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The students who have been selected for the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship are Fozia Tabassum, Momina from the Department of Civil Engineering, Azra Malik from the Department of Electrical Engineering, Feroz Khan from the Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Aliya Tyeb from the Fundamentals of Science and Ashi from the Center for Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Womenia

A literary exploration of female sexuality and mental health



The need for daily validation from others, gets amplified in this digitally-altered world which is filled with filter-loaded images of unrealistically and seemingly perfect women, says author Deepa A Agarwal, whose new book ‘The Hangover of Choices’ addresses disassociation with one’s sexuality and the constant need for external validation.

The entrepreneur-author says, “The book is my humble attempt to bring forth the idea of inner life and the criticality of taking self-action. It’s an invitation for the readers to get an honest look at themselves, before being assailed by the hangover of their own choices. Through this book, I aim to highlight the importance of strengthening one’s inner self and build a stronger self-identity.”

The book ‘The Hangover of Choices’ has been packaged in fiction, and highlights concepts and the futility of the need for external validation, the need to stand out in a crowd, fears, and other related aspects where one seems to feel that they have no control over their own lives.

Asked about her prompt to write the book, the author shares, “The trigger to write ‘The Hangover of Choices’ came from two points-- The first being my work



Deepa A Agarwal

in the mental health and gender space. The second was my philosophical studies and journey. I have observed common narratives and themes among people, during workshops or setting up mental health or DEI practices: People share about regrets they have in life, stemming from certain decisions and choices they may have made in the past. The other narrative is of dissonance that I sense among women, the need to look and be perfect, a disowning of one’s sexuality, desire for validation from loved ones, a negative body image-- are all very common

themes,” says Deepa.

“The second trigger comes from my philosophical journey and studies of Buddhism. If there is one thing that I have understood, it is that in order to understand our actions and behaviours, we must step out from where we are. We need to take an honest look at ourselves, if we are to live a really meaningful life. I wanted to offer this understanding of stepping out of the self and re-evaluat-

ing one’s world view and actions. And that we are individually far more in control of our lives than we would like to believe,” Deepa adds.

Deepa is the recipient of the “Exceptional Woman of Excellence” award by the Women Economic Forum and an expert panel member with the Center for Global Inclusion. What are some of the stories that the book tells?

Through the character of Nidhi Verma, the stories that I have shared are around the themes of female sexuality, body image, need for external validation and mental health. In that sense, the book is the life journey and story of the protagonist. The stories come in the form of experiences -- a sudden encounter with an old flame, a reunion with school friends, a boss who forces therapy, and counselling sessions with a psychologist. The specific stories shared are fictional in themselves. However, they have been inspired by the narratives and conversations that I have with people from many walks of life.

“Our protagonist, Nidhi Verma is on her deathbed and recollecting her experiences. However, there is a twist. She simultaneously becomes the actor and the viewer. It’s this interplay of being the actor and the viewer at the same time, that I have used as the backbone to further the narrative and the great need for self-action as well as finding inner stability,” explains Deepa.

The book which talks about re-connecting with one’s mind, also has body acceptance as a key theme.

Yoga for pregnant women

Pregnancy is one of the most beautiful experiences of a woman’s life. It is a time when a woman is overwhelmed with different emotions – happiness, excitement, anxiety – all at the same time. During this phase, a woman can also experience frequent mood swings, thanks to the hormonal changes taking place in the body. Fatigue and discomfort too, become permanent companions owing to the physical changes occurring.

Yoga offers holistic benefits to expecting women helping them to keep the body healthy and mind, calm and relaxed. Yoga prepares women for labour and delivery as well as assists them in recovering better post-delivery. Dr Rajeev Rajesh, Chief Yoga Officer, Jindal Naturecure Institute shares five yoga asanas that can bring multiple benefits to pregnant women.

Triyaka Tadasana

How to do: Stand erect and keep the feet a little wide apart. Interlock the fingers, raise the hands up and turn the palms upward. Take a deep breath. While breathing out, bend from the waist to the right, keeping the elbows straight and feet firmly on the ground. Hold the

waistline and improves the flexibility of the spine. It provides relief in back pain and constipation, a common problem during pregnancy.

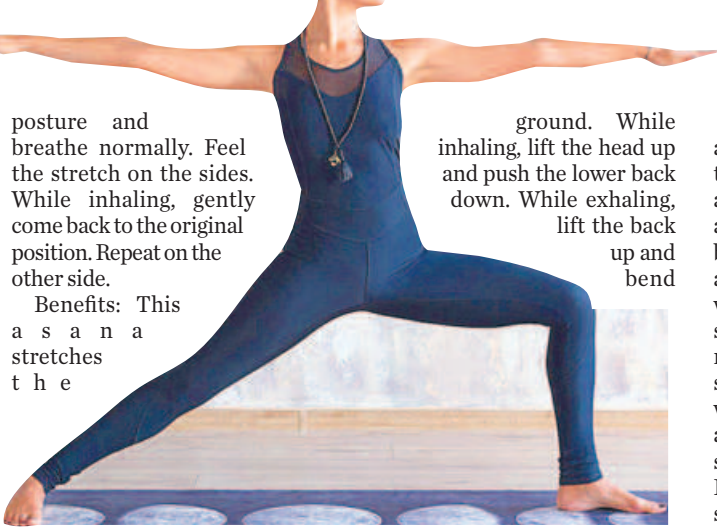
Virabhadrasana

How to do: Standing erect and spread the legs 3-4 feet apart. Turn the right foot 90° outwards and the left foot by 15° inward. While inhaling, raise the arms sideways so that they are parallel to the ground and in line with the shoulders. While exhaling, bend the right knee and turn your gaze towards the right. Gently push down on the pelvis and maintain this position with normal breathing. Inhale and gently come up and while exhaling, bringing the hands to the sides. Repeat on the other side.

Benefits: It helps develop balance, releases stress from the arms and shoulders and relaxes the mind and the body. It is also an excellent asana to strengthen the lower back, legs and arms.

Marjariasana

How to do: Stand on the knees and keep them a little apart. Bend forward and place the palms below the shoulders and in front of the knees on the



posture and breathe normally. Feel the stretch on the sides. While inhaling, gently come back to the original position. Repeat on the other side.

Benefits: This asana stretches the

ground. While inhaling, lift the head up and push the lower back down. While exhaling, lift the back up and bend

the head down. Repeat the practice ten times.

Benefits: This asana stretches the spine and makes it flexible. This helps support more weight during pregnancy. It also tones the abdominal organs and improves blood circulation.

Baddhakonasana

How to do: Sit straight with the legs stretched forward. Bend the knees and join the soles of the feet together. Interlock the fingers and hold the feet firmly. Bring the heels close to your genitals. Breathe in deeply. Keep the elbows on the thighs. While exhaling, gently press the thighs and knees down towards the floor and then allow it to move up. Benefits: This asana gives a good stretch to the inner thighs and pelvic area. This helps improve the flexibility and strength of the pelvic and hip region. If practiced regularly, it will facilitate a smooth delivery.

Shavasana

How to do: Lie down straight on the back. Keep the legs slightly apart and hands slightly away from the body. Turn the palms up. Gently close the eyes and relax the body completely. Keep breathing gently and slowly. Do not allow any thoughts to come into your mind. Stay in this position for 10 minutes.

Benefits: The asana helps to achieve a deep, meditative state that fosters the repair of tissues and cells, relieving stress. It is also a good practice to reduce blood pressure, insomnia and anxiety. It is crucial for pregnant women to remember that they should not indulge in asanas that require them to lie flat on the stomach. Also, inverted and forward bending asanas must be avoided as they might put pressure on the abdomen. Always Practice yoga asanas under the supervision of expert.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Ananya Panday has her ‘KahoNaaPyaar Hai’ moment

Actress Ananya Panday took to Instagram to put up a series of pictures from a beach. However, more than the photographs, the witty caption entertained her followers.

The actress said that she was having a “KahoNaaPyaar Hai” moment, a reference to Hrithik Roshan starrer in which the protagonists get abandoned on an island.

In a white dress with an oversized bomber jacket, Ananya posed in the pictures posted on Sunday and captioned them as, “Having my ‘KahoNaaPyaar Hai’ moment with myself (it clearly didn’t end well).”

On the work front, Ananya has a film with Vijay Deverakonda titled “Liger” and Shakun Batra’s directorial next alongside Deepika Padukone and Siddhant Chaturvedi.



Delnaaz Irani: The pandemic did not change anything for my career

Actress Delnaaz Irani says that while the pandemic has made a lot of actors re-think about their career, she has learnt ways to explore her love for being in front of the camera.

“It (pandemic) did not change anything for me career wise. I would not want to do anything else but acting. I would probably tweak things a little bit in the way I approach or present work right now, like today I am sitting at home and making a lot of creative videos. I’ve started

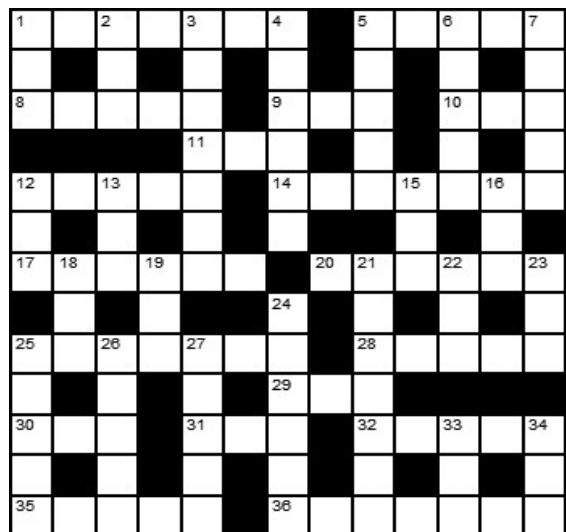
my own YouTube channel, my own chat show and doing a lot of collaborations on social media. So, yes, I have found out more ways to expand myself,” she says.

While the actress admits that times are tough, she believes that acting is her one true love and something that she would never want to go away from.

“It’s not like I would want to do a complete shift like right now I am an actor but I won’t suddenly go to a school and start teaching or start a business because these things are not my cup of tea. I think I will live here

and die here. Probably I will have my makeup on when I die. I am meant to be here in this profession and I’ll always be here. Yes times are tough and some actors have reconsidered their choices and decisions but I have no plans of going anywhere.

