





# Womenia

## THE MAGIC OF CORIANDER IN SKINCARE

Coriander, the magical herb that changes the flavour of your dish is known for lowering cholesterol, treating the digestive system, increase in haemoglobin levels and curing eczema.



Shahnaz Husain

The antiseptic and carminative properties of green leaves you sprinkle on vegetables and salad is also the secret of glowing skin since it reduces acidity which helps to get rid of various skin eruptions. Chewing fresh coriander leaves prevents anaemia which causes dull and dry skin.

Coriander is rich in Vitamin C, beta-carotene and antioxidants and its fresh aroma instantly rejuvenates both mind and body which makes skin soft, smooth and radiant.

Coriander is one of the most common ingredients in Indian food. The leaves, the plant and seeds all have their uses. The paste of powder of the seeds is probably the most common spice after turmeric.

Ayurveda, the ancient herbal healing system of India, mentions the use of coriander in many prescriptions due to its potent healing properties.

Modern research has revealed that it does have powerful healing properties. For one thing, coriander contains powerful antioxidants, which prevent oxidation damage. This actually helps to delay the degeneration of the body. As far as beauty is concerned, preventing oxidation damage helps to delay the formation of visible ageing signs on the skin and keeps the skin youthful for a longer time.

Coriander also contains Vita-

min C, Vitamin K and some of the B-Vitamins, along with several minerals, like iron, magnesium, calcium, potassium and carotene. It also has antiseptic and germicidal properties, as well as anti-fungal and anti-inflammatory benefits.

It is easily available in every home in India and maybe easily used for skin benefits. Both coriander leaves and the seeds may be used in treatments.

In Ayurvedic treatments, a paste of coriander leaves is applied to the skin or scalp to alleviate itchiness and dryness. In fact, a paste of coriander seeds with a little water and one teaspoon of honey is said to relieve itching.

Due to its antiseptic, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties, coriander helps to control and cure acne conditions. Coriander leaves and lemongrass may be used together to control acne. Take one teaspoon each of coriander leaves and lemongrass. Add one cup of boiling water and let the herbs steep for an hour. Then blend the herbs to a paste and apply on the acne eruptions. Leave on for 20 minutes and wash off with plain water.

This plant has anti-fungal and anti-microbial properties which grant it the ability to treat acne, pimples, blackheads, and dry skin. The fresh juice of coriander leaves mixed with lemon juice helps to



control acne and blackheads. A paste of coriander leaves, mixed with paste of methi leaves helps in the treatment of blackheads. Apply on the areas with blackheads and wash off after 20 minutes.

Coriander leaves work wonders on acne and blackheads. Uses: Take 1 tsp of coriander paste along with 1 tsp of lime juice. Massage the mixture on the affected area and wash it with cold water after an hour. A Coriander Face Pack can brighten the skin and fade acne marks. You will need fresh tomatoes, coriander leaves and stems, as well as rose water. Blend these together into a smooth paste. You may apply this on the face like a pack if the consistency is alright. Or, add a little Fuller's Earth (mul-tani mitti) for a thicker consistency. Apply on the face and wash it off after 15 minutes.

Coriander is also said to remove tan. Make a face mask at home to reduce tan and also add a glow to

Coriander, a wonder herb that is primarily used as an ingredient for preparing dishes is the newest rockstar of the beauty regimen world. Be it acne or pigmentation, oily or dry skin, pimples or blackheads, coriander juice works like magic

the face. Take half cup oats, one-fourth cup yogurt, one-fourth cup chopped coriander leaves. Blend this till it is a smooth paste. Apply on the face, avoiding lips and area around eyes. Leave on for 20 minutes and wash off with water.

## A guide on skin toners

Toners also remove environmental toxins and chemical residues from your skin, revealing a brighter and healthier complexion

Facial toners have been around for many years, but don't get the appreciated accolades they deserve. There are many benefits to a skin toner if you use the appropriate and best toner for your face. Once you find the best one for you, you'll notice a refreshing difference in the tone and overall health of your skin. Alcohol free toner is best for sensitive skin, and all skin types as it helps rejuvenate your skin without over-drying.

Regular use of toner can really change your skin for the better. If you are thinking of including toner in your skin care routine, here is a list of proven benefits to motivate you further.

**Toner restores the pH balance of your skin**

Ever felt your skin dry out after cleansing? Some cleansers are harsh on the skin. They contain ingredients that disrupt the natural pH balance of the skin, making it more prone to bacterial infection, inflammation or dryness. Skin's optimal pH is 5.5. When you use toner on your face regularly, the optimum pH level (acid mantle) is maintained which acts a barrier to germs and bacteria while keeping the skin moisturised and healthy.

**Toner tightens up the pores of your skin**

More dirt and oil enters the skin when the pores are large. These impurities makes the skin more prone to acne and infections. Regular use of toner tightens the pores and shrinks their overall size. Hence, less oil and toxins settle in the skin creating a fresher and cleaner look. By toning, the skin becomes visibly smoother,



and it becomes harder for the debris to penetrate it.

**Toner helps in preventing skin breakouts**

When sweat, oil, and dirt become clogged in the pores, it results in skin breakouts. Oily skin is more prone to acne and pimples for this reason. Toners are helpful in treating this situation. By removing oil buildup, residue, and dead skin cells, facial toners control acne and other skin breakouts.

**Toner hydrates and nourishes the skin**

There is a reason why toning is done right after cleansing and just before moisturizing. The hydrating ingredients present in the toner prep the skin to absorb the moisture better. The skin is usually tight and dry right after cleansing. Moist skin can better absorb topical products than dry skin. Hence, toning ensures that your favorite moisturizer can nourish your skin deeply.

**Toner helps in complete cleansing**

Even after cleansing, some of the impurities remain on the skin. This might be the residual makeup or some of the oil content left behind by the cleansers. An essential purpose of a toner is to get rid of them and to clean the pores from within. Toners also remove environmental toxins and chemical residues from your skin, revealing a brighter and healthier complexion.

**When to Use Toner?**

The short answer to this question is it goes after cleansing. A toner is used as the second part of the cleansing process, preferably once in the morning and once at night.

Now that you know the many benefits of using a toner let's move on to understanding how to use toner and when to use it. Here are the steps that you need to follow to tone your skin well.

**Step 1**

Wash your face with a mild natural cleanser. Gently massage the cleanser on your face to get rid of makeup and dirt.

**Step 2**

Pour some toner on a cotton pad or cotton ball until it feels damp but not overly soaked. Gently wipe it on your face and neck to remove the remaining impurities. Alternatively, you can even spray the toner on your face for a refreshing feeling and an extra dose of hydration.

**Step 3**

After using the toner, your skin is ready to absorb skin care products. You can now apply your moisturizer or your skin treatment products.

While this is the most basic way to use the toner, it can also be used in combination with face packs and masks to help them penetrate deeper into the skin and get the best results. Toning is also an essential part of cleaning the face and used in facial clean-ups.

## GOLDEN RULES FOR HAIRCARE

Spending too much on expensive shampoos, but not getting the desired results that you see in TV ads? It is mostly possible and very common, because we see overly exaggerated results on TV, since these ads are designed to attract customers.

But reality speaks a different story, if there simply isn't time in your ever-increasing list of things to do, and if you'd rather prefer that extra 20 minutes in bed over waiting for the keratin-rich hair mask

to work its magic, here are few hair-care tips that you need to keep in mind.

**Rethink the way you wash your hair**

Over-washing can be damaging for your hair, especially if it is bleached, coloured, has been chemically treated or is naturally very dry or porous. When you wash your hair every day it strips away the natural oils and proteins that you need to keep your hair and scalp healthy, so try to limit hair washing to three

times a week if you can **Always use protection**

Hair can be damaged by both UV and heated tools, like straighteners, tongs and even your trusty hairdryer, so it's important to give your hair as much protection as possible. When you dry your hair at home always use a heat protector. When drying, be sure not to hold the hair dryer too close to your lengths, to prevent split, fluffy ends. "As a test, blow the hairdryer onto your hand and see how fast you pull

away when holding it close to your skin."

**Become a blow-dry pro**

A good blow-dry should last at least a couple of days depending on your hair type, and there are several products that will help prolong the life of your style. You can also bypass hot tools by multitasking your hair style. Styling doesn't always have to involve a hot tool. If you give yourself a fierce blowout on Monday, rock it out on Tuesday and on Wednesday do a fab high ponytail.

Making your style last a few days will really help prevent damage. The perfect at-home blow-out is not as tricky as it sounds and if you invest in a few good tools it'll make it even easier.

**Remember the good tools rule**

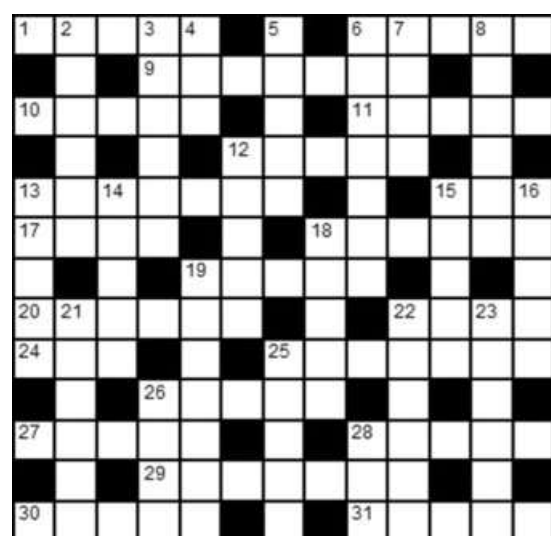
Think of your hair like your skin - what you put on it will affect it. Investing in good quality products and tools will keep hair looking and feeling healthy and strong. People are cheap with what they use on hair but wouldn't dream of treating

their cashmere jumper in that way.

At home, you should have a round brush for blow-drying. Good brushes are worth investing in and although might have a heftier price tag than others, if they're looked after they will last forever.

Keep your brushes clean and free of dead hair, oil and product buildup by washing them in a

mixture of baking soda and warm water once a month.



SOLUTION TO MARCH 11

### CROSSWORD

**Across**

- 1 Part of a main act ! (5)
- 6 Lucknow is the capital of this Pradesh (5)
- 9 Italian port (7)
- 10 Flying pests (5)
- 11 Blocks up or obstructs (5)
- 12 Jewel, trinket (5)
- 13 Water nymph (7)
- 15 Wager (3)
- 17 Musical solo (4)
- 18 Walked firmly (6)
- 19 Fabric (5)
- 20 Leg joints (6)
- 22 Dwell (4)
- 24 Negatives (3)
- 25 Shortfall (7)
- 26 Senior (5)
- 27 Indian language (5)
- 28 Reposes (5)
- 29 Isolated (7)
- 30 Maturing or growing old (5)
- 31 Many-headed monster (5)

**Down**

- 2 Over there (6)
- 3 Respiration disorder (6)
- 4 Used to be (3)
- 5 Noisome (5)
- 6 Oafish (7)
- 7 Soothing ointment \_\_\_\_\_ Balsam (4)
- 8 Contended, debated (6)
- 12 Posters (5)
- 13 Yucatan language (5)
- 14 Hazards (5)
- 15 Kind of acid (5)
- 16 Belief (5)
- 18 Guide vessel (5)
- 19 Upper limit (7)
- 21 Smelling (6)
- 22 Distinctive uniform (6)
- 23 Winner (6)
- 25 Show reluctance (5)
- 26 Norse deity (4)
- 28 Cheer (3)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO MARCH 11

## Payal Dev on using live instruments for 'Danka baja' in 'Mumbai Saga'

Singer-composer Payal Dev reveals she used live instruments to record her new composition "Danka baja" in the upcoming film "Mumbai Saga".

"Given the grand scale of 'Mumbai Saga', it was quite interesting to compose a festive song, something I have not done before for a movie. Initially I composed the hookline and we worked on the production. Once the track was ready, we reached out to (lyricist) Prashant Ingole and (singer) Dev Negi to record the song," said Payal.

The idea of using live instrument to record the song, as it was done in days of yore, helped because of the festive spirit of the song. "Music producer Aditya Dev made sure that we used live instruments that are usually used to create the Ganpati vibe and authenticity to the song to make it sound grand," Payal said.

She is looking forward to the release of "Mumbai Saga" in theatres.

"It's really great to have a movie releasing in theatres after almost a year and it will be my first song releasing in theatres post lockdown. I am really excited and looking forward to it," the singer-composer said. The Sanjay Gupta directorial gangster drama has an ensemble cast including John Abraham, Emraan Hashmi, Suniel Shetty, Jackie Shroff, Kajal Aggarwal, Prateik Babbar, Rohit Roy, Anjana Sukhani and Gulshan Grover. The film is set for a theatrical release on March 19.



