



THE HANS INDIA

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WINDOWS



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg holds a poster reading "School strike for Climate" as she protests in front of the Swedish Parliament Riksdagen, in Stockholm on Friday. The 17-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg said Monday she is heading back to school after a year off, but has resumed her weekly protests outside Sweden's parliament

Teachers are guiding force: Prez Kovind

New Delhi (PTI): President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday said teachers are the guiding force for students and true nation-builders. With sheer perseverance and patience, a teacher helps students comprehend the rich legacy of the country's culture, he said. "The changing times call for new methods of pedagogy that may help us equip our younger generation, to learn, explore and contribute more efficiently to the society. I hope that we continue to be guided by our sagacious teachers and build a future of this great nation," Kovind said in a message on the eve of Teachers' Day. "Ideal teachers consistently encourage students to pursue this objective and realise their goals. No doubt, teachers are the guiding force for students and true builders of our nation. This is the precise reason why the 'Guru-Shishya' tradition holds special reverence in Indian culture," the president said.

Gadkari to open 2 flyovers on Sept 18

Amaravati: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate the Kanaka Durga and Benz Circle flyovers on September 18, according to a tweet by TDP MP Kesineni Nani. These two flyover were to be inaugurated on Friday September 4 but the programme was postponed following the death of former President of India Pranab Mukherjee.



HANS NEW SERVICE

Hyderabad: Appreciating the Covid warriors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the humane face of police manifested during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Requesting the force to safeguard and build on human face of the police as an asset during the virtually address of the probationers of the Indian Police Service's 2018 batch passing out of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad, the Prime Minister said the new image built by the force during the crisis had become its biggest asset and there was a need to preserve it. Modi said the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a virtual interaction with IPS probationers at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad, on Friday

country saw the humane face of khaki during the pandemic as the police per-

sonnel were seen singing songs, providing food and water to those living on

footpath and risking their lives to carry patients to hospitals. "In the eyes of a common man, by and large, the image of police was of a baton, argument and repression. It does not mean that they were not doing any humanitarian work earlier but during coronavirus, the society felt its collective impact for the first time," he said.

Of the 131 IPS probationers, 121 belong to the 2018 batch and the remaining 10 to the 2017 batch. Eleven out of 131 probationary IPS officers who underwent nearly two-years of training at the SVPNPA were allotted Telangana State. The probationer Akhil Mahajan from J&K was allotted

Telangana cadre. During an hour-long interaction with the IPS probationers from various parts of the country, the Prime Minister shared his thoughts on various issues. He underlined the need for the police to make use of the power of the society which always comes forward to render humanitarian assistance during crises.

The Prime Minister suggested that the humanitarian works undertaken by police are given a written form at the level of each police station through involvement of local schools. He said this would help the old, young and the coming generation to know about their work. **Continued on Page 5**



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visits the Main Cathedral of the Russian Armed Forces and the Museum Complex, in Moscow on Friday

All eyes on Rajnath's meet with Chinese DefMin

New Delhi (PTT): In the midst of heightened tensions in eastern Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe on Friday evening in Moscow on the sidelines of a ministerial meet of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), government sources said.

It will be the first high-level meeting between the two sides after the border row escalated in eastern Ladakh in early May though External

Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held telephonic talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the row. Singh and Wei are in Moscow to attend a meeting of the SCO defence ministers on Friday. The sources said the meeting has been requested by the Chinese defence minister. "The meeting is likely to take place," said a source. Indian and Chinese troops are engaged in a bitter standoff in multiple places in eastern Ladakh. **Continued on Page 5**

Covid protocols in place for TS Assembly session

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The State Assembly, which is scheduled to commence its nearly two-week-long monsoon session from September 7, is fully geared up to meet the Covid protocols to ensure safe proceedings.

According to Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, it will be "no-corona test, no-entry" whether it be the members, staff, officers, media or police personnel. Similarly, those who were tested with oxygen levels below 90 would be barred from the entry into the Assembly. All the MLAs and MLCs will have to show their corona test results to the monitoring staff at the entry point of the House. The members attending the session have been advised to stop going out of station and not to visit even their relatives till the session is over. Restrictions on the movement of the legislators and officials at the Chief Minister Office and the ministers' chambers inside the Assembly will also be in force during the session. **Continued on Page 5**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Friday released the dates of improvement and compartment examination for class 10 and 12. CBSE 12th compartment examinations will be held from 22 to 29 September and 10th compartment examinations will be held from 22 to 28 September 2020. CBSE on Friday in-



formed the Supreme Court that the improvement, compartment examination will be conducted by the end of September and a notification in this regard will

be issued. The Supreme Court was hearing the petitions filed by the students challenging the compartment examination. The court fixed September 10 as the next date of hearing. The petitioners have demanded cancellation of compartment examinations in view of the corona virus epidemic.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had been told by CBSE that the facility of

compartment examination will be given only to those students who have failed or are not happy with the result released under the assessment scheme. CBSE also informed that compartment examinations will be conducted keeping in mind the Corona Guidelines. The board also said that if compartment examinations are not conducted, it will affect the future of many students.

Meanwhile, students and some parents have questioned the decision of CBSE to conduct the examination. They believe that conducting exams during the epidemic would prove to be endangering the lives of students.

The All-India Students Association (AISA) has written a letter to Union Education Minister Nishank demanding that the examinations be cancelled.

Nellore tops in AP with 60 Covid hotspots

P V PRASAD

Nellore: Nellore is on top among the districts with coronavirus hotspots across the state with a huge number of cases. The district has 60 hotspots in which 26 are in urban areas and 34 in the rural areas. Across the state, there are 396 hotspots and Kurnool stands in the second position with 53 hotspots.

In Nellore, as on date, there are 37,099 confirmed positive cases, and 28,203 patients have been discharged from COVID

hospitals and Care Centers. There are 317 reported deaths up to September 3. Even though the number of hotspots is more, the situation is under control with a limited number of infected cases.

In fact, hotspots are the areas declared by the government where 6 or more COVID reported infected cases. The hotspot area also includes areas where any person is found to be infected, and the others suspected to be infected and it would be declared as a corona hotspot. **Continued on Page 5**



INS Sahyadri is one of the naval ships that has been deployed for mega military exercise in the Bay of Bengal by Indian and Russian navies from Sept 4 to Sept 5 to further bolster their operational interoperability in dealing with emerging security challenges

Corona test for passengers from abroad to board local flights

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: Passengers from abroad, who want to catch a domestic flight, will now be able to get their corona virus infection checked at the Delhi airport. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), which operates the airport, said on Friday that it has tied up with GeneStrings Diagnostic Center to build the Covid-19 test lab. The laboratory will be built over 3,500 square metres in the multi-level car parking of the international terminal at the airport. The results of the investigation will come in four to six hours. The Ministry of Civil Aviation was asked to arrange a corona check on an experiment basis for passengers arriving from abroad who want to catch a second connecting domestic flight. After arrival abroad, passengers will be coronated at the first airport. Originally this arrangement has been made for those passengers who have not been able to get corona test done 96 hours before taking a flight from abroad. Passengers whose reports will be negative at the airport will be able to catch a connecting flight. One must follow the local state health guidelines when the report is positive.

82% back Centre's Health ID initiative but wary of data-sharing

New Delhi (IANS): A whopping 82 per cent people support the Central Government's new National Health ID, provided it only seeks and stores health-related information and not sensitive personal details such as banking information, sex life, caste, religion, political affiliations, etc.

The National Digital Health Mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech. The ambitious initiative will see the creation of health IDs for every citizen that will enable storing personal medical

records and disease history electronically.

The draft of the policy was released on August 26 with a week stipulated for public feedback. However, on September 1, the government extended the public feedback deadline till September 10.

On the basis of 34,000 responses from citizens residing in 272 districts of India, 'Local Circles' attempted to bring out what the masses feel about the idea of creating a citizen digital health id.

In the first question, citizens were asked about their views on

the creation of such a digital health id.

Over 23 per cent said it should be created as it could help in faster access to healthcare, while 18 per cent said it should not be created as it could lead to personal sensitive data getting compromised. As many as 59 per cent

said it should be created but data sought should be restricted to just health information. The results of the poll show that 82 per cent support digital health id creation but believe sensitive personal details should not be sought. The main objective of the draft policy has



been stated as providing guidance and creating a framework for secure processing of personal data of individuals who are a part of the national digital health ecosystem. NHA has earlier rolled out schemes like Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, which gave health benefits to millions of Indians.

The Government in its draft National Health Data Management Policy which proposes to create a digital health id for citizens will be storing the data selectively at three levels -- central, state or UT -- and at the

health facility level. Citizens were asked how they feel this storage should be at central, state and health facility levels is fine, while 21 per cent said storage should only be at central level and accessed by state and health facility after the citizen's authorisation.

At least 10 per cent said storage should be at central and state levels and access by health facility after their authorisation, and 57 per cent said it should only be done for health information and it should be stored only at central level with authorisa-

tion needed for use by health facility.

This shows that the majority want the digital health id to have just health information with storage only at the central level and authorisation-based access for state government and health facilities.

The key concern among people with information storage at state level or at a health facility level is the risk of the information getting compromised. People prefer that their private sensitive information be deleted post usage by these entities. **Continued on Page 5**

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



PRIYANKA
@PRIYANKACHOPRA

An explanation is a privilege, not a right! - heard that recently Giri/Haji. Hmmmm nice!



QUICK TIP

JEANS INTO FLARE LEG JEANS

Tie waist flare leg jeans are in vogue and your old pair of jeans can be put to great use by transforming them into flare leg jeans. Cut the side seam of your jeans by 10-12 inches up from the hem. Stitch a godet (a triangle shaped fabric used to give flare to garments) using a lace or brocade fabric on each leg to bring flare.



Making Mathematics easy-peasy

M M FAROOQUI

Teaching is an inseparable part of life for 47-year-old Padma Priya Vummaji, a government mathematics teacher in Hyderabad. Now, her teaching skills have received recognition as she has been selected for 'National Best Teacher Award' by central.

The 47-year old is gaining quick fame for evolving herself and her pedagogy to develop a deeper understanding of the subject. Padma is one of the 47 teachers nationally felicitated with this award, she is the only one teacher from the Telangana state.

Being a government school teacher, she tries to implement different ideas and techniques for teaching mathematics in her classroom. This helps benefitting the children for learning the subject.

She shares, "It's been an honour to get selected for the award from Telangana state. I dedicate my award to my students, colleagues and family members for their encouragement."

She started her teaching career in 1996 and was married in the year 1997.

She says, "These 24 years of teaching would not have been possible without the support of her husband and in-laws,



Padma Priya Vummaji, a Hyderabad-based Mathematics teacher, bagged the 'National Best Teacher Award' this year for integrating art, informative communication, and technology in her teaching of the subject

video conferences between her school students and USA classrooms, where her students learnt a lot from that. She had also hosted three American teachers at the Government Nehru Memorial high School, as part of Teachers for Global classrooms.

She said "Her classrooms are digitized classrooms and most of the classes will be conducted on projectors. There are a total of 5 projectors which were donated by NGOs. A projector and 2 computer systems were donated by the American teacher who came for Global classroom."

She had been taking online classes from 2017 for her students who applied for the National Means Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS). Around 15 students will be applied for NMMSS exam and for these students she used to take online classes during Dussehra holidays.

Telangana state education minister Sabita Indira Reddy called on and felicitated her at her office and Hyderabad City Commissioner Anjani Kumar visited her home and felicitated her with seed Ganesh idol and several other teachers, organisations, politicians felicitated her.

who always supported and encouraged her every time. My family is very happy that I received the National award. It is the greatest achievement of my life."

According to her, this all started from her childhood, when her father passed away when she was 9-year-old, and she decided to help her mother and started giving home tuitions since her schooling. She was good in mathematics since her schooling and was a rank holder in mathematics degree during her bachelors. She

pursued B.Ed from Andhra Mahila Sabha College and completed her M.Ed from Dr BR Ambedkar University in 2013.

She says, "I also pursued 2-year Diploma in Advanced Software Technology in the year 1997 and being an advanced in software, I decided to teach and became a teacher which is now being felicitated with the National Best Teacher Award."

Sharing her experience about her US visit in 2016, she said that she participated in the Teaching

Excellence and Achievement Program under United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) in the Naveda, USA for 6 weeks starting from September 13 to October 31.