I feel there’s a lot of scope these days. You have YouTube and social media. You’ve a variety of things that you can do and make money. It’s all good being in the same profession. I don’t think I can do anything else besides being an actor,” she signs off.



CROSSWORD

Across

- South sea islander (7)
- A dishonest person (5)
- Japanese gateway (5)
- Egg cells (3)
- Hostelry (3)
- African antelope (3)
- Helping theorem (5)
- Noxious (7)
- Equine disease (6)
- Stocky (6)
- Composer of The Four Seasons (7)
- New Zealanders (5)
- Behold (3)
- Tug (3)
- Hawaiian adornment (3)
- Smell (5)
- Mine finds (5)
- A fine person (4,3)

Down

- Set of equipment (3)

- Blemish; impair or spoil (3)
- Paper-folding (7)
- Soil (6)
- An olive-drab color (5)
- Mexican friend (5)
- Premium Bond picker (5)
- Fleur-de-____ (3)
- Extinct NZ bird (3)
- Old French coin (3)
- Floor cleaning tool (3)
- 21st letter of the Greek alphabet (3)
- By way of (3)
- Becomes fond of (5,2)
- Mouth (3)
- Agreed (3)
- Gaining height (6)
- Of great importance (5)
- Promised (5)
- Sings blithely (5)
- Frozen water (3)
- Toil or tire out (3)

SUDOKU

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	8	5				4	2	
	2		8		6		3	
1			1	6	3			9
			9	7	8			
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	9	8				7	4	
		2	7		5	3		

SOLUTION TO JULY 03

2	9	3	4	6	1	5	7	8
6	8	4	9	7	5	1	2	3
5	7	1	2	8	3	9	6	4
7	4	2	5	9	6	3	8	1
8	6	5	3	1	7	4	9	2
1	3	9	8	2	4	7	5	6
4	2	7	6	3	9	8	1	5
3	1	6	7	5	8	2	4	9
9	5	8	1	4	2	6	3	7

Apple Turnover Day

The best way to celebrate Apple Turnover Day is to get down and make your own apple turnovers. So we’ve provided a recipe for that very purpose! Give it a shot, and once you’ve got this down go wild! Who knows what kind of turnover-y (yes that’s a word, we say so) confections you’ll come up with?

The Best Apple Turnovers

- 2T Lemon Juice
- 4c + 1T Water
- 4 Apples (Granny Smith is best!)
- 2T Butter
- 1c Dark Brown Sugar
- 1t Cinnamon
- 1T Cornstarch
- 1 package frozen puff pastry
- 1T Milk
- 1t Vanilla

Start off by peeling, coring, and slicing the apples, you can use any kind you want, but Granny Smith’s provide a delightful tartness. Then combine the lemon, water, and apple slices in a bowl, ensure the apple slices are covered. Then take the butter and melt it down in a large skillet, drain the apples, and throw them in the skillet for 2 minutes before adding the brown sugar and cinnamon, and then continue stirring for 2 more minutes. At this point, you’re going to want to add 1T of water and cornstarch and add to the skillet. Cook until the sauce has become thick and stir until the apples are covered. Begin preheating your oven to 400 degrees while you unfold the pastry sheets and cut each sheet into 4 equal squares. Put a spoonful of apples in the middle of each square and fold the pastry over to enclose it, sealing the edges by pressing. Place them on a cookie sheet approximately an inch apart. While they’re in the oven, mix together the confectioners’ sugar, vanilla, and milk and blend, then drizzle over the apple turnovers once they’ve finished 25 minutes in the oven and have cooled.



Padayatras to electoral victory!

CAN padayatras bring victory to the parties in elections? Padayatras in undivided Andhra Pradesh and later in the residuary state helped three leaders to come to power. Perhaps taking that as inspiration and with the belief that padayatra could be better tool to connect with people, the Telangana BJP too seems to have decided in favour of its state president to take up padayatra starting from Bhayanagar temple in Hyderabad to Huzurabad. The BJP feels that this apart from helping them to connect with people, would help them win the byelection to Huzurabad assembly constituency. Winning this seat has become a highly prestigious issue for the BJP since its candidate former minister Eatala Rajender recently migrated from the pink party to saffron party after a clash with Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Looking back, we have seen Y S Rajasekhara Reddy taking up a 64-day 1,470- km-long padayatra in the undivided Andhra Pradesh. This helped the

Congress party to catapult to power a decade after it was routed by TDP. In 2012, TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu went on a 208-day padayatra covering 2,800 km. Naidu who till then was known as a nine-year chief minister who used virtual connect with rank and file used the padayatra to reconnect with the people and even apologised for the mistakes he made. This helped him come back to power after the bifurcation of the state. The race for covering longer distances continued and YSRCP leader Y S Jaganmohan Reddy too launched his padyatra on November 6, 2017 and went on a 14-month-long Praja Sankalpa yatra, covering 3,648 km. He went across 130 of the 175 assembly constituencies and came to power in 2019.

The BJP which was buoyed by its by-poll victory in Dubbaka and later displayed a good performance in the GHMC elections, however, failed to make further inroads into Telangana and did not make any impact in the Na-

garjuan Sagar byelection.

On the other hand KCR has been on a spree announcing several sops to different sections of people and is focusing more on BCs and farmers and has now once again raked up the water sentiment among people. There are also speculations that he would go in for early general elections. He may opt for assembly polls towards the end of 2023 or early 2024. He has also started taking up visits to districts.

In the backdrop of all this, the BJP felt that it would be a loser if it does not do something new. The accusations and allegations made at different meetings or press conferences do not seem to have cut much ice with the voters. Hence state BJP president Bandi Sanjay has decided to launch his padayatra on August 9 coinciding with Quit India movement. It will end on October 2. The 55-day padayatra has shades of YSR's walkathon. He would be covering Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy district, Medak and Nizamabad districts to try

and expose the 'omissions' and 'commissions' of the state government. His main line of campaign is going to be end dictatorial rule in Telangana. Bandi attaches sentimental value to Bhagya Laxmi temple as he started his campaign for GHMC polls from here and the performance has been encouraging. This also has similarities with Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's padayatra. It now remains to be seen if this experiment of BJP would help the party to win the hearts of the people and also strengthen its cadre. In fact the Congress circles are abuzz with speculations that even the new TPCC president designate A Revanth Reddy would take up padayatra across the state. The positive side of all this is that the opposition parties which were dormant till now have started opening and thinking in different direction to take on the TRS. People certainly have a chance to assess all the parties before they get the chance to cast their vote in 2024.



Deforestation impacts rainfall pattern

THE world has seen the impact of the corona virus pandemic resulting in loss of life, trillions of dollars of economic damage, job losses etc. The virus was transmitted from animals to human and change in strategy is required for preventing the interaction between the two. This means ending our destruction of nature and protection and restoration of wildlife habitats.

The exploitation of nature results in wild animals straying into human habitats and transmitting virus. Deforestation is one of the key factors that have caused other pandemics and will cause them in future as well. Our leaders need to realize that we cannot have healthy economics without healthy ecology and environment.

Creation of coal corridor is planned in Sagarmala's Mormugao port development project in Goa. The port presently handles 10 million metric tons per annum (MMTA) of coal and is being upgraded to 50 MMTA by 2030. Up-gradation of infrastructures for transporting it to hinterland is the reason for road widening and rail line doubling.

Proposals to widen the width of NH 4A from Belgavi to Panjim and doubling the rail track through Castle Rock- Kullem-Madgaon are already approved by both States -- Karnataka and Goa. The projects involve the destruction of pristine forests of Western Ghats and wildlife habitats in Mollem National Park and Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary of Goa and forest areas through Anshi National Park (Kali Tiger Reserve) of Karnataka. Third linear project of 400 KV transmission line for evacuation of power from Kaiga (Karwar) to Goa is also in the pipeline. Amidst the protests, the widening of the road in Karnataka is completed, while the work is not yet started in Goa. Rail projects in both the States are in advance stage of completion in non forest areas. Even forests have already been cleared for the sub-stations relating to transmission line projects in Goa. Totally 379 ha forests in Goa and 220 ha in Karnataka are to be sacrificed for the three projects. Recently, the Government of Karnataka has ordered felling of 5,500 trees in forests and a tiger reserve and allowed construction of a rail line. Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of Supreme Court of India has inspected all three projects of both the States and recommended shelving of the rail line doubling as well as transmission line projects. They have advised to utilize the corridor already created for old transmission line for evacuation of power. National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has not favoured the projects for the integrity of tiger landscape. Environment Impact Assessment for the projects is insisted by both CEC and NTCA.

Karnataka has many more projects proposing to sacrifice Western Ghats forests. 800 ha forests of Uttara Kannada district are proposed to be sacrificed for a rail project between Hubballi and Ankola; 200 ha forests of Saravathy valley lion tailed macaque sanctuary are to be destroyed for pump storage hydroelectric project. Of course, the High Court of Karnataka has granted stay on these two for the time being, but survey on another rail project between Talguppa and Haveri via Sirsi through dense forests is in progress. Many road widening projects in Western Ghats areas are in the pipeline.

This leads to fragmentation and degradation of ecologically sensitive Western Ghats forests. The forests are mothers of rivers. And are also the catchments for several east flowing and west flowing rivers providing a range of ecological services. The roots of the trees act like sponge and store rain water. It is slowly released in summer months making the flow of water in streams, tributaries and rivers perennial. If the forests are lost the flow of water becomes seasonal impacting the life of millions of people not only in Goa and Karnataka but also in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The forests along the coast also perform an important role of bringing rains on hinterlands. Deforestation is linked to declining precipitation.

Two physicists, named A M Makarieva and V G Gorshkov from St Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Russia have studied and brought out a paper titled "Biotic pump as atmospheric moisture as driver of the hydrological cycle on land", which was published in "Hydrology and Earth System Sciences" on 27th March 2007. Water from the land flows in oceans under gravity and the loss of water from land is continuously compensated by atmospheric transport of moisture from ocean to land. The physicists have found that air fluxes can transport moisture over non forested areas for few hundred kilometers; precipitation decreases exponentially with distance from ocean. In contrast precipitation over extensive natural forests is independent of distance from ocean for several thousand kilometers. This explains the existence of an active biotic pump transporting atmospheric moisture inland from the ocean.

Due to high leaf area index, tropical evergreen forests of Western Ghats maintain high evaporation fluxes, which "suck in" moist air from the ocean, causing enhanced precipitation at any distance from the coastline. The evidences testify that an intense terrestrial water cycle is unachievable without extensive forests.

