldman Sachs.

Due to these tailwinds and given estimates of further increase in global/US GDP estimates on a sharper recovery, Goldman Sachs has increased its FY22E-23E sector revenue and earnings forecasts by up to seven per cent and now

Post Covid-19, we expect a third wave of outsourcing and an increasing number of technology roles globally finding their way to India as work from anywhere becomes the new accepted norm

- Goldman Sachs



forecast 12.6 per cent US dollar revenue growth in FY22E (vs. -2.7 per cent in FY21E, and vs. prior 9.7 per cent) for the top five Indian IT firms. "These changes are supported by our IT services demand tracker (link) and management/expert commentaries during our India corporate day", it said.

In the past, major crises have tended to lead to a sharp increase in outsourcing and even offshoring particularly to India, which has consistently experienced much lower wage levels for technology developers compared to the Developed Markets (DMs),

amid an increasing annual base of engineering graduates. Goldman Sachs said the first such wave happened after the Y2K problem in 2000 when India's IT industry was growing at more than 40 per cent from a small base and very low global penetration, driven largely by labour cost arbitrage.

A second wave started post GFC in 2008-09 when India's IT industry grew at more than 15 per cent consistently for three to four years before the growth normalised to high single digits. This happened both due to a shift to cloud based infrastructure and

the higher use of automation tools, forcing Indian IT firms to look for new ways to sell IT solutions, shifting from labour cost arbitrage to business transformation through digital technologies. Goldman Sachs expects that post Covid-19, a third wave of outsourcing and an increasing number of technology roles globally finding their way to India as Work From Anywhere becomes the new accepted norm. As per various global surveys, several top firms are planning to have a few of their employees work from home permanently, and in a recent expert call with McKinsey, a few large IT contracts were noted as having as high as 75 per cent of employees engaging in Work From Home. TCS is planning to have 75 per cent of its employees working from home permanently by 2025 estimated and TechM is gearing for 25-30 per cent of its employees working from home by 2021 estimated on a rotational basis, Goldman Sachs said.

Banking stocks lift mkts, Sensex up 350 points

Mumbai: Healthy buying in banking and finance stocks lifted the Indian stock market on Friday with the BSE Sensex gaining over 350 points.

The S&P BSE Banking index surged 4 per cent, while the Finance index was up 2.32 per cent. Sensex closed at 39,467.31, higher by 353.84 points, or 0.90 per cent, from the previous close of 39,113.47. It had opened at 39,264.48 and touched an intra-



day high of 39,579.58 and a low of 39,235.03 points. The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange was trading at 11,647.60, higher by 88.35 points, or 0.83 per cent, from its previous close.

CII holds meet on TS pharma sector

Hyderabad: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has on Friday organised a panel discussion on Make in Telangana - an advocacy to invest in the State's infinite opportunities and world class infrastructure. The conference gained traction with sessions on pharma, healthcare & life sciences. The panel discussion witnessed participation from leaders and experts from varied fields. Shakthi Nagappan, Director - Life Sciences, Govt of Telan-

gana, while moderating the session highlighted the strengths, policies and ecosystem of Hyderabad and Telangana in the life sciences Sector. Alluding to the vision of the State government to double the value of the ecosystem to \$100 billion by 2030, he gave an overview of the initiatives that the State government has taken - Hyderabad Pharma City, Genome Valley 2.0, Medical Devices Park, Digital Medicines Hub, B-Hub, among others.



REAL CORNER



Housing sales likely to dip 60% in FY21 due to Covid

Liquidity starved real estate sector is expected to witness a 40-60 per cent decline in residential sales volumes this fiscal due to Covid-19 pandemic, ratings agency says Icria.