"I learned various teaching skills, which helped me to explore new methods of teaching. During my visit, it was a great learning experience, and I also had pedagogical discussions with other 80 teachers from different countries," adds Padma.

She has also conducted several

Don't go overboard with accessories

Simple jewelry is the best way to go when aiming for classy and sophisticated style. Here are some tips for you to look stylish:

Earrings: When we are talking about earrings go for small silver or gold hoops, pearl or diamond studs.

Bracelet: One heavy or several delicate silver or gold bangles and watch.

Necklace: Long pendants, pearls, diamond solitaire, cross.

Ring: Not necessary, but if you do, go either delicate or statement. Thin bands, diamonds, or heirloom rings are fine, and everyone should have one cocktail ring to wear to events or dress up your jeans. Stick to ring and/or middle fingers only.

Scarf: Scarves are a great way to add color and visual interest to a sophisticated outfit. Particularly if the scarf is bright or with an interesting pattern, again, cotton, silk, and wool are the best fabric options. Try multiple colors and fabrics, with bright colors and patterns. Try to avoid too many colors and patterns. Stick to simple patterns, stripes, or solid colors. Avoid too many colors and patterns.

And don't forget your shoes. Yes, shoes are an accessory! Pumps, slingbacks, ballet flats, or boots in solid neutrals, such as cream, navy, black, black, or grey, are best. Avoid anything with a lot of detail or patterns, like animal prints, or anything that is too busy. Stick to simple, solid colors.

Eliminate the mess of hair dyeing at home

Many women who dye their hair prefer to do it themselves at home rather than getting it done at a salon. Dyeing at home can save you a ton of money, but it can also be tricky, as well as messy. Follow these simple hacks to make hair dyeing easy at home

Buy two boxes

There's nothing worse than running out of colour when you're halfway done! Plan ahead by buying two boxes of your colour. And if you don't end up using the second one, you can always return it to the store, or save it for next time.

Always do the 'strand test'

You never know how your hair is going to react to a new shade or colour until you try it. So before committing, dye a small lock of your hair that's well hidden, preferably in the back

somewhere. That way you'll know about any potential colour mishaps before it's too late.

Prepare your hairline

Minimize the possibility of accidentally dyeing your forehead and neck by applying a balm or salve around your entire hairline. This will make any drips or castoff easy to remove.

Round up your tools

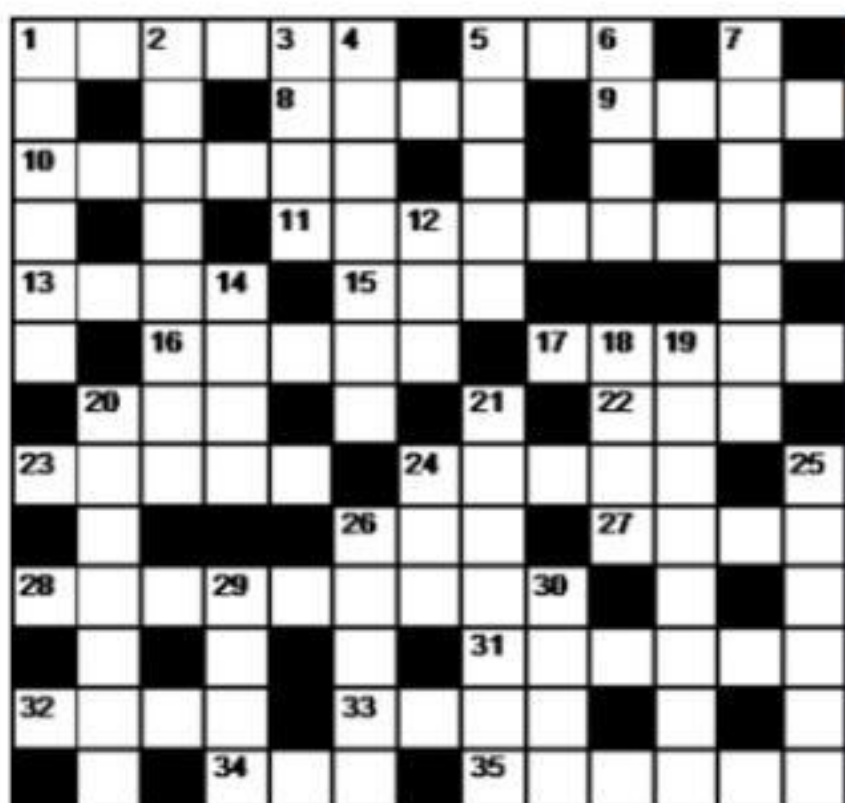
There are a few tools you should have at the ready while you're colouring your hair:

Wet wipes, for quickly removing any dye drips or splatters from your skin.

Extra gloves, Most at-home dye kits come with a pair of gloves, but it's always a good idea to have backups. You can find basic latex gloves in the cleaning aisle of most grocery stores, and they're an inexpensive way to avoid colour-stained hands. Shower cap, minimise the potential messes during this time by putting your hair up into a shower cap.

Apply like a colourist

Most at-home dyes are meant to be applied from the bottle, but this method usually creates a big mess, and can even result in streaky colour if not mixed well. You can purchase a salon-quality bowl and colour brush from most beauty supply shops. You'll feel much more in control of the colour application. Another colourist method you can do is use clips to section your hair off into 4-6 sections. Working on one smaller section at a time will make applying your colour easier and less messy.



GRAB P AGLEAM
R N BAH A S A
AGOG NARRATED
FLAUNTS L E
A L LIMPED
ANTARCTIC U O
DOG RAM UPS
S F KARNATAKA
INFORM T I
E A ATHEART
SANTIA GOROTS
T E T OUT N A
ATTEST R DEAR

SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 4

CROSSWORD

Across

- Fixed part of the turbine (6)
- Jewel (3)
- Andean nation (4)
- Monster (4)
- Put to flight (6)
- Food (9)
- Toil (4)
- Scoundrel (3)
- Forefinger (5)
- B B King's forte (5)
- Pair (3)
- Pub, tavern (3)
- French count (5)
- Backless shoes (5)
- Flow back (3)
- Observed (4)
- Involve in a crime (9)
- South American mammals (6)
- In a while (4)
- Alkaline slurries ? (4)

Down

- Scattered about (6)
- An artificial pond (8)
- Not closed (4)
- Decreased (7)
- Watch over (5)
- Greatest number (4)
- Freezing mixture (7)
- Burdensome charge (3)
- Entanglement (4)
- Falsehoods (4)
- Indecent (8)
- Inactive (7)
- More understated (7)
- Management degree (3)
- All voices together (6)
- Intestinal bacteria (1,4)
- Bits of thread (4)
- Otherwise (4)

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 4

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

NEWS ROUNDUP

Nivetha on talent exchange between film industries: It is cultural integration

South star Nivetha Thomas is happy with the talent exchange happening within film industries in the country.

Several actors from film industries down South including Prabhas, Vijay Deverakonda, Dhanush, Sudheer Babu have forayed Bollywood lately, or are set to do so, even as a huge list of Bollywood stars, including Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan among many others have worked in the south Indian film industries.

Nivetha welcomes such talent exchange. She shares, "It is cultural integration. I welcome it with open arms. At the end of the day when we are talking about it from the broader front. It is great to have people from across regions working together. It is like an exchange of different ideologies, practices and methods because when I was for the first time with a Bombay team, I got to learn a lot of stuff I didn't know." Nivetha agrees that there is a lot of 'give and take' but as long it is healthy, it is amazing. "At the end of the day you can't set a formula to this. Just because you want to work with different people you can't have them there. You only have to do what the film requires and if that character requires somebody who will do justice, forget the region. Take the actor who does justice to the role. I think it is really healthy and I love it because I was welcomed with open arms whether it was in Tamil or in Telugu (films). So, why would I be indifferent to anybody else experiencing the same?" she asked.



Frenchman says will livestream death as his euthanasia plea turned down



Dijon: A Frenchman who is suffering from an incurable condition said Friday he plans to livestream his death on social media as he refuses to take food, drink or medicine after President Emmanuel Macron turned down his request for euthanasia.

Alain Cocq, who suffers from a rare condition where the walls of the arteries stick together, said he believed he had less than a week to live and would livestream his death on Facebook from Saturday morning.

He had written to Macron asking to be given a substance that would allow him to die in peace but the president wrote back to him explaining this was not allowed under French law. Cocq, 57, has used his plight to draw attention to the situation of terminally-ill patients in France who are unable to be allowed to die in line with their wishes. "Because I am not above the law, I am not able to comply with your request," Macron said in a letter to Cocq, which the patient

published on his Facebook page.

"I cannot ask anyone to go beyond our current legal framework... Your wish is to request active assistance in dying which is not currently permitted in our country," said Macron.

In order to show France the "agony" caused by the law in its current state, Cocq told AFP he would broadcast the end of his life on his Facebook page which he believed would come in "four to five days".

He said he hoped his struggle would

be remembered and "go down in the long term" as a step forwards in changing the law. He would halt all feeding, drinking and treatment from Friday night. Macron said in his latter that "with emotion, I respect your action." And the president added a handwritten postscript, saying: "With all my personal support and profound respect."

An Elysee official told AFP that Macron wanted to hail Cocq's commitment to the rights of the handicapped. Right-to-die cases have long

been an emotive issue in France.

Most polarising was the case of Vincent Lambert who was left in a vegetative state after a traffic accident in 2008 and died in July last year after doctors removed life support following a long legal battle.

The case divided the country as well as Lambert's own family, with his parents using every legal avenue to keep him alive but his wife and nephew insisting he must be allowed to die.

Apex court rejects review plea by 6 Opposition-ruled States

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain the review petition of ministers of six Opposition-ruled States seeking review of its August 17 order allowing holding of NEET and JEE physically.

The ministers had claimed that the top court order failed to secure students' "right to life" and ignored "teething logistical difficulties" to be faced in conducting the exams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

National Testing Agency (NTA) which conducts both the exams is holding JEE Mains from September 1 to September 6, while NEET exams will be held on September 13.

The review matters in the top court are usually considered 'in-chambers' through circulation of the petition among all the judges of the bench. The judges then decide 'in-chambers' whether there is any merit in the review petition to re-examine the case in the open court hearing.

The apex court's August 17 or-



der, which allowed the exams to be held has become a political battle as the ministers of six states -- ruled by parties like Congress, TMC, JMM, NCP and Shiv Sena -- sought postponement of the exams "in a manner that achieves the twin objectives of ensuring that the academic year of the students is not wasted and their health and safety is not compromised."

The plea, filed through advocate Sunil Fernandes, said the apex court order fails to satisfy

the safety and security concerns of students who have to appear for the exams.

The top court had refused to interfere with the conduct of the medical and engineering entrance exams, saying that life must go on and students can't lose a precious year due to the pandemic.

The apex court had on August 17, dismissed a plea by one Sayantan Biswas and others seeking direction to NTA to postpone them after Solicitor

General Tushar Mehta assured that all safeguards would be taken. Terming the decision to conduct the exam as irrational, the plea said that the top court failed to appreciate that the Union government had adequate time to establish at least one centre for every district for NEET (UG) and JEE (Mains) rather than having several centres in one district.

The review petition said the mere fact that lakhs of students have registered for the exam is not indicative of their consent or their willingness or their desire to attend physical exams.

It said the August 17 order is "cryptic, non-speaking" and does not discuss various aspects and complexities involved in a matter of this magnitude.

The plea said that only two reasons given by the court - life must go on and students should not lose an academic year - do not constitute an authoritative and comprehensive judicial scrutiny of the issue.

7 women killed in blast at firecracker unit in TN

Chennai: Seven women, including the firecracker unit licensee and her kin were killed and two workers critically injured in an explosion at a fireworks factory in Kattumannarkoil here on Friday, police said.

Chief Minister K Palaniswami, who expressed his condolences to the bereaved families, announced a solatium of Rs 2 lakh each to them.

The factory owner Gandhimathi and eight other women were allegedly involved in making country firecrackers at the unit in Kurungudi village in Kattumannarkoil when a sudden explosion ripped through the structure, killing five women, police said.

Four others who were injured were later rescued from the concrete debris by the locals and admitted to a hospital here. While two women succumbed later, the remaining two are undergoing treatment.

"The licensee and four of her kin died in the blast while two other women died at the hospital," Cuddalore District



Superintendent of Police M Sree Abhinav told PTI.