NEWS ROUNDUP



# From Shamli protest in 1987 to Delhi borders now, Tikait’s legacy lives on

**KISHOR DWIVEDI & JATIN TAKKAR**  
Sisauli (UP)

AHEAD of a clarion call given by Mahendra Singh Tikait almost 34 years ago in April 1987 for farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh to protest against a proposed hike in power tariff, a ‘diya’ was lit at his home here as a good omen and a hookah was set in the evening as per the routine. The agitation outside a powerhouse in Shamli soon became over-three-lakh-farmers strong and established ‘Baba Tikait’ as the most powerful farm leader of the region.

The family ensured the ‘diya’ remained lit uninterrupted as Tikait went on to lead a lot many massive protests by farmers thereafter, including an unprecedented one at Delhi’s Boat Club that brought the national capital to a standstill in 1988 with over

five lakh farmers laying siege to the most central part of the national capital and made the Jat leader into an iconic figure known to bring any government to its knees with the sheer number of his supporters.

It’s been almost a decade since Tikait passed away, but his legacy continues and so does the ‘flame’ and now it is known as ‘Akhand Jyot’ (unbroken Flame). Also, the ‘hookah’ used by him is set every single evening in the room he used.

On the ground floor of a two-story house in Sisauli, a little over 100 km from Delhi, his room continues to be maintained every day by his family and a lot many of his close supporters, including those who had closely worked with him. It is this room where the ‘Akhand Jyot’ is placed in front of a picture of the legendary leader and it requires almost 1.25 kg of ghee



Family members of legendary farm leader Mahendra Singh Tikait pay him tribute at their residence in Sisauli village, Muzaffarnagar on Thursday. An ‘Akhand Jyot’ (unbroken flame) continues to burn in the room of legendary farmer leader at his home in Muzaffarnagar since 1987 when it was started ahead of a major protest to inspire farmers

every day to keep burning. The 10X12 ft room has a single bed with a single pillow, a chair made of cane, a hookah, a plastic chair and an electric room heater, while many metal and plastic canisters of ghee lay on one side.

“The bedsheet and the pillow cover are changed from time to time, while his ‘hookah’ is set every evening. All the day’s happenings are then stated here in this room by one of us,” Narendra Tikait, the youngest of the four sons of Tikait, told PTI.

“The ‘Akhand Jyot’ will continue forever,” he said. There are over a dozen cattle in the house

which produce enough milk to make ghee at the home itself and often people who visit the house to pay homage to Baba Tikait bring some ghee with them. The visitors are from across India but mostly from Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, he said.

“But we only take one spoon of ghee from them as a mark of respect to them as we make enough ghee at our home itself,” he added. A tradition has been set where the eldest person of the family present at the home on that particular evening would sit in the room for half an hour and update ‘Baba’ on the day’s developments relating to farmers.

“If there is any protest or movement or any major issue, we all sit here in this room and even if it’s been an ordinary day, then also it is a must for at least some of us to sit in the room to follow the tradition,” he said.

Many of Mahendra Singh’s

aides and old supporters also continue to flock to the courtyard of the house every single day, including 97-year-old Dariyau Singh, who are joined by locals to discuss anything and everything under the sun over a shared hookah as dusk sets in.]

These days, the main topic obviously relates to the longest-ever farmers’ protest being witnessed by the country on Delhi borders.

It is Tikait’s second of the four sons Rakesh Tikait who is leading the protest against the Centre at Ghazipur border in the national capital for over a hundred days now, while the eldest of the lot Nareish Tikait, president of Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) founded by their father, is canvassing across the region to keep adding to the count of protestors seeking the repeal of three contentious central farm laws.

Dariyau Singh, who once

served as BKU’s treasurer under Mahendra Tikait and is now a tad hard of hearing, exudes faith in the farmers’ capacity to fight the government’s decision. Wearing a benign smile on his face full of wrinkles, Singh points towards the source of inspiration and strength for the protests – ‘Akhand Jyot’. Thousands of farmers are camping at Delhi’s border points in Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur with a demand that the Centre repeal three farm laws that were enacted in September 2020 and make a new law guaranteeing minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

The farmers fear the new laws would destroy their livelihoods and leave them at the mercy of corporations. The government, which held 11 rounds of formal talks with protesting unions before the negotiations completely broke down, has maintained that the laws are pro-farmers. (PTI)

## FREE RAM TEMPLE VISIT FOR ELDERLY

# AAP slams BJP for opposing Delhi government scheme

**PURNA SINGH**  
NEW DELHI

THE Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday hit out at the BJP for reportedly opposing the Kejriwal government’s announcement that it will facilitate free pilgrimage to the Ram temple in Ayodhya for Delhi’s senior citizens, saying it is “beyond comprehension”.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal made the announcement in view of public sentiment. There was no immediate response from the BJP. Kejriwal announced the scheme on Wednesday while addressing the Delhi Assembly and asserted that his government follows principles inspired by the concept of ‘Ram Rajya’ to serve the people.

The AAP dispensation already has a ‘Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana’ that allows senior cit-



izens of Delhi to undertake a free pilgrimage. All expenses related to travel, food and accommodation are borne by the Delhi government.

Bhardwaj said, “the Kejriwal government wants to give free Ayodhya pilgrimage to the elderly people of Delhi and never expected that the BJP would op-

pose it.” “We used to think that at least some people in the BJP would praise the pilgrimage scheme but instead they have got upset with this announcement,” Bhardwaj told reporters. He said the BJP’s opposition to the Delhi government’s announcement is “beyond comprehension”.

The AAP spokesperson further

said, “Let us know if Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta has never taken his parents on a pilgrimage. The Delhi government will take care of their free pilgrimage.”

Without naming anyone, Bhardwaj said a Congress spokesperson is describing the pilgrimage scheme as “unrealistic dreams”, while many people from his assembly constituency have benefited from this scheme of the Delhi government.

“All senior citizens of Delhi consider CM Arvind Kejriwal the eldest son of their family and they are very happy with this announcement,” he claimed. Kejriwal’s announcement about the pilgrimage scheme came a day after the AAP government presented a Rs 69,000-crore budget themed on “patriotism” under which installation of 500 flag masts and programmes on the lives of freedom fighters are planned across the city. It also announced a “deshbhakti curriculum”.

# Plea in SC seeks guidelines to compensate victims

NEW DELHI

A PLEA has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking direction to the Centre to frame guidelines to compensate victims, subjected to wrongful prosecutions, and implement the recommendations of the Law Commission’s report number 277, dealing with the issue. The plea, filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, contended that there are many startling cases which show the gross abuse of power and authority by the state and vexatious complainants, which caused absolute “miscarriage of justice”.

Arguing that failure of justice causes irreparable damage to right to life, liberty and dignity of innocent citizens and no relief is given by the courts, the petitioner said being the custodian of the Constitution, the Supreme Court may use its plenary constitutional power, as an alternative, to frame guidelines for compensation to victims of wrongful prosecution.

Citing the cause of action for the PIL, the plea said: “The Allahabad High Court acquitted Vishnu Tiwari, who spent 20 years in jail on rape charges with no compensation awarded, ignor-

## WRONGFUL PROSECUTION



ing even the public law remedy which shows the necessity of effective compensation and legal mechanism for malicious prosecutions and wrongful incarceration of innocents.”

Citing the National Crime Records Bureau’s annual statistical report titled Prison Statistics India (PSI), the plea said according to PSI 2015, there were 4,19,623 prisoners across the country out of which 67.2 per cent were under trial -- substantially higher than the convict population 1,34,168 (32 per cent).

“A review of the data in PSI shows that across the country as well as in states, under trial prisoners continue to be higher in numbers than the convict population. The states with the highest percentage of under trials were Meghalaya - 91.4 per cent, Bihar -

82.4 per cent, Manipur - 81.9 per cent, Jammu & Kashmir - 81.5 per cent, Nagaland - 79.6 per cent, Odisha - 78.8 per cent, Jharkhand 77.1 per cent, and Delhi - 76.7 per cent,” it said.

The plea contended that malicious prosecutions and incarceration infringes fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

The Delhi High Court, on November 30, 2017, directed the Law Commission of India to undertake a comprehensive examination of issue of relief and rehabilitation to victims of wrongful prosecution and incarceration. “The Law Commission submitted its Report No 277 on August 30, 2018 but the Centre has not taken appropriate steps to implement the recommendations,” the plea said. (IANS)

## One held with charas worth over ₹1 cr

SHAHJAHANPUR: A man was arrested with one kg of charas worth over Rs 1 crore in the international market in Uttar Pradesh’s Shahjahanpur district, police said on Thursday. The accused was identified as Vipin, they said. Following a tip-off, Vipin was arrested on Wednesday near Machhla village in Khudaganj area with one kg of charas worth over Rs 1 crore in the international market, Superintendent of Police S Anand said.

## 960 cartons of liquor seized in UP’s Ballia

BALLIA (UP): Liquor worth around Rs 40 lakh allegedly meant to be distributed ahead of the panchayat polls in Uttar Pradesh and for smuggling into neighbouring Bihar has been seized from the city, police said on Thursday. “During a drive to check the illegal sale of alcohol, 960 cartons of liquor worth over Rs 40 lakh were recovered from separate areas on Wednesday,” Superintendent of Police Vipin Tada said.

## Unable to pay school fee, Class 12 student shoots himself dead

SHAHJAHANPUR (UP): A Class 12 student allegedly committed suicide in this Uttar Pradesh district as he was “upset” over his father’s failure to pay his school fee, police said on Thursday. Anup Kumar (18) shot himself with a country-made pistol on Wednesday, after his father told him that he could not arrange the money for his school fee, Deputy Superintendent of Police Mahendra Kumar said.

# One group of ex-babus asks farmers to give up protest

LUCKNOW

A GROUP of retired bureaucrats from Uttar Pradesh Thursday appealed to farmers protesting against the three central farm reform laws to end their agitation saying the laws are in their interest.

The retired bureaucrats, including former UP Chief Secretary Atul Gupta, also appealed to the farmers “not to be misled by any misinformation campaign unleashed by some vested interests against the farm laws”. The appeal was made two days after another group of former bureaucrats and some prominent people from the state extended their support to the ongoing farmers’ agitation. “The protesting farmers should not get misled by the misinformation campaign unleashed by some vested interests against the farm laws and try to understand the government’s motive behind them and the benefits the laws have for the farmers on their own,” said Atul Gupta in a statement here.

The former UP chief secretary added that the new farm laws have helped farmers increase their income, noting that the budgetary provisions are aimed at both strength-



ening agriculture and enhancing farmers’ income.

He further explained how the government does not at all intend to end mandis and instead seeks to link them electronically through eNAM (National Agriculture Market), which guarantees an increase in the rates of their produce by one and a half times. As for contract farming, Gupta said while the new laws allow farmers the freedom to end the agreement with the contractor, it does not give the same liberty to the contractor.

The contractor is also bound by the law to pay a bonus to the contracting farmer if the farm produce

yields more than the anticipated income, he said. Contract farming is not a new concept in India, said former IAS officer Sudesh Ojha, adding baseless rumours are being spread that the new laws would lead to farmers losing their land to contractors.

Former UP Director General of Police Sulkhan Singh said the Centre and state government have taken several steps in the recent past to help farmers join the mainstream and contribute to the development of the nation while benefiting from the government’s farmer-friendly policies. He said the UP government did not only pay Rs 1.15 lakh crore to sugarcane farmers but also reopened sev-

eral sugar mills which had been shut down. The ex-UP DGP stressed that the new laws will not end mandis, or the Minimum Support Price mechanism provided by the government and, on the contrary, enhance farmers’ income.

Singh said the agitation has been causing problems for common people on a daily basis for months.

Devendra Tiwari of Bharatiya Kisan Manch said the new laws allow farmers the freedom to sell their crops wherever and whoever they want to. Tiwari said while the government has increased the MSP, many baseless rumours are being spread about the farm laws.

He added that the new laws make it binding for the buyers to pay on time. Earlier on Mar 9, several retired government officials and prominent UP people had extended their support to the ongoing farmers’ agitation against the Centre’s farm laws.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, former IAS officer and secretary to the government of India, Vijay Shankar Pandey and former IPS officer SN Singh had said a meeting of the retired senior officers and prominent people from various fields was held recently to discuss the farmers’ issue.



# DUTA begins strike for nonpayment of salaries

NEW DELHI

THOUSANDS of teachers of Delhi University went on strike on Thursday. The university’s teachers’ union (DUTA) had called for a university ‘bandh’ in protest against non-payment of salary for the last six months. The 12 college employees associated with the university have alleged that they have neither received salary nor other arrears for the last six months.