According to the agency, the collections from customers are also expected to decline by around 35-40 per cent. Maintaining a negative outlook for the real estate sector, the agency noted that the overall sales volume from completed and under-construction inventory is expected to reduce by 40-60 per cent. "The preference for completed inventory is expected to continue thus favouring the developers having higher proportion of such projects. However, the steep reduction in home loan rates may aid housing demand to some extent, with



Collections from customers are expected to decline by 35-40%: Report

home loan interest rates having dropped below 8 per cent for the first time in 15 years," the agency said. It noted that committed receivables from already booked sales have also been impacted, given that some milestone based payments have been deferred due to stoppage of construction activities earlier. Icria also expects the spends on ongoing projects

to reduce by around 30 per cent in FY21 on account of the pandemic. "New launches, which were already on a declining trend given the increased focus on deliveries, are likely to get further deferred," it said.

Icria further said the overall project cash flows are expected to be impacted by slower collections leading to reduced inflows.

Time to get rental housing organised

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the need for turning the rental housing segment into an organised sector, according to Sriram Chitturi, founding president of the Rental Housing Association of India.

Chitturi, who is also the founder of co-living space provider Guessture, noted that the transition from the unorganised to the organised sector in the rental housing segment has already gained momentum. "The pandemic has increased the need for organising the rental housing sector and the transition from the unorganised to the organised sector has already gained momentum.

The unorganised players will be losing out substantially because governments have started enforcing rules on the number of people that can be accommodated in a particular space," he said.

Noting that the pandemic and associated lockdown across the country has challenged the operations of corporates, he said that the concept of 'work from home' development centres is gaining traction. He said that it is a hybrid model of work and home, a place where employees stay, work, live, socialise in the same managed contained environment and the work environment is tailor-made for each corporate.

Property registration ban stir up hornet's nest in TS

Telangana govt recently stopped registration of unauthorised constructions, plots

P MADHUSUDHAN REDDY

The Telangana government's recent move to go tough on unauthorised constructions and layouts by denying registrations to such properties is a welcome move, but the decision has stirred up a hornet's nest with scores of people who purchased properties with their hard-earned money, facing problems in registering their properties now.

On Wednesday, T Chiranjeevulu, Commissioner and Inspector General (Registration & Stamps), Telangana, issued a memo directing sub-registrars not to register plots, apartments, or structures without valid permissions in panchayats, municipalities or municipal corporations, including the GHMC. These instructions were issued based on the provisions of the Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019 and Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018.

As a consequence, property registrations have more or less come to a standstill across the State from Thursday and thousands of people who purchased properties are now finding it difficult to register them. With the government machinery going easy for the past many years, thousands of unauthorised layouts mushroomed across the State. Open plots purchased in such layouts changed hands over the years. The problem is more acute in Hyderabad and its surrounding districts.



Curbing unauthorised constructions and layouts is a good move. We always welcome it. But implementing it with a retrospective effect is creating lots of problems

- C Prabhakara Rao, president, Telangana Builders' Federation



The State government will lose precious revenues during these difficult times if the registrations are stopped. Troubling people, who bought open plots long back and are going for resale now, is not a good idea

- K Raja Reddy, president, Greater West City Builders Association, Hyd

In similar vein, unauthorised constructions also cropped up thanks to rapid urbanisation. "Curbing unauthorised constructions and layouts is a good move. We always welcome it. But implementing it with a retrospective effect is creating lots of problems as people who bought properties through genuine transactions are not in a position to register their properties now," C Prabhakara Rao, president, Telangana Builders' Federation (TBF), told The Hans India. Giving an example, he said that due to the latest decision, some people who bought properties with valid permissions were not in a position to get them registered. "Post the Wednesday's move, officials of the Registration Department

are not allowing the registration of all apartments in a building if a developer has built one illegal floor at the top. As a consequence, people who purchased apartments with valid permissions in the lower floors in the same building are suffering now," he explained.

Real estate players and experts are also of the view that the State government will lose revenues if it goes ahead with banning registrations of open plots in unauthorised layouts and also those that were not regularised under the layout regularisation scheme (LRS).

K Raja Reddy, president, Greater West City Builders Association (GWB), strongly feels that the State government will lose precious income during

these difficult times if the registrations are stopped. "Instead of stopping the registration of open plots, the government should collect fees for layout regularisation and then allow the registration immediately," he said. It can take a declaration from the purchaser that he or she will lose the amount paid if there is any discrepancy in the details and documents furnished, he added.