"We are investigating the cause of the blast. There was no fire mishap. Probably some chemical substance like nitrates was stocked at the fac-

tory," Abhinav said. Nitrates are common components of fertilisers and explosives. Apart from Gandhimathi, Malarkodi, Latha, Rajathi, Chitra, Rukmani and Rathinammal died in the blast.



Delhi doc, accomplice held for forging Covid test reports

New Delhi (IANS): A doctor and his accomplice have been arrested in Delhi on the charge of forging Covid-19 test reports, police said on Friday.

According to the police, Dr Kush B Parashar used to recommend patients for Covid-19 tests, collect samples personally or through his assistant. With the help of co-accused Amit Singh, Dr Parashar used to forge Covid-19 test reports of a renowned diagnostic centre or other labs as per the demand.

As the reports were prepared in PDF format on a computer and sent to patients on WhatsApp, it was difficult to detect the forgery.

The matter came to light when a person running the business of providing nursing staff to patients asked Dr Parashar for Covid tests on two nursing staff before hiring them. Parashar forged the reports and sent them, which were further forwarded to the client in a PDF format on her mobile, police said.

However, seeing a mistake in the mentioned name, the person concerned contacted the diagnostic centre and asked for a new report with correction.

On the basis of provided details, the diagnostic centre found that no such patient existed in their records. The centre then lodged a complaint at the Hauz Khas police station in south Delhi, where a case was registered.

"During investigation, the forgery was unearthed and Dr Parashar along with Amit Singh were found involved. They were preparing forged Covid test reports without even testing the samples. A racket in forged reports was thus being run. They were using the names of renowned diagnostic labs for the purpose," said Atul Thakur, Deputy Commissioner of Police, south Delhi.



India's tally crosses 39-lakh mark

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 tally went past 39 lakh on Friday with 83,341 fresh cases reported in a span of 24 hours, while the number of recoveries crossed the 30-lakh mark, pushing the recovery rate of coronavirus patients in the country to 77.15 per cent, according to the Union health ministry.

The total number of COVID-19 cases mounted to 39,36,747, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 68,472 with 1,096 people succumbing to it in a day, the ministry's data updated at 8 am showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate has further declined to 1.74 per cent in the country.

There are 8,31,124 active coronavirus cases in the country, which account for 21.11 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.



Ex-Italian PM Berlusconi +ve

Milan (IANS): Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has been hospitalised after testing positive for the novel coronavirus and early-stage double pneu-

monia, media reports said on Friday.

According to Italy's ANSA news agency, the 83-year-old former leader spent Thursday night at the San Raffaele Hospital here for checks, the BBC reported, adding that he was tested positive for the virus on Wednesday.

Berlusconi's right-wing Forza Italia party said his condition was not a cause for concern.

In Haryana, 8 out of 100 Covid-infected

Chandigarh (IANS): In Haryana, eight out of every 100 people have contracted the coronavirus and recovered from it. Faridabad district adjoining the national capital is the worst affected. This fact came to light in a sero prevalence study carried out in the state in August. The result of the study was made public by state Health Minister Anil Vij on Friday. The survey shows that urban population has been affected more than the rural.



Hollywood actor Pattinson infected

London: Hollywood actor Robert Pattinson is said to have tested positive for COVID-19, causing filming of the much-anticipated movie The Batman to halt. According to Vanity Fair, Pattinson tested positive only a few days after the shooting of the movie had resumed near London following lockdown. "A member of The Batman production has tested positive for Covid-19 and is isolating in accordance with established protocols. Filming is temporarily paused," Warner Bros said in a statement adding that they would not comment on any individual worker's health.

Obesity may alter immune system response to coronavirus

New York (IANS): In a new study on obesity scientists, including one of Indian-origin, have found that obesity may cause a hyperactive immune system response to the Covid-19 infection which makes it difficult to fight the virus.

According to the study published in the journal 'Endocrinology', obesity not only leads to problems like heart disease and diabetes but also influences the immune system in many ways. Obesity causes chronic, low-grade activation of some parts of the immune system.

When someone with this pre-existing condition is faced with an infection, it



could lead to hyper-activation of the immune system but in a detrimental way that does not fight the infection.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has made us aware of the complex interactions of

obesity with infectious diseases and the gaps in our understanding of how chronic health conditions affect our immune responses to acute infection," said study author Durga Singer from the University

of Michigan in the US.

Recent evidence has highlighted how one part of the immune system, the macrophage, may be a culprit in driving severe Covid-19 disease.

"Our manuscript focuses on what is already known about the interaction of obesity, macrophages and other infections like influenza," Singer added.

"These findings highlight the importance of understanding how obesity might interact with new drugs or vaccines developed for Covid-19."

In this review, the authors described the impact of obesity on the immune system.

No widespread vaccination till mid 2021, says WHO

Geneva: The World Health Organisation does not expect widespread vaccinations against COVID-19 until the middle of next year, a spokeswoman said on Friday, stressing the importance of rigorous checks on their effectiveness and safety.

None of the candidate vaccines in advanced clinical trials so far has demonstrated a "clear signal" of efficacy at the level of at least 50% sought by the WHO, spokeswoman Margaret Harris said.

Russia granted regulatory approval to a COVID-19 vaccine in August after less than two months of human testing, prompting some Western experts to question its safety and efficacy. US public health officials and

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NOTICE

In view of the continuing Covid-19 Pandemic, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has vide its circular dated May 5, 2020 read with circulars dated April 8, 2020 & circular dated April, 13th 2020 permitted the holding of Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conference or Other Audio-Visual Means (OAVM). In compliance with these Circulars and the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the upcoming 28th AGM of the Company "VirtualSoft Systems Limited" will be held on 28/09/2020 at 09.00 a.m. through VCOAVM. As per aforesaid circulars, the Notice of 28thAGM along with the Annual Report for FY 2019-2020 has to be sent only by electronic mode to those Members whose E-mail Id are already registered with the Company/ Depositories. The Company is also providing e-voting and remote e-voting facility to all its Members similar to earlier practices.

If your email ID is already registered with the Company/ Depository, Notice of 28thAGM along with annual report for FY 2019-2020 and login details for e-voting shall be sent to your registered email address. In case you have not registered your email ID with the Company/ Depository, please follow below instructions to register your email ID for obtaining annual report for FY 2019-2020 and login details for e-voting.

Physical Holding	Send a request to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, MAS Services Limited at info@masserv.com providing Folio number, Name of the shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (Front and Back), PAN(Self attested scanned copy of PAN Card), AADHAR (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address. Please send your bank detail with original cancelled cheque to our RTA (i.e. MAS Services Limited, T-34 2nd floor, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-II, New Delhi 110020 along with letter mentioning folio no. If not registered already.) PLEASE UPDATE THE SAME ON OR BEFORE 21/09/2020
Demat Holding	Please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP. PLEASE UPDATE THE SAME ON OR BEFORE 21/09/2020

The Notice of 28thAGM and Annual Report for FY 2019-2020 will also be available on Company's website www.virtualsoft.com and website of BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com. Members attending the meeting through VCO/ OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of Quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

For Virtualsoft Systems Ltd.
Sd/-
Mukta Ahuja
Company Secretary & Compliance

CPEC: The corridor of political machinations

In 2015, China announced CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), which is part of its intercontinental Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with an aim to expand its influence in Pakistan and across Central and South Asia, as well as countering US influence in the region. Some CPEC projects have been put on a backburner, and some are moving very slowly.

The main reason behind this is the incumbent government's lack of interest in the project. To understand this, we have to recall Imran Khan's opposition to CPEC before coming to power. In 2014, his protest against then PM Nawaz Sharif, and the blockade of Islamabad, resulted in the cancellation of Chinese President Xi Jinping's official visit to Pakistan.

Sharif even requested Khan postpone his protest so that Xi could visit the country, but Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party rejected the offer. Xi was supposed to inaugurate CPEC in 2014; the project eventually kicked off a year later. Pakistani media has widely reported the remarks of the Khan's gov-

ernment on the CPEC in 2018 itself that the corridor must be put on hold for an year at least before a review takes place.

CPEC suffers from Pakistan's corruption too. The latest example of how Bajwa's family benefited due to the CPEC over a period has taken Pakistan by storm. The PTI has maintained that former Prime Minister Sharif and his close aides were colluding with Chinese companies for monetary gain. How does Khan answer the charges now?

Also, the military establishment that helped Khan's rise to power was also not very pleased with CPEC. Actually, they were of the view that if Sharif was allowed to carry forward CPEC, it would make him more powerful as prime minister. They thought that Sharif would gain more popularity and would not be dependent on the military anymore.

The opposition to CPEC also comes from Gulf States, which fear that the Gwadar port (part of CPEC) in Pakistan's western Baluchistan province would increase Beijing's influence in the region,

where they already have major ports.

Yet another question doing rounds is whether the Pakistani military is really wary of CPEC? They have never publicly opposed the project as far as people know yet, there are many reasons for this wariness. The military generals give priority to defence ties with Beijing, but they also think that huge economic projects like CPEC would strengthen financial ties with China, and political forces would lap up the credit for that.

Also, in the long run, CPEC would force Pakistan to improve ties, they fear, with arch-rival India and other neighbouring countries, it is feared. All this would be in conflict with the military's security doctrine that gives Pakistani generals an upper hand in the affairs of the country. China is certainly unhappy with the same. It is also unhappy with India which has queered the pitch for it by revoking Article 370 and reiterating claims on PoK.

China knows that all is not well with the CPEC. The latest allegations against the Bajwa family only add fuel to the fire. So China has this headache too to be handled now. The tardy progress of CPEC is one of the major problems that Xi is trying to divert his people's attention from.

Teachers' Day should regain lost glory



IN MY OPINION
V RAMU SARMA
Teachers — opening doors to a better world." Teachers are the heart of public education. Opening doors to a world of knowledge is the challenge that teachers worldwide undertake and fulfil every day in their schools, their communities and their homes.

Through their efforts and imagination, teachers inspire students to reach out and move beyond their horizons. Good teaching results in ensuring that we, as a society, have knowledgeable and forward-looking citizens who can assume the mantle of leadership in the future.

Till early 80's a teacher was looked upon as a friend, philosopher and guide who could hold our hands, open our minds and mould the students into good citizens.

Teaching was considered as a respectable and influential job though wages were low. There used to be strong bonding between the students and teachers who used to impart good value in children and train them to be responsible citizens.

The bonding between the teachers and students used to be such that even two decades after leaving their alma mater if a student used to go back to his or her educational institution, the teachers remembered them. They used to recall how responsible, how naughty and how mischievous these students used to be. The students in turn used to recall the role of teachers in moulding them.

Those were the days when the teachers used to greet every student before he or she entered the examination hall, offer a piece of sweet and with them good luck. Again, they used to meet the students after the examination and find out how they fared.

This used to give confidence among the students that they had done pretty well. Cases of students going into depression

and committing suicide apprehending that they will fail were almost unheard of.

Those days parents were friendly, supportive and were eager to work with teachers to make sure their children get the best possible education. But today things have changed. What are the causes of this lack of respect for teachers, and where is this headed?

Reasons are many and mixed. The number of dedicated teachers has come down. Parents who used to be supportive and eager to with teachers have different attitude.

They don't display much respect towards the teachers and the teachers treat the profession as 9 am to 4 pm job. These days parents do not truly understand what teachers do in the classroom. Teachers too do not try to assess what the students need in classroom.

From being Gurus they are now everything except a Guru in real terms. Reverence of students towards teachers has vanished. The students alone cannot be blamed for this. There are any number of incidents where teachers were proving to be everything except being a Guru.

A century ago, teachers were almost certainly among the most educated members of their communities. About two generations ago, discipline could mean "Go stand in the corner," a smack on the hand with a ruler, or even being sent to the principal.

Today, all of these are considered Dark Age remedies, and teachers are almost powerless in matters of discipline. Worse, they often fear repercussions of even a mild rebuke.

Repercussions can be anything from a verbal confrontation with an irate parent, to physical assault from either the parent or the student and threats of a lawsuit. This results in killing the motivation of the teachers to discipline. The teachers also need to take the blame since in the name of discipline there have been incidents where the students particularly in government schools were tortured.

Modern day teachers are more into other activities including politics. Prepare lesson plans and complete the syllabus for record sake in time like robots is the order of the day.



The Teachers' Day seems to be losing its importance. Instead of being an honourable day for all teachers in the country it has become yet another event that comes once in a year. Many do not even know why it is celebrated.