This way hydrological cycle drives mass circulation of air, and can be understood to be driven by processes of convection that takes place over extensive forests. The 'fuel' for the convection being high rate of water vapor pumping from closed canopy vegetation. If the forests are to disappear or fragment, then moisture would no longer be sucked in, the land would dry out and turn into desert. Hinterlands without vast forests from coastline are deserts; west Asian countries are the examples.

We are fortunate to have good quality forests along the coast and also in interiors, generally supporting good amount of rainfall in the country.

Youths of Goa have come on streets to protest against sacrificing forests for the said projects. Political parties have also blamed each other for approval of the projects. The Goa government has conceded to protesters and has written to the Center to bring down the import of the coal. Moreover coal bearing areas are generally thickly wooded; import of coal is better than extracting our own coal, as we do not have to destroy our carbon sink.

The country is on green energy trajectory and PM has committed for a capacity of 175 Giga Watt solar power projects by 2024 and 450 Giga Watt by 2030. There is no need of expanding the infrastructure for coal powered projects, when Coal India and NTPC themselves are planning for green energy and are committing to become carbon neutral within next few years.

There are enough signals like current heat waves in Delhi, Haryana, and Rajasthan etc in our own country and also in western Canada and north western United States where there is unprecedented rise in temperature; we must stop destruction of nature.

(The author is retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (head of forest force) Karnataka)

Bring e-commerce under RTI Act

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjhunwala

E-commerce has provided a huge relief to the consumers in the time of the pandemic. The consumer has been able to have the required goods delivered at his doorstep. The choice of the consumer has also been expanded. I needed a book that was not available in India. I placed an order with an international e-portal and the book was delivered in 15 days. It so happened that the book came in a damaged condition. The e-portal replaced it within three weeks. It would not have been possible for me to obtain the book with such ease sitting before my computer had it not been for e-portal. It has also become possible to compare the prices. The consumer can, for example, search for a particular brand of a mobile phone on two or three e-portals and order the cheapest available one. E-portals are, therefore, here to stay and so it must be. However, the emerging problems need to be addressed.

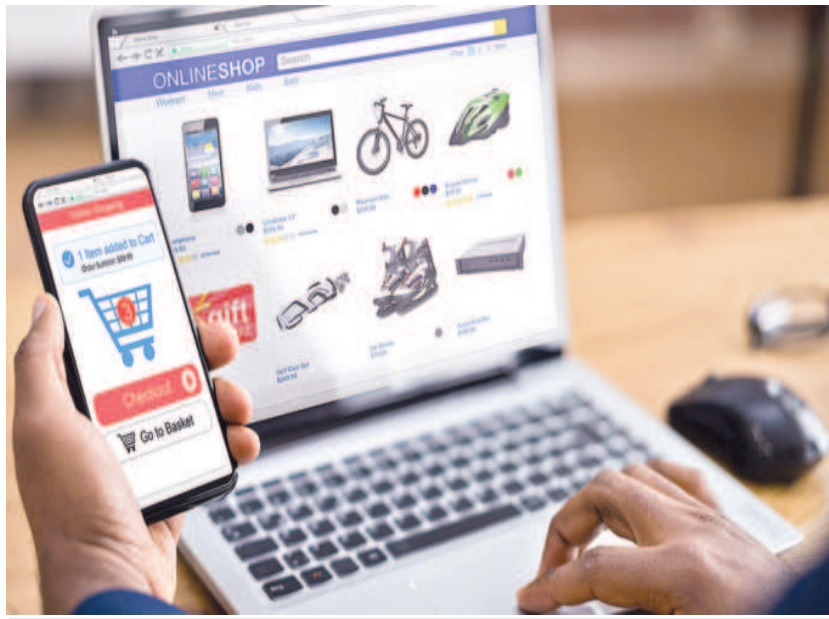
E-portals often promote the sale of goods produced by their own subsidiaries. Say, an e-portal has established a factory to make mustard oil. The e-portal displays the oil produced by itself upfront even though it may be of substandard quality and of a higher price. This puts other sellers at a disadvantage and imposes unnecessary cost on the consumer while the e-portal makes hefty profits. Drivers of Ola and Uber say that the e-portals give more traffic to the vehicles owned by the e-portal and less traffic to cars taken from private taxi owners on contract. The e-portals do the same. They hide cheaper alternatives and display their own products and befool the customer. The European Union has, therefore, made rules that e-portals will have to display the goods produced by themselves and those of other manufacturers with equal visibility. The United States has proposed that an e-portal will be prohibited from establishing its own factories. A company may decide to run an e-portal or a factory to manufacture mustard oil. It cannot do both just like a government doctor cannot undertake private practice. In other words, there will be a strict separation between the aggregating activity of the e-portal and the manufacturing and selling activities. The e-commerce rules proposed by the Gov-

ernment of India do not prohibit an e-portal from manufacturing and selling own goods. Such activity must be prohibited as proposed in the United States.

The Government of India wants that domestic goods be produced and sold more than imported ones. Atma Nirbhar is the catch word. However, e-portals often display foreign goods with greater prominence. The government has proposed rules that would require the e-portals to compulsorily display domestic goods along with foreign goods. Flash sales promoting specific goods are also proposed to be banned. The e-portals push the sales of their preferred producers under the flash sales putting other sellers at a disadvantage. These steps are welcome. The government needs to do more though. They can sell goods that are expiring in, say, two months without disclosing this to the buyer. The e-portals should also be required to display the "expiry date" of the goods offered for sale so that the customer can make an informed choice.

The e-portals often "manipulate" a consumer. They know of a consumer's past search history. They identify and display goods that the e-portal thinks you may be interested in buying even though you may not have a need for the same at the present time. This is called "customization" of a display for each customer. In this way they surreptitiously lead the customer to buy a product that he/she may not be wanting to buy.

There is a need to go further though. The government must bring large e-portals under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The present RTI Act is applicable only to the government departments and public sector undertakings (PSU). Even here, any information that could affect the commercial interests of a PSU are not required to be disclosed. I once made a request to the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to provide copies of geological investigation reports relating to a particular hydropower project. GSI refused saying that such disclosure will affect hits commercial interests. GSI will not be able to obtain contracts for geological surveys if it disclosed the report because hydropower companies would then give the contracts to private investigators who were not covered under the RTI Act. There is a need to remove this clause for e-portals because "public welfare" is involved. The e-portals must be placed at par with private infrastructure companies. Private companies that are engaged in building infrastructure, such as private hydropower developers in Uttarakhand,



E-portals often promote the sale of goods produced by their own subsidiaries. Say, an e-portal has established a factory to make mustard oil. The e-portal displays the oil produced by itself upfront even though it may be of substandard quality and of a higher price. This puts other sellers at a disadvantage and imposes unnecessary cost on the consumer while the e-portal makes hefty profits.

have been covered under the RTI Act. The government must similarly bring e-portals under the RTI Act. Then, the consumer would be able to ask them various questions. They could, for example, ask e-portals for the list of mustard oil sellers listed with them and the margins they are offering. The availability of such information will empower the customer to peer behind the screen and take an informed decision. Certainly, e-portals will balk at such a suggestion but they will fall in line given the large market available in India.

The government must also ask the Competition Commission of India to fix the highest numbers of customers that an e-portal can enroll. Let us say there are 10 crore persons that are buying goods on e-portals in India. The Competition Commission can stipulate that any e-portal will not enroll more than, say, 33 percent of the total e-customers. E-portals having more than 33 percent customers must be forcibly broken up into a

number of smaller independent e-portals. That will make space available for home-grown e-portals. The competition between the e-portals will put a limit on their manipulations etc. Indeed such a break-up will lead to higher price of certain goods. Certain suppliers may not be able to offer their goods on a number of e-portals simultaneously. At the same time, competition among the e-portals will open up the e-market to a number of new sellers. My firm assessment is that the benefits will be much greater than the cost. In the result, the rules proposed by the government are in the right direction but grossly inadequate given the vast power of and the manipulations being done by the e-portals. There is an urgent need to bring them under RTI Act and break up large e-portals to establish a level playing field and promote Atma Nirbhar e-portals.

(The author is former professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)

Rafale deal probe

France's Parquet National Financier (PNF, national financial prosecutor's office) has ordered a judicial probe into allegations of corruption and favouritism in the Rs 59,000-crore Rafale fighter jet deal with India, based on a complaint of alleged wrongdoings and a complaint by French NGO Sherpa. Congress has been crying foul from day one, after the Rafale deal between India and France was agreed, as per the modified concepts and innovations proposed by India. This inter-governmental deal signed in 2016 was formally opened on June 14.

Rafale maker Dassault Aviation has time and again averred that there has been no wrong-doing. It must be understood that the NGO complaint was based on a petition filed by former Union minister Yeshwant Singh and Arun Shourie and lawyer Prashant Bhushan, with the Central Bureau of Investigation. Sherpa had denounced the fact that Dassault chose a leading Indian conglomerate with no experience in aeronautics, as its Indian partner instead of Hindustan Aeronautic Limited, alleged by the complainants.

The Supreme Court had dismissed a batch of review petitions seeking a probe into the government's 2016 purchase of the 36 Rafale fighter jets, in 2019, saying that there was no ground to order an FIR in the case. It must be recalled that the Centre gave the Supreme Court special bench, a sealed cover, containing all relevant information for the cost escalations for the purchase of these advanced jets; with a view to manufacture them in India, with latest and advanced technology incorporated that France was unwilling to part with.

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LETTERS

Include calendar of annual general meetings in CDSL, NSDL

NATIONAL Securities Depository Limited and Central Depository Services Ltd hold Demat accounts of shareholders through online mode. The shareholders can view the list of holdings through a shareholding statement through NSDL's IdeaS facility and CDSL's EASI facility. Both NSDL and CDSL also facilitate e-voting facilities for the respective companies that have opted to provide online voting facilities to shareholders.

It is also requested to include the calendar of annual general meetings in both the CDSL and NSDL portals along with the existing facility of shareholding statements and e-voting facility. The annual general meetings calendar will provide seamless access to view the list of annual general meeting events through a single online interface. It will also enable the companies to inch closer to achieving transparency and fairness under the ambit of corporate governance.

