



THE HANS INDIA

● Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Amaravati | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095 ●

● Follow @ /thehansindia | /thehansindiaweb | /thehansindia | /thehansindia | /thehansindia ●

To advertise
or
to subscribe
give a
missed call to
88823 96396

WINDOWS



Devotees pay floral tribute to Mother Teresa on her 110th birth anniversary, in Ahmedabad, Wednesday

Ex-Prez Pranab in deep coma

New Delhi:

Former President Pranab Mukherjee is in a deep coma and on ventilator support, the Army Research and Referral Hospital said on Wednesday. He has been hospitalized for the past 16 days and been critical following a brain surgery. The hospital authorities said, "Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee is being treated for lung infection. His renal parameters are slightly deranged since Tuesday." Last week, Mukherjee's health condition deteriorated after he developed lung infection. A team of specialists have been monitoring his vital and clinical parameters. Mukherjee was also found to be COVID-19 positive when he was admitted on August 10 for the life-saving emergency surgery for a brain clot. There has been no improvement in his health status since. The veteran leader was admitted to the hospital at 12.07 pm on August 10 in a critical condition.



HANS NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi: Two days after the fiery Congress Working Committee meeting, the grand old party got into a fighting mode and wants to take on the Union government on issues like privatisation of the Railways, GST compensation to states and the decision of the Centre on conducting JEE and NEET examinations.

It also recognised the need for a joint fight with other parties to take on the NDA government. As a first step, the AICC interim president Sonia Gandhi held a video conference, in which West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, all four Congress CMs - Amarinder Singh from Punjab, Ashok Gehlot from Rajasthan, Bhupesh Baghel in Chattisgarh and V Narayanasamy in Puducherry participated.

Sonia Gandhi found fault with the Centre for its "refusal" to pay GST compensation to the states and said that it was betrayal of trust of the people of India. She said GST was enacted as an example of "cooperative federalism" after the states agreed to forego their constitutional powers of taxation in the larger national interest and on the solemn promise of compulsory GST compensation for a period of five years.

Continued on Page 5

6 die in UP bus accident

Lucknow:

The toll in the head-on collision between two Uttar Pradesh Roadways buses on Wednesday on the Lucknow-Hardoi road reached six, with over a dozen injured, police said. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief over the incident and ordered proper treatment of the injured. The Roadways has ordered an inquiry into the incident by a three-member committee, which will submit its report within 24 hours. The two buses coming from opposite directions rammed into each other earlier in the day. While one bus was coming to Lucknow from Hardoi, the other was headed to Hardoi from the state capital. Sources said that the buses were moving at a high speed which led to the accident.

The police reached the spot and the injured have been admitted to a local medical facility. The deceased have yet to be identified. UP State Roadways officials have also reached the site of the accident.

- Sonia spits fire on Centre for not clearing GST dues
- 7 CMs of Oppn demand postponement of NEET, JEE
- Decides to meet PM Modi; mulls plan to move SC



Sonia Gandhi chairs a virtual meeting with CMs of 7 States to discuss various issues, in New Delhi, on Wednesday

No rethink on JEE, NEET: Edu Ministry

New Delhi: A top Education Ministry source said on Wednesday that there would be no rethinking on JEE and NEET exams. This means, that JEE and NEET will not be postponed. The official

As per top Education Ministry sources, there would be no rethinking about conducting JEE and NEET exams. Even though the Covid-19 pandemic is still going strong, the Central government and the National Testing Agency

told India Today that students want to appear for the exams. Even though the Covid-19 pandemic is still going strong, the Central government and the National Testing Agency

(NTA), which is the conducting body for JEE and NEET, are set to go ahead with the entrance exams for which lakhs of students appear from all over India. The government

said the exams would be carried out as per schedule JEE on September 1 to 6, and NEET on September 13 with all the safety guidelines in place to protect students from the coronavirus.

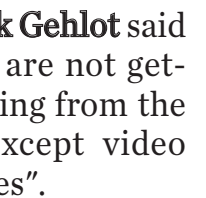
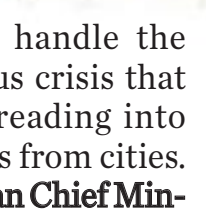
WHO SAID WHAT

Mamata Banerjee who urged all states to join hands and approach the Supreme Court for the postponement of JEE and NEET exams.

Uddhav Thackeray criticised the Centre and said state governments are being reduced to redundancy. "We are heading towards one person controlling everything."

Hemant Soren said the state governments are faced with severe economic hardships and the common man has been burdened rising prices. NEET, JEE exams pose huge risk of coronavirus spread.