September 5 is the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who was a man of many good qualities and a favourite teacher among students. When his students approached him to celebrate his birthday, he refused permission and said that it should be celebrated as the Teachers' Day because teachers have been the architects of the society and without them no society can walk on the path of progression

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In his book titled, "Political Thinkers of Modern India", he signified the importance of teachers and education in a country like democratic India which was still in its early years of development. According to

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In his book titled, "Political Thinkers of Modern India", he signified the importance of teachers and education in a country like democratic India which was still in its early years of development. According to

him, there is a huge role of teachers in nation building and for that sake teachers should be respected more.

Apart from being a thinker and teacher he was also a philosopher. He once wrote a book on Bhagavad Gita and there he defined a teacher as, "The one who emphasises on presentation to converge different currents of thoughts to the same end".

Though Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan rose to become the President of India from being a humble teacher, he never forgot his roots. By the time he entered politics, most of the leaders of that time like Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Rajendra Prasad etc were his fans for this thinking on nation-building.

His skills were proven in the arena of politics also. He had the political insight to recognise the impediments well in advance and carried the required courage to scold party leaders for their procrastination and delinquency. Way back in 1947, he warned the Congress about the alarming consequences of nepotism and corruption. We are facing the consequences for ignoring the alert.

Teachers are expected to shape the mind of youth and impart good values and turn into responsible citizens. To quote the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Teaching is not a profession, It is Jeevan Dharma (a way of life). In fact, it is a divine responsibility to guide and enlighten. India should regain the status of 'Vishwaguru' (leader in education) by giving high respect to teachers. Teachers should encourage students to think critically about issues concerning the nation. Teachers determination and sincerity will shape the destiny of the nation as they are laying the foundation and the building blocks of the society".

The present Covid pandemic has brought lot many changes in the lives of the people. It has reminded them of the forgotten values and certain disciplines observed by our elders. As we give a standing ovation to the teachers, let us pray that they too will strive to revive the old values and principles of being Guru's and once again emerge as a community called true teacher.

TODAY IS TEACHERS' DAY

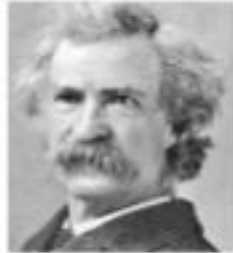
Learnings from 9 great teachers

SHREEPRAKASH SHARMA

"I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well", so said Alexander the Great. Teachers shape and train the minds of the angelic cherubs and finally help them blossom in the forms of perfectly accomplished human beings. So they are the beacon light of a nation, builder of a nation, the future of the nation. The incredible and amazing stories of these nine masters stand to be the timeless muse for posterity.

Mark Twain

The USA's most famous writer and humourist Mark Twain is famous for his beautiful classic novels in the world. But for him life was not a bed of roses. He started his life journey with the ordinary job of a printer. He had had only minimal formal education in his life. He used to spend his entire evening studying books in the local library after the day's job. His life is an epitome of truth that only formal education and high percentage of marks are not everything required for the making of a promising career.



Steve Jobs



Steve Jobs was the co-founder of Apple Inc. Did you know he never finished his college education? But he was blessed with superb and exceptionally sharp technical mind. Can you believe he had only six months of college education in his entire life and this virtual disqualification did not prove to be the stumbling block in the introduction of a few sophisticated devices like iPod, iPhone and iPad? This was the miracle of his unfathomable will power to rise to the apex of successes in spite of insurmountable problems.

Henry Ford

He was not only the noted US industrialist and entrepreneur of his time but also an extraordinary visionary person who single-handedly created the automobile industry of the United States of America. He had also not a very high formal education. He had left his home at the age of 17 and worked as an apprentice in Detroit. Finally, he succeeded making the city of Detroit- the Motor City.



Winston Churchill



He is remembered as one of the miraculous political figures of the twentieth century in the United Kingdom. For his wit, he is also called as the quote machine. He was born in an affluent family where he was provided with all the facilities for the formal education. But you will be surprised to know that he was very poor in his studies.

He had no interest in formal education. He used to be punished due to his dismal record in his school. He had to suffer in military services also due to his poor academic performance. But finally he rose to be the prime minister of the UK.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

Famous as Missile man and the former President of India, Dr. Kalam spent his childhood in abject poverty. He used to sell newspapers in his home town Rameshwaram to supplement the expenses of his education.

Specialised in aeronautical engineering, he wanted to be a fighter pilot which he said was his 'dearest dream'. But he could not realize it as he came at the ninth position against the availability of eight slots in the Indian Air Force.

This failure of life did not deter him from becoming one of the famous scientists and great human beings of the country.



Maxim Gorky



The famous Russian and Soviet writer of the 19th century had a very troubled childhood when he lost his father at the age of only 4 and his mother when he was only 11-year old. He had been brought up by his maternal grandparents. He left his home at the age of 12 and started doing a variety of works for his livelihood. Working as an errand boy, a dishwasher on a steamer, among others, he was completely a self-educated person who failed to enter the University of Kazan. Hard circumstances taught him to write the pangs of the pain and hardships he had so intensely undergone in his life. He began writing under pseudonym Gorky (literally means bitter). His stories and articles appeared in newspapers of Volga region.

Essay and Stories, a two-volume collection of his writings, was his maiden book published in 1898. Widely known for his masterpiece 'The Mother', Maxim Gorky patiently braved the vortex of tough circumstances to finally rise to be a successful writer and political activist.

Abraham Lincoln

He is the most unique example of a historical personality who patiently suffered a plethora of predicaments and tragedies in his life before being appointed as the 16th president of the United States. His father lost almost everything when Abraham was born.

When he was only 9 years old, his mother passed away and his sister Sarah took care of him. Abraham Lincoln had a very little formal schooling which was not more than twelve months. But he was a great bibliophile and loved to read and learn.

Known as a gifted story teller, Abraham used to do a string of jobs like shopkeeper, surveyor, and postmaster in his adolescence stage. He rose to become the US President the credit of which went to his forbearance and self-taught lessons which he learnt from his life beset with difficulties and misfortunes.



Albert Einstein



The great scientist, Nobel Prize laureate and internationally reputed physicist Albert Einstein was truly a genius who has more than 300 scientific papers published to his name. He propounded the 'Theory of Relativity' which made him one of the legendary figures in the realm of physics. Would you easily believe the man behind such a spectacular achievement was actually a high school dropout? He wanted to go for university education but failed the entrance examination. Finally, he entered into a college and got a degree but this fact that the greatest intellectual super mind of the twentieth century was a high school dropout is too hard to digest.

Thomas Alva Edison

He was the great US inventor and thinker of the 20th century. His path-breaking inventions earned him the unprecedented popularity. Do you know he had got only three months' formal schooling? He had been sent back home by the teacher of his school with the written note that the boy was not fit for the formal education. Do you know that the child Edison had a hearing problem at an early age? Yet he rose to become the greatest scientist of his time only due to his hard labour and unshakeable self-confidence.



(The author is Principal, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Mamit, Mizoram)

LAC tension

General Naravane's visit to forward areas in Leh, on the LAC with China, will result in more strategic moves by India, in the wake of growing unpredictability by China's People Liberation Army (PLA) as fresher incursion are evident on its part; and to thwart PLA's land-grabbing bids over the weekend, in the wake of Indian soldiers occupying the heights as a proactive move to keep the enemy constantly on the radar.

It is apparent that China is in no mood to change the status quo at Pangong Tso, despite the ongoing military and diplomatic moves towards disengagement. There is little or no thaw in the four-month-long standoff at the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, while PLA is utilising these moments to consolidate its position as if India is not aware of its wicked and diabolic intentions in this regard.

The Galwan Valley has already witnessed the cascading effect as a result of Chinese transgression; and future engagements militarily will be more decisive and harsh for both the countries.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

II

This refers to the news item "Talks, incursions continue", The Hans India, September 4. The tactical gains achieved by Indian troops in eastern Ladakh in recent days demonstrate the high level of military preparedness that desirable at all times to confront a persistently hostile and provocative neighbour. India has managed to occupy several strategically important hill-tops and other locations, thwarting the Chinese military's brazen attempts to unilaterally change the status quo. India has often been held guilty of adopting a reactive rather than a proactive approach to national security.



LETTERS

But the firm handling of the current situation through aggressive posturing, pre-emptive action and military build-up shows that winds of change are blowing.

Even though China had lost unspecified number of soldiers in the Galwan valley violence, it's evasiveness over the incidence and the death toll has laid bare it's embarrassment over being hoisted by its own petard. With the gross mismatch between the Chinese assurances and actions over normalisation in border areas, the situation along Line of Actual Control remained sensitive. China has been harping persistently on the normalisation of ties, though it has done precious little towards this end of late. In this context, it's imperative for India to keep all the channels of communication open so that China finds it increasingly difficult to hide behind the smokescreen of lies and cover-ups. If India keeps acting resolutely, it will continue to have the upper hand on the ground as well as at the negotiating table.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

4 Indian Universities in global ranking

Four universities find place in world ranking - Osmania university, Sri Venkateswara University, Andhra University and Nagarjuna University. No other university finds a place out of 870 universities in our country.

But those four universities are there at the rock bottom in the global ranking

Apart from the ranking what I find is that our univer-

sities do not bother about our social issues at all. The students are not asked to find the root causes and remedies for growing crime against women or how to improve job opportunities or how to recover the bad loans or how to improve good governance or how to speed up proceedings in the courts of law or how to prevent road accidents or how to reduce the load of a school bag. I want to impress upon the professors to involve our youth in transformation of India

K.Lakshman Rao, Visakhapatnam

'Acharya Devo Bhava'

A teacher is a person who sets high standards in society. Education has an important role in building any country or society. If said, teacher is the mirror of society In Hinduism, a teacher has been told that 'Acharya Devo Bhava:' means that the teacher is like God. This status is given to a teacher in return for the contributions he has made to society. Teacher status has always been revered in the society. In the true sense, only a teacher builds the life of his student and teacher is the foundation of society.

A teacher plays a guiding role till the end of his life and keeps guiding the society, of course, the education policy of any nation is a little weak, but a teacher also turns a weak education policy into a good education policy. There are many dimensions of education, which underline the importance of education in the development of any country. In reality, knowledge is the intention of education, the aspirant of knowledge - the student and the teacher makes it available.

Kavyanshi Mishra, Mainpuri

thehansreader@gmail.com

INTER-STATE BUS SERVICES

AP-TS slug it out over Vij-Hyd route

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are at logger-heads over running inter-state bus services, despite complete opening of borders as part of Unlock.4. Thousands, if not lakhs, of people in the two states remain without a public transport option as the two states are locked in a standoff over routes. Private bus operators may grab the opportunity and exploit the passengers if the stalemate persists for long, it is feared.

The lucrative Vijayawada-Hyderabad sector has become the main bone of contention between the two Telugu states as Telangana is reportedly insisting that AP forgo the profitable route operations.

Though it does not possess adequate number of buses to meet the passenger demand on the Vijayawada-Hyderabad sector, Telangana is said to be adamant on monopolising it.

Telangana is sore that its limited services to Vijayawada from Hyderabad are sparsely patronised, causing a loss to TS Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC).



As two rounds of talks so far between officials concerned of the states did not break the deadlock, they are now banking on a possible political intervention to end the tussle and get the buses back on roads.

AP transport minister Perni Venkataramaiah alias Nani is expected to open negotiations on Monday to resolve the on-going crisis and ensure the bus services between the states are resumed at the earliest, authoritative sources said.

Post-formation of Telangana in June 2014, the AP Reorganisation Act enabled run-

- TS wants monopoly on the Vijayawada-Hyderabad route
- Until the lockdown, AP ran 500 services to Telangana a day, out of which 400-odd are to Hyderabad city only
- While TS wants APSRTC to cut the route km by one lakh, AP is ready to reduce 50,000 km
- A headway is expected in the talks scheduled to be opened by AP Transport Minister Perni Nani on Monday



ning of inter-state public sector Road Transport Corporation bus services for five years without any formal agreement or permit.

That arrangement ended in June 2019 but no fresh pact was signed between the two states, though there was never a break in RTC bus services till the Covid-19 lockdown came into force on March 25.

But as the lockdown restrictions were eased and operation of inter-state bus services became possible, Telangana sought to seize the chance and put brakes on AP buses.