Reddy, who executed several real estate projects in Gajularamaram and surrounding areas, suggested to the government to implement strict rules in future if it wants to contain the unauthorised layouts. "Troubling people who bought open plots long back and are going for resale now, is not a good idea," he said.

DEMOLITION OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES

Will officials dare to touch TRS netas' too?

- Many leaders have allegedly constructed illegal structures on nalas which caused resent floods in Warangal
- The moot point is will the authorities who so far demolished 30-odd illegal constructions would bravely bring down the structures belonging to these ruling party leaders!

ADEPU MAHENDER

Warangal: Ever since the district administration has taken up the special drive to demolish illegal structures on stormwater drains in the city, the social media is agog with trolls pitched against certain people's representatives.

The leaders who are who have been targeted have allegedly constructed illegal structures on nalahs. And the moot point is whether the authorities who so



The nala in front of MLA's camp office

far demolished 30-odd illegal constructions would bravely bring down the structures belonging to these ruling party leaders! Indeed it is a piquant situation for the administration and ruling party leaders as the demolition drive is being carried out at the behest of MA&UD Minister K T Rama Rao who inspected the flood-affected areas in Warangal on August 18. KTR himself admitted that hundreds of illegal structures that have come up encroaching upon stormwater

drains led to the flooding, and assured the denizens of razing all such unauthorised constructions, besides taking other measures to avoid flooding.

Since then the social media is abuzz pointing to some of the illegal structures allegedly owned by the ruling party leaders or their close ones. The denizens who posted the photos of Ward-hannapet MLA Aroori Ramesh's camp office located near tyre retreading centre, Hunter Road, pointed out that the structure



A building allegedly owned by a TRS leader on the nala in Warangal

was obstructing the nala. It was also found that there was an effort to construct a pipeline on a war-footing note to divert the floodwaters that inundated the area during the recent incessant rains. Another ruling party leader has constructed a building near under-bridge area in Warangal. It is alleged that some buildings near Arya Vysya Bhavan owned by the relatives of Warangal East MLA Nannapuneni Narender were also constructed by encroaching upon nalahs.

Warangal Urban District Collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu said: "The demolition drive will go on as per the plan. Action will be taken against the encroachers, irrespective of their position."

It may be mentioned here that the administration which has identified 415 encroachments on four major nalahs - Naim Nagar, Bondivagu, Sakarasikunta and Bhadrakali, started demolition drive on immediately after KTR's orders.

Hyd to have 103 more Basti Dawakhanas soon, says KTR

The urban dispensaries have received a good response from the poor, says the Minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister K T Rama Rao has announced opening of some more Basti Dawakhanas (urban dispensaries) to provide medical services free of cost to the poor in Greater Hyderabad limits. Currently, 197 dispensaries were providing services the number will increase to 300 soon.

KTR held a review meeting on Basti Dawakhanas with officials and said that they received good responses from the poor, leading to an increased demand for a few more Dawakhanas. The Minister expressed happiness over the results of Basti Dawakhanas in providing primary health care to the urban poor. Basti Dawakhanas provide 53 kinds of free services such as OPD Consultation, basic lab diagnosis, free medicines, antenatal and postnatal care, services, and screening for non-communicable diseases such as BP, Blood sugar. Presently, each Basti Dawakhana is registering about 100 plus outpatients per



day. And altogether, a total of 25 thousand citizens are receiving OP services through the Basti Dawakhanas per day.

Minister instructed the officials to ensure that every division which has a huge population of urban poor in GHMC limits should have one or more Basti Dawakhanas. He asked the officials to set up 100 more Basti Dawakhanas and make them operational within the coming two months. KTR also instructed the officials to set up Basti Dawakhanas at 2 BHK Dignity Housing Sites for the convenience of residents.