DUTA President Rajeev Ray said, “We do not want our students to be in trouble. So we did not take this step for a long time, but now we had no option left because many staff-teachers and non-teaching employees have neither received salary nor pension for the last six months.” They said, “All we

want is for the concerned authority to release the fund for us and pay our salary.” We can sit and talk for other issues.

“The DUTA said that this strike, which started on Mahashivaratri, will intensify in the coming days and the teachers will take to the streets on 15 March.

Rajiv Ray said that DUTA will hold a meeting with Delhi University and Employees Union (DUCKU) and DU Students Union (DUSU) on 13 March. According to a statement issued by the DUTA, “DUTA will take out a” rights rally “from the Chancellor’s Office on March 15 to the Chief Minister’s residence and on March 18, another rally will be held from the Chancellor’s Office to the Office of the Deputy Governor.”

# Priyanka to hold training camp in Gorakhpur

LUCKNOW

THE Congress will hold a two-day training camp for 155 block presidents of 11 districts on March 13 and 14 in Gorakhpur which, incidentally, is the constituency of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will address the camp virtually and give

success mantras to party workers and leaders.

Congress state president Ajay Kumar Lallu will also participate in the camp.

“This is an attempt to strengthen the party at an organisational level, Congress is constantly making efforts to connect with people from rural areas ahead of 2022 Assembly polls. Former Prime Minister late Rajiv



Gandhi also believed in empowering Gram Panchayats,” said the state Congress chief. State Con-

gress General Secretary Vishwa Vijay Singh said that the meeting will be attended by the chiefs of Varanasi, Azamgarh, Mau, Ballia, Deoria, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Sant Kabir Nagar, Siddhartha Nagar and Basti districts. All the block presidents will be present during this camp and along with empowering Congress leaders at the ideological level, the history of the Congress, the

role of the party in nation-building, the work of all the Prime Ministers from the party will also be discussed, he said.

The Congress had launched the grassroots election plan in December last year, the implementation of which is being monitored closely by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Insiders revealed that the task which began with the appointment of Nyay Pan-

chayat functionaries is now in the phase of appointment of village leadership.

The ongoing farmer’s agitation has given the party a chance to position itself as an option against the ruling BJP.

Priyanka’s movement in the state has increased while state Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu is touring the villages since the past four months now.



# Climate change and Covid-19 recovery

A study by the United Nations and the University of Oxford have warned the world that most of the bigger economies of the world spending on Covid-19 recovery is not green. It means that the world is putting more money into polluting industries and not otherwise. The report was published yesterday, Rescue spending was pivotal to the relief operations worldwide during the pandemic - and even now of course, as another wave is spreading due to a mutated version of the virus. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in the foreword to the report said the governments do have choices when thinking about planning recoveries once short-term relief has been provided.

No one doubts the intentions of the world leaders when they say that they would certainly rescue their virus-hit economies in building back their future through relief aid to fight climate change. But, are the intentions matching the actions. No one leader has so far shown a commitment to the long term goals of Climate Change agenda. Why do they do that? Are they short of ideas or short of commitment? The report categorically pointed out that of the 1.9 trillion dollars that the world's 50 biggest economies announced in Covid-19 recovery spending by the end of 2020, only 19 per cent i.e., 341 billion dollars could be considered green.

These leaders, it is said, are spending smaller amounts on green programmes while publicising the same mightily while spending larger and bigger amounts on anti-green programmes silently. Climate change and growing levels of pollution in the environment will continue to remind the world how truly vulnerable the global economy is. Disruptions to the climate will also continue to exacerbate inequality within and between nations as well, the authors warned. The UNEP and Oxford also spotlighted "a growing body of evidence" that green fiscal spending can deliver stronger economic returns than traditional alternatives.

The report urged wealthy nations to use recovery money to support least-developed countries and marginalized communities, which have been disproportionately affected both by Covid-19-induced deaths and job and income loss. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in December denounced the "suicidal" failure to tackle climate change and said the Coronavirus pandemic offered the world a rare chance for a reset to save Earth. As we all know, the state of the planet is broken. Humanity is waging war on nature which is suicidal. Covid-19 has shown a way on how to tackle Climate Change. The visibility of Himalayas from cities like Jalandhar itself is an evidence of it. A new world is taking shape and the biodiversity is collapsing. One million species are at risk of extinction.

# Cyber resilience: Staying safe in digital world



VIJAYA TIWARI

WITH nearly 14 per cent of our population now on social media and this number only likely to rise in the near future, the need to create awareness has become more important than ever. It is more so for women, as they are the most vulnerable group, only after children, to fall prey to these crimes. The best way to be safe on social media is to have a basic understanding about it. People often forget that the virtual world is not so virtual. That activities performed on social platforms could have real consequences in the real world. However, personal information being put online can be secured. There are security settings available on all social networking websites but majority of the users are unaware of such features and hence become a victim of cybercrime. For example, on Facebook, everything we share is under our control. We can choose what, when, how and with whom we want to share our posts. It is completely up to us if we want to be friends with someone on Facebook or not, or if we want to follow someone on Instagram, Snapchat or Twitter.

It's better to avoid something from happening in the first place than to fix the damage once it occurs. In this epoch of social media, the concern for women safety is increasing. The question remains, how safe are women online on social media? The simple answer to this is, women are safe on social media "if" they take careful steps. Social media is a mixture of different types of people. Some make use of social media for entertainment while some use it to take the advantage of people, regardless of their gender. At the same time, it's observed that women are experiencing difficulties because of social networking through the misuse of their profile and images which actually mess up their lives.

Here are some social media safety tips for women that can save themselves from falling into the disaster:

- Use complex passwords: You should never share the password of your social media account with anyone. The most common way to misuse your account is by posting/sharing inappropriate things from your social profiles. This can damage your reputation online. Additionally, it's important that you use a complex password for your account so that to avoid any possibility of passwords getting hacked. Using special characters like (!@#\$%^&\*{}<>?) in your password will make your password stronger and difficult to guess.
- Never connect with people you don't know: Females get a lot of the follow request on Instagram, Twitter or numerous friend requests on Facebook. In reality, not all of them know her personally. For example, let's say if you meet someone you don't know will you start talking to him or her at first? If we don't know someone personally, we shouldn't have any interaction neither in reality nor in the virtual world. Most of the time strangers play a massive role in causing a crisis of identity on a social media platform. Thus, women must avoid adding people they don't know personally.
- Re-think before you share: Everybody likes to click and share pictures of themselves eating, traveling, doing check-ins, watching movies, working out or any daily activities. Be careful while sharing such information, as this will be easy for the attacker to know your whereabouts. There are plenty of cases which resulted in disasters because of sharing detailed information about the current activity. Hence, one must decide wisely on which post to choose.
- Don't disclose your location: When you access social media from any device, ensure that you turn off the location. The apps sometimes access your device location and when you share an update it fetches the data and might show up on the app. Thus, to maintain privacy, it's suggested that you turn off the location option.
- Photo morphing: You cannot control photo morphing for any of your pics. As far as it's the matter of social media, there will always be the risk of your photo's being photoshopped. Despite that you can save yourself from falling into that misfortune by following some of these basic things:
  - Define strict privacy for your profile
  - Don't add strangers to your profile
  - Set privacy for your pictures
  - Avoid Using Hashtags
- Hashtags are mainly used for getting visibility. If you too use hashtags on your post you will be visible on the internet. A lot of people are habitual of using hashtags for every post they share on social media. If you avoid using hashtags, it will make you less prone to the attacks that could destroy your reputation.
- Try to use incognito mode: If you are using another computer or a device to login, you should always sign in using incognito mode of the browser. This way, the privacy will be maintained and the chances of compromising your password will be less. The password never gets saved in incognito mode. Thus, all your information like username and password remains safe.
- Keep your profile picture safe: A large number of women prefer not to upload their profile picture on social media because they are afraid that their photo might get misused. To prevent this, Facebook has added a new feature on its platform to ensure the safety of the profile pictures so that nobody can share it. This is a huge step towards protecting self-image of women.
- Logging out: After you have used social media, you should always log out of the account in order to ensure your account remains safe. In case, you are accessing your account from someone else's computer and don't logout, there are chances that your account will be accessed and personal data will be leaked. This will allow that person to defame you, if that is the intention of him/her.
- Don't neglect privacy policy: The privacy policy is a thing that nobody cares about or people usually overlook it thinking "too long to read". If you are one of them, then probably you are missing out really important information or terms about policy. Cutting off short, it is very much important to learn what is mentioned in the privacy policy in detail, as this will help you know up to what extent your profile is safe.
- Don't share more than necessary: Relationships have only two shades in a spectrum - very good or very bad. Even the best of people can swing from one end of the spectrum to the other. That is why use caution when you share intimate messages, pictures, information or anything that has the potential to come back and embarrass you.
- Don't meet online acquaintances alone.
- Update all operating systems on you devices.
- Secure your devices with anti-virus software
- Read the fine print: Know and understand the privacy policy and terms of service of any service you use. Some websites can own, sell, rent or resell your information to anyone they want. This can come back as a bigger problem and the law may not be able protect you since you agreed to the terms and conditions.
- There is no such thing as 'freebies': Freebies come as games, offers, deals, etc. They may be riddled with viruses, spyware and malicious software. These can get into your device and mine all your data.
- Block people you don't want to interact with: Never feel weird declining friend requests from people you barely know. Trust your instinct and ignore, unfriend or block them. You get to choose who stays on your friend list.
- When it comes to safety, both online and offline, common sense is the first line of defence. Your instincts play a critical role in your protection. If something feels 'off', go with your instincts. You don't have to explain your reasoning to anyone.



# 'Social media platforms have led to rise of disruptive leaders'

VISHNU MAKHLJANI

UBIQUITOUS technology and social media platforms have led to the rise of "disruptive" leaders like Arvind Kejriwal, Donald Trump and Emmanuel Macron as they have been able to "speak directly to their citizens", who get the "illusion that they are being listened to", but whether they deliver is a different question, says a new book that examines the new levers of state power in the modern context.

The rise of such leaders "is an interesting and potentially disruptive phenomenon in the development of governments and states. To some extent it is a consequence of the new world of ubiquitous technology and social media platforms that we see," Jaideep Prabhu, Professor of Marketing and Director of the Centre for India & Global Business at Cambridge Judge Business School, and author of "How Should A Government Be? - The New Levers of State Power" (Profile Books), told IANS in an interview.

"But it is also a response to two other trends: 1) that citizens are increasingly restless and demanding of their leaders, i.e., they want more and better from the state, faster and cheaper, and 2) they are increasingly empowered to make these demands.

"Recognising these two trends, we see that some leaders around the world have found a way to speak directly to their citizens, often using social media like Twitter to great effect to do so. This gives the citizens at least the illusion that they are being listened to and that their leaders are responding to their needs and concerns. Of course, if that is actually the case, remains to be seen," Prabhu added.

Trump, of course has been voted out of office when he caused more disruption than delivering on his promises. "Macron is being pulled in contrary political directions, swerving both left and right, as he seeks to work out the political trajectory most likely to secure him re-election next year", a commentary by Jamie Dettmer of the Voice of America said on March 2, adding that Liberation, France's leading left-wing daily newspaper, has warned that many on the left, who backed Macron in 2017, handing him a landslide election win over far-right leader Marine Le Pen, won't do so again next year. Kerival's Aam Aadmi Party won 62 of the 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly elections in 2020 to give



Governments around the world can now use new technologies and forms of organisation to be more effective and efficient in delivering for their citizens but that in the process they might also increase their power to be more controlling and authoritarian

him a second successive term in office and has scored some notable success in the recent civic elections in Delhi and Surat. It sees this as a signal to expand pan-India but the jury is out on that, with most political analysts suggesting Kejriwal stick to the national capital.

The book is Prabhu's third from a career spent in studying innovation in the private sector. "In the first part of my career, I studied innovation in large western companies. I then turned my attention to emerging economies like India where I had grown up. From my study of India and related countries in Asia and Africa, I developed an interest in jagaad and frugal innovation. I wrote two books about this phenomenon: 'Jugaad Innovation' (2012) and 'Frugal Innovation' (2015).

"Every time I would speak about these books to audiences from around the world, people would ask me: But what does this mean for governments? How does the ability to use new technology and organise in new ways impact the way that governments work? They would then go on to tell me about innovations in government too. Over time, I began to think of researching and writing about such frugal innovation in the public sector and

that's what led me to write this book," Prabhu explained.