Varun Dambal, Bengaluru

Mithali Raj deserves laurels

INDIAN captain Mithali Raj deserves laurels on becoming the highest run-getter in women's cricket across formats. On Saturday the run-women made a glorious, unconquered 75 against the Poms in the third ODI at Worcester to surpass former England skipper Charlotte Edwards and help her side win by four wickets. Mithali now has 10,337 runs under her belt against Edwards' 10,273. She has been on a roll in the ODI series

with scores of 72, 59 and 75 n.o. Carry on Mithali, we are proud of you!

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Indian team for Sri Lanka not second-string

Former Sri Lanka Cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga's comment that Sri Lanka should not have agreed to take part in the oncoming series against team India calling it a B team is definitely uncalled for.

An Indian team under Virat Kohli is at present in England for a long series and the team led by Shikhar Dhawan with many experienced players and six uncapped players are in the island nation to play three T20s and three one dayers against Sri Lanka. An arrangement of sending another team was wisely made as the international cricketing schedule activities for the year can get through smoothly, without any disruption, as the pandemic crisis has not come to an end. What irked Ranatunge is the absence of some of the key players in the visiting Indian squad. The veteran went on to say that the cricket team India sent is a second-string and their coming to play the tournament is an insult to Sri Lankan cricket. Even the SLC had to step into correct him by saying that despite claims by various parties as reported in the media, the national white-ball team of India currently touring Sri Lanka is a strong squad.

In the present situation what the BCCI has done is right. With the pandemic still holding sway international tournaments are getting disrupted due to quarantining, players becoming positive and other matters related to Covid-19. The opportunity gives immense chance to young players who can showcase their potential at the highest level and also can groom future players.

M Pradyu, Kannur

TS missive to KRMB on power generation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CONTINUING its counterattack against the demand of Andhra Pradesh that Telangana should stop hydel generation, the TS government shot off a letter to the Krishna River Management Board on Sunday claiming that it had every right to generate hydel power. It said there was no truth in the claims of Andhra Pradesh that it would adversely affect the interests of AP.

The letter written by the Telangana Engineer - in - Chief (Irrigation) C Muralidharan said that the hydel power generation was in consonance with the report sanctioned by the Planning Commission and KWDT -1 (Bachawat Tribunal) and to maintain the carry over storage at Nagarjuna Sagar. "The objections raised by AP on power generation by Telangana from Srisaillam reservoir are frivolous and baseless," he noted in the letter. He said Section -1 of the 12th Schedule of AP Reorganisation Act -2014 stated that all units of APGenco shall be divided based on the geographical location of



the power plant. He also pointed out that the arrangement made in June 2015 by the 3-member committee during the board meetings for sharing of power generated at Srisaillam in 50:50 ratio was purely ad hoc and was for that year only.

The letter further said, "Srisaillam project was originally conceived as hydro-electric project in 1959 and approved by the Planning Commission in 1963. It did not envisage any diversion of water from the reservoir except for power release".

Hence, the objections raised

by Andhra Pradesh against Telangana on power generation were baseless.

TS took the stand that the erstwhile AP government did not maintain water levels at Srisaillam reservoir above 834 feet during any of the years from 1990-91 to 2019-20 in the months of April and May. Now they want that water level of 854 feet should be maintained as they want to divert Krishna waters outside the basin. The move of AP would adversely affect the interests of Telangana, the government said.

ALLURI REMEMBERED



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy paying tributes to freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju on the occasion of his 124th birth anniversary at his camp office in Tadepalli on Sunday. Ministers Perni Nani and Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao are also seen.

AP logs 3,175 new cases, 29 deaths

AMARAVATI

Toll rises to 12,844

THE cumulative coronavirus tally in Andhra Pradesh crossed the 19-lakh mark and reached 19,02,923 with the addition of 3,175 fresh cases on Sunday.

That the infection spread has slowed down further in the State was evident in the fact that the last one lakh cases came in 22 days, double the time it took for the previous lakh and seven days for the lakh before that.

The latest bulletin said in 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday, 3,692 patients had recovered from the infection and 29 more succumbed in the State.

The active cases came down to 35,325 after a total of 18,54,754 recoveries and 12,844 deaths.

In 24 hours, East Godavari district reported the highest 662, Chittoor 473, West Go-

davari 398 and Prakasam 322 fresh cases.

Three districts added between 200 and 250 new cases each, three logged less than 200 each and three more registered less than 80 each.

Chittoor reported six fresh Covid-19 fatalities, Krishna five, East Godavari four, Kurnool and Prakasam three each and Anantapur two in a day.

Five districts reported one death each.

Government keen on better learning outcomes

SABYA SINGH
HYDERABAD

ARMED with Rs 2,000-crore allocation for this academic year, the department of school education is putting in place a comprehensive action plan to transform school education in the State. As part of revamping the education system, the department is also focussing on optimum utilisation of infrastructure as well as human resources. The objective is better learning experience and outcomes in the government schools. According to officials, there are a total of 12,654 government high schools in the State, of which 7,986 government schools have class VI to VIII and 4,668 schools Class IX and X. The government is mulling over ways to ensure required teacher-students ratio by distributing resources optimally.

In addition, the schools with better infrastructure would share their resources by accommodating students from the schools with a few number of students right from the mandal level.

For instance, if a school has a teacher who can teach competitive exams or other subjects, it can lend such teachers to the schools where such ex-

Studying practices in other states for optimum use of resources



pertise is lacking. They would be asked to take classes at other schools once or twice a week. Similarly, if schools are in proximity, the students could utilise the infrastructure at other government schools such as playgrounds, school libraries, etc.

In its bid to improve the infrastructure and education standards, the school education department is studying the best practices in government schools across the country. A team of officials has recently gone to Andhra Pradesh to learn about the new changes being implemented there. "Currently, all options are on the table.

But, the main focus is to choose the best model suitable for TS and could be implemented as per the directions of the State government for the improvement of infrastructure and education standards in Telangana," said a senior official. Responding on the issue, Chava Ravi, general secretary, Telangana State Union Teachers Federation (TSTUF), said, "The education department is now studying various models and will decide how to implement them to strengthen the government schools with a focus on sharing of human resources and infrastructure among the schools."

Revanth recalls PJR's services to Congress

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee president A Revanth Reddy on Sunday recalled the services rendered by former CLP leader P Janardhan Reddy, who is famously known as PJR.

He said that it was PJR who predicted that Pothireddypadu project would sound death knell for people of the State. "The fears of PJR have come true," he said.

Revanth also recalled that PJR had threatened former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy making it clear that the Krishna water was the birthright of Telangana people. He alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao was not trying to find a solution for the ongoing dispute over sharing of Krishna water between the two States.

The TPCC chief made the remarks after meeting PJR's son and former party MLA P Vishnuvardhan Reddy at the latter's residence.

He praised Vishnu, being a successor of his father, who has close relationship with several national party leaders. He said that PJR had become synonymous with the party in the undivided State. "PJR was responsible for solving the drinking water issue in GHMC limits," Revanth added.

AMARAVATI

Alla seeks detailed probe into alienation of assigned lands

Alleges that ex-CM Chandrababu Naidu and former Ministers P Narayana and Prathipati Pulla Rao forcibly acquired the lands of Dalits at a nominal price

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

MANGALGIRI MLA Alla Rama Krishna Reddy has submitted video evidence in regard to Amaravati capital region land scam to CID officials and demanded a comprehensive inquiry to bring the facts behind the alienation of assigned lands.

Speaking to the media at party central office here on Sunday, the MLA alleged that former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his coterie had threatened Dalits and forcibly acquired lands in Amaravati region and released a video evidence in this regard. He said Chandrababu Naidu and former Ministers P Narayana and Prathipati Pulla Rao indulged in real estate business by taking away lands of Dalits forcibly at nominal price



YSRCP MLA Alla Rama Krishna Reddy addressing the media at party's central office in Tadepalli on Sunday

with the help of some officials.

The MLA said the details of assigned lands were tipped off to real estate businessmen in advance. The TDP leaders along with the businessmen have forcibly taken away the lands from Dalits to benefit Naidu's benamis and close associates.

He said the previous government had announced the capi-

tal region after these lands were acquired by TDP leaders and real estate businessmen and some senior IAS officials were also involved in the scam.

He reminded that the lands of Dalits can't be bought and demanded the CID officials to conduct an in-depth investigation into the scam and arrest those involved.

CID officials probe ex-CRDA Commissioner

The CID officials inquired former CRDA commissioner Cherukuri Sridhar over alleged Amaravati land scam. It may be noted that Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy lodged a complaint on land scam in Amaravati capital region villages. As part of the investigation, the CID officials probed the former CRDA official over the disappearance of revenue records. The official is learnt to have informed the CID officials that land pooling process started in January 2015 and a GO No:41 was issued for assigned lands pooling. It is said that the official informed that former Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana monitored the entire process. It is alleged that the TDP leaders who were in power secured the land records of Thullur mandal in 2014 itself prior to land pooling. The CID officials filed a counter in High Court seeking permission to inquire former Minister Narayana.

Vellampalli assures renovation of dilapidated temples

The Minister criticises previous TDP govt for neglecting temples

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KADAPA

ENDOWMENTS Minister Vellampalli Srinivas has said that all temples which are in dilapidated condition in the State will be reconstructed by spending funds in a big way.

The Minister along with Kadapa MP Avinash Reddy and Collector Ch Harikiran laid the foundation stone for reconstruction of ancient Someswara Swamy temple located in Bhanukota village of Simhadripuram mandal on Sunday. The works will be taken up at a cost of Rs 3.5 crore.

He said that the government will take up temple reconstruction works with the financial assistance provided by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. The Minister recalled that recently the government completed renovation works at Amavari temple in Vijayawada at a cost of Rs 70 crore.

He said as many as 100 temples in Pulivendula constituency will be renovated at an estimated



Endowments Minister Vellampalli Srinivas Rao laying foundation stone for renovation work of Someswara Swamy temple at Bhanukota village of Simhadripuram mandal in Kadapa district on Sunday. MP Y S Avinash Reddy and TTD EO K S Jawahar Reddy are also seen

cost of Rs 50 crore. He said that Someswara Swamy temple renovation works will be taken up following the tradition and as per the wishes of the local people.

The Minister alleged that due to the negligence of previous government, several temples in the State were in a dilapidated condition. Later, the Minister

inspected the model of Someswara Swamy temple made by the agency designated to take up the renovation works. Earlier, pundits performed Ganapathi Homam, Vasthu Homam and Navagrahaardhana in a traditional manner. TTD EO K S Jawahar Reddy also participated in the function.