TSBIE unveils schedule for MHRD merit scholarships

- The last date for applications is October 31
- The MHRD has allotted 2,570 scholarships to the State of Telangana for fresh applications during the academic year 2020-21
- Students qualified for Intermediate course in March and pursuing higher studies in the academic year 2020-21 are eligible to apply

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) announced the schedule of dates for applying merit scholarships offered by the

Union HRD Ministry. In a statement on Friday, the TSBIE said students qualified for Intermediate course in March 2020 and pursuing higher studies in the academic year 2020-21 are eligible to apply for the scholarships in online mode.

Prospective applicants can visit the website <http://scholarships.gov.in> for applying for the scholarships. Adding, the selected candidates 52740 will be placed on the Boards website at tsbie.cgg.gov.in.

The MHRD has allotted 2,570 scholarships to the State of Telangana for fresh application during the academic year 2020-21. The last date for submitting fresh applications for the AY 2020-21 and for the renewal of the scholarships by the students of the 2016-17 to 2019-2020 batches is October 31, it said.

E-office inaugurated at Nagaram Municipality

Hyderabad: The Municipal Administration department on Friday inaugurated e-offices in all the municipalities in the State. Director of Municipal Administration N Satyanarayana inaugurated e-office at Nagaram Municipality here on Friday. Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao had directed the officials to start e-offices in the municipalities and corporations in the State to ensure paperless administration. The officials said that the process of converting had already started and 94 municipalities which were not with e-office were converted into e-office on Friday. A total of 1,620 user IDs were created and were functioning for e-office in all 139 ULBs and regional offices.

MLC for staggered attendance of school teachers in pandemic

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Teachers Constituency MLC K Janardhan Reddy has asked the Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy to implement staggered attendance of teachers in schools. In a letter to the Education Minister on Friday, he recalled the State government's direction asking all teachers

to report to duties from August 27. He said that the Academic Year 2020-21 has started with much delay amidst growing number of Covid-19 cases in the State.

If one teacher is contracted with the coronavirus, then, all teachers will have to undergo the mandatory quarantine. In such a scenario, the already delayed academic classes would further get

disrupted, he said. Asking the Minister to consider the issue, he asked her to give necessary directions for staggered attendance of school teachers. Also, Divyang teachers, pregnant teachers and those teachers of above 55 years of age should be given exemption from attendance.

The MLC also asked the Minister to grant special leave to the

teachers in case any of their family members with Covid-19 positive is placed under quarantine.

Janardhan Reddy also asked the Education Minister to take immediate steps for the appointment of staff to maintain sanitation at the schools, directing the Panchayats and municipal bodies to take up complete sanitization of the school campuses.

POLICE FOILS CONG BID TO HOLD PROTEST IN FRONT OF GOVT OFFICES

Central, State govts playing with lives of students: Uttam



Police foiling Congress workers' bid take out protest rally from Gandhi Bhavan on Friday.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The police on Friday foiled the Congress party's bid to take out rally and hold protest dharnas in front of Central government offices demanding postponement of JEE and NEET exams in view of coronavirus pandemic across the country.

The Congress leaders wanted to hold a dharna before the offices of the Central government following the instructions from AICC, which decided to hold demonstrations across the country on August 28, citing risk to students gearing up for JEE and NEET exams

from coronavirus. However, the agitating leaders were prevented from coming out and taking out protest outside the party premises by the police, which was deployed a large number at the gates of Gandhi Bhavan.