“At the time of bifurcation

in June 2014, APSRTC buses were running 3.37 lakh route kilometre to Telangana while the latter operated only 94,000 route km. Over the last five years, Telangana increased its operations to 1.55 lakh route km while AP brought it down to 2.65 lakh km,” a top official of the AP transport said.

AP was hitherto running 500 services to Telangana per day, out of which 400-odd were to Hyderabad city only.

“Hyderabad services are the biggest revenue earners and Telangana now wants to grab it all. It wants us to cut the

route km by one lakh though we agreed to reduce 50,000 km. We also asked Telangana to enhance its own operations by 50,000 km to bring parity. Still, it has not come forward to sign an agreement and resume interstate services,” the transport official noted.

We have inter-state agreements with neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Odisha, but we never had any problem. In fact, in some cases we continue to operate the services despite non-renewal of formal agreements, he official pointed out. (PTI)

Covid protocols in place for TS Assembly session

Continued from P1

Six-feet social distance between every member in the House will be maintained and the seating arrangements have been made accordingly both in the Assembly and Council. The Assembly, which used to be a hot spot for legislators visiting the canteen and chit chatting with media in the lobbies, will be a thing of the past. They will now have centres for Covid tests, ambulances and doctors to visit to make sure that they are safe. From the time of legislators getting a salute from the Assembly security staff and being allowed to enter the House, it would now be staff wearing a proper gear welcoming them with touch-free thermal screening gun. If the body temperature is not normal, they would not be allowed to enter the premises. Covid kits with sanitizer, Oxymeter and mask will be provided to every legislator and it is mandated that the members carry the kits with them every day. The members should check their oxygen levels frequently and they fall below 90, they should consult the doctors in the Assembly or Council. To reduce the physical presence of the media, efforts are on to provide live telecast of entire proceedings either on some TV channel or Youtube.

AP Minister tears into Naidu on free power

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is committed to provide free power to farmers on a long-term basis and the present changes will in no way affect it while TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, who has a history of ditching the farmers and neglecting agriculture sector, has no moral right to comment on power sector, said civil supplies minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao alias Nani.

Speaking to media at YSRCP central office at Mangalagiri on Friday, he said that it was YS Rajasekhara Reddy who brought in the concept of free power and has proved that it was possible and now his son Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has gone a step further by contemplating to generate green energy dedicated for farmers' free power. The pilot project will begin in Srikakulam and will cover the entire state by March and the fruits can be reaped for a long time.

The new scheme is a permanent solution to safeguard the in-

- Stresses Jagan is committed to implement free power to farmers on long-term basis
- Terms TDP chief 'anti-farmer' who has no love for the farmers
- Explains the Direct Benefit Transfer move is aimed at easing the debt burden of power discoms and bring in transparency



Civil Supplies Minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao addressing media at YSRCP central office at Mangalagiri on Friday

terests of farmers and discoms (power distribution companies) and implementing the nine-hour free power to farmers in the right earnest.

The Minister clarified that the state government will not impose any additional burden on farmers with the introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of free power subsidy, but will bring in more transparency and accountability in to the system.

The electricity bills of farmers will be sent to the government and amount will be credited to escrow accounts of farmers, which would be paid to discoms. This is to ensure power subsidy

dues are not kept pending as it happened in the previous government which left dues of Rs 8,000 crore and also to make sure that farmers receive nine-hour free electricity.

Recalling the Basheerbagh incident, where protesters were killed during the agitation against the reforms and hike in power tariff under Naidu's rule, he said after witnessing such a heart wrenching incidents, Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy promised to provide free power to farmers.

He said now Chandrababu Naidu with his friendly media has been carrying out false propaganda against the government.

“He was never a farmer nor did he care for them but has only interests in commercial activity. While the TDP leader can wage a war on mosquitoes and could face typhoons like Hudhud, how come he was sitting far away in Hyderabad in the times of corona,” he asked.

MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad slammed Chandrababu Naidu for not keeping up his promise of waiving farm loans during his regime and said that the TDP chief was a failed opposition leader for leaving the public welfare with the fear of pandemic.

Reacting to the allegations of TDP leader Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao on illegal mining in Mylavaram constituency, the MLA said it was Devineni Uma who got the lease for quarries in the area and used to collect money from quarry and crusher owners illegally. The MLA said that he will soon expose the corruption of Uma during the TDP regime including the amount misused in the name of Krishna Pushkaralu and various irrigation projects.

Preserve humane image built during pandemic: PM to police

Continued from P1

On the experiences shared by some probationers who worked at the field level during the training amid the pandemic, Modi said the crisis gave them a good opportunity to not only serve migrant workers and others but also to develop leadership qualities.

He said the officers should take pride in uniform just like they take pride in the national tricolour. “You should be proud of khaki instead of flexing its power,” he said, adding that winning the hearts of the people through compassion rather than controlling them through fear will last longer.

Modi called for use of technology for intelligence and effective policing. He said while the system of intelligence gathering at the level of constables remained crucial, the police should also use technology tools.

He said big data, artificial intelligence and social media were the new weapons of the police and stressed the need for their effective deployment.

Stating that this IPS batch has many people with a technology background, he advised them to form teams to use technology.

Pointing out that technology helps in detecting crime through CCTV footage or mobile phone tracking, he also had a word of caution for the police officers.

“Technology is also becoming a reason for suspension of policemen. Sometimes they lose their cool and do something and somebody from a distance records this on camera and it goes viral. Pressure builds on the system to suspend the policemen and it becomes a blot on their career,” he said.

Modi said as the young officers were gearing up to take

their assignments in the field, they should be careful about some people who would offer to help them in a new place. “Since you are new to a place, such people offer you transport, food and other help. Don't fall into their trap,” he said.

The Prime Minister advised the probationers to develop the skill to identify chaff out of grain. He asked them to not cover their ears but to be able to filter the things that they hear. “Do not put locks on your ears but place a filter instead. Only when filtered things go to your brain, it will help you, sift garbage and keep your heart clean.”

He also cautioned them against stereotypes of police officers created by films like “Singham”. He said the thinking of instilling fear among anti-social elements as soon as taking up an assignment diverts attention from the real work. He advised them to do works which bring qualitative change like ensuring cleanliness at the police stations and how the visitors are received.

The Prime Minister also called for efforts to prevent youth from walking on the path of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

“We need to prevent youth from taking the wrong path at the early age itself. Women police officers can do this by involving women, making them understand the need to stop their children from taking the wrong path,” he said.

He was responding to the observations made by a woman IPS probationer allotted to Jammu and Kashmir cadre, who narrated her experience of an encounter between terrorists and police during the training at Srinagar.

Modi said people of Jammu, Ladakh, the Kashmir Valley and Kargil were all good people. “I am confident that we will succeed in our efforts to bring back their life of happiness,” he said.

Referring to Kashmir's strength in textiles, he suggested the woman officer to use her holidays to form groups of women and teach them modern designing.

He stressed the need for training and said the mindset that training is a punishment posting should change.

Referring to ‘Mission Karmayogi’ approved by the Union Cabinet two days ago, he said this is a major reform in civil service, both in terms of capacity building and approach towards work. Terming it a shift from rule-based approach to role-based approach, the Prime Minister said this will help in mapping and training the talent and placing the right person in the right role.

Modi also advised the young officers to do yoga and pranayam to deal with the stress.

“Yoga and pranayam is good for all those working under stress. If you do any work from your heart, you will always benefit. You will never feel stressed no matter how much work load you have,” said Modi when the batch's best all-round probationer D.V. Kiran Shrutti, who earlier commanded Dikshant Parade, mentioned mandatory counselling for policemen in Tamil Nadu to help them deal with stress.

A total of 131 probationers of Indian Police Service of 2018 batch passed out on successful completion of their training at the academy. The batch includes 28 women.

Nellore tops in AP with 60 Covid hotspots

Continued from P1

The government directs that restrictions should be imposed on such areas in terms of entry or exit of any person from the area.

The situation was horrible at the time of onset of the pandemic where the movement of the people was being obstructed totally. Now, the situation changed, and the government liberalized the rules considering the difficulties of the people. No person should come out of the house for any kind of necessities such as medicines or any commodities at that time. After unlocking the rules, the situation has changed significantly.

Now, the government permitted shopping malls, shops, and other

departmental stores that sell commodities and others during the restricted timings. Wearing masks has been made mandatory for everyone who resides in these hotspots. But, surprisingly, no checks have been taking place against the people who commute without masks and other precautionary measures.

“Urban areas are somewhat better where educated people follow suggestions of the government wearing facemasks and maintain social distancing. But, in rural areas, the measures are being badly hit where the majority are illiterates who fail to understand the modes of spread of the virus. So, the number of hotspots in rural ar-

reas are more when compared to the urban conglomerations,” said an official from the Health department.

The number of hotspots indicates that possibilities of virus spread in the areas and the people should be careful while crossing or moving in the areas. In Nellore district, Nellore city has been registering a huge number of positive cases when compared to other areas. But, after some time, the vulnerability has started increasing even in rural areas due to interaction with urban areas due to commercial activities. Now, for controlling the situation, traders are voluntarily closing commercial organizations after 1 pm.

Ex-lover throws acid on married youth

- The attacker and victim separate with mutual consent after their marriage proposal is rejected by elders due to castes
- Victim Nagendra marries another girl as per wishes of family
- Unable to digest this, Supriya attacks him with acid two times in a span of a week



M Nagendra

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Kurnool: Unable to digest the fact that her former lover married another girl, a girl throw acid on him on Friday. The victim suffered burn injuries in the incident. The incident took place at Pedda Kottala village under Nandyal taluka police station limits.

According to circle inspector T Diwakar Reddy, Minugu Nagendra and Supriya, both residents of Pedda Kottala, were in love for some time. But they separated with mutual agreement following refusal of their elders to their marriage proposal as they belong to different castes.

Nagendra's family fixed an alliance with another girl of Kothapalli village and performed the marriage at Mahanandi temple on August 13. However, Supriya, unable to digest the separation, wanted to take revenge on her

former lover and attacked Nagendra with acid, CI Diwakar Reddy said.

At that time Nagendra sustained minor burn injuries on his elbows. Not satisfied with that, she once again threw acid on him on Friday. This time Nagendra has a narrow escape, with burn injuries on his cheek. He would have lost vision if the acid fell in his eyes.

Nagendra's family members lodged a complaint with the police. Based on the complaint a case under Section 326 (A) was registered. The accused is yet to be arrested, Diwakar Reddy said..

Meanwhile, Supriya speaking to media, alleged that Nagendra was harassing her despite getting married. “He is calling me every day. He also told me that he was not not interested in the girl he has married. Unable to bear his harassment, I was forced to attack him,” she said.

Naidu demands justice Dalit girl in house burning case

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Demanding stringent action against the accused in burning a house of a Dalit girl in Krishna district, TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu criticised the state government for failing to protect weaker sections from atrocities. Naidu said in a statement on Friday that the ruling YSRCP leaders burnt down the house of Dalit girl Machcha Dhanalakshmi at Mudinepalli in Kaikalur area. The girl was targeted only because she complained to the police against a local YSRCP leader for betraying her.

The TDP chief said that on coming to know of the police complaint, the ruling party leaders burnt down her house overnight leaving the family on the road.

Naidu said that the police were supposed to rescue the Dalit girl, whom the YSRCP leader promised to marry but later cheated. Instead of getting justice, the girl lost shelter, he said.

He added that in the last 15 months of YSRCP government, atrocities against Dalits were continuing unabated across the state while authorities remained mute spectators.

Meanwhile, TDP politburo member Varla Ramaiah complained to the National SC Commission on the burning of Dalit girl's house. He said that YSRCP leader Sai Reddy cheated her. When she lodged a police complaint, he along with some others tried to eliminate the girl and her parents by setting fire to their house, the TDP accused.

Situation along China border tense, says Army Chief Naravane

Continued from P1

On the intervening night of August 29 and August 30, 2020, PLA troops had violated the previous consensus agreed upon in military and diplomatic engagements during the ongoing standoff in eastern Ladakh and carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo. Military representatives of both the countries are now engaged in a dialogue to de-escalate tensions.

All eyes on Rajnath's meet with Chinese DefMin

Continued from P1

Tensions flared up in the region after China unsuccessfully attempted to occupy Indian territory in the southern bank of Pangong lake five days back when the two sides were engaged in diplomatic and military talks to resolve the festering border row.