Jawahar Reddy laid the foundation stone for the reconstruction of Ramalayam at Chavvripalle village of Simhadripuram mandal at a cost of Rs 3.5 lakh. MLC B Tech Ravi, Joint Collector M Gouthami, Pulivendula Area Development Authority (PADA) OSD Anilkumar Reddy and others were present.

20,326 drunk driving cases booked in Cyberabad limits

All the violators to be produced before the courts once they start functioning

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Cyberabad traffic police has informed that a total of 20,326 drunk driving cases were booked from January 1 to July 3, in Cyberabad limits. On Saturday night, 126 drunk drive cases were registered.

The traffic police said that in view of increasing number of road accidents due to drunk driving, they have started the enforcement drive. They said that many people were driving under the influence of alcohol without caring for the safety of themselves as well as other road users. The worrying part was that most of the drunk drivers were highly educated professionals in various fields who should be ideally following traffic rules consciously, they said.

The traffic police recalled that on the early morning of June 27, an Audi car driven by a drunken youth hit an auto rickshaw resulting in

the death of one of the passengers of the auto. The incident occurred near Inorbit mall, Hitech city under Madhapur police station limits. They said due to Covid pandemic, the courts have not been functioning to deal with the drunk driving cases. All the violators would be prosecuted as soon as the courts start functioning, police added.

Meanwhile, the traffic police warned that any person found driving during the period of disqualification or the period of driving licence seizure would be booked under Section 182 of Motor Vehicle Act which invites a penalty of Rs 10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 3 months. The persons who cause fatal accidents in inebriated condition would be booked under culpable homicide not amounting to murder as per Section 304 (Part II) of the Indian Penal Code which would result in the imprisonment of up to 10 years.

TITA's AI internship programme from July 12

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH experts emphasising the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) coupled with factors like the Telangana government declaring last year as the year of AI and numerous employment opportunities in the IT sector, the scope for AI is growing. It is now at an all-time high.

However, the new technology domain is too costly an affair to pursue. To make the AI course accessible to youth across the State, Digithon, the digital entity of Telangana Information Technology Association (TITA) is starting an IPT-cum-internship programme on Artificial Intelligence from July 12.

Those clearing the course on its completion will receive a certificate in AI/ ML from University of Texas. The association had earlier also imparted training in AI to make state's youth job-ready.

UK baby ‘turning to stone’ due to rare disease

The condition leads to sufferers being bedridden by the age of 20 and life expectancy is around 40

LONDON

The parents of a five-month-old baby girl in the UK who is “turning to stone” are urging others to know the warning signs of her rare illness.

Lexi Robins was diagnosed with a condition that affects just two million people globally.

Lexi seemed healthy at birth, but when her parents Alex and Dave Robins noticed an issue with her big toes, it led to the discovery that she was suffering with fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva (FOP).

The condition leads to sufferers being bedridden by the age of 20, while life expectancy is around 40. It’s a genetic disorder where bone

forms outside of the skeleton – which restricts movement and is often compared to the body turning to stone.

The family, from Hemel Hempstead near London, want other parents to learn the signs of the rare condition.

Lexi was born on January 31, and her parents said the first thing they noticed was she didn’t have much movement in her thumbs and that her big toes didn’t look quite right.

In April she had X-rays which revealed her thumbs were double jointed and she had bunions on her feet.

Ms Robins, 29, said at first they were told Lexi had a different syndrome that meant she wouldn’t be able to walk.



The family didn’t believe it because of how strong she is, and decided to do their own research before approaching specialists with the prospect that their little girl could have FOP.

Lexi had tests and the results were sent to America, where they confirmed she had FOP on June 14. “The gene that they look for is the ACR1 gene, and that unfortunately is the gene that she has,” Ms Robins told Herts Live.

“We’re under the specialist of a top paediatrician in the UK and he said in his 30-year career he’s never seen a case like this, that’s how rare it is,” Mr Robins, 38, added.

Both parents have praised Lexi for her resilience and have described her as “just brilliant”. Through their own research, the family found

that there is a 50 per cent chance Lexi could become deaf if extra bone develops through her body.

Robins added: “It’s heartbreaking and a roller-coaster. When you’re told there’s no cure your heart sinks.

“We’re kind of in that process at the moment of having to wrap Lexi up in cotton wool as best we can but at the same time making sure she doesn’t miss out on anything.”

The family are part of Facebook support networks and say they have also received help from the FOP Friends charity.

The said the aim is to help raise money for the charity and raise awareness as they now feel they can help others spot the signs of the illness.

WINDOWS

Lakshadweep denies entry to Cong MPs

LAKSHADWEEP: Lakshadweep Administration has rejected the application of Congress lawmakers Hibi Eden and TN Prathapan for entry permit to Lakshadweep, stating that their visit “for political activities” will “disturb” the peaceful atmosphere. Denying them entry permission, the administration on Saturday termed the visit as a part of a planned effort to “disturb peaceful atmosphere” prevailing in Lakshadweep and said it can cause a possible “surge in COVID-19 cases”. The administration further added that the purpose of the visit of the MPs – “to understand problems faced by islanders due to new policies of administration” -- appears to be a “political action”. Last month, there had been an uproar against Lakshadweep administrator Praful Khoda Patel over the new reforms introduced by him, which many allege are against the interest of the islanders.

Child marriage stopped in UP district

SHAMLI: A team of Uttar Pradesh’s welfare department’s child helpline stopped a child marriage in Shamli district. The team reached the Balhedi village on Saturday after receiving information about the function. The helpline in-charge Poonam Sharma said that during investigation, both, the boy and the girl were found to be minor. The case has been handed over to police, she said. The team reached the village when the marriage function was on. On July 1, the marriage of a 12-year-old girl to a 40-year-old man was stalled in Mirzapur. The ‘groom’ along with 10 ‘baraatis’ were arrested.

Priyanka to lead Cong in UP polls; ‘no need of SP, BSP’

LUCKNOW

Days after the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party ruled out forging any major alliances for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, Congress’ state unit chief Ajay Kumar Lallu on Sunday expressed confidence that his party has the capacity to fight the elections without aligning with either of them and form the next government on its own.

He also said the Congress would fight the assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh next year under Priyanka Gandhi Vadra’s “dekh-rekh (supervision)”, and that under her leadership, the party would make a comeback in the state after over three decades.

In an interview with PTI, Lallu said the Congress has emerged as the main challenger to the “oppressive” UP government and claimed that his party with just five legislators has proven to be a more effective opposition than the Samajwadi Party (SP) which has 49 MLAs in the 403-member assembly.

He said “winds of change” were blowing in the state and added, “Badlav ki aandhi hai, jiska naam Priyanka Gandhi hai (There is a storm of change and its name is Priyanka Gandhi).” The UP Congress chief asserted that the Congress organisation has been strengthened at various levels in the state under Priyanka Gandhi’s leadership.

Asked if Priyanka should be made the chief ministerial face by the party for the UP polls, Lallu said it is the party’s national leadership that would decide on who should be the chief ministerial face.

Why Centre silent on Rafale deal?

Modi makes a lot of noise about national security, but undermines the country’s security interests when it comes to helping his crony capitalist friends: Congress

NEW DELHI

THE Congress on Sunday questioned the silence of the government after French authorities ordered a probe into “corruption and favouritism” in the Rafale deal.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara sought to know that in an inter-governmental defence deal, where there cannot be any middlemen or corruption, when the beneficiary of any “corruption” has ordered a probe, why has a country, which has lost public money, not ordered one?

He alleged that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi makes a lot of noise about national security, but undermines the country’s security interests when it comes to helping his crony capitalist friends. “After more than 24 hours of the decision by France to investigate corruption, influence peddling, money laundering, favouritism, there is one question every responsible Indian, every concerned



citizen asks. Why is the Government of India still silent?” Khara asked at a press conference.

He said the Rafale fighter jets deal was an inter-government deal between India and France, which means that the governments of the two countries were on either

side. Khara sought to know that now that the French Public Prosecution Services (PNF) has initiated a probe into the corruption allegations against the previous president of France, who was one of the parties to the deal, why is no enquiry being ordered on the role of the key functionaries

of the Indian government? Rahul Gandhi put out an online survey asking why the Modi government was not ready for it. Among the choices given by Gandhi to the question were guilt conscience, saving friends, JPC does not want a Rajya Sabha seat and all the above. “Why is the Modi government not ready for a JPC probe? -- guilt conscience, saving the friends, JPC does not want a Rajya Sabha seat and all of these are right,” he said in Hindi on Twitter, while putting out the survey. Gandhi has been alleging corruption in the Rafale fighter jet deal for long now and had made this as a major poll plank in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, which the Congress lost badly.

A French judge has been appointed to lead a “highly sensitive” judicial probe into suspected “corruption” and “favouritism” in the Rs 59,000 crore Rafale fighter jet deal with India, French investigative website Mediapart has reported.



GIMS 100-bed pediatrics facility ready

NOIDA

A 100-bedded dedicated facility with trained staff for treatment of children is now ready at the Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Greater Noida, hospital officials said.

The special pediatrics facility in the state-run GIMS, a leading COVID-19 hospital, has come up in view of a possible third wave of the pandemic which is believed could hit children, they said. “Amid the possibility of the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the GIMS has prepared a dedicated 100-bedded pediatrics facility for children,” GIMS Director Dr. (Brig) Rakesh Gupta told PTI. He said the facility for children’s treatment has been prepared in pursuance of government guidelines and can be extended to 150 beds if required. Gupta also said that the hospital is training its staff in handling children-related cases and has so far conducted around 10 workshops and trained over 300 staff, including those from other hospitals.



A farmer participates in a bull race at a paddy field in Batra village of South 24 Parganas district on Sunday. Farmers participate in the race with a belief that participation before ploughing their fields will bring rain and a better harvest.