Amarinder Singh said that with no GST funds being released by the Centre, the state government will soon have no money to handle the coronavirus crisis that is now spreading into the villages from cities. **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** said the states are not getting anything from the Centre "except video conferences".



STORMY GST MEET LIKELY

HANS NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi: The issue of delay in giving promised compensation for loss or revenue arising from implementation of GST is likely to rock the GST council meeting to be held on Thursday.

The protest is likely to vociferous from the non BJP ruled states. Though the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh too would be demanding that the dues be cleared at the earliest, they may not join the other state Chief Ministers in the protest during the 41st meeting of GST council which would be held via video conferencing.

Sources said the options being explored are market borrowing, raising cess rate or increasing the number of items for levy of compensation cess. Discussion on correction in inverted duty on certain goods like textiles and footwear is also likely.

The Opposition party-ruled states are miffed over the recent statement of the Attorney General KK Venugopal that the Centre was not legally bound to make up from its coffers any shortfall in GST revenues of states. Sources had earlier indicated that following the AG's opinion, states may now have to look at market borrowings to make good their respective revenue shortfall and the GST Council will take a final call.

Continued on Page 5

Accenture to fire 5 pc of its workforce

10,000 employees in India to face termination

New Delhi: IT major Accenture is all set to fire 5% of its workforce globally, which means that around 10,000 employees in India will lose their jobs due to the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Accenture is likely to ask several thousands of employees to go after the conclusion of the appraisal cycle that is underway. The Australian Financial Review (AFR) reports that Accenture CEO Julie Sweet, in an internal staff meeting streamed online in mid-August revealed that 5% of their global workforce can be asked to leave the company.

NATION



CHOKSI MOVES DELHI HC AGAINST NETFLIX'S 'BAD BOY BILLIONAIRES'

P3

SPORTS



SURESH RAINA WANTS TO PROMOTE CRICKET IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

P8



Covid testing to be doubled in Delhi: CM



New Delhi: Covid-19 tests in Delhi will be doubled to 40,000 per day within a week as there has been a marginal increase in the number of coronavirus cases in the city, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday, asserting that aggressive testing and isolation will remain his government's strategy to fight the disease.

He said at present, 20,000 tests are being conducted per day in the city.

Addressing an online media briefing, the chief

minister said it is not that the intensity of the infections had increased and asserted that the COVID-19 situation is completely under control.

He said although there has been a marginal increase in cases in the last few days, his government will not allow the situation to deteriorate in the city.

The government has also decided to provide oximeters and oxygen concentrators to those discharged from hospitals in case they need, he said.

Earlier in the day, Ke-

riwal had called a high-level meeting to discuss the rising number of coronavirus cases in Delhi. "We are going to double the tests from around 20,000 per day to 40,000 tests daily within a week. Our strategy against coronavirus will remain aggressive testing and isolation," he said.

The Chief Minister appealed to the people to get tested if they have COVID-19-related symptoms and cautioned against complacency, which he said may lead to a rise in number of cases.



HUGE FIRE IN NOIDA TOY FACTORY

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: A huge fire broke out in a toy manufacturing factory in Sector-63, Noida. As soon as the information reached about the fire, 20 fire engines rushed to the spot and had been trying to extinguish the fire.

According to information, fire broke out in Noida Sector-63 of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday afternoon in the toy company. On receiving the incident, 20 vehicles of the fire department reached the spot. An official of the local Phase-3 police station said fire was reported from the industrial area of Sector-63 around 3 pm.

Chief Fire Officer Arun Kumar Singh said 20 vehicles of the fire brigade were sent to the toy company, Newcraft, immediately after receiving information about the incident.

LOANS UNDER MORATORIUM

Don't hide behind RBI: SC to Centre

Asks Centre to take stand on interest waiver

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday took note of Centre's alleged inaction and asked it to clarify its stand within a week on the waiver of interest on interest for deferred payments of installments for loans during the moratorium period announced due to the coronavirus lockdown.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said the Centre had not made its stand clear on the issue despite the fact that ample powers were available with it under the Disaster Management Act and was "hiding behind the RBI".

The apex court granted time to the government after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought a week's time to file a response. "My Lordships may not say that. We

are working in coordination with RBI," Mehta said.

The bench, also comprising Justices R Subhash Reddy and Justice M

ishra, asked the Solicitor General to clarify

stand on the Disaster Management Act

and whether additional interest on existing

interest could be accrued. Mehta

argued that there cannot be a common solution for all the problems.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioner, informed the bench that the loan moratorium's deadline would end on August 31 and sought its extension. "I am only saying that till these pleas are decided, the extension should not end," Sibal said.