India occupied a number of strategic heights on the southern bank of Pangong lake and strengthened its presence in Finger 2 and Finger 3 areas in the region to thwart any Chinese actions. China has strongly objected to India's move. India has also rushed in additional troops and weapons to the sensitive region following the Chinese attempts. Army Chief Gen MM Naravane is currently on a two-day visit to Ladakh to carry out a comprehensive review of the security situation in the region in view of the Chinese attempts.

DELHI SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Kia rolls out 1st Sonet SUV

Hyderabad: Kia Motors India on Friday rolled out the first customer car of Kia Sonet, manufactured at its manufacturing facility in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. The Kia Sonet SUV is the company's latest 'Made-in-India' product which will be sold in various global markets similar to Kia Seltos SUV. The company further announced that the commencement of mass production of the Sonet in India has been initiated after testing the vehicle for over 100,000 kilometers in different climatic conditions and some of the most challenging terrains in India. After the massive success of the World Premiere held last month, Kia Motors is preparing to launch the Sonet in India on September 18, 2020. With this roll-out, Kia is looking at building India as the export hub for the Sonet to cater to the demand of over 70 markets globally. Kookhyun Shim, MD and CEO, Kia Motors India, said, "Today is a momentous day for Kia Motors India, as we officially roll-out the first Kia Sonet customer car".

Neuberg's testing

Hyderabad: Neuberg Diagnostics Private Limited, a pathology player, announced receipt of approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research for Covid-19 testing in Hyderabad. The company is launching home-based testing and the samples can be collected from across the entire city. Neuberg was the first to receive approval for Covid-19 testing in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Kochi and Pune. Aishwarya Vasudevan, Group Chief Operating, Neuberg Diagnostics Private Limited, said, "With the number of active Covid-19 cases on the rise across the country, it is our duty as a part of the healthcare fraternity to join our hands to fight this pandemic and support the state and the central government as well as those at the front of this battle."

Markets plunge over negative global cues

Sensex tanks 634 points; Break below 11,100 may take Nifty to 10,700 level

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: Tracking to global negative clues, the domestic benchmark indices - NSE Nifty and BSE Sensex- suffered over 1.5 per cent losses on Friday. Heavy selling in banking, financial, metals pulled the indices lower. Banking stocks continued to drift lower in the second session after the Supreme Court's verdict on loans. SC stated that banks should not tag loans, even if there was default, for which EMIs not paid till August 31, as NPAs. This dampened the sentiment for the banking stocks. As a result, Bank Nifty fell 2.1 per cent on Friday and six per cent for the week. With an exception to Maruti Suzuki, all the Nifty-50 constituents and Sensex scrips ended with losses.

BSE Sensex fell 633.76 points and closed at 38,357.18 points. NSE Nifty declined by 193 points, or 1.68 per cent, to end the session at 11,333.85 level. Registering a worst week since May, for the week, Sensex shed 1,110 points or 2.81 per cent and NSE Nifty eased by 313 points or 2.69 per cent. The volatility index, India VIX, rose over seven per cent to 21.95 level.

Vinod Nair, head (research) at Geojit Financial Services, said: "A selloff in US technology stocks had



With the exception of Maruti Suzuki, all the Nifty-50 constituents and Sensex scrips ended with losses

a cascading effect on global markets and Indian benchmark indices reacted to this and closed with losses of around 1.5 per cent. European markets were trading positive in early trades, following merger talks and expectation of more stimulus measures. The US jobs data, due later in the day, will set the tone for global market trends. Financials contributed most to the losses. Benchmark indices closed lower by around 2.9 per cent on a weekly basis, as the liquidity-fuelled run lost out to political and global uncertainties."

Supreme Court asked the banks to come out with a resolution plan for Covid-19-hit customers and submit a report this month. Banks told to provide enough liquidity support to the borrowers after lifting the six-month moratorium on debt repayment. Nair forecasts:

"Uncertainties await the market for next week, be it global economic data points or geopolitical uncertainties related to Indo-China border tensions. Indian markets have been in sync with their global counterparts and will have an impact."

China stocks closed lower on Friday after a sharp overnight sell-off in Wall Street, with the benchmark Shanghai index posting a weekly loss after a five-week winning streak. The blue-chip CSI300 index fell one per cent to 4,770.22, while the Shanghai Composite Index ended 0.9 per cent lower at 3,355.37. In commodities, crude oil was trading at \$44 a barrel and was heading for its biggest weekly decline since June, as weak demand figures added to concerns of a slow recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.



Covid cost retail sector ₹19 lakh cr: CAIT

New Delhi: The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Friday estimated that Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted a loss of about Rs 19 lakh crore to India's retail industry in the past five-months.

The confederation said that these estimates are collected from figures received from 20 major cities in various states. Consequently, CAIT appealed to Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman to advise banks "not to charge any interest or penalty from traders for the time being".

"If government can condone the loans of certain sectors, we the traders of India are simply demanding to off load us from bank interests and other liabilities for the time being," CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal was quoted as saying in a statement.

According to Khandelwal, the pandemic had resulted in great turmoil for domestic trade to the extent that even after 'Unlock-4', traders across the country are "highly depressed".

Economy witnessing V-shaped recovery:DEA

New Delhi: Days after India reported a 23.9 per cent contraction in its gross domestic product (GDP), the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in its Monthly Economic Review for August has said that the worst is over now as the Indian economy is going through a V-shaped recovery.

DEA cited the uptick in manufacturing purchasing managers' index, auto sales, e-way bills among others to show that the country is witnessing a recovery. It noted that as countries unlocked in the quarter starting in July, recovery is underway globally. "India, too, is witnessing a sharp V-shaped recovery. India's manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI), at 52.2, has moved into expansionary zone in August for the first time since the lockdown, presenting much required recovery prospects for the manufacturing sector," the 33-page report said.

It added that V-shaped pattern of recovery is seen in the high-frequency indicators including auto sales, tractor sales, fertilizer sales, railway freight traffic, steel consumption and production, cement production, power consumption, e-way bills, GST revenue collection, daily toll collections on highways, retail financial transactions, manufacturing PMI, performance of core industries, capital inflows and exports. The DEA which comes under the Ministry of Finance fur-

Uptick in mfg PMI, auto sales, e-way bills shows that the country is witnessing a recovery



ther said that on the back of robust FDI and FPI inflows and savings from tepid imports, forex reserves as on August 21, have risen to an all-time high of \$537.5 billion. These are capable of financing more than 13 months of imports, should the need arise from a surge in real sector activity, it added.

The domestic space is flushed with high systemic liquidity, as per the department. "A system flushed with liquidity is a system ready to absorb a surge in real sector activity which is reflected in the 10-year benchmark bond yields declining from 6.55 per cent at end-April to 6.12 per cent at end-August, and narrowing of spread in yields of 3-year AAA rated corporate bonds and equivalent government securities from 246 basis points in end-April to 55 basis points in end-August," it said.

Silver Lake may invest \$1 bn in Reliance Retail

New Delhi: US private equity firm Silver Lake Partners is said to be in talks to invest \$1 billion in the retail arm of Reliance Industries at a valuation of roughly \$57 billion.

Financial Times reported that the company is looking to sell about 10 per cent of Reliance Retail. "Silver Lake is in talks to invest about \$1 billion in Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail," it said, citing sources. Reliance and Silver Lake did not immediately respond to e-mails sent for comments. After monetising Jio Platforms - which

houses the firm's telecom arm and digital ventures, richest Indian Mukesh Ambani is looking to rope in investors in the retail business. Last week, Reliance acquired the retail and logistics businesses of Future Group for Rs 24,713 crore to boost its retail vertical. Silver Lake was the first US private equity firm to invest in Jio after tech giant Facebook took a 9.99 per cent stake in the company for Rs 43,573.62 crore. Silver Lake bought 2.08 per cent in Jio in two tranches for a total of Rs 10,202.55 crore.

NI-MSME free online training from Sept 14

Hyderabad: National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), an organization of Union Ministry of MSMEs, is organizing free online skill training programmes from September 14, 2020, onwards on first-come-first-serve basis. Union Ministry of MSME is sponsoring the training programmes under ATI scheme. "The Entrepreneurship and Skill Development (ESDPs) programmes are being organized regularly to nurture the talent of



youth by enlightening them on various aspects of industrial/business activity required for setting up MSMEs. These programmes are conducted for youth and other people interested to set up their own industrial/self-employment venture. Such activities are also or-

ganized for students from ITIs, Polytechnics and other technical institutions/ business schools, where skill/ talent is available to motivate them towards self-employment," said ni-msme in a release. Participants with the age of 18 years or above with the required minimum qualifications, and who are interested to set up their own industrial/business/self-employment venture, can apply and register online at www.nimsme.org

Facebook rolls out Instagram Reels

New Delhi: As millions of Indians scout for new platforms to unleash their creativity in absence of Chinese TikTok, Facebook on Friday launched its short video making app Instagram Reels in India. The Reels Tab is a new tab in the navigation bar which will replace the Explore tab in Instagram. With Reels, one can record and edit 15-second multi-clip videos with audio, effects and new creative tools.

REAL CORNER

Lower interest rates will push house sales: Icra

With preference for completed inventory continuing, the lower home loan rates may push the houses sales in the days to come, observes rating agency Icra, which favoured the developers having higher proportion of such projects. However, ICRA expects the overall sales volume for completed and under-construction inventory to reduce by 40-60 per cent on account of Covid-19 during FY21.

"Further, the steep reduction in home loan rates may aid housing demand to some extent, with home loan interest rates having dropped below 8 per cent for the first time in 15 years. Committed receivables from already booked sales have also been impacted, given that some milestone-based payments have been deferred due to stoppage of construction activities earlier,"

According to ICRA, the overall demand risks for the sector have



increased, which is also reflected by a decline in new sales and the associated collections in Q1FY2021. ICRA noted that projects catering to the self-funded segment have witnessed a more significant disruption in collections as compared to the home loan funded segment, as banks continue to make payments to developers.

However, higher-rated clients have maintained considerable liquidity buffers, which can be used to meet project costs and debt obligations. ICRA also notes that "many companies have availed moratorium to bring down debt

repayments, which coupled with automatic reduction in collection-linked prepayments, has provided some relief to the developers."

Consequently, in FY2021, ICRA expects collections from customers to decline by around 35-40 per cent. "Project execution has also got hampered, with reduced labour force presence and raw material supply chain disruptions attributable to continuing localised lock-downs on non-essential services. ICRA expects the spend on ongoing projects to reduce by around 30 per cent in FY21 on actions of the pandemic," the statement said. "Notably, Covid has been classified as a force-majeure event under RERA, and therefore, deemed extensions of 6-9 months on project execution timelines have been granted by many states. New launches, which were already on a declining trend given the increased focus on deliveries, are likely to get further deferred."

Time to cut registration fees to boost realty: TS developers

Say reduction in stamp duty on lines of Maharashtra will spur property sales in Telangana

P MADHUSUDHAN REDDY

With the Maharashtra government reducing stamp duty on property registrations, real estate developers in Telangana are also seeking cut in property registration charges including stamp duty and other steps to support the real estate sector battered by the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

"We have already submitted a memorandum to the State government requesting for a 50 per cent cut in property registration charges. Hopefully, it will heed to our request and reduce property registration cost as such move will greatly boost real estate sentiment and spur sales, thus providing much-needed relief to the real estate sector in Telangana," B Sunil Chandra Reddy, Secretary General, Telangana Real Estate Developers' Association (Treda), told The Hans India.

Last week, the Maharashtra government had effected two-way cut in stamp duty on property registrations to put its ailing real estate sector back on growth track. Accordingly, the stamp duty on property registrations has been reduced by three per cent till December 31, 2020, and by two per cent from January to March 2021. Before the cut,



In Telangana, the Registration & Stamps Department collects 6% of property value as charges for registration. These charges include stamp duty, transfer duty and registration fee

stamp duty charges were five per cent in major cities such as Mumbai and Pune, while six per cent in others. The move is expected to revive demand for properties in Mumbai, the country's biggest real estate market, and other parts of Maharashtra.

In Telangana, the Registration & Stamps Department collects a six per cent of property value as charges for registration. These charges include stamp duty, transfer duty and registration fee. Additionally, there is also a user charge, though it is a small amount.