RACING FOR RAIN

Dhami sworn in as Uttarakhand CM

DEHRADUN

Pushkar Singh Dhami was sworn in as the 11th chief minister of Uttarakhand, along with an 11-member cabinet, here on Sunday. The oath of office was administered on Dhami and his ministers by Governor Baby Rani Maurya at a simple function held on the lawns of the Raj Bhawan in the presence of a host of MPs and MLAs of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and senior government officials. No new face has been inducted into Dhami’s cabinet, which remains as it was under his predecessor Tirath Singh Rawat. The only difference is that this time, all the ministers are of cabinet rank. The ministers

sworn in on Sunday are Satpal Maharaj, Harak Singh Rawat, Bansidhar Bhagat, Yashpal Arya, Bishan Singh Chufal, Subodh Uniyal, Arvind Pandey, Ganesh Joshi, Dhan Singh Rawat, Rekha Arya and Yatishwaranand. Rekha Arya, Dhan Singh Rawat and Yatishwaranand, who were ministers of state in Tirath Rawat’s cabinet, have been elevated to cabinet rank. Earlier in the day, Dhami met Satpal Maharaj at his residence with a bouquet of flowers amid reports that the senior leader and a few other MLAs of the saffron party were sulking since Saturday as they were not happy with his election as the new leader of the BJP legislature party in Uttarakhand.



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami meets former CM Tirath Singh Rawat, in Dehradun on Sunday

No phone for online classes, J&K teen scores 98% in Class 10

NEW DELHI: A teen from Jammu and Kashmir’s Udhampur has overcome many obstacles to top his district with 98.06 per cent marks in the Class 10 results declared by the state education board. Mandeep Singh said he could not go to school due to the lockdown last year and did not have a phone or computer for online classes. By sheer dedication and with some help from his family members and teachers, he not only studied well but also topped the examination.

The teen, who aspires to become a doctor, lives Amroh village. His father, Shyam Singh, is a farmer, where Mandeep also has to work sometimes. His mother, Sandhya Devi, is a homemaker.

“Besides studies, I also work in the field and help my parents in household chores,” he added.

Whatever more help he got was from his elder brother, who studied at the Jammu-based Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology but had returned home due to coronavirus restrictions.

The teen says he now wants to clear the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) to be able to study medicine.

The boy also said that the government has taken a lot of initiative to promote education in far-flung areas and requested “to keep supporting poor students and help them in achieving their dreams”.

Speaking about his friends, he said they complained about the lockdown hampering their studies, which was a reasonable thing to say. However, he, instead of complaining about problems, focused on studying and worked really hard.

Kejri seeks Bharat Ratna for docs

NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking that the country’s highest civilian award Bharat Ratna should be given this year to all doctors, nurses and paramedics who served the people amid the pandemic.

It will be a true homage to doctors who lost their lives, he said. In the letter to the prime minister, Kejriwal said this year’s Bharat Ratna should be conferred upon doctors, nurses and paramedics. “Many doctors and nurses sacrificed their lives fighting Corona. If we honour them with Bharat Ratna then it will be a true tribute to them. Lakhs of doctors and nurses served people selflessly without worrying about their lives and families. There can be no other better way (than honouring them with Bharat Ratna) to thank and honour them,” he wrote in the letter in Hindi.

He also stressed that if necessary changes should be made in rules so that the medical community can be awarded the highest civilian award. “If rules do not permit to confer Bharat Ratna on a group, then I request you to change rules. Entire country is grateful towards our doctors. Every citizen of the country will be happy if they (doctors) are honoured with Bharat Ratna,” Kejriwal appealed to the PM in the letter.

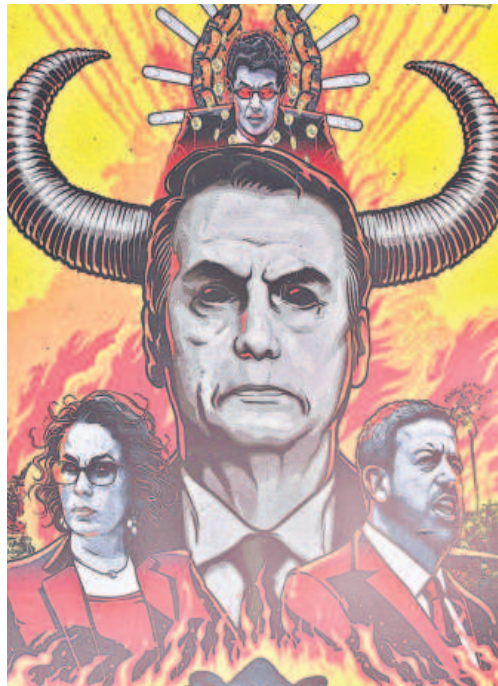
Covaxin deal: Brazil SC approves probe

Sao Paulo: The Supreme Federal Court of Brazil has approved a probe into President Jair Bolsonaro regarding alleged overpricing during the purchase of India’s coronavirus vaccine Covaxin, the G1 website reported. Last week, the Estado de Sao Paulo newspaper reported that the government signed a deal for 20 million vaccine doses, \$15 each.

However, according to a secret message from the Brazilian embassy in New Delhi, the actual price for one dose was Rs 100 (\$1.34). As a result, opposition lawmakers requested an investigation.

According to the website, Justice Rosa Weber greenlit the probe for 90 days, agreeing to the request of the attorney general’s office.

Bolsonaro reportedly was informed about possible violations several months ago. The investigation will try to find out if the president was doing some-



A banner depicting Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro during a protest demanding his resignation amid allegations of corruption in the purchase of vaccines, in Sao Paulo

thing about it. Meanwhile, the country’s leftist and centrist parties have filed an impeachment request with the lower house.

India records 43,071 new cases, 955 deaths

NEW DELHI: India saw a single-day rise of 43,071 COVID-19 infections, which took the tally of cases to 3,05,45,433, while active cases have declined to 4,85,350, according to Union health ministry data updated on Sunday. The death toll has climbed to 4,02,005 with 955 more fatalities, while the case fatality rate has risen to 1.32 per cent from 1.31 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed. The active cases have further declined to 4,85,350 and comprise 1.59 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has improved to 97.09 per cent, the ministry said.

“Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago”
– Warren Buffet



Captain Polyplast forays into solar EPC segment

BSE-listed Captain Polyplast Ltd, engaged in micro irrigation industry with its excellent quality products and strong distribution network, is entering solar EPC segment as part of its expansion plan. The entry into solar EPC segment complements company’s focus on sustainable products, technologies and would help it to participate in government’s drive for expanding renewable energy capacity in India by 175GW till 2022.

The company has set up dedicated teams for solar EPC project across the county for retail, commercial and large-scale project applications.

It has successfully completed solar EPC projects with capacity of more than 1,500KW across 340+ customers so far.

Currently, the company has an order in pipeline of 5,000KW and additional projects are expected to be finalized and executed in this financial year.

According to a recent market survey, the global solar energy market was valued at \$52.5 billion in 2018 and is projected to reach \$223.3 billion by 2026, growing at a CAGR of 20.5 per cent.



CRUDE OIL PRICES, Q1 EARNINGS TO SET THE TONE FOR MKTS

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

After touching lifetime highs, bouts of ‘Acrophobia’ (fear of heights), lack of follow-up buying, jitters over Q1 earnings and none too enthusiastic response to the latest stimulus package of GoI have pushed markets into red during the week ended July 2, 2021. The BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty closed 0.8 percent lower each for the week ended, compared to a 0.2 percent fall seen in the Midcap index, and a 2.2 percent gain seen in the Smallcap index.

Remarkable gains in some small-cap stocks triggered fears of ‘irrational exuberance’ puncturing the rally. The market is showing some signs of fatigue around these levels. Tread with caution say old timers. The trading range remained narrow for the benchmark indices. It is pertinent to observe that the FIIs have been net sellers for the last three months selling equities worth of Rs12,039.43 crore, Rs6,015.34 crore and Rs25.89 crore respectively. Decline in Covid cases and vaccination drive, expectations of increased consumer spending and normal monsoon rainfall have bolstered the sentiment. However, the global situation on oil prices is really worrying say economy observers.

The near-term direction of the markets will be dictated by Q1 earnings, progress of monsoon, international crude oil prices, macroeconomic data and global cues. After decent listing gains in Doodla Dairy and KIMS, the two IPO’s open for public subscription-GR Infraprojects and Clean Science Technology are expected to do very well. Grey market

premium for these issues suggest there is good demand for the shares among the investors.

Heard on the Street: Indian stock market is as calm as can be on the surface, while churning underneath more than it has in decades. The NSE Nifty and the BSE Sensex are so quiet it is almost disconcerting. The index hasn’t had a 5% or 10% meaningful correction based on closing prices since the end of March; no wonder the new day traders who started buying shares in lockdown think the market only goes up.

This time the most obvious

threat to stocks is the US Federal Reserve, rather than the market’s overvaluation. If the Fed raises rates, cash and bonds suddenly look much more attractive, and the TINA justification for buying extraordinarily expensive stocks is undermined. It isn’t some-



MARKET Khabrein

thing many think is likely soon, but the number one threat that could bring the turmoil from the depths to the surface of this market is the Fed.

Quote of the week: “You get recessions, you have stock market declines. If you don’t understand that’s going to happen, then you’re not ready, you won’t do well in the markets-- Peter Lynch

F&O / sector watch

Mirroring the sluggish trend in the cash market, derivative segment witnessed lack lustre trades. Ahead of Q1 numbers, stock specific action was in fore-

front. In the options segment, maximum Put OI is at 15500 followed by 15000 strike while maximum Call OI is at 16000 followed by 16500 strike. Call writing is seen at 16100 then 16200 strike while Put writing is seen at 15000 then 15500 strike. Chartists say that the Nifty has to hold above 15700 level to witness an up move towards 15850 and 15900 levels. Expect strong support at 15600 and 15500 levels. The

Option data suggests an immediate trading range in between 15600 to 15900 zones. Bank Nifty may take support at its 50 days exponential moving average which is placed around 34500 levels. The Implied Volatility (IV) of calls closed at 11.96 % while that for put options closed at 20.42%.

The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 12.84%. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.27. Techies warn that the market is not only showing classical distribution at higher levels, but appears to be showing ample signs of a likely corrective move.

Stock futures looking good are Axis Bank, Biocon, Cummins India, GAIL, PI Inds, Sun Pharma and Zee Entertainment. Stock futures looking weak are AU Bank, Kotak Bank, Tata Steel, TVS Motors and UPL.

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

After decent listing gains in Doodla Dairy and KIMS, the two IPO’s open for public subscription-GR Infraprojects and Clean Science Technology are expected to do very well. Grey market premium for these issues suggest there is good demand for the shares among the investors

STOCK PICKS

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Buy between Rs66-68 for price target of Rs100 (in 6 months) and Rs125 (in 9 to 12 months). Keep stop loss closer to Rs56 as the stock has run up recently. Risk /Reward ratio is 1:5.

Are you a trader, speculator or investor? Know yourself to succeed in the market



K Naresh Kumar

This would enhance how we approach risk and become aware of pitfalls that are associated with investing



Recently, I was going through one of the leading stock broking company’s media release. It said that as much as 80 percent of their new clients are under 30 years and of them, a whopping 90 percent are from small towns. Higher retail participation is a good sign and at last we’re now managing values equal to that of the FII (Foreign Institutional Investors) which is good for the stock markets’ liquidity. Particularly, in the past one year, the retail participation has shot up and even eclipsed the share of FIIs in certain months and more importantly, the flows have remained consistent.

Last week while I was trying to explain when to sell a stock or an asset, I touched upon how one should first categorize themselves i.e., trader or investor. Here, I continue to spend a little further on that so that we make judgements when dealing with our investments. The word investor comes from the Latin word ‘investire’, meaning to dress in a clothe

oneself, surround or envelop. The deeper understanding is that one doesn’t wear clothes without looking at the colour, texture, size, etc. i.e., knowing most or many things of the clothes they wear. Investor thus could be attributed to the know-how what they’re and where they’re willing to funnel their capital into. The terms and risk of the investment they’re venturing into.

Benjamin Graham in his book, ‘Intelligent Investor’ expressed that outright speculation is neither illegal, immoral nor fattening to the pocketbook.

The goal of investing is to gradually build wealth while accumulating assets and possibly creating a portfolio over an extended period of time that suits the goals and in conjunction with the risk profile. It, however, doesn’t stop a speculator or a trader to emulate success by trading persistently at market opportunities and amass wealth.

The contention is not in the definition but the means and how ordinary people could get distracted. One has to understand that the risk appetite for being a trader or speculator contrasts that of an investor. Also, it might require an access to skill, information and/or capital that is different from that of an investor.

One could achieve being both at any point of time but with clear characterization of the journey they’ve set for. It could also be pursued simultaneously where one could draw a core portfolio which is more strategic while an adventurous part could explore a tactical allocation within or outside the portfolio to take advantage of an evolving market situation. As mentioned earlier, the definitive requirements of distinct parameters to both the approaches are different and difficult.

Recently when Jason Zweig wrote to WSJ editor to not inter-

mingle the trader, speculator and investor word, came the reply. ‘Investor’ has a long history in the English language as a catch-all term denoting people who commit their capital with the expectation of a return, no matter how long or short, no matter how many or how few investing columns they read. Back at least to the mid-19th century, ‘invest’ has been used to describe a ‘wager’ on horses - an activity surely no less divorced from fundamental analysis than a purchase of dogecoin.” The editor could be completely right in the definition, but it somehow lacks the spirit.

It’s, hence, tough for the regulator to create a distinction by book, but as market participants we could be aware of the traits we’re exhibiting at multiple points of time and how would they be classified as. This would enhance how we approach to risk and aware of the pitfalls that are associated with investing. It is imperative for the investor to recognize and outline these instances in their expedition which helps them to document the various emotions, expectations and experiences that could serve as a ready reckoner. Such process helps in not only help in refining how they approach investments, but also avoid repeated missteps.

(The author is a co-founder of “Wealcity”, a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealcity.com)

Mkts moving at lower level; rise in volatility may cause downfall

T BRAHMACHARY

The domestic equity market edged lower on historically low volatility. The NSE Nifty benchmark index traded in the range of 15,636-15,915 points and closed at 15,722.20 points with 138.15 points or 0.87 per cent.

Another attempt has failed to cross the 15,900 barrier. It formed a bearish belt hold as it failed to cross the opening level during the week. The gap-up opening at 15,915 points created some hope initially, lasted only a few minutes. For the first time after March, the Nifty registered four consecutive negative bars. With this, it formed a dark cloud cover like a candle. The current five-week consolidation is limited to less than 500 points; it is less than 250 points. If you remember, the 9-week consolidation during March-May is 1,000 points, and after the breakout, it has given a return of almost 1,000 points in just four weeks. This has proven the historical fact, and the flat consolidation breakouts will give a faster move on either side.

The previous consolidation occurred when the index fell by 8.3 per cent from the top. The present consolidation is at the new lifetime high after a 12.33 per cent rise from the recent bottom. Like earlier, this time too, there are confusing moves by index, giving no clues on the direction. Three tops at the



same level and several bearish patterns failed to the confirmation. The Nifty has not formed a lower high on the weekly chart, and it did not close below the previous week’s low. The benchmark index maintains the higher high and higher low, which is a clear uptrend sign as per the very basic Dow theory. There are no confirmations for any of the bearish patterns or signs, or warnings. But we need to take some more price internals to forecast the future outcomes.

The NSE Nifty is trading in a tight range for the last five weeks. This price action has resulted in Bollinger Band contraction. This volatility indicator suggests that whenever there is a contraction in the volatility, expect an impulsive expansion too. It says the other way of flat base breakout outcome. At the same time, the VIX is at 18 months low, and the Implied Volatility (IV) is also at the lowest level. This is a warning sign like a Red light at the crossroads for the speeding bulls. These volatility indicators have an inverse relationship with the index. As these are at the historical lower level, any rise in volatility may cause a serious

downfall in the index. This means, the Nifty fails to surpass the 15,900-16,000 level decisively; it may experience a volatile profit taking at every high. There is no change in indicators stance. The negative divergences are still clearly visible. The weekly RSI once again reacting from the resistance. The +DMI shows a fresh negative divergence. MACD histogram indicates a flat momentum. In this kind of sluggish environment, it is difficult to make a decision. The market tests the patience of participants.

For next week, 15915-15600 are the key resistance and support levels. With the last hour short-covering resulted in a hammer candle formation. Let us wait and watch for confirmation of this bullish candle. In any case, it fails to get a confirmation by closing above 15738, and the market may witness another round of selling pressure. A close below 15,635-61500 zone is a big negative for the broader market. The next level of support is at 15431. Only a decisive weekly close below this level, the market bias has changed to a downtrend. Till then, the stock-specific activity will move. It is time to refrain from the fresh long positions and keep trailing stop loss to protect the existing portfolio.

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

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

After three weeks, the resistance level eased by 200 points to 15,800 strike, while the support level remained at 15,000 points for a third consecutive week. The 15,800 strike has maximum Call base of OI followed by 16,000/15,900/15,300/16,500 strikes, while 16,300/ 16,500/15,900 strikes recorded reasonable addition of Call OI. The 15,000 strike witnessed highest Put OI followed by 15,100/ 15,500 /15,600/15,700 strikes. Further 15,600/15,000/15,500/ 15,450 strikes recorded moderate Put OI build-up.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: “Indian markets snapped its four-

F&O data holds range-bound trading ahead

Traders should focus on stock-specific action till 15,800 points as India VIX declines 5.84% from 12.84 to 12.09 level, lowest in 17 mths

session losing streak on Friday and as Nifty managed to end above 15,700 mark, driven by gains in blue chips like Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank. However, on weekly basis both the indices Nifty and Bank Nifty settled in red zone. Some lacklustre moves were seen during the week as tug of war between bulls and bears kept traders on indecisive mode.”

After the continued range-bound trading in June, the first week of the July F&O series also remained lacklustre. Positive US equities couldn’t cheer the domestic markets. Emerging markets remained under pressure as

Dollar index moved sharply higher. For the week, Nifty shed almost 0.8 per cent, whereas broader markets continue to outperform and closed in green. Sectorally, apart from FMCG and Pharma, rest of the sectoral indices closed in negative.

“From derivatives front, Call writers at 15,800 strike hold maximum Open Interest, which should act as immediate strong hurdle for Nifty. For upcoming week, we expect markets to trade in sideways manner. However, if Nifty manages to break 15,800 level decisively then we might witness 16,000 level in short span.

F&O TRADING			
Product	Contracts	Turnover (Rs/cr)	Premium (Rs/cr)
Index Futures	2,40,165	19,982.11	-
Stock Futures	5,64,895	45,588.46	-
Index Options	2,44,72,655	24,03,441.36	11,104.84
Stock Options	15,09,263	1,24,188.07	2,557.99
F&O Total	2,67,86,978	25,93,200.00	13,662.83

Source: NSE / As on July 02, 2021

Till then traders should remain focus on stock-specific action,” said Bisht. India VIX fell 5.84 per cent from 12.84 to 12.09 levels, lowest in 17 months. On the sectoral front, due to continued range bound movement and declining IVs, option writers have maximum positions at ATM strikes. For the coming week as well, 15700 Put and 15800 Call holds the highest option base where 15800 Call hold more than 40 lakh shares. We be-

lieve result season may provide some trigger to move out of the prevailing range of 15600-15900 “The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 11.96 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 20.42 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 12.84 per cent. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.27,” remarked Bisht.

Bank Nifty

“From technical front Bank

Nifty is trying to take support at its 50 days exponential moving average which is placed around 34500 levels,” added Bisht.

The Bank Nifty largely remained in a range. Since the past few weekly expiries, it has been closing near 35000 levels, which happened last week as well. Private banks remained under pressure whereas positive actions were there in most PSU banks, which are attracting buying on dips.

Premiums in Nifty futures have declined in the past few days whereas they remained intact in the Bank Nifty along with a rise in OI for the July series. While FIIs have reduced their net longs in index futures, any change of trend is expected only below 34,500 points, which remains a strong support.

IVs have contracted further and moved towards 12%. Due to this, option writers have become aggressive and are selling ATM and OTM options. For the current week as well, we feel short Straddle or Strangle traders should make money as the index is likely to trade in a range.

According to ICICI Direct.com, major Call OI addition for the week was seen in 35500 strike, above which a directional move is expected. Analysts feel the Bank Nifty would trade in a range while there would be stock specific action in coming days.

Activities in Nifty futures remained muted last week as well. However, FIIs have created fresh shorts in the index while their net longs, which declined from 90,000 contracts to just 56,000 contracts since June settlement. Hence, it feels like some short bias from FIIs is building-up.

Olympics’ Covid discount: Expanded squads for hockey, 4 other sports

LAUSANNE

RECOGNISING the unique situation for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games in view the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has given relief to a few team sports, allowing ‘stand-by’ or ‘alternate’ players to be part of certain squads. This relaxation has been given to hockey, football, water polo, handball, and rugby, whose

squads comprised fewer players than that available to them in other international competitions. For example, hockey squads at the Olympics comprise 16 players while at World Cup and other events, they have 18. Similarly, football teams have 18 players in the Olympics and 23 at other major events, though the 23-member squads don’t have standbys. Thus, to make up

for the shortfall, teams have been allowed to keep some standby players in the Olympic host city but out of the Olympic village. The Olympics start on July 23. “This will not increase the number of athletes on-site in Japan, but will give more flexibility to select within the wider squads, recognising the unique situation for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and giving NOCs

[National Olympic Committees] maximum flexibility in choosing match squads,” the IOC said in a release on Saturday night. Earlier, these ‘alternate’ replacements were available only as permanent replacements for players unavailable due to injury or some other reasons. Now, each team will be able to use these athletes in each match, which means the players that the ‘alternate’ is replacing can

also return to the squad once he is unavailable. However, the team sheet for a match will still have the same number of players as in previous Olympics -- for example, 16 in the case of hockey and 18 for football. The expanded roster would come as a big relief for hockey teams like India that have to sacrifice one goalkeeper to adhere to the number restrictions.

Hockey India has picked senior player PR Sreejesh as the lone goalkeeper while Krishan Pathak is among the two players on standby who would stay at a hotel near the village. Now, Pathak too will be part of the squad, can train with them, and can even be picked in the 16-member roster for matches. The expanded rosters would also give coaches more flexibility as the Olympics have a tight

schedule with limited rest time as well as expected heat and humidity in Tokyo during the Games. The IOC decided to relax rules following a discussion with the international federations, which have been seeking more standby players in view of the pandemic. Football teams have been allowed expanded rosters for major European leagues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ANSA

COPA AMERICA

Inspired Messi sends Argentina into semis

GOIANIA (BRAZIL)

LIONEL Messi scored a goal and provided two assists as Argentina progressed to the Copa America semifinals with an emphatic 3-0 win over Ecuador here. The new free agent set up Rodrigo de Paul and Lautaro Martinez before scoring with a sublime free-kick in stoppage time on Saturday, reports Xinhua. The result at Estadio Olimpico in Goiania means Argentina will face Colombia in Brasilia on July 6, with the winner earning a place in the final at the Maracana stadium on July 10. Defending champions and tournament hosts Brazil will meet Peru in the other semifinal at Rio de Janeiro’s Olympic Stadium on July 5. Ecuador started the game in a positive fashion and almost took the lead via Enner Valencia’s glancing header, which flew just wide of the target following Pervis Estupinan’s probing cross. Argentina made them pay moments later when Messi set up De Paul, who took a touch before rifling home his first international goal. Ecuador began the second half as they did in the first, controlling pos-



Argentina’s goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez tries to block an attack by Ecuador’s Enner Valencia during a Copa America quarterfinal match at the Olimpico stadium in Goiania, Brazil late on Saturday

Colombia edge out Uruguay on penalties

BRASILIA

DAVID Ospina saved two penalty attempts as Colombia advanced to the Copa America semifinals with a 4-2 shootout win over Uruguay here. The Napoli goalkeeper dived low to his right to keep out Jose Gimenez’s spot-kick and then leaped to his left to palm away Matias Vina’s attempt at the Mane Garrincha stadium in Brasilia on Saturday, reports Xinhua. The match went to a shootout after a goalless 90 minutes in which neither team posed a clear attacking threat. With no extra-time played in South America’s major competitions, the match went straight to penalties after 90 minutes, paving the way for Ospina and his teammates to atone for their shootout de-

feat to Chile in the quarterfinals of the 2019 Copa America. “We want to achieve important things and this was a step towards doing that,” Ospina said after the match. “They (Uruguay) are tough opponents and we had to work hard to beat them. We know that nobody is going to gift us anything. Now we’re going to rest and start preparing for our next match,” the

Napoli goalkeeper added. Veteran Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani said the team were satisfied with their performances throughout the tournament, despite the unhappy ending. ANSA



Uruguay’s goalkeeper Fernando Muslera (left) goes for a header during a Copa America match against Colombia at the National stadium in Brasilia, Brazil late on Saturday

Medvedev rallies to overcome Cilic in five-setter

LONDON

WORLD No. 2 Daniil Medvedev of Russia kept his composure and raised his level to overcome 2017 finalist Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-7(3), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 and reach the fourth round at Wimbledon for the first time. Medvedev will next face Poland’s 14th seed Hubert Hurkacz for a spot in the quarterfinal. Hurkacz moved into the fourth round, his best result at a Grand Slam, with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Kazakhstan’s Alexander Bublik. “It was an unbelievable match,” Medvedev said in an on-court interview after the Saturday evening match. “I think tennis fans always enjoy

watching players come back from two-sets-to-love down and for it to be five sets. I certainly do so when I watch tennis on the TV. It’s my first comeback (from 0-2 sets down), and actually what’s amazing is against (Belgium’s) David Goffin at Wimbledon in 2019, I was two-sets-to-love down and I had a break in the fifth set, but I lost. So when I left the court after the fourth set today, I told myself, ‘It’s not going to be another one of those’. “So I’m really happy. When I was 5-0, 40/0 up at the end and Marin came back to 2-5, I thought to myself, ‘Again..!’ Marin is an amazing player and for the first two sets he basically destroyed me,”

said Medvedev. The world No. 2 arrived at Wimbledon high on confidence after claiming his 11th ATP Tour title at the Mallorca Championships, his first tour-level trophy on grass courts. He continued the momentum to become the seventh Russian man to complete a set of round-of-16 appearances at all four Grand Slams, and the second to do so in as many days after Andrey Rublev achieved the feat on July 2. With Rublev and Karen Khachanov already through to the second week, Medvedev’s win also marks the first time that three Russian men have reached this stage at Wimbledon in the Open Era (since April 1968). ANSA

3rd ODI: Mithali powers Indian women to consolation win

WORCESTER



CAPTAIN Mithali Raj scored an unbeaten 75 off 86 balls to power Indian women’s cricket team to a four-wicket win over England in the third and final ODI here on Saturday. Mithali, who became the top run-getter in women’s international cricket, hit eight boundaries and kept calm as she took her team over the line despite the rest of the batters disappointing again. Smriti Mandhana (49 off 57 balls) and Sneha Rana (24 off 22 balls), who added 50 runs for the fifth wicket with Mithali, were the other main scorers. Earlier, Indian women bowled out England for 219 in the allotted 47 overs -- reduced due to rains. England, who

were put into bat, were cruising along at 151/3 in the 34th over with contributions from Heather Knight (46 off 71 balls), Natalie Sciver (49 off 59 balls) and Lauren Winfield Hill (36 off 52 balls). However, quick wickets towards the end of the innings pushed England women to the back-foot. Off-spinner Deepti Sharma was the most successful of the bowlers, picking three wickets for 47 runs while Jhulan Goswami (1/31), Shikha Pandey (1/42), Poonam Yadav (1/43), Sneha Rana (1/31) and Harmanpreet Kaur (1/24) picked a wicket apiece. England bagged the series 2-1. Brief scores: England women 219 all out in 47 overs (N Sciver 49, H Knight 46, LW Hill 36, S Dunkley 28, D Sharma 3/47) vs Indian women 220/6 in 46.3 overs (Mithali Raj 75 not out, Smriti Mandhana 49, Sneha Rana 24, Sophie Ecclestone 2/36). ANSA

EURO 2020

ENGLAND CRUISE PAST UKRAINE INTO SEMIS

Denmark get the better of Czech Republic

ROME

A flying start in both halves helped England knock out an uninspired Ukraine 4-0 in the Euro 2020 quarterfinals at the Stadio Olimpico to set up an encounter with in-form Denmark on home soil. England came off with a perfect start and opened the scoring with only four minutes into the game as Raheem Sterling’s fine through ball allowed Harry Kane to fire past Heorhiy Buschan from very close range on Saturday, reports Xinhua. Ukraine needed some time to gain a foothold into the contest but had their first effort on target with 17 minutes played when Roman Yaremchuk unleashed a dangerous shot to test England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford. However, it remained Ukraine’s only chance on target in the first 45 minutes as England controlled possession without creating clear-cut opportunities. After the restart, England gave the Ukrainians a mountain to climb as Harry Maguire doubled the advantage after nodding home Luke Shaw’s free kick into the box with two minutes into the second half. Andriy Shevchenko’s side was shocked and unable to respond while the relentless England strikers made it 3-0 in the 50th minute when Shaw’s second assist found Kane, who nutmegged Buschan with a header from central position. Ukraine couldn’t put up a resistance against the dominating England as Buschan neutralised Kane’s volley with a diving parry before Jordan Henderson headed home the subsequent corner to round off the 4-0 victory. England con-



England’s Harry Kane celebrates after scoring his side’s third goal during the Euro 2020 quarterfinal match against Ukraine at the Olympic stadium in Rome late on Saturday

trolled the proceedings for the remainder of the game as Ukraine lacked in ideas and penetration. With the result, England advanced into their first Euro semifinals since 1996 and will now return to Wembley to encounter the in-form Denmark on home soil. “It is a great feeling. Back-to-back semi-finals at a major tournament is a great achievement. I don’t want to be a party pooper, but we don’t stop here. We’ve got another big game coming up and we want to go further this time,” England defender Harry Maguire said. “It is a special night for England. All players have staged a great performance in this tournament, but we have to continue and stay focussed,” England head coach Gareth Southgate said. Denmark advanced into the semifinals at Euro 2020 following a 2-1 win over the Czech Republic in Baku, Azerbaijan. This was Den-

mark’s first quarterfinal at the European Championship since 2004. Denmark opened the scoring five minutes after the start when Thomas Delaney headed home Jens Stryger’s corner near the penalty spot on Saturday, reports Xinhua. The Czechs then managed to send many free kicks and crosses into the box, but Denmark defended well to maintain the scoreline. Minutes before the end of the first half, Denmark launched an attack from the left flank with Joakim Maehle running deep to send in a wonderful cross. Kasper Dolberg coolly steered the ball into net to make it 2-0. The Czech Republic pulled one back four minutes after the interval as center forward Patrik Schick tucked Vladimir Coufal’s cross into the bottom corner to grab his fifth goal of the tournament. ANSA





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