Speaking about the research that went into the book, he said a lot of it was similar to that which went into his previous books. "I didn't just want to write an 'academic' account of the subject. Rather, I wanted to ground everything I said in actual cases from around the world. So I set out writing to and interviewing public servants and policy makers from both emerging economies (such as India, Bangladesh and Kenya) and developed economies (like the UK, US, Canada and Denmark)," he said.

At Cambridge, where he teaches, he also became involved with a number of training programmes for senior and mid-career civil servants from around the world. For instance, he was the programme director from 2012 to 2019 of a senior leadership programme for Indian civil servants. He also taught on an MPhil for early career civil servants interested in technology and policy.

"Finally, Cambridge has a centre for science and policy that links UK and European policy makers with academics in the university, and over the years I met with over a 100 of these fellows of the centre. All these conversations provided me

with ideas and material for the book. In addition to all this data, I also read books on political theory, especially about the long debate that has existed about how big the state should be and what its role in society is," Prabhu elaborated.

His key argument is that governments around the world can now use new technologies and forms of organisation to be more effective and efficient in delivering for their citizens but that in the process they might also increase their power to be more controlling and authoritarian. To balance effectiveness and efficiency with freedom and liberty, governments need to adopt five principles in how they operate:

"They need to be responsive to their citizens (i.e., operate outside-in rather than inside-out); they need to be inclusive (i.e., be able to serve the interest of multiple competing groups); they need to be experimental (i.e., constantly trying new ideas, testing them and then scaling them up); they need to be entrepreneurial (i.e., engaging in a proactive way with the private sector and NGOs and cultivating the economy); and they need to be innovative (i.e., constantly improving how they function internally)," Prabhu explained.

Citizens play a major role in this process. "It is citizens in the end who provide the constant pressure for governments to get better, and so it is crucial that they perform this role well. Doing so involves citizens being informed and engaged and knowing how to choose their political leaders and teams well. But it also means they have to hold their governments to account at all times, either through movements from outside or even better by joining the government and working for its improvement from within," Prabhu said.

What next? "I will probably return to my main area of interest and expertise, namely businesses and how they operate. There is a huge revolution going on in terms of what businesses are for. For a long time the view was that businesses existed for shareholders and investors (i.e., the owners) and that the sole responsibility of the firm is to maximise shareholder wealth. That view is now coming under a lot of pressure, and many argue that firms should balance wealth creation with wellbeing for customers and employees as well as nature. I will probably write about this topic next," Prabhu concluded.

## Quad countries should support India

THE competition between India and China to provide vaccines to more countries has risen to a high level with ways to ramp up delivery of doses to developing countries becoming an important item on the agenda of the first Quad leaders' summit. India has realised that it is facing fierce competition from China in vaccine diplomacy.

Hence it is planning to ramp up vaccine production to counter China's vaccine diplomacy. India and China have donated millions of doses to many countries. However, China has no publicly available official data on vaccine supplies when compared with that of India.

India has urged the US, Japan and Australia to invest in its vaccine production capacity. The Quad countries will devise plans to increase vaccine manufacturing capacity in India. Indian manufacturers have a combined capacity of billions of doses. China has distributed vaccines to many countries. However, the reluctance of

China's pharmaceutical companies to share details of their trials raises doubts about the effectiveness of the vaccines. In fact, more than a dozen vaccines developed in China are in clinical trials with about half of them in phase III trials. As a matter of fact, only one Chinese vaccine has received emergency approval so far. News reports from many countries show that people in those countries are clamouring for Indian vaccines.

In fact, India's vaccine efforts need to be seen in a true perspective. India has a track record of mass production of very important drugs. India has provided anti-AIDS drugs to African countries. Similarly, India has provided different medicines to countries in times of health crisis. As India has financial constraints, the other members of the Quad need to make concerted efforts to help India ramp up vaccine production. In this way they can prove their credentials as a significant power in crisis management.

Venu G S, Kollam

## II

THIS apt editorial on VSP privatisation has dwelled on pertinent issues thread bare, like that of the attitude of the central government to privatise VSP and if no purchaser comes forward it'd be closed. I am sure that like in the debilitating Andhra bifurcation issue all stakeholders like now, ruling and opposition had a hide and seek play and no matter the outcry of the people the then Congress govt in connivance with BJP's Sushma Swaraj as help bifurcated the State. However, Congress lost, and BJP won. It is now the turn of BJP to play with AP and they will be on the decline gradually. TRS's proclaimed solidarity with AP is like if neighbour's house is burnt mine too will be gutted as well says the Edit. Their concern is the Singareni. I firmly believe that all the peoples' organisations should fight the VSP cause and take all anti-BJP forces and people all over on board.

Dr T Ramadas, Visakhapatnam

## Vote for preserving democracy

AS there are a few days left to cast the vote in Graduate MLC elections, some political parties in Telangana striving every nerve to tempt the voters with various offers. Some parties are tempting the graduates by offering five thousand rupees per vote. Sending the amounts through google pay to the voters. And some parties, by taking a step forward, arranging meetings in the name of gatherings at star hotels like Marriott and offering dinners to the graduates in Hyderabad. This attitude of parties is condemnable in democracy. Graduates instead of being tempted to these offers, must vote for the candidate who raises voice against the problems of graduates and unemployed. As long as people sell their votes for money, problems remain as problems. Moreover they too have no right further, to question the elected candidates. Therefore they must choose the right candidate with their weapon of 'Vote. It is vital to make the democracy survive.

K Manoj Kumar, Huzurabad, Karimnagar

## LETTERS

### Brouhaha over privatisation

THIS has reference to the editorial (VSP privatisation: Death knell of federalism, March 11, 2021). There must be clarity about what the state truly wants rather than needlessly poking its nose and indulging in comments about schemes having broader economic spectrum, like loss making PSUs like the Visakha Steel Plant (VSP) that are on the verge of privatisation. The industries that were created as PSUs several decades ago have now outlived their utility and efficiency in terms of profitable productivity. This is mainly due to the fact of outdated technology that did not get updated, and inefficient output. Such a scenario will leave no option for the Centre to either privatise these loss-making steel plants or close them for good.

The 100 per cent disinvestment of such sick industries, alone will have buyers who can possibly infuse improved technology in these plants as cheap and cost-effective materials are available to users in the country produced from other countries like China and South Korea. Telangana Industries Minister K T Rama Rao is well aware of this reality. His apprehension to such a possible scenario be met with Singareni Collieries is totally unfounded.

It is imperative that some matters that are beyond the scope and comprehension of a state be left to the prudence and wisdom of the Centre - a constructive co-operation by states will go a long way in a smooth and hassle free transition that is very much in the country's economic interest. Any needless and unwanted delay in this regard will have undesirable consequences to the exchequer.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

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# Siva temples abuzz with devotees

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KHAMMAM

DEVOTEES in large numbers thronged the temples of Lord Siva across erstwhile Khammam offering special prayers on the occasion of Maha Sivaratri on Thursday.

The temples witnessed rush of devotees since early morning hours. Grand celebrations took place at Kakatiya era's Sri Ganapeshwaralayam at Kusumanchi, Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple at Annapureddy-palle, Annapurneshwaralayam near Bhadradi, Neeladri Shiv-alayam and others.

Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar offered prayers at Guntumalleshwara Swamy temple in Khammam city and at Kudali Tirthala Sangameshwara Swamy temple in Khammam ru-



Devotees wait in queues at the Bhadrachalam temple on Thursday

ral mandal.

Speaking to the media persons later, the Minister said he prayed for the well-being of people in the State.

Jataras were also celebrated at historic Kotilingeshwara Swamy temple at Polampalli in Karepally mandal, Sri Veerabhadraswamy temple, Tegada in Charla mandal, Tirthala Sangameshwara Swamy temple, Vaidyanatha Swamy Temple in Nelakondapalli and others.

Meanwhile, the Khammam district administration made elaborate arrangements for devotees at Tirthala where the one of the biggest jataras was held. Many devotees took holy dip in river Godavari at Bhadrachalam and at Mothe in Burgampahad mandal where Veerabhadra Swamy temple was located.

## Unidentified persons set red gram crop on fire

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NAGARKURNOOL

THE red gram crop of a farmer was set on fire and completely burnt to ashes in Kollapur mandal of Nagarkurnool district. According to sources, a farmer, Meghanath, had cultivated red gram crop in three acres of his land near the PG College premises in Kollapur. The crop, which was about to be harvested, was set on fire by unidentified persons. The entire crop was destroyed causing a huge loss to the farmer.

It is estimated that the farmer had lost more than Rs 1 lakh in the fire accident caused by some unidentified persons. The farmer had lodged a complaint with Kollapur police and requested them to bring the culprits to book at the earliest and provide justice to him.

## Rani Rudrama promises to fight for graduates' cause

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHONGIR

THE Yuva Telangana Party MLC candidate Rani Rudrama

stated her party was the only party that had fought against the expansion of Pothireddy-padu project and prevented the release of GO No 213 to save south Telangana from becoming a desert.

Rani Rudrama along with party president Jitta Balakrishna Reddy, addressing the media in Turkapally of

Aler constituency as part of her campaign, stated that problems of graduates would be raised on the floor of the Council if graduates elect her as the MLC.



Yuva Telangana Party MLC candidate Rani Rudrama addressing the media at Turkapally on Thursday

She said people of the region were aware of struggles faced by party president Jitta Balakrishna Reddy for solving the fluoride problem in the district. She promised to mount pressure on the government for solving the issues of farmers, employees, teachers and unemployed.



MRPS founder president Manda Krishna Madiga speaking at a meeting on Kakatiya University campus in Warangal on Thursday

## KCR has scant respect for Dalit leaders: MRPS

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
WARANGAL

CHIEF Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has scant respect for Dalit leaders like Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, B R Ambedkar and Komuram Bheem, said Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS) founder president Manda Krishna Madiga. Addressing the graduates at Kakatiya University campus on Thursday, he said that TRS nominee Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, who was contesting for the second time to the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduates constituency, is the major culprit in the conspiracy that keeps SC, ST, BC and minority communities away from educa-

tion. Palla's Anurag University buttresses this fact, he added.

Inti Party candidate, Dr Cheruku Sudhakar Goud, is one of those genuine activists who fought for separate Telangana. Sudhakar was a victim of PD Act inflicted by the then undivided AP government, he said. Manda Krishna appealed to graduates to elect Sudhakar.

Dr Sudhakar Goud, MSP State president Teegala Pradeep Goud, BC Sangham national vice-president Kola Janardhan Goud, Manda Bhaskar, student leaders Oddipally Madhu, Ankilla Raju (MSF), Lenin Raju (PDSU), Manda Nareesh (ABSF) and Ch Anil (BSF) were among others present.

## Partially burnt body of youth found

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NIZAMABAD

A partially burnt body of an unidentified youth was found on the way to Koparga-Neela villages in Bodhan mandal of Nizamabad district on Thursday morning, shocking the locals and the onlookers.

Locals suspect that on Wednesday night some unidentified persons must have killed the victim and then doused him with petrol and set him on fire. While some others suspected that he must have been burnt alive.

Bodhan Rural SI Sandeep said that there were signs that someone unknown had poured petrol on him and set him on fire. However, the investigation is underway. CI Ravindra Nayak also inspected the scene.

## 'State likely to utilise services of MNREGS field assistants'

Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao campaigns for TRS MLC candidate Palla Rajeshwar Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
WARANGAL

THE State government is of the opinion to utilise the services of field assistants of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) who lost their jobs, Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao said. He was speaking at a meeting on Thursday as part of election campaign in favour of Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, who is contesting the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduates constituency.

The State has received awards due to the efforts of MGNREGS employees, Errabelli said. "Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao expressed concern over field assistants who lost their jobs and is likely to utilise their services," he said.



Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao speaking at a meeting in Warangal on Thursday

The economy of the State has taken a dent due to Covid-19 lockdown. Adding more woes, the Central government didn't extend its support to the State. Despite this, the Chief Minister has managed to continue all welfare schemes without a break, the Minister said. He added that all

the issues related to employees of Panchayat Raj, MGNREGS and IKP would be dealt smoothly after the elections.

Launching a scathing attack on BJP-led Centre, Errabelli found fault with it for its move to privatise all public sector units (PSUs).

State Planning Commission vice-chairman Boinpally Vinod Kumar said that despite the TRS government's success, some parties intentionally resorted to mudslinging. "Welfare schemes such as Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima are unique. The government succeeded in laying emphasis on farmers by ensuring irrigation facilities and 24-hour free power supply," Vinod Kumar said. Employee union leaders Paritala Subba Rao, Karam Ravinder Reddy and Mohan Rao were among others present.