Leading the Friday's agitation programme, TPCC president and MP, N Uttam Kumar Reddy was accompanied by other senior leaders including former PCC President Ponnala Lakshmaiah, Hyderabad City Congress president M Anjan Kumar Yadav, TPCC Vice-President Dr Mallu Ravi, General Secretaries Bollu Kishan and Adam Santosh, TPCC



(R) TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy addressing the protestors at Gandhi Bhavan

Minorities Dept Chairman Shaik Abdullah Sohail, Nampally In-charge Feroz Khan and others later held demonstration within the Gandhi Bhavan premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that India has recorded the world's highest spike of 77,266 Covid-19 positive cases in a single day on Friday. Similarly, Telangana has been getting nearly 3,000 cases every day since the last one week. In a situation where Covid-19 has spread to the community level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government at the Centre wants to put the lives of nearly 25 lakh stu-

dents and their families at stake by conducting the JEE and NEET exams. Similarly, he said by silently accepting the decision taken by Modi government, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao was risking the lives of nearly 1.20 lakh students who've registered for JEE and NEET, he alleged.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Central government should postpone the exams to a later date, as nothing was important than the lives of students. He said that the Congress party would continue its agitation until the government postpones the JEE and NEET exams to a later date.

Hyd police launch manhunt to nab escaped corona+ve prisoners

- City police launch manhunt to nab escaped corona+ve prisoners
- Special teams have been formed from each zone and the task force has been assigned the duty to nab the convicts on the run

CHAND AHMED

Hyderabad: The top brass of city police went into a huddle as soon as the news broke out about the corona positive patients escaped from Gandhi hospital on Thursday.

According to an officer, who did not wish to be named, the higher ups have ordered to form special teams from each zone i.e., central,

east, west, north, south and the task force has been assigned the duty to nab the convicts who are on a run. The teams are checking every nook and corner of the city. He said, "the escaped convicts are very dangerous to society as they are criminals and also they have tested positive for coronavirus and if they come into contact with anyone then there are chances of virus spreading more." Moreover, the challenge before the department is that they are unable to trace out their movements from Gandhi hospital due to lack of CCTV cameras. But the department is using advanced techniques of photo enhancement software to nab the convicts.

"Also, the bus stands, railway stations are being scrutinized thor-

oughly because the convicts will try to escape from the city. Also there are chances that their symptoms might increase as they are not treated completely. So the convicts may go to any hospital in the city or in any districts, henceforth the vigil has been increased in and around the hospitals and the hospital managements have been alerted about the said convicts," stated the officer. It is very crucial that the convicts are arrested at the earliest and for this reason we have activated our informal network apart from using the modern techniques because the convicts may escape in disguise. Meanwhile, the Chilkalguda police have booked an FIR against the convicts and the teams are working tirelessly to nab them, said the officer.



Woman sells 1-month-old grand daughter

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Karimnagar: To repay the debts, a woman has sold her one-month old grand-daughter four days ago in Veenavanka mandal and the incident came to light on Friday.

According to information, Mote Kanakamma, resident of Veenavanka mandal, has a daughter Padma, who was married and had a son and daughter. Later Padma fell in love with one Ramesh and left her first husband and children. She married Ramesh four years ago and living in Hyderabad. In July this

year, Padma gave birth to a daughter. After a small dispute with husband Ramesh a week ago, Padma came to her mother's house in Veenavanka.

Kanakamma didn't like Padma marrying Ramesh, who is from outside of their caste. When Padma came to her house, she convinced Padma to sell the baby and took her signature and sold the baby to a family from Gumpala village of Odela mandal in Peddapalli district for Rs 1.10 lakh. Kanakamma told her daughter that she paid the debts with the money she go after selling the

baby. Meanwhile, Padma's father Yadagiri, who was separated from Kanakamma and living separately, came to know that Kanakamma sold the baby and informed the police.

The police investigated the case and took Kanakamma and those, who helped her in selling the baby, into custody and registered a case against them.

The officials of Child and Women Welfare Department kept the baby and mother Padma at ICDS Centre for their protection and warned the people of lodging cases if they sell or purchase the children.

20 people tested positive after using lift button

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Khammam: Nearly 20 members living in the top floors of an apartment were infected with coronavirus in Khammam town. One of them died while undergoing treatment in Hyderabad.

According to sources, all of them were allegedly infected after using the lift button regularly of the apartment located on bypass road in Khammam town. Except those living in the ground floor, others living in top floors were tested positive.

A resident, who lives in the first floor said that except those live in the ground floor, 20 members, who used lift regularly, were infected with coronavirus. All the effected have remained under home quarantine.