"Construction activity has picked up and inched toward 50 per cent of pre-Covid level as labourers have started coming back. But sales have not yet

picked up on expected lines. A reduction in property registration fees will provide a much needed booster shot to the sector during these critical times," said Gummi Ram Reddy, Chairman, Credai Telangana.

Reddy pointed out that interest rates on home loans are at a historic low now. "Therefore, a 50 per cent cut in registration fees will give a further boost to the sector and encourage more people to buy properties, especially residential units," he added. We made a request to the State government in this regard. We are hopeful that some positive decision will come out soon, Reddy said.

The Credai Telangana Chairman explained that total income

from property registrations would not go down even if the charges were brought down. "We are aware of the fact that the State government is not in a strong position financially. But lowering registration charges will not cause any dent to its revenues. If registration charges are cut, the number of registrations will definitely go up, thereby pushing up the income."

Besides seeking cut in registration fees, developers are asking for reduction in GST on properties. In its representation to the Telangana government, Treda sought 50 per cent reduction in GST on properties during the current financial year to help real estate sector tide over Covid crisis.

'Revamp SRA, labour laws to spur realty'

Real estate developers' apex body Naredco's National President Niranjan Hiranandani on Friday said there was a need to completely revamp the existing Slum Rehabilitation Policy (SRA) if the government expects developers to take up large developments projects.

"Further, for India to become Aatmanirbhar and to achieve the Make in India target, the government will have to focus on strengthening its labour

laws," Hiranandani noted.

Speaking at a virtual meet organised by the Builders' Association of India (BAI), Hiranandani said that unless and until the government gives direct and indirect fillip to the construction, infrastructure and real estate sectors, India will not be able to achieve its target of USD 5 trillion economy. He said scrapping of the bids for the Asia's largest slum redevelopment project at Dharavi will further postpone devel-



opment of the project. The slum policy was framed some 18-20 years ago and the concept was to complete the rehabilitation in 5-10 years.

Students in two minds over new bucket system

TSCHE has introduced a new choice-based credit system from the present academic year to help students select an elective of their choice

VRC PHANIHARAN

Hyderabad: Will the new changes brought in offering different courses at the undergraduate level give any real choice to students to study what they like and interests them?

State universities and the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) claim that this time they have come up with a real Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) for students, which they rechristened as Bucket of Courses System (BCS).

According to TSCHE officials, the students would be given a choice to select their favourite subjects that are listed in the proposed subject buckets. Unlike earlier where

the students were forced to study particular subjects in the courses offered in the degree colleges under BA, BSc and others, this time, with the help of bucket system, a student can select his

choice of subjects offered in the subject buckets.

Students can even select a subject though it is not available in the college where he or she gets

admission and can learn the same from an online source such as Swayam or the State's own virtual classroom being set up for the purpose.

Speaking to The Hans India, a senior

Students can even select a subject though it is not available in the college where he or she gets admission and can learn the same from an online source such as Swayam or the State's own virtual classroom being set up for the purpose

official from the Directorate of Collegiate Education said, "Under each degree course there will be four subject buckets where the students are allowed to take one subject each from four subject buckets."

The issue now concerns the

students is that they cannot opt for two or more subjects from a single subject bucket. That is if a student intends to study mathematics, statistics, physics and computer applications, he has to choose the mandatory mathematics and statistics. He cannot choose physics and computer applications, if they both are placed in a single bucket. Either he has to choose physics or computer applications.

This arrangement by the TSCHE needs to be addressed immediately, feel many of the students as the present bucket system will not serve the intended purpose if various subjects are placed in one bucket and they are given a choice to select only one subject from the subject bucket.



ACB charge sheets ex-IMS Director, 8 others

Devika Rani along with other accused has swindled Rs 6.5 crore government money

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The sleuths of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday night charge sheeted the ex-IMS (Insurance Medical Services) Director Devika Rani and eight others after registering a case against them for allegedly swindling Rs 6.50 crore of the government money.

The others named in the charge sheet were Dr Kalakunta Padma (former joint director of IMS), Dr Kurapati Vasantha Indra (former Assistant Director of IMS), Srihari Babu alias Babji, Banti Venkateshwarlu and Cherukuri Nagaraju (of Omni Medi), Kancharla Sujata (of Omni Healthcare), Kukkala Krupasagar Reddy (Legend Enterprises) and Tankasala Venkatesh (Regional Manager of Hemocue).

The accused Srihari Babu alias Babji, proprietor of Omni Medi, established shell companies and indulged in circular trading. He submitted false authorisation letters as an authorised distributor of Hemocue HB Cuvettes, manu-

factured by Hemocue AB Sweden company and procured a purchase order from Devika Rani through his shell company, Legend Enterprises, in 2017-18. Apart from it, the accused was also involved in circular trading with the firms established by him, his wife and a co-conspirator K Krupasagar Reddy, informed the ACB officials.

Srihari Babu took control of officials of Directorate of IMS either by bribing or threatening them and most of the times he used his personal influence to get the works done. After getting the required approvals, the accused through his shell company supplied the HB Cuvettes to the IMS Director for Rs 16,500 per unit by charging an excess amount of Rs 11,700 per unit, where the distributors got it for Rs 3,300 per unit and supplied the same for Rs 4,800 per unit.

In such a way, he made crores of illegal money, informed the ACB that registered cases against all the accused under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and relevant sections of Indian Penal Code.

► **Kisan Congress questions government's silence over ryots' issues**

► **Demands Rs 30,000 per acre aid to farmers who lost their crops to recent rains**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The State committee of Kisan Congress demanded the government to ensure cases are booked against the companies and persons involved in selling spurious seeds to farmers.

During a meeting held with committee's district presidents in Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Kisan Congress State committee president S Anvesh Reddy demanded the government to assess the damage caused by the recent heavy rains in the State besides issues including lack of vigilance in marketing of spurious seeds and government support to farmers produce.

Addressing the media later, he questioned the government's silence over several issues pertaining

to farmers and added that the farmers who bought spurious seeds faced loss in across 42,000 acres in the State.

"We remind Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao of his promise to book spurious seed sellers under Preventive Detention Act. Even though several cases had come to light two months ago, nothing has been done against the fraudsters. Is there a nexus between officials and spurious seed sellers?" he

questioned.

During the meeting, the district presidents of Kisan Congress informed that due to heavy rains some 4 lakh acres of crop, including cotton, paddy, black gram and green gram were damaged. About 50 per cent of total cotton crop and paddy in 50,000 acres went down the drain. "Despite huge damage, none of the public representatives visited the farmers to enquire about their concerns," he lamented.



Kisan Congress State committee president S Anvesh Reddy speaking at a meeting with committee's district presidents in Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday

Deceased doc's kids get ₹ 25 lakh aid

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana Government Doctors Association has mobilised Rs 46 lakh from government doctors working in various wings of the health department and from the members of Indian Medical Association, to help the family of Bhadradi-Kothagudem Deputy District Medical and Health Officer Dr Naresh Kumar, who died due to Covid recently. An amount of Rs 25 lakh was fixed on the name of the two young daughters of the doctor and the bank documents were handed over to them on Friday. Associate Professor at Niloufer Hospital Dr B Narahari said Rs 21 lakh would be given to the affected family.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad: On Friday, the High Court Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijaysen Reddy heard a batch of 10 public interest litigations (PILs) seeking to implement the fundamental right of children to free and compulsory education.

Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan expressed deep dissatisfaction over the delay in solving the issue. Justice Bollam Vijaysen Reddy pointed out that the court wanted to know when this Article 21a would be implemented, or whether it would be implemented at all in his lifetime or

not. "It seems even during our grandchildren's time also, this will not come into force," Justice Bollam opined.

Chief Justice Chauhan pointed out that the children could not be deprived of the Fundamental Right to Education and wondered why the Central government was not releasing its share. "The court has already directed the Central and the State governments to resolve this difficulty of sharing of the burden. And the Central government promised that they would resolve this with the State government. After that, we did not hear anything from the Central government," CJ said.

Special GP Andavalli Sanjeev

Kumar and Assistant Solicitor General Namavarapu Rajeshwar Rao sought time to file the counter affidavit. Counsel for one of the petitioners Manasa informed the court that last time also the court had given direction to Special GP and ASG, as the last chance to file the counter-affidavits. Moreover, The court had recorded the statement, again the State and Central government counsels were seeking time to file the counter, she alleged.

Chief Justice Chauhan directed the Special GP to file the counter by Monday, and ASG to inform the Central government to resolve the matter and file the counter by September 17. The matter has been adjourned till September 18.

HC on erring pvt hospitals

The Chief Justice pointed out that the State government should look into the lapses of the private hospitals. "I am sorry to say that the State is simply not moving against the private hospitals."

The High Court Chief Justice Bench on Friday heard a batch of 20 PILs seeking to prevent or deal with the Covid-19 pandemic in the State and further, to regulate the private hospitals and private diagnostic centres treating the Covid-19 patients.

Even on the last occasion, though the State's Minister of Health had given a public statement that 50 per cent of the beds in the private hos-

pitals will be taken over for the treatment of poor people at large, the assurance is yet to be implemented. "Why the false assurance is given, if no concrete steps are going to be taken?" CJ added.

Dr Srinivasa Rao, Director of Public Health, submitted a report informing the court that the government is implementing all the directions of the court.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is directed to enquire into the overcharging by private hospitals functioning in Hyderabad, Secunderabad and RR district and to submit its report to the High Court and as well as to the Director of Public Health, Hyderabad.

Applications open for UK scholarships

Aspiring candidates from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can apply for the UK government's Chevening Scholarship and Fellowship programmes for 2021-22

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The British Deputy High Commission, Hyderabad, on Friday invited aspiring candidates from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to apply for the UK government's Chevening Scholarship and Fellowship programmes for 2021-22.

A press communiqué issued by the High Commission said aspiring scholars can apply for one-year Master's under the scholarship programme by November 3, 2020 and for the short-term thematic Fellowship programmes by October 19, this year.

The Chevening Scholarships offer full financial support for one year to candidates applying for a Master's degree at any UK university – covering nearly 12,000 courses from more than 150 universities.

The Fellowships offer professional development and networking opportunities for mid-career professionals to pursue an 8-12 week course in journalism, science and innovation, or cybersecurity.

Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, said, "Chevening offers an incredible opportunity for exceptional Indian leaders to study in the UK, fully funded by the British government. This programme is designed to help leaders deliver positive change in their areas of expertise and to strengthen the UK-India Living Bridge, helping us to share the best of what our two countries have to offer."

Adding, "I encourage ambitious young leaders and experienced mid-career professionals from the two Telugu speaking States to utilise this opportunity to access world-class learning and global exposure."

India is home to the largest Chevening programme in the world. Alumni of the programme include Piyush Goyal and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Cabinet Ministers), Rahul Kanwal (journalist), Jayesh Ranjan (Indian Administrative Services), Samir Saran (Observer Research Foundation), and Harish Bhat (Tata Sons) and many more.

Aspirants interested to apply for the scholarships and fellowships can find further details by visiting the website at <https://www.chevening.org/scholarship/india/>, the communiqué said.

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‘Pakistan hockey team cheered for India during 1962 Asian Games football final’

New Delhi (IANS): Former India football team defender ArunGhosh has revealed that the Pakistan hockey team had cheered for India to win the gold medal at the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta.

“I still feel goose bumps when I go back to that evening of 4th September 1962. The Senayan Main Stadium in Jakarta was jam-packed with a partisan 1,00,000-strong Indonesian crowd cheering for Korea Republic at the top of their voice,” Ghosh told the aiff.com on the 58th anniversary of winning the gold medal.

“But we had our support too. Any guesses? Strange as it may sound, the Pakistan hockey team

cheered for us. Unbelievable, but “The hostile atmosphere made us more determined as the match moved ahead. Pradip-da (Pradip Kumar Banerjee) gave us the lead before Jarnail (Singh) doubled it three minutes later. Jarnail had stitches on his forehead and was, hence, played as a centre forward (striker) in the match.”

India beat South Korea 2-1 in the gold medal match. PK Banerjee and Jarnail Singh scored India’s goals.

“There was pin-drop silence at the stadium when we went 2-0 up. Though Korea Republic scored a late goal, goalkeeper Peter (Thangaraj) saw off the danger till

the end. The animosity against the Indian continent was so high that no one came to congratulate us even after the match. But, what a night it was for Indian football!”

“In the second match of the group stage, we faced a massive setback as Jarnail Singh had to be stretched off. Following a collision, he started bleeding profusely and received ten stitches.