The apex court has now posted the matter for hearing on September 1.

Continued on Page 5

Indian techie becomes US citizen in rare ceremony

New York: President Donald Trump has presided over a rare naturalisation ceremony at the White House where five immigrants, including a software developer from India, were sworn in as American citizens, as the US leader welcomed them to the "magnificent nation" that is comprised of every race, religion and colour.

Trump hosted the naturalisation ceremony at the White House and the video of the ceremony was played during the second

Trump hosts naturalisation ceremony at White House

night of the Republican National Convention on Tuesday. Immigrants from five countries - India, Bolivia, Lebanon, Sudan and Ghana, stood in a line during the ceremony in the White House.

With their right hand raised and a US flag in their left hand, they were administered the Oath of Allegiance by Acting United States Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf, while Trump looked



Sudha Sundari Narayanan, a techie from India, was among those sworn in as American citizen by President Donald Trump

on. Sudha Sundari Narayanan, a software developer from India, was among those sworn in as American citizens. "Today America rejoices as we welcome five absolutely incredible new members into our great American family. You are now fellow citizens of the greatest nation on the face of God's Earth. Congratulations," Trump said.

Trump said the newly sworn-in American citi-

zens followed the rules, obeyed the laws, learned the nation's history, embraced American values and proved themselves to be men and women of the highest integrity. "It's not so easy. You went through a lot and we appreciate you being here with us today. You've earned the most prized treasure, cherished and priceless possession anywhere in the world. It's called American citizenship. There is no higher honour and no greater privilege," Trump said, adding that it

is an honour for him to be their President. Later, Trump read out the names and a few details of the five new citizens.

Trump said Narayanan is a "phenomenal success", born in India, who came to the United States 13 years ago. "Sudha is a talented software developer and she and her husband are raising two beautiful, wonderful children 'the apples of your life'. Thank you very much and congratulations. Fantastic job."

Continued on Page 5

Womenia



Be a wonder woman

ternally age-proofing, weight-controlling, preventing PCOS, improving fertility, preventing PMS, relieving menopausal symptoms and much more.

Women of all ages

Fruit and vegetables: I say eat a rainbow of fresh, seasonal produce at every meal. The myriad colors contain various phytochemicals benefitting our digestion, immunity and over-all health.

Wholegrains: To stay on top of our game, I swear by these whole-some energy boosting carbohydrates. The fibre blunts sugar spikes, while B vitamins keep us mentally alert. Include any whole grains in your meals.

Proteins and fat: An adequate quantity of proteins in the form of daals, pulses, legumes, curd, paneer, tofu, egg, lean white meats are good sources. Good quality fats like desi cows ghee, coconut, nuts and seeds are your go to sources in sufficient amounts.

Fermented foods like yogurt, pickles are necessary to for gut health.

Anti-oxidants are your soldiers to fight free radical damage. Found



Naini Setalvad

in abundance in the plant kingdom so add on plenty of vegetables. The Indian spice box is a great source too.

Keep a regular check of your Vitamin B12 and D3 levels and add supplementation if required on doctor's recommendation.

Water is your best friend as it is your energizer, carrying all your nutrients to your various organs.

Regular exercise, good quality and quantity sleep and meditation should all be a part of your life's

schedule. Following the Circadian Rhythm that is eating 3 hours before sleeping, sleeping 2 to 3 hours before midnight and waking up on time after an 8 hour complete sleep is necessary for good health.

A balanced combination of the above will ensure good health through the ages.

Extra nutrient requirements for different ages:

Women of Reproductive age need to increase their iron, folate, omega 3 and calcium among others. Iron, Folate and Calcium are found in leafy greens, sesame seeds, raj-girah flour whole pulses like moth beans and chickpeas. Omega 3 is found in walnuts and flaxseeds.

Women of pre and post menopausal age requires adequate amount of calcium and phytoestrogens which come from all your nuts and seeds like pumpkin, sunflower, flax, sesame.

Let's not think in terms of aging but simply living as that's what you plan on doing for the longest time possible with your body functioning at optimum. Every women's accomplishment is a feather in our caps.

Dress sassy for the house party

As the weather cools, more and more of our weekend plans go indoors. If you have a house party on the calendar, just because you're staying inside doesn't mean you can't dress like you're going out. House parties can be the perfect opportunity to test out some novel stylings—you have an occasion to dress for, yet you're still in the comfort of someone's home. So if you're wondering what to wear to a house party, the options are diverse. It just depends on your personal style and what level of formality the gathering calls for.

Have a look at the 7 things to keep in mind if you have been invited to a house party:

Don't be too dressy

A house party is not the same as a club scene. Cocktail dresses and