The infected persons said that they have not contacted any of the neighbours except using the lift. The officials sanitized the lift and the infected persons were advised to remain in home isolation.

Maintain mobile restrooms properly: SP Ranganath

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nalgonda: Superintendent of Police AV Ranganath has inspected mobile restrooms vehicle allotted to the district and directed the officers concerned to pay special attention on the maintenance of the vehicle.

Along with Additional SP Narmada, MTRI, Spurgeon Raju, he examined the vehicle at DPO premises in Nalgonda on Friday. Speaking on this occasion, he said the department has allotted one vehicle to each district, which have three toilets and one bathroom.

Vehicle would be very useful for women officers during fairs, bando basts and VIPs while touring, he added.

The officials concerned were instructed to take care of vehicle maintenance.

SP Ranganath asserted that the government has been giving all kinds of facilities to police department with top priority and added that staff must work with commitment in order to enhance the dignity and prestige of the department by serving the people more efficiently.



SP Ranganath examining the mobile restrooms vehicle at DPO premises in Nalgonda on Friday

IPL: 12 CSK squad members test positive, team in quarantine again

New Delhi (IANS): In a shocking development, as many as 12 Chennai Super Kings squad members, including players and coaching/support staff, have tested positive for coronavirus, just 22 days before the IPL begins in the UAE, sources told IANS on Friday.

According to the sources, the entire team has been quarantined after the development. "A total of 12 members are have been affected and the entire team has been told to go quarantine again. It is learnt that they got infected during a camp in Chennai," said the sources.

CSK officials and BCCI refused to confirm the development.

The CSK team had landed in Dubai on August 21 and after the mandatory six-day quarantine period had started training as well.

Both CSK and RCB Royal Challengers Bangalore are based out of Dubai while Rohit Sharma-captained Mumbai Indians are camping in Abu



Dhabi. The players are not allowed to venture out of their rooms during the six-day isolation period.

Cricket matches and other sporting events across the world are being held behind closed doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ECB, though, are working with the UAE government to see the possibility of

fan attendance. If and when the government gives a go-ahead - either for full or partial fan attendance - the ECB will discuss with the Board of Control for Cricket in India to check their requirements.

The IPL begins on September 19, but the BCCI has still not released the scheduled of the matches.



EUROPA LEAGUE FIRST ROUND QUALIFIER

Turku's goalkeeper Henrik Moisander (center) fails to save as his teammate Jesper Engstrom (left) and Daniel Gazdag of Honved react during a UEFA Europa League first round qualifying soccer match between Budapest Honved and Inter Turku in the New Nandor Hidegkuti Stadium in Budapest, Hungary. Budapest Honved scrape past Inter Turku 2-1.

NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2020

'Lakshya' bags Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

Pune (IANS): For a remarkable contribution in nurturing and building sporting talents in the country for close to a decade, Pune-based an 'athlete-first' organisation 'Lakshya' will be honoured with the prestigious Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar at the 2020 National Sports Awards.

A not-for-profit organisation, 'Lakshya' -- which was started over a coffee meeting in Pune by a bunch of sports fanatics in 2010 to provide much-needed support for Indian athletes to win medals for the country at big international events -- has so far extended holistic support to more than 100 sports persons across eight disciplines, including Olympians such as Rishi Rana, Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra and Ashwini Ponappa, during its glorious journey so far.

"It's a privilege to receive this award and get recognised for our hard work. Ten years back when people were questioning the ability of Indian athletes to win medals at global events, we knew with the right kind of support this can be made possible. And we are happy to see a journey that saw its inception over coffee has now made confident and strong strides. This not only inspires us but motivates us to work harder for the players



Virtual is no fun, feel athletes

New Delhi (IANS): A big fat list of more than 60 athletes and coaches will be conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind with the prestigious national sports awards on Saturday.

Every year the gala ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan attracts a lot of eyeballs due to its tradition; not to forget getting so many superstars under one roof. However, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has called for extensive measures as the event will take place virtually.