## Cong asks why TRS MPs did not decry VSP sell-off

HYDERABAD

CONGRESS party MP A Revanth Reddy on Thursday wrote an open letter to IT Minister KT Rama Rao, and alleged that the Minister continued to cheat the people of the State.

In his letter, he said that KT Rama Rao had raised the issue of Vizag Steel Plant and extended his party's support to the ongoing agitation against the privatisation of steel plant only to gain benefit in the upcoming MLC elections. He mocked that there was no comparison between the words of the ruling party leaders and their deeds in Parliament. He alleged that the ruling party MPs did not take part in the agitation held in Parliament on the issue of increasing petrol and diesel prices. He asked KTR why his party MPs were not attending the ongoing parliament session? He wondered if the TRS party MPs were scared of Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

# Power demand surges in State as summer sets in

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

WITH the onset of summer season, power consumption is increasing alarmingly posing a challenge to power sector officials as Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy directed uninterrupted power supply during the summer.

The power consumption on March 9 stood at 213 million units (MU) and officials predict the energy requirement could touch 215-218 MU in the coming days. The grid demand is likely to cross 11,300-11,500 MW in the next few weeks.

Observing that the increasing economic activity is one of the major reasons for the surge in power consumption, secretary for energy N Srikanth said the state government is ready to meet the demand at any level.

The state power utilities are



- Power consumption on March 9 touches 213 MU as against 183 MU the same day last year

- In the wake of CM's direction to supply uninterrupted power, utilities are ready with an action plan to meet summer peak demand
- Energy Secretary Srikanth states that the govt is prepared to power demand at any level

putting in all efforts to ensure smooth power supply in all sectors in the state. They are ready with action plan to meet the increasing power demand.

In view of the demand, the distribution companies (discoms) proposed to purchase power from power exchanges. Utilisation of additional gas

generation is also planned by APTransco and even with naphtha to meet the rising requirements.

The energy secretary said that the state government is clear on uninterrupted power supply in rural areas too and power utilities have been asked to lay special focus on villages to supply 24x7 power supply.

On the other hand, the power demand is expected to increase as the government is strictly implementing 9 hours free power supply to farmers. Besides, paddy was sown in in more extent this year. For the first time, power supply was given during rabi season during daytime.

APTransco has augmented power transformers and is increasing transformer capacity.

The peak demand on March 7 stood at 208 MU, on March 8, 210 MU and on March 9, 213 MU as against 183 MU on the same day last year.

## Kin protest at private hospital over boy's death

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KURNOOL

ALLEGING negligence of a paediatrician for the death of one-and-a-half-years-old boy, parents and relatives staged a

protest at a private hospital at Dhone on Thursday. The boy, Rahul, Kondapeta in the town had been suffering from a disease and was treated by Dr K Rajasekhara. The boy was rushed to the clinic in the morning for

emergency treatment but he succumbed. Accusing the doctor being rude when asked about the reasons for the boy's death, parents and relatives of the boy staged a protest demanding action against the doctor.

## STEEL PLANT PRIVATISATION

# Post-polls, unions wary of support of parties

- Against the backdrop of important civic body election, main political parties competed with one another to show their commitment to the cause

- Employee leaders ask what is the purpose of writing letters to the Centre when there is scant response
- They want MPs to resign to ramp up pressure on the Union government

VASU POTNURU  
VISAKHAPATNAM

WITH civic polls coming to a close, the focus is now shifted to the involvement of political parties in the Ukku stir and continuation of their support to the protest that has now reached a new level.

Ever since the civic poll schedule was released by the State Election Commission (SEC), all political parties vied with one another to gain political advantage by bringing the Ukku movement to the fore.

Apart from participating in the protest, a former TDP MLA went on an indefinite hunger strike that lasted for almost a week.

Meanwhile, the ruling party YSRCP not only extended support to the agitation but also took out a 'padayatra' that stretched up to 25-km. The YSRCP leaders, however, gave an assurance to Visakha Ukku Parikshana Porata Committee members that their support will



Steel getting readied at Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited in Visakhapatnam



Dasari Suresh

Undavalli Srinivasa Rao

continue until the Union government withdraws its decision on 100 per cent disinvestment of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP).

When Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman made it clear that privatisation of VSP is inevitable and it is meant to put the plant back on a profitable track, employees of the VSP express concern over the long-term support of the political parties who have so far joined hands with them in the stir. Dasari Suresh, who is working as general foreman at Light and Medium Merchant Mill, VSP, says, "The letter written by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has not stopped the Centre from going ahead with its privatisation plans. To an extent,

the trade unions' agitation has been instrumental in converting the stir into people's fight. Going forward, it will take a new form altogether if the protest gets intensified."

A section of the VSP employees is of the opinion that the exercise of writing a letter to the Union government is a 'mere' eye wash. Sharing his views, employee of VSP and vice-president of BC Employees' Federation Undavalli Srinivasa Rao says, "Even for the initial letter forwarded by the Chief Minister, there was no response from the Centre. What is the point in dashing another one? Those who have been protesting for over a month to save the plant from privatisation are left with no real back up now. The issue needs to be taken to a much serious level with the support of the MPs across Andhra Pradesh and other states as well."

In order to exert pressure on Union government, a majority of employees demand that the MPs should tender resignation from their posts.

# Siva temples reverberate with 'Om Namah Sivaiah'

Continued from P1

In Guntur district, thousands of devotees thronged the Sri Trikoteswara Swamy temple at Kotappakonda near Narasaraopet. Temple authorities performed Eka Dasha Rudrabhisekham, Laksha Bilwarchana to the presiding deity Trikoteswara Swamy. All Saiva Kshetrams in Guntur district reverberated with Om Nama Sivaya. Prabhas were set up at Kotappakonda.

The Police department made elaborate security arrangements at Kotappakonda and on the hillock. It may be mentioned that the State Government declared Maha Sivaratri at Kotappakonda as state festival. Similarly, special pujas were performed to Sri Amaralingeswara Swamy temple at Amaravati in Guntur district.

Similarly, special pujas were performed to Bhramaramba Sameta Malikarjuna Swamy at Pedakakani in Guntur district. Devasthanam authorities performed Ekadasa Rudrabhisekham and Laksha Bilwarchana to Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy. A large number of devotees visited the temple and performed pujas.

In Viziangaram district, Siva temples were decked up for the Maha Sivarathri festival and illuminated with lighting. Special arrangements were made for Sivarathri celebrations at Seetharama temple at Ramateertham. Ramalayam every year attracts huge number of devotees on the occasion of Maha Sivarathri. Devotees from North Coastal districts and Odisha attend the celebrations as part of the tradition.

In Nellore district, Siva temples reverberated with holy chants and Vedic rituals since Thursday early morning.

Historic Kamakshi Temple at Jonnawada, Sivalayam in Nellore, Sri Subrahmanyeswara Temple in Mallam, Jwalamukhi temple in Varigonda, Sangameswara temple in Sangam, Siddeswara Swamy temple in SR Puram, Bhairavakona in Udayagiri Mandal, Udayakaleswara Temple in Gandavaram and other temple witnessed huge rush and devotees offered special pujas to mark Sivarathri. Similarly, a large number of devotees thronged the Sivalayams in Krishna, Chittoor, Anantapur, Kadapa West Godavari and other districts.

## 2 killed, 6 injured in AP chemical factory blast

Continued from P1

Agriculture Minister K Kanna Babu, under whose constituency the chemical factory falls, visited the accident spot and supervised the rescue operation.

He enquired about the safety systems in place at the unit.

District Collector Muralidhar Reddy and Superintendent of Police Adnan Nayeem Asmi also visited the blast site and later the hospital to inquire about the incident.

State Industries Minister M Goutham Reddy, expressing grief over the incident, directed the department officials to submit a report on what led to the mishap and if all safety protocols were adhered to.

He also asked the official machinery to be on alert in view of the onset of summer and take adequate precautionary measures in all pharmaceutical and chemical factories.

He warned that any management lapse would be viewed seriously, and appropriate action initiated.



# PM to flag off ‘Padyatra’ from Sabarmati Ashram on Friday

**NEW DELHI**

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will flag off a ‘Padyatra’ (March) from Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat on Friday and launch various initiatives planned under ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’ to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of India’s Independence.

The padyatra will be joined by different groups of people on the way to Dandi.

Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel will lead the first lap of 75 kilometres of the padyatra, which will be undertaken by 81 marchers from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi in Navsari, a journey of 241 miles that will end on April 5, lasting for 25 days.

Modi will also launch various other cultural and digital initiatives for the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav and will also address the gathering at Sabarmati Ashram.

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel and Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani will also be present on the occasion, scheduled to commence at 10.30 a.m.

Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav is a series of events to be organised by the Central government to



commemorate the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence. The Mahotsav will be celebrated as a Jan-Utsav in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari. A National Implementation Committee headed by the Home Minister has been constituted to chalk out policies and planning of various events to be undertaken under the Commemoration. The curtain raiser activities are beginning from March 12, 75 weeks prior to August 15, 2022.

The event will witness the inauguration of the curtain raiser activities planned under the theme India@75 like a film, website, song, Aatmanirbhar Charkha and Aatmanirbhar Incubator.

Along with the above initiatives, a cultural programme pre-

senting the celebration of the indomitable spirit of the country will also be organized. It will include music, dance, recitation, reading of the Preamble of the Constitution (each line in a different language, representing the different regions of the country). Depicting the youth power as the future of India there will be 75 voices in the choir as well as 75 dancers in the event.

State and UT Governments are also organizing programmes all over India on March 12. In addition to these programmes, the Archaeological Survey of India and Zonal Cultural Centres under the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Youth Affairs and TRIFED have planned various activities to mark the occasion. (IANS)



**Brahma Kumaris’ chief Dadi Hriday Mohini dies at 93**

**JAIPUR**

BRAHMA Kumaris’ chief administrator Dadi Hriday Mohini died on Thursday at a private hospital in Mumbai. She was 93. She was undergoing treatment at Saifee Hospital in Mumbai for the last 15 days, according to a spokesperson of the spiritual organisation. The spokesperson added that after the death of its former chief Dadi Janki a year ago, Mohini was appointed as the chief administrator of the organisation. Her body will be brought to the headquarters in Abu Road, where on Friday, the public will be able pay respects for the ‘Rajyogini’ with a last prayer. The last rites of the spiritual leader will be performed on March 13. (PTI)

# Will continue campaigns on wheelchair, if necessary: Mamata

**KOLKATA**

INJURED West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday vowed to get back to canvassing for the upcoming Assembly elections within the next couple of days.

Releasing a video clip from her hospital bed at SSKM where she was rushed to late Wednesday, the Trinamool Congress supremo said: “I received injuries in my leg and ligaments. Hopefully I will be discharged in a couple of days.

“There will be problems in my leg but I shall not cancel any of my political programmes. I will take part in the campaigns on a wheelchair, if necessary”.

She also appealed to all her party workers and supporters to maintain discipline and peace across the state. “I urge everyone not to indulge in any action that will disrupt normal life,” she added.

Banerjee hoped that she would be able to get back to her work in the next two-three days. “I will manage it. I will not waste any of my scheduled meetings,” she promised.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)’s Bengal unit on Thursday demanded a high-level probe into the incident in which Mamata Banerjee had received leg injuries on Wednesday evening.

A delegation led by BJP leader Sabyasachi Dutta and Shisir Bajoria went to the office of the Election Commission (EC) and demanded release of the original footage of the



ria went to the office of the Election Commission (EC) and demanded release of the original footage of the

incident and the place of occurrence.

“We demand the immediate release of the video footage of the incident. If that is not done the EC will be held responsible for the entire security lapse. If the chief minister of the state is not secure then what about the security of common voters in Bengal during the elections,” said Dutta, praying for the Trinamool chief’s speedy recovery.

Purba Medinipur’s District Magistrate Vibhu Guel, police superintendent Praveen Prakash and the state’s deputy inspector general of police (DIG-Midnapore range) Kunal Agarwal on Thursday visited the spot near Birulia Anchal. They also spoke to locals and recorded the eyewitness versions. (IANS)

## Want comprehensive probe: Bengal BJP

KOLKATA: A day after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was admitted to a facility here after getting hurt during her Nandigram visit, the Bengal BJP said the party will not indulge in any politics over her injuries, and called for a comprehensive probe into the incident, as she had alleged conspiracy behind it. Noting that the fight with the TMC is a political one and on ideological and development issues, BJP spokesman Samik Bhattacharya wished her a speedy recovery and said, the party hoped for her return to the electoral arena as soon as possible. “We will not do any kind of politics over the chief minister’s injuries. We pray for her early recovery and return to the political stage,” he told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here. According to information received by the BJP state leadership from local party workers and eyewitnesses, it was an accident, but a high-level inquiry is necessary when the chief minister herself has claimed that it was a conspiracy, he said. (PTI)

# 2 terrorists killed in Kashmir encounter refused to surrender

**SRINAGAR**

THE two terrorists killed in an encounter at Bijbehara in south Kashmir’s Anantnag district on Thursday had refused to surrender before they were neutralised by the security forces, officials said.