“The substitution rule was yet to be introduced in football then, and hence, we had to play one-man down for most of the match. The terrific trio of Chuni-PK-Balaram was on target and we edged past Thailand by a whopping 4-1 margin,” Ghosh narrated.

“Rahim-saab (Syed Rahim, coach) knew his players like the back of his hand. He knew how to bring the best out of a certain player. After Jarnail got injured, he switched me from right-back to centre-back (central defender) and I lived up to his expectations.

“Since then, I have always played as a centre-back for the Blue Tigers till I hung my boots.

“His other masterstroke was to bring a heavily bandaged Jarnail Singh back against South Vietnam in the semi-final. But not as a defender, rather as a centre-forward. Everyone got stunned but Jarnail scored in back-to-back games,” he added.



BCCI paid ₹46.89 crore to its affiliates, clients in July

New Delhi (IANS): Even as the world economy struggles amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian cricket board distributed Rs.46.89 crore amongst its affiliates and clients, besides paying Income Tax/GST, in July, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced on its website.

This is part of the regular announcement of payments of over Rs 25 lakh made every month for transparency’s sake. In July, the biggest beneficiary is the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA), which has received Rs.16.20 crore as “ad hoc advance” against the amount due to the body. It is just a coincidence that the HPCA is the home state of the BCCI treasurer ArunDhumal.

The second biggest chunk went to Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA), which received Rs.10.80 crore as “ad hoc advance” that it is entitled to.



The BCCI has shared the details of the payments made on its website, BCCI.tv. “Details for payments made above Rs.25 lakh during the month of July 2020. On July 1, the Tahsildar, MylaporeTaluk was given Rs.3 crore as advance against amount due (direct payment to vendor - lease

rent for the period 20.04.20 to 19.04.21). The same day the BCCI paid Rs.54 lakh as GST (for Tamil Nadu Cricket Association advance against amount due - direct payment to vendor - lease rent for the period 20.04.20 to 19.04.21).

On July 4, Odisha Cricket As-

sociation was given Rs 2.7 crore as ad hoc advance against amount due to it. On the same day, the BCCI paid Rs.3.52 crore as Income Tax (BCCI Statutory Liability - TDS Payment for the month of June 2020).

On July 15, the BCCI paid another Rs.41.16 lakh as GST (Statutory Payment- GST Payment of Maharashtra state for the month of June 2020).

The BCCI transferred Rs.16.20 crore to the HPCA and Rs.10.80 crore on July 22.

On July 30, three associations – Arunachal, Mizoram, and Sikkim -- received Rs.3.24 crore each as adhoc advance against amount due to these.

No national or international cricket has been played in India since the pandemic reared its head early this year. It is learnt that many associations have asked for financial help from the Indian cricket board recently following the lockdown.

PCB announces 208-match 2020-21 domestic schedule

Lahore (IANS): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday unveiled the 2020-21 domestic events calendar which it said will provide “maximum opportunities for the best domestic performers to display their talent and stake their claim in the franchise and national sides”.

The PCB has decided to hold First XI matches of the National T20 Cup and Pakistan Cup One-Day Tournament, and National U19 One-Day Tournament on a double-league basis. “This will guarantee each side a minimum of 10 league matches in the three white-ball competitions before the top four sides in the senior events will progress to the semi-finals, followed by the final, and the top two sides in the juniors’ event progressing to the final,” stated a PCB media release.

The National T20 Cup will be the curtain raiser for the season, with matches being held in Multan and Rawalpindi from September 30 to October 18, while the National U19 One-Day Tournament will be played in Lahore, Muridke and Sheikhupura from October 13 to November 2.

US OPEN

‘Lots to learn’: Nagal suffers crushing defeat to Thiem

Washington (IANS): Indian tennis star SumitNagal bowed out of the ongoing US Open after suffering a straight-sets defeat to world number three Dominic Thiem in their second-round contest.

Thiem, who was celebrating his 27th birthday on Thursday, comprehensively defeated Nagal 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 in two hours in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The 23-year-old Indian threatened early in the first set, levelling the scoreline after being down 0-3. It brought back memories of when he stole the opening set against Swiss legend Roger Federer in the first round contest during his US Open debut last year. But the second-seeded Austrian put his foot on the gas pedal to reel off the next three games, taking the set and denying Nagal a chance to recreate that 2019 scenario.

Thiem’s dominance continued as he broke Nagal at love to end the second set, and the Austrian’s momentum never slowed the rest of the way. Nagal fought through to the very end, but a



volley that sailed long handed Thiem the victory.

“Thank you 2020 US Open. Lots to learn. Going to keep working hard! Thanks for all the support everyone,” said Nagal in a tweet after the defeat.

During the course of the match, Thiem converted on 6 of 14 breakpoint chances and finished with 30 winners while Nagal fired 12 winners and committed 38 unforced errors.

“I think it’s going in the right direction,” Thiem said after the match. “It’s difficult to say where I stand, I’ve been playing a lot of exhibition matches while we were away, but it’s not the same as here, where it’s more serious. I would like to get back to where I was before we stopped playing.”

Buttler to open for England in Aus T20Is, confirms Morgan

Southampton (IANS): England captain Eoin Morgan has said Jos Buttler will continue to open the batting in the T20I series against Australia.

“Yes, he will (open), with Jonny (Bairdow),” Morgan confirmed as quoted by Sky Sports ahead of the opening T20I on Friday.

“Like I’ve said before, we will continue with this until we feel the need that it’s not working.

“We feel that Jason (Roy), Jonny and Jos are three of our greatest-ever white-ball players - unbelievable strikers of the ball, batsmen you do not want to bowl against - so if one out of the three of them gets going past the first six overs of the powerplay and into the middle overs, it puts us in a really strong position for the last 14.”

“We always pose the question of, ‘how do we get the best out of all our players?’, and when you talk about those three guys specifically, it’s more obvious



with Jonny and Jason batting at the top of the order.

“But, trying to get the best out of Jos, at the moment we feel the more balls he faces, the more influence he can have on the game.

“If it gets to fine-tuning things down the line and that hasn’t necessarily worked out, we can always fall back on Jos in the middle order,” he added.

The England captain further said Aussies will have a slight edge over them as the No. 1 T20

side have the firepower to beat the 50-over World champions.

England are not quite a full strength, with Jason Roy injured and Ben Stokes still unavailable for family reasons as his father battles brain cancer.

“Probably Australia,” he said when asked which team holds the edge. “They have their strongest squad here, so will probably be putting out their best XI. So, if you’re to go on that, I’d say they’re just favourites.

“For the first time this summer we are seeing the majority of our best team on the park and that’s great.

“Bar injury and absent players, which is only a couple, we are at full strength and that is a nice place to be every now and then.

“We don’t have to pick our best XI every series that we play because we can’t put all our eggs in one basket. We need 16 or 17 players in the lead up to World Cup selection all vying for selection in the best 15,” he added.



Don't want to see Messi in Premier League: Robertson

London (IANS): Liverpool left-back Andy Robertson has said he is not keen on seeing Lionel Messi arrive in the Premier League.

Messi told FC Barcelona last week he wanted to leave and the two parties are in dispute over the terms of his contract.

A meeting held between Jorge Messi and FC Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu to try and resolve the future of Lionel Messi ended without an agreement. The meeting, held late on Wednesday night, finally took place at the end of a day in which Messi’s father -- also considered to be his representative -- replaced his son as the focus of attention after flying to Barcelona in the early hours of the morning.

IPL 13 Harbhajan pulls out of IPL due to personal reasons

Chennai (IANS): Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has pulled out of this year’s Indian Premier League (IPL) due to personal reasons.

“Dear Friends, I will not be playing IPL this year due to personal reasons. These are difficult times and I would expect some privacy as I spend time with my family. @ChennaiIPL.CSK management has been extremely supportive and I wish them a great IPL Stay safe and Jai Hind,” Harbhajan said in a tweet. The 40-year-old spinner has been a part of the CSK over the past two years. Harbhajan is one of the most successful bowlers in the history of IPL with 150 wickets. Earlier, CSK all-rounder Suresh Raina had also opted out citing personal reasons.

The IPL starts on September 19 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). CSK, meanwhile, were scheduled to start training from Friday after all their players, except the two infected with coron-



avirus, tested negative for Covid-19 in their latest round of testing.

Sources in the know of development confirmed to IANS that all players and support staff, who underwent their third round of testing on Thursday, have returned negative and would start training from Friday evening. Last week, two players and 11 other members of the CSK contingent had tested positive for the novel coronavirus and were subsequently put in isolation.

Sunrisers Hyderabad rope in Valvoline as principal sponsor

New Delhi (IANS): Valvoline Cummins Private Limited, a leading manufacturer and supplier of premium branded lubricants, has announced its association with Sunrisers Hyderabad as its principal sponsor in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) slated to begin from September 19 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The 2016 IPL champions will be seen sporting Valvoline’s logo on their jersey. In addition, the Valvoline brand, along with the Sunrisers Hyderabad, will be launching campaigns to promote their partnership by rolling out joint initiatives across multiple media platform to engage with consumers and fans of the Hyderabad-based franchise across India.

Olympics deferment means reset button for hockey players: Coach Reid

New Delhi (IANS): Patience is the key word as India’s hockey stars look to get back into the groove amid the restrictions that are in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to men’s national team coach Graham Reid. With the Olympics postponed to next year and no international commitments planned for this year, Reid’s description of the ongoing national camp gives the impression of it being a rebuilding project.

The players have not played top level international hockey since February and training has been all but non-existent since mid-March. Reid, however, prefers to look at the positive side of the situation.

“The good part about the start of the national camp is that the Olympics is to played within 11 months. What this has done is push a reset button for everyone in the squad. For guys who didn’t

have the opportunities that others had, it gives them a chance as well. That was made pretty clear to everybody and that in itself is a good motivation factor,” Reid told IANS from the Sports Authority of India’s (SAI) southern centre near Bengaluru, where the camp is on.

“One train of thought is that if a player has been away from the top level for three months then it is going to take them three months to get back. So, going by that timeline, I am thinking another three months to get back to where they were.”

The men’s team was in good space before the start of the lockdown. India had made an impressive start to their FIH Pro League campaign and the players’ respective form seemed to be on the up as the 2020 Tokyo Olympics approached. “Those two weeks of March was actually really good.



The Olympics were still on, we were able to train where other teams were not,” said Reid.

Eventually, however, the Olympics, originally set to start on July 24 this year, got postponed to July 23, 2021, and the country went into a lockdown as the pan-

demical raged on across the world. Sports calendars were rejigged and the athletes, including hockey players, in Bengaluru were suddenly confined to the centre with no sporting activities possible.

The hockey players were eventually allowed to go home in mid-

June and they returned in early August. Reid said that he has since tried to get the players to focus on the Olympics itself and work towards getting themselves back to their peak levels of performance with the Games in view.

“It is a little difficult and different. We were hoping that there might be a trip to Holland after this camp but as the time gets closer it is looking less and less likely,” said Reid.

“At the end of the day I have really been trying to get them (players) to zoom out and focus on the Olympics. That’s why we are all here and we do what we do. I am trying to get them to zoom out and get ourselves back to a level where we can compete again which is a long, slow process.”

Full fledged training is not yet a possibility according to SAI’s Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

and Reid said that the team is currently taking a “conservative” approach to returning to their peak performance levels. Six players had tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival at the camp and Reid said that they had to start later than the others because of the extra time they had to spend in quarantine.

“We are in the third week now of sporting activities and taking a very conservative approach. It is quite a difficult process because we have different groups of players and so it is difficult to ensure that they are all pushing at a good pace. We had six guys who tested positive and so they are not quite back into normal sporting activities at the moment. They are doing some low tempo activities. Patience is something that we need in this situation.”

Reid said that at some point, he

would like to get internal matches going, which according to him will be crucial in the team’s preparation for the Olympics next year amid the uncertainty around the hockey calendar.

“When I was coaching Australia we had to go to the World Cup (in 2014) with very little competition. And therefore, the internal games that we had took on a very different meaning and we were able to create that level of competitions that perhaps the internationals would give you,” he said.

Reid and his wife have been at the centre for about six months now, having chosen not to go to their home in Australia during the lockdown. “My wife has a job in an online maths textbook company so she had to take to keep her busy. Bengaluru is a beautiful place to live, never gets cold and hardly ever gets too hot,” he said.