The shift from the traditional norm due to the unprecedented crisis has taken the glamour away from the ceremony. At least that's what some of the 2020 award recipients feel as they went through the dress rehearsal ceremony a day prior to the national awards.

"Yeah, we will miss it. Getting award personally is something different. You can take your family along, click some photos at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Virtual is not such fun," said one athlete,

who will receive the Arjuna Award. Another awardee said the pandemic has 'killed' the excitement. "Personally, I am not liking it. I will get the award but that front page photos with the President, I will miss it," joked one athlete. Meanwhile, Vinesh Phogat, who will receive the prestigious Khel Ratna, told IANS that she will receive the award at the NIC Centre in Delhi. "I will go there and attend the ceremony virtually. I am really excited about it," she said.

well-being and contribute to nation building," 'Lakshya' President Vishal Chordia said.

Be it helping Asian Games champion Sarnobat find the right grip for her pistol which led to her qualification at the 2012 Olympics and a complete turnaround of her career or for that matter supporting a young shooter Mampi Das in not only excelling in the sport but also helping her mother to get back the jewellery which she had mortgaged to get Mampi pursue sports, 'Lakshya' has many such untold stories where they have not only helped athlete rise but have also supported their parents in order to create a conducive environment for players to focus on their game.

"For any athlete to pursue excellence, it is very important to create a right kind of stress-free environment where the focus of the player can only be on the training. I still remember, there was a time when Ankita (Raina) was failing to find motivation due to her mother staying away for her job when Ankita was training in Pune. So we managed to get a job transfer for her mother to Pune requesting the respective employer and thereafter there was no looking back for Ankita as she kept performing well consistently," Sunder Iyer, Secretary, 'Lakshya' said.

Hyderabad FC complete Joao Victor signing

Hyderabad: Hyderabad FC have completed the signing of defensive midfielder Joao Victor de Albuquerque Bruno as they continue the rebuild of their squad for the upcoming season of the Indian Super League. The 31-year-old Brazilian joins from Greek Super League side OFI Crete FC and has penned a one-year deal.

"I am very happy to have signed for Hyderabad FC. It's an exciting project and a good challenge for me given the composition of the team. We have a nice mix of experienced and young Indian players in the squad, and I hope that my experience helps the team on the field. I am eager to join up with my teammates soon and get back into action," said Joao Victor, who becomes the first new foreign signing for the season.

Hyderabad FC co-owner Varun Tripuraneni shared his delight with the signing and believes the Brazilian will add a lot of value having played in continental competitions like the UEFA Europa League as well as the AFC Champions League. He said, "Joao Victor has played at the very highest level, and we're excited to have him on board. His experience in top leagues in three different continents makes him one of the crucial players in our side. Moreover, he is a player who can operate in both mid-field and defence, and this versatility will certainly help us. We hope the young players in our squad can rub off the wealth of experience he brings



in." Joao turned professional in 2005 when he graduated into the senior side of Brazilian team Nautico (2005-07), before having stints with Sao Caetano (2007-08) and Treze (2008-09). He then made the move overseas signing for FC Bunyodkor who he helped win the Uzbekistan Super League in 2009. While in his second year with the Uzbek side, he was signed by La Liga side Mallorca who he helped to an eighth position finish in the 2011-12 season of the Spanish top-flight.

After a five-year spell with Mallorca (2010-15), Joao turned out for Cypriot first division side Anorthosis Famagusta FC (2015-19) before playing for Umm Salal FC in the Qatar Stars League. A move back to a European top-flight followed as he joined Greek side OFI Crete FC for the latter half of the 2019-20 season.

My spirit & ambition are as high as ever: Ronaldo

Turin (IANS): Portugal and Juventus superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has said he is committed to the Italian giants and his aspirations are as high as ever.

"As I'm getting ready for my third season as a bianconero, my spirit and ambition are as high as ever," Ronaldo wrote in an Instagram post.