The police said that based on specific inputs generated by Anantnag police regarding the presence of terrorists in the Kandipora Bijbehara area of Anantnag, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by the police, the army and the CRPF on Wednesday afternoon.

During the search operation, as the presence of the terrorists got ascertained, they were given the opportunity to surrender. However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated, leading to an encounter.

But due to darkness, the operation was suspended though the cordon remained intact through the night.

The police said that on Thursday morning, repeated announcements were again made for the hiding terrorists to surrender.

“But the terrorists fired on the joint search party which was retaliated, resulting in the elimination of the two hiding terrorists,” the police said.

The slain terrorists have been identified as Adil Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Shithpora Bijbehara, and Zahid Ahmad Rather, a resident of Sirhama Anantnag, both affiliated to the proscribed terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The police said that as per their records, both the killed terrorists were involved in several terror crime cases, including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities.

The police added that incriminating materials including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes.

“The last rites of the slain terrorists shall be performed after conducting their medico-legal formalities and their nearest family members shall be allowed to participate in the last rites,” the police said. (IANS)

# ACP Ramesh Nangre, praised for work in pandemic, dies



MUMBAI: Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Ramesh Nangre of Mumbai’s Sakinaka division, who played a key role in enforcing the COVID-19 lockdown measures in the city’s Dharavi slum that helped flatten the infection curve there, died of heart attack on Thursday, an official said. Nangre, 55, was declared dead at a private hospital in suburban Kandivali in the morning, the police official said. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Nangre was posted at Dharavi police station as senior police inspector when the coronavirus pandemic broke out in Mumbai. Dharavi, the biggest slum in the metropolis, soon became a hotspot of the

outbreak. “However, Nangre did an outstanding job in the fight against coronavirus through strict implementation of lockdown measures.

In a few months, Dharavi flattened the coronavirus curve and earned praise from the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the efforts in controlling the spread of the virus,” the official said. Nangre single-handedly managed the police station even as 60 personnel under him tested positive for the infection, with many of them remaining quarantined for long periods, he said. He was recently promoted as an ACP. He had also earned praise from Home Minister Anil Deshmukh for his work, the official said. (PTI)

## HAR HAR MAHADEV



# Myanmar junta spurns UN appeal, kills more protesters

**MANDALAY**

SPURNING an appeal by the United Nations to top using lethal force against peaceful demonstrators, security forces in Myanmar on Thursday fatally shot at least 10 people protesting against last month’s military coup.

The military also lodged a new allegation against Aung San Suu Kyi, the elected leader it ousted on February 1.

It charged at a news conference in the capital, Naypyitaw, that in 2017-18 she was illegally given USD 600,000 and gold bars worth slightly less by a political ally, former Yangon Division Chief Minister Phyo Min Thein. Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Zaw Min Tun said Phyo Min Thein had admitted giving the



People carry bricks to help anti-coup protesters to build makeshift barricades in Yangon, Myanmar on Thursday

money and gold to Suu Kyi, but presented no evidence.

The accusation was clearly aimed at discrediting Suu Kyi, and perhaps charging her with a serious crime. She and President Win Myint are both being de-

tained on less serious allegations.

Myanmar has been roiled by protests and other acts of civil disobedience since the coup toppled Suu Kyi’s government just as it was to start its second term.

# A year on, WHO still struggling to tackle Covid threat

**NEW DELHI**

THE World Health Organization (WHO), that declared Covid-19 as a pandemic exactly a year ago on March 11, 2020 which has caused more “mass trauma” than the World War II, is still warning people about the lasting consequences as those who recovered from the deadly attack are facing several health issues amid surge in caseloads in several regions around the world including India.

The overall number of global Covid-19 cases has topped 117.9 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 2.61 million, according to the data by the Johns Hopkins University on Thursday.

The US is the worst-hit country with the world’s highest number of cases and deaths at 29,150,068 and 529,102, respectively, according to the CSSE.

India comes at the second spot in terms of cases at 11,262,707

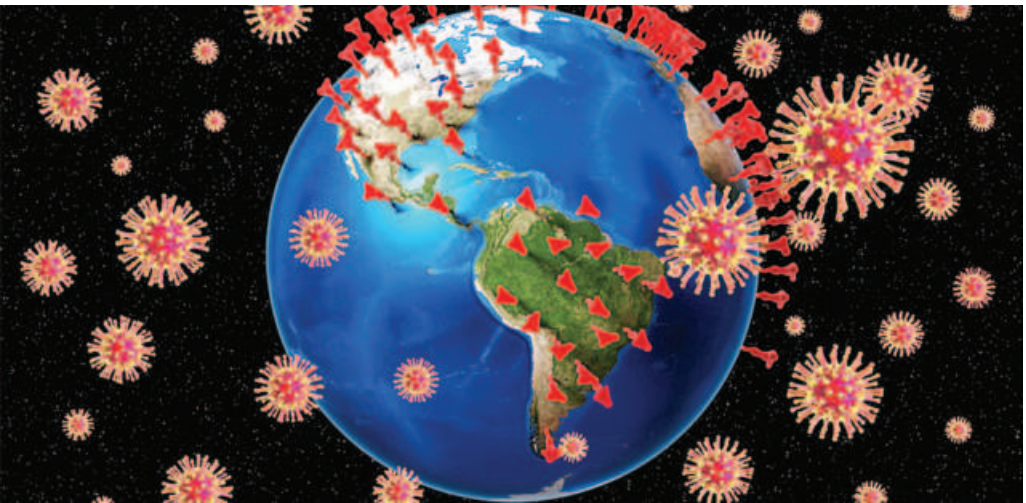
and is currently witnessing a definite surge in caseloads in Maharashtra.

To recall, the WHO faced severe criticisms for “mishandling the crisis” and delaying the announcement to declare it as a pandemic.

India was among 58 nations, including 27 European Union members, who moved a draft resolution in May last year, demanding evaluation of the WHO’s response towards the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The resolution demanded initiation “at the earliest appropriate moment to review experience gained and lessons learned from the WHO-coordinated international health response to Covid-19”.

“We are deeply concerned by the morbidity and mortality caused by Covid-19 pandemic, the negative impacts on physical and mental health and social well-being, the negative impacts on economy and society



and the consequent exacerbation of inequalities within and between countries,” read the draft.

The WHO on January 23 declared a global health emergency, but did not declare it as a pandemic and waited for a week for its director-general

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to return from China. By that time, Covid-19 cases increased 10 times and the virus entered 18 countries.

According to Health Policy Watch, till as late as February, the WHO did not support countries for imposing travel restric-

tions to China. “When countries began evacuating their citizens from Wuhan, the Covid-19 epicentre, the WHO said it did not favour this step”.

The WHO finally declared it a pandemic on March 11.

In a tweet on Thursday, WHO Director-General Tedros Ad-

hanom Ghebreyesus said, “COVID19 has turned our Earth globe europe-africa upside down & shown why strong health systems are so critical.”

As many countries put the worst of the pandemic behind them, in India, Covid-19 cases are once again on the rise in Maharashtra and state Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said on Thursday that “lockdown is required in some places” to curb the virus spread.

On Wednesday, Maharashtra touched 13,659 fresh cases -- the highest since 13,395 cases were recorded on October 8, 2020.

The state has touched a progressive total of 22,52,057 cases till date and 52,610 deaths -- both highest in India -- and the count is increasing afresh since the past two weeks.

On the other hand, Brazil has overtaken the US as the country with the most daily Covid-19 cases and deaths in the world

amid the spread of an aggressive strain.

Brazil’s daily Covid-19 death toll surged to 2,286 on Wednesday, its highest yet during the pandemic. The US death toll on Tuesday was 1,947.

Brazil is now home to hundreds of new Covid-19 variants and is reporting nearly 70,000 cases a day.

More than 29 million cases have been reported in the US.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Dr Rochelle Walensky said during a White House briefing on Wednesday that while trends are starting to head in the right direction, “the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths still remain too high and are somber reminders that we must remain vigilant as we work to scale up our vaccination efforts across this country”.

Despite several vaccines now available globally, the Covid-19 threat still looms. (IANS)



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Privacy a key priority for us

“Privacy is already a key priority for us...If you do anything on Google Pay, it stays on Google Pay - and that's the state today. What we are saying now is we are creating new controls for managing your Google Pay activity, even on Google Pay.”

— Ambarish Kenghe, Google Pay VP



## TELECOM

### Apple starts iPhone 12 assembly in India

Apple Inc is commencing assembly of its iPhone 12 model in India, a move that is expected to help the US tech giant further consolidate its position in the country. Apple has partnered with third-party manufacturers like Foxconn and Wistron to make some of its phones in India. These include iPhone SE, iPhone 10R and iPhone 11.

## FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.27	South	
Euro	91.59	African Rand	5.61
UAE Dirham	21.83	Hong Kong Dollar	10.81
Thai Baht	2.74	Japanese Yen	0.77
British Pound	105.77	New Zealand Dollar	55.41
Australian Dollar	59.57	Saudi Riyal	21.37
Canadian Dollar	60.83	Swedish Krona	9.92
Swiss Franc	81.87	Singapore Dollar	57.12

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## BIZ BRIEFS

### ZEE5 launches campaign

THE OTT platform has unveiled its latest integrated marketing campaign 'Any Time Manoranjan' (ATM) starring Shraddha Arya and Tejashri Pradhan. The campaign targeted primarily at the TV viewing audiences across tier II cities to consume entertainment anytime, anywhere, and in the language of their choice. "Through the ATM campaign, we aim to acquire new users and encourage television watchers to download the ZEE5 app for an unmatched experience, using a powerful combination of platform convenience and compelling content. We deliver multilingual purposeful content across various devices, ecosystems, operating systems, and wants to target the gap between the TV watching audience and OTT users by introducing them to a world of real, relevant, and resonant Indian stories on our platform," said Manish Kalra, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5.

### Prestige unveils new products

TTK Prestige has launched two new wet grinders 'PWG 09 and PWG 10'. The models feature digital timer which can be set up to 90 minutes. The PWG 10 model has an attractive dual tone body. The grinders have a compact table top design, which occupies less space and is portable. The mixers are equipped with high quality natural grinding stones, which make effective grinding. The grinders made of stainless steel drum, heavy duty 200W motor, and advanced lid locking mechanism. Both models come with a two-year warranty on product and a five year warranty on motor. They are priced at Rs 6,895 and Rs 5,995. Both are available for purchase at Prestige exclusive stores and leading dealers across the country.

### OIC's platform for optical biz

AHYAS Software launched AIOC, an end-to-end digital platform built specifically for the optical industry. Packed with a series of apps, AIOC digitally connects OEMs, brands, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, optometrists, eye hospitals, doctors and end consumers. At the core of the platform is the virtual mirror, a live 3D try-on app for the consumer, which has an AI powered recommendation engine that suggests various eyewear options, which can be captured and compared. "AIOC is for democratising technology to enable local commerce through a digitally connected network of standalone stores. We already have over 2,000 downloads of our beta version and hope to achieve a 10,000 strong network of retailers with one million consumers in the next 18 to 24 months," said the company in a statement.

### New range from Orientbell

ORIENTBELL, a tiles manufacturer, has launched their all-new wall range 'Eleganz' tiles for the southern and western markets. Eleganz tiles bring to life by designs that can be laid differently on a wall compared to usual designs in the market. These can be put up on the whole wall without the need of plain base tiles. Alternatively, the plain base options are available in contrasting combinations. The new range also includes designs which can be laid vertically on a wall. "With latest innovation of Eleganz range, we have tried to keep up with the modern ways of building homes. The application of this range goes just beyond bathrooms and kitchens, it has an option for every wall in the house," said Alok Agarwal, Chief Marketing Officer, Orient-

# TVs set to cost more from April

Prices of open-cell panels gone up in the global markets by up to 35% in past one month

NEW DELHI

PRICES of LED TVs are set to rise further from April as the cost of open-cell panels has gone up in the global markets by up to 35 per cent in the past one month.

Brands including Panasonic, Haier and Thomson are considering to increase prices from April this year, while some like LG have already raised prices due to hike in prices of open-cell. Panasonic India and South Asia President and CEO Manish Sharma said, "Panel prices are rising continuously and so are the prices of TVs. It is likely that TV prices may increase further by April." When being asked about the quantum on increase, he said, "Seeing current trends, it might go up 5-7 per cent more by April."

Expressing similarly, Haier Appliances India President Eric Braganza said there is no other way than to increase the prices. "The prices of open-cell have gone up tremendously and the trends are that it would keep on increasing," said Braganza adding that "if that continues, we would have to continuously increase prices". The open-cell panel is an important part of TV manufacturing and covers around 60 per cent of the unit. Companies import television panels in an open-cell state, which require further assembling with value addition before being shipped to market for sale. Su-



TV is one of the largest segments under the entire domain of appliance and consumer electronics, accounting for a volume of almost 17 million with an estimated sale value of almost ₹25,000 crore

per Plastronics Pvt Ltd (SPPL), the brand licensee for French Electronics brand Thomson and US-based brand Kodak, said there is a scarcity of open cell in the market and the prices have almost gone up by three-folds in the past eight months.

"From the past eight months, there has been a month-on-month increase in panel prices, we have witnessed more than 350 per cent spike in LED TV panels. Globally, panel market has slowed down. Despite that, there has been an increase of 35 per cent in the past 30 days," said SPPL Chief Executive Officer Avneet Singh Marwah. He added that the per-unit cost of TVs would go up by at least Rs 2,000-3,000 starting from April. Videotex International, which owns Daiwa and Shinco brands, said the industry has never seen or expected such a price

increase of open-cell. "Since 32 inch is the most-sold size in India, the price of a 32-inch screen size is expected to go up by Rs 5,000-6,000," said Videotex International Group Director Arjun Bajaj.

TV is one of the largest segments under the entire domain of appliance and consumer electronics, accounting for a volume of almost 17 million with an estimated sale value of almost Rs 25,000 crore. According to a joint report by the industry body, CEAMA and Frost & Sullivan, the TV market is expected to grow to 284 lakh units in 2024-25 from 175 lakh units in 2018-19. It further said that the open cell panel and the chips of the TV are predominantly imported from China besides some other markets as Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam and only the last-mile assembly is done in India.

## Sebi probe against NSE in Karvy case underway

NEW DELHI

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has initiated proceedings against the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in the fraud case wherein Karvy Stock Broking Pvt Ltd (KSBL), transferred securities worth around Rs 2,300 crore of more than 95,000 clients into its account and pledged them with the banks and NBFCs. In a reply to the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Anurag Thakur said: "Sebi has initiated proceedings against NSE in the matter of KSBL for violating provisions of Sebi Circulars pertaining to monitoring of brokers and oversight of members."

He also informed that the Sebi has already initiated action against the Directors and Key Management Personnel (KMP) of KSBL. Sebi passed an Ex-parte-Ad-Interim order in the matter of KSBL on November 22, 2019. Pursuant to this order, securities belonging to 82,559 clients of worth around Rs 2,000 crore were transferred to re-



spective fully paid-up clients of KSBL. Thakur said that the interim order was confirmed by Sebi through order dated November 24, 2020 and the NSE declared KSBL a defaulter on November 23, 2020 and initiated claims as per the bye laws of the exchange. "During the period 22nd November, 2019 to 22nd November, 2020, funds of 2,32,323 clients aggregating to Rs 125.20 crore and securities of 1,57,769 clients aggregating to Rs 2,345.82 crore were settled. Further, as on 19th February, 2021, an amount of Rs 81 crore has been paid to 3,398 clients from Investor Protection Fund (IPF) of NSE as per the bye laws of the exchange," he said.

### CAIT launches vendor onboarding app

NEW DELHI

TRADERS' body CAIT on Thursday launched a vendor onboarding mobile app for its upcoming e-commerce portal 'Bharat e Market'.

The app will enable businesses and service providers to register on the portal and create their own "e-dukaan". The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said its 'purely Indian' Bharat e Market portal will comply with all the rules and regulations of the country. CAIT has been engaged in a tirade against foreign e-commerce companies, accusing them of violating the country's FDI policy norms - a charge denied by the firms. CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said "the way in which the e-commerce market is greatly vitiated by foreign e-commerce entities through their arbitrariness and violating the rules and laws of the country, it was essential to create an e-commerce portal fully dedicated to the traders and consumers of India." k

## 'Govt-owned bad bank more capital efficient'

MUMBAI

AMID confusing reports about the control of the proposed bad bank, a brokerage has called for government ownership, saying state-funding is more capital efficient apart from speeding up implementation and also lowering the credit cost/loss for the banks. The government owning the proposed bad bank will not only be more capital efficient but also not impact the fiscal numbers, as otherwise, it will have to keep on recapitalising the state-owned lenders as they will be the biggest beneficiaries of the proposed bad bank, Bank of America Securities India said in a report. Again, such a set-up can lower the credit charge on banks to a fifth in the worst-case scenario from the 100 per cent now, the report added. As of March 2020, the net non-performing loans of banks stood at 2.8 per cent or Rs



2,89,500 crore, which is 1.3 per cent of the GDP, according to the report. This will go up considerably 13.5 per cent by this September, a two-decade high, given the impact of the pandemic on the companies and banks, according to the Reserve Bank of India. In January, a stress test by the central bank showed that public sector banks' gross NPAs might rise from 9.7 per cent in September 2020 to 16.2 per cent in September 2021, while private banks' from 4.6 per cent to 7.9 per cent, and foreign banks from 2.5 per cent to 5.4 per cent, taking the system-wide bad loans to 13.5 per cent by September this year.

The given understanding is that the proposed asset reconstruction company or ARC will be funded by state-owned banks/FIs. According to the report, the proposed ARC taking over the bad loans of banks presents an opportunity for improving asset quality when real lending rates are falling.

## Kalyan Jewellers IPO to open on March 16

NEW DELHI

KALYAN Jewellers India Ltd on Thursday fixed a price band of Rs 86-87 a share for its Rs 1,175 crore-initial share-sale, which will open for public subscription on March 16. The three-day public issue would conclude on March 18 and the bidding for anchor investors would open on March 15. Kalyan Jewellers announced in a virtual press meet. The initial public offer (IPO) comprises issuance of fresh equity aggregating up to Rs 800 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) worth Rs 375 crore.

Kalyan Jewellers' promoter T S Kalyanaraman would be off-loading shares worth up to Rs 125 crore, while Highdell Investment Ltd, an affiliate of Warburg Pincus, would sell up to Rs 250 crore worth of shares through the OFS route. Half of the issue is reserved for qualified institutional buyers, 35 per cent for retail investors and 15 per cent for non-institutional bidders.

## Cement volume to grow decadal high

Revival in demand from the infrastructure and urban housing sectors likely in FY22: Report

NEW DELHI

CEMENT maker's volume growth is set to hit a decadal high of 13 per cent next fiscal, Crisil Ratings said on Thursday.

Accordingly, the growth trend will be backed by expected revival in demand from the infrastructure and urban housing sectors, and a generous low-base effect.

The agency in an analysis of 15 Crisil-rated cement companies cited that increased volume will counterweigh the impact of rising power and fuel costs on cash accruals, and will also keep the credit outlook of cement makers stable.

"Higher spends on infrastructure development would be in line with the 26 per cent increase in budgetary allocation for infrastructure in the Union Budget 2021-22. That, coupled with pent-up demand in urban housing, will drive volume growth,"



said Nitesh Jain, Director, Crisil Ratings. "Demand from hinterland - the saviour this fiscal - should sustain on the back of higher rural incomes."

According to Crisil, while volume growth will rebound, higher cost of sales would weigh on cement profitability next fiscal. Besides, the report pointed out that rising prices of diesel, petcoke or coal, and

polypropylene bags may push up cost by Rs 150-200 per tonne.

At present, freight, power and fuel constitute almost 55 per cent of the total cost of sales of cement.

Furthermore, the report said that increasing share of infrastructure and urban housing means a higher proportion of sales will be from the cost conscious non-trade channels.

Consequently, this will translate to marginally lower net realisation for cement companies.

"Operating profits could moderate by Rs 200-250 per tonne next fiscal due to higher cost and lower net realisation, after touching a 7-year high of over Rs 1,200 per tonne this fiscal. However, cash accruals won't be affected as higher volumes will offset the impact of lower profit margins," said Isha Chaudhary, Director, Crisil Research. "Higher cash accruals will keep the net debt to EBITDA ratio salutary at 1.4 - 1.5 times next fiscal, despite an increase in capital expenditure (capex)."

Additionally, the report said that Capex slowed this fiscal as companies chose to conserve cash amid demand disruption. "Besides, ample liquidity and strong balance sheets have cushioned the impact of the pandemic on the credit profiles of cement companies," the report said."

## RINL privatisation a detrimental step: FSME

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

THE Federation of Small and Medium Enterprises of India (FSME India) on Thursday said that the decision taken by the central government to privatise Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, would not only hurt the sentiments of Andhra Pradesh people, but would also be detrimental to the interests of the MSME sector.

"Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is the pride of Andhra Pradesh as it came into existence after a prolonged 'Visakha Ukku Andhrula Haku' agitation. Several people sacrificed their lives during the agitation. Privatising the steel plant will hurt the sentiments of Andhra people," APK Reddy, national pres-

ident, FSME India and Vice Chairman, South India MSME Joint Action Committee, said in a statement. Extending support to the Andhra Pradesh government led by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, trade unions and political parties who are fighting against the Centre's move, he pointed out that the privatisation of public sector units (PSUs) will harm the interests of MSME sector which relies on them for orders. "MSME entrepreneurs embarked on a prolonged agitation and staged dharnas in 2012 in Hyderabad in united Andhra Pradesh when the then Congress government had imposed power cuts on the industrial sector. Through that agitation, we succeeded in forcing the government to accept our demands," Reddy said.



APK Reddy



Goa to host 2021 AFC Champions League Group E matches

NEW DELHI

GROUP E matches of the AFC Champions League (ACL) will be hosted in Goa, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Thursday. Group E includes FC Goa, who became the first Indian club to directly qualify for the group stage of Asia's premier club competition by virtue of finishing at the top of the table in the Indian Super League (ISL).

Goa will be competing against Iranian club Persepolis, who finished runners-up in 2018, and Qatar's Al Rayyan SC along with a qualifier from the playoff matches. The matches will be held from April 14 to 30. However, specific stadiums for the matches are yet to be announced.

"The West Region matches, which are scheduled to take place between April 14-30, will see Saudi Arabia host Groups A and D in Riyadh as well as Group C in Jeddah, with the matches in Group B to be staged in the United Arab Emirates city of Sharjah, while India, whose representative FC Goa are poised to mark the nation's debut in Asia's premier club competition, will host Group E," said the AFC in its statement.

Goa played host to the 2020/21 season of the ISL which was held across three bio-secure venues in the state.

The 2019/20 season of the ISL was the first time that the winners of the league stage were awarded direct qualification into the group stage of the ACL. Goa finished top of the table ahead of ATK.

Mumbai City have sealed qualification this season and will play in the group stage of the 2022 ACL. (IANS)

Rohit, Rahul to open in 1<sup>st</sup> T20I against Eng

AHMEDABAD

ROHIT Sharma and K.L. Rahul will open India's innings as the world's two top-ranked T20 International teams, India (No. 2) and England (No. 1) clash in the first match of the five-match T20I series here at the Motera stadium in Sardar Patel Sports Enclave on Friday with Shikhar Dhawan starting on the bench as reserve opener, confirmed India skipper Virat Kohli.

The visiting Englishmen who lost the four-match Test series 3-1 are now looking to restore pride under skipper Eoin Morgan, who leads the white ball sides in the five T20Is and three ODIs after taking over from Test captain Joe Root.

Ever since the return of Rohit, who missed the T20 International series in Australia, there has been speculation over who will open the innings with him from out of Rahul and Dhawan. Rohit was out injured, nursing his hamstring injury post the IPL late last year.

"I don't think so (that both Dhawan and Rahul can be fitted in the playing XI). If Rohit plays it is quite simple. KL and Rohit have been consistently performing for us at the top and those two will start for us. In case of a situation where either Rohit takes rest or KL has a niggles, (then) Shikhi comes back as third opener. Rahul and

Rohit will start," said Kohli while speaking to the media on Thursday, on the eve of the first T20 International. Rohit had scored 65 and 60 not out in the last two T20 Internationals he played back in January-February 2020. Out of the last five T20I knocks he has played, Rohit has scored half-centuries in three innings.

Rahul, on the other hand, has just one half-century in the last five T20I innings but he has managed pretty good starts. He has scored 39, 45, 51, 30 and 0 (in the last T20I vs Australia).

Dhawan too has managed good starts - two half-centuries, a 32 and a 28 besides 1 in the last five T20Is.

The England players are expected to pose a tough challenge for Virat Kohli's boys as their team comprises hard-hitting batsmen who are more adept at playing on flatter surfaces in limited overs games unlike in Test matches where the pitches demanded application against spinners.

As many as 13 of the 16 players in England's T20I squad have prior experience of the Indian Premier League (IPL) with some of the top players like skipper Morgan, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler and Jofra Archer being an integral part of their respective IPL squads.

India, on the other hand, will see the return of wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant who was ignored for both the white ball series in Australia late last year. However, his performances in Test matches make him a strong contender for the Indian middle-order especially the No. 4 or No. 5 batting positions.

Both teams have won seven T20Is each in the 14 games they have played against each other.

The T20I series is the first of India's preparatory series this year leading up to the World T20 that will be held in India in October-November.

**India T20I squad:** Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), K.L. Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), Ishan Kishan (wicketkeeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Rahul Tewatia, T. Natarajan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini and Shardul Thakur.

**England T20I squad:** Eoin Morgan (captain), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow (wicketkeeper), Sam Billings, Jos Buttler (wicketkeeper), Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, Mark Wood.

India to dish out X-factor batsmen

AHMEDABAD: While India are No. 2 in T20 Int'l world rankings, they are still not content in being the second best team behind England and are hoping to pack the team with multiple players having the X-factor.

After beating Australia 2-1 in the T20I series Down Under in December, 2020, the Indian team has made massive changes in the batting line-up and brought in proven hard-hitters just like England have, to provide the X-factor. While wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has found his way into the team thanks to some sparkling performances with the bat in Test matches, India have also included Mumbai Indians' middle-order batting duo Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav. They have also included leg-spinning all-rounder Rahul Tewatia who can hit a few big shots.

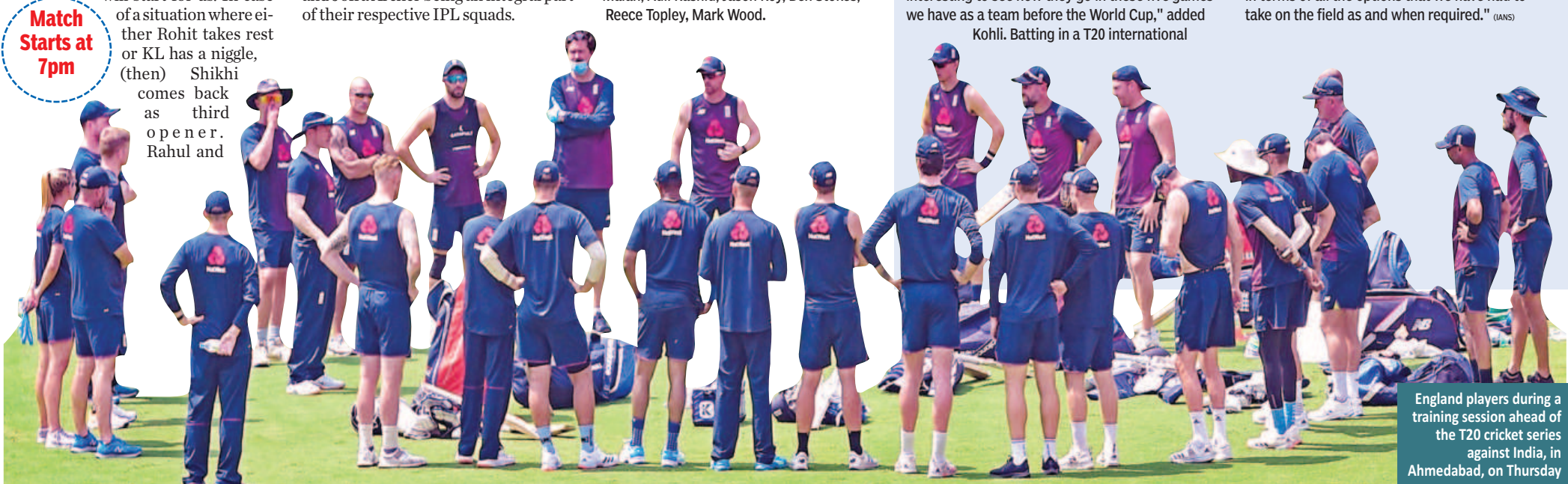
"We have played with a certain kind of pattern in the past. We didn't probably have a big tournament to work towards but if you look at the squad and the additions we have made to the squad we have tried to address a few things we needed in having specific guys who can be the X-factor with the bat," said India skipper Virat Kohli while speaking to the media on Thursday.

"We have to cover all those bases. Now it will be interesting to see how they go in these five games we have as a team before the World Cup," added Kohli. Batting in a T20 international

game has usually seen a batsman hold the innings together and bat long to help the team set a big target. However, things may change in the T20I series as the Indian team is looking to go England's way and are focussing on nurturing batsmen who can start hitting from the word go and not really worry about stabilising the innings even if two or three wickets go down quickly.

"The kind of players we have added to the squad is (meant) to give our batting more depth and not play in the kind of pattern that we have played with in the past. We want to be a side that plays free cricket and not have any baggage of depth, and (depend on) one guy having to bat the whole innings to get to a big total. We have explosive batsmen in the team now, who can change the game at any stage even if you are 2-3 wickets down. This is what we are trying to address (while) picking this squad," added Kohli.

The India skipper also said that this is more or less the squad that will remain intact for the T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in India in October-November. Only Ravindra Jadeja will be added to the squad. "I feel the squad that we have, barring Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja) who will come into the squad whenever he is fit, is the most balanced in terms of all the options that we have had to take on the field as and when required." (IANS)



England players during a training session ahead of the T20 cricket series against India, in Ahmedabad, on Thursday.

Shahidi becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Afghan to scale 'Mount 200'

ABU DHABI

HASHMATULLAH Shahidi was aged 9 when he started taking cricket seriously and his father took him to a club in Kabul.

At the age of 24, he played in a World Cup for Afghanistan and on Thursday, 26-year-old Shahidi became the first from his country to score a double century in Test cricket, against Zimbabwe here.

Shahidi led a dominant Afghanistan on Thursday to a mammoth total of 545/4, with his captain Asghar Afghan waiting until the left-hander reached 200, to declare. Reach he did, and he walked back to a standing ovation from his teammates and opponents with 200 runs to his name off 443 deliveries. He spent 590 minutes at the crease, hitting 21 fours and one six.

Shahidi had said in a video interview for the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Facebook page that his mother is watching his innings all the time while his father's support is what got him started in the sport.

"I was 9 years old when I started



watching cricket and since then I have been playing. I started playing at home with my brothers. My father was always supportive, he told me if you are good I will take you to a cricket academy. Then, I started playing in an academy in Kabul," Shahidi, who hails from the western province of Logar in Afghanistan, says in the video.

"Soon I played U-15 level cricket and then played for Afghanistan in the 2010 U-19 World Cup. I joined the national team in 2013," said Shahidi. Shahidi idolises batting great Kumar Sangakkara, who was the first Sri Lankan to score more than 12,000 runs in Test cricket, and likes taking innings as deep as possible, testified by his gritty knock during the second Test.

"I liked watching Sangakkara play. I always watched him and never missed his games, he was my role model. We always struggle in ODIs to play the full 50 overs so I try to stay there till the last overs," said Shahidi.

"I want to score 100s and want to achieve a lot of things for my country. I want to be in the list of top players," he said. (IANS)

Liverpool, PSG ease into Champions League last 8

LONDON: Liverpool beat Leipzig 2-0 to ease into the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals 4-0 on aggregate while Paris Saint-Germain drew 1-1 with Barcelona at home to see off the Spanish giants 5-2 over two legs from the tournament.

The English champions defeated their German opponents 2-0 nearly three weeks ago in Budapest, then returned to the Hungary capital on Wednesday for their second-leg game, Xinhua news reports.

They wasted several chances before finally opening the scoring in the 70th minute as Mohamed Salah collected Diogo Jota's pass to hit the bottom corner. Four minutes later, Sadio Mane added a second for the Reds from close range. After suffering their sixth straight home defeat Sunday, Liverpool are only eighth with 10 matches to go in the Premier League. The draw for the quarter-final will take place on Friday.

At the Parc des Princes in Paris, French star Kylian Mbappe put hosts PSG ahead with a 30th-minute penalty, but Lionel Messi equalised with a stunning long-distance strike seven minutes later.

However, it was far from enough for the visitors as they still kept a three-goal deficit from the 4-1 loss in the first leg. Barcelona failed to reach the last eight of the Champions League for the first time since the 2006-2007 season. (IANS)

1st ODI: Hope ton takes WI to 8-wicket win over SL

ANTIGUA: Opener Shai Hope scored 110 to lead West Indies to an eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first ODI at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. Hope's 10th ODI century helped West Indies chase down a target of 233 with three overs remaining.

The Sri Lankan innings was marked by the dismissal of opener Danushka Gunathilaka, who was sent back after West Indies captain Kieron Pollard appealed against him for obstructing the field on Wednesday. The on-field umpire referred the decision to the third umpire with a soft signal of out and the latter wasted little time in confirming the call.

Earlier, Gunathilaka and captain Dimuth Karunaratne's opening partnership of 105 runs was broken after the latter was dismissed by Pollard in the 20th over on 52.

Sri Lanka completely lost the momentum they had gained from the opening stand after Gunathilaka's dismissal two overs later and they were eventually all out for 232.

West Indies also had a big opening stand but they hardly ever looked back after that. Hope and Evin Lewis put up a partnership of 143 runs before the latter was dismissed by Dushmantha Chameera in the 29th over. Hope then put 72 for the second wicket with Darren Bravo that brought West Indies on the cusp of victory and Jason Mohammed then saw them through.

**Brief scores:** Sri Lanka 232 all out in 49 overs (Danushka Gunathilaka 55, Dimuth Karunaratne 52; Jason Mohammed 2/12, Jason Holder 2/39) lost to West Indies 236/2 in 47 overs (Shai Hope 110, Evin Lewis 65; Dushmantha Chameera 2/50)

Chhetri Covid+ but will join Indian team in Dubai

NEW DELHI

INDIA football captain Sunil Chhetri said on Thursday that he has tested positive for Covid-19. However, a top official of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said that the ace forward would join the probabilities for the Indian team in Dubai for a camp on March 18 or 19.

Chhetri is part of the 35-member list of probabilities for a preparatory camp in Dubai, for which the players will leave on March 15, ahead of India's international friendlies against Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on March 25 and 29, respectively. Both matches will be played in Dubai.

"Chhetri is in quarantine so he will recover

and join the team a little later, on the 18th or 19th. The team is leaving on March 15. He will be going out a couple of days later," a senior All India Football Federation (AIFF) official told IANS. The official further said that Chhetri will be available for selection for both the friendly games. Chhetri said on Thursday that he feels fine and is recovering from the virus.

Shaw storm helps Mumbai set up final clash with UP

NEW DELHI

MUMBAI'S in-form skipper Prithvi Shaw slammed a 122-ball 165 and powered his team to a comfortable 72-run win over Karnataka in the semi-final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Thursday.

Mumbai will meet Uttar Pradesh in the final at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Sunday. In the other semi-final, UP defeated Gujarat by five wickets.

Owing to Shaw's brilliance, Mumbai posted 322 after being put in to bat at the Airforce ground before bowling out the opposition for 250, with their bowlers putting up a splendid performance. It was Shaw's show all the way as he toyed with an experienced Karnataka attack, and went on to register his fourth century of the tournament, hammering 17 fours and seven maximums.

Shaw had earlier scored three tons, including a double -- 105 not out against Delhi, 227 not out against Puducherry and 185 not out against Saurashtra. He has amassed 754 runs so far in the tournament -- the single highest in an edition of the national ODI championship. Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (6) fell early, with Mumbai at 11/1. But Shaw went on the offensive and spared no bowler even as wicket-keeper Aditya Tare (16) played second fiddle to his marauding partner at the other end.

**Brief Scores:** Mumbai 322 (Prithvi Shaw 165; Shams Mulani 45, V Vyshak 4/56; M Prasidh Krishna 3/64) beat Karnataka 250 (Devdutt Padikkal 64; BR Sharath 61; Tanush Kotian 2/23, Tushar Deshpande 2/37) by 72 runs.

Gujarat 184; 48.1 overs (Het Patel 60, Piyush Chawla 32; Yash Dayal 3/34, Aaqib Khan 2/22) lost to Uttar Pradesh 188/5; 42.5 overs (Akshdeep Nath 71, Karan Sharma 38, Upendra Yadav 31 not out) by five wickets. (PTI)