"Goals. Victories. Commitment. Dedication. Professionalism. With all my (strength) and with the precious help from my teammates and all of the Juventus staff, we work once again to conquer Italy, Europe and the World!"

The 35-year-old forward has helped Juventus win Serie A in each of his two seasons in Turin.

However, in the Champions League this time, Juventus were eliminated by Lyon in the round of 16 after losing to Ajax in the quarterfinals during Ronaldo's first season in Turin.

His comments come at a time when his long-time rival Lionel Messi is reported to leave FC Barcelona.

Messi reportedly asked Barca on Tuesday to let him leave the club he has been with for 20 seasons, since he was 13 years old.



FC Barcelona first team technical secretary Ramon Planes has said they are working internally to convince Messi to stay with the club.

"We only have enormous respect for Leo Messi. Barca and Leo are like a marriage, where both have given so much to each other, and have brought so much joy to the fans. I think the future is positive. I am an optimist. We need experienced players, like Leo Messi, as well as players for the team's future. We are putting every effort into ensuring that the relationship between Barca and Messi will continue. We are working internally to convince Leo," he was quoted as saying by Barcelona's official website.

Pak's domestic cricket season to start from Sept 30, squads confirmed

Lahore (IANS): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday announced the six cricket association squads for the 2020-21 domestic season, which will commence on September 30 with the National T20 Cup. First round of the event will be played in Multan, while the final round will be held in Rawalpindi, PCB said in a media release.

It further said that the 12-month contracts will run from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021.

The squads were finalised by the six cricket association coaches who took into consideration performances of the last two seasons, retained maximum players from the 2019-20 season without reshuffling the squads too much and, where possible, provided opportunities to the centrally and emerging contracted players to represent their cricket associations. The selectors have retained 158 players who were offered 2019-20 domestic contracts and have included 34 new players, including some who represented Pakistan in this year's U19 World Cup.

US OPEN

Djokovic to open campaign against Dzumhur, Pliskova faces Kalinina

New York (IANS): The men's and women's singles draws for the upcoming US Open has been released, with top seeds Novak Djokovic and Karolina Pliskova leading the respective brackets. Djokovic faces Damir Dzumhur in the opening round while Pliskova will lock horns Anhelina Kalinina.

Djokovic has been drawn on the top line of the men's bracket, sharing the first quarter with No. 6 seed David Goffin, who will play Reilly Opelka in his first-round match. Also in the top half, No. 5 seed Alexander Zverev will open against 2017 US Open finalist Kevin Anderson, with No. 4 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas heading that second quarter of the draw and playing his first match against Albert Ramos-Vinolas of Spain.

In the bottom half, No. 3 seed Daniil Medvedev shares the third quarter with Matteo Berrettini. The fourth quarter, anchored by No. 2 seed Dominic Thiem, will see wild card Andy Murray take



on rising Japanese star Yoshihito Nishioka in the first round.

On the women's side, Pliskova sits on the draw's top line, with No. 8 seed Petra Martic and 2016 US Open champion Angelique Kerber also in the top quarter. In the adjacent quarter, Naomi Osaka will face Misaki Doi in an all-Japanese matchup, and could face Coco Gauff in the third

round. The 16-year-old American will play No. 31 seed Anastasiya Sevastova in her first round clash.

American seeds Serena Williams (No. 3), Madison Keys (No. 7), Amanda Anisimova (No. 22) and Sloane Stephens (No. 26) are all in the draw's third quarter, with Williams and Stephens in line for a potential third-round matchup.

BRYAN BROTHERS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT FROM TENNIS

Washington (IANS): American twins Bob and Mike Bryan have announced retirement from tennis, thus ending their historic doubles partnership just days ahead of the US Open, scene of their major championship debut in 1995. As the most accomplished team in doubles history, the Bryan brothers captured a record 119 trophies, including all four Grand Slams, all nine ATP Masters and Olympic gold medals, reports Xinhua news agency. The Bryans, who collected 16 Grand Slam championships together, already said last year that they would end their career in 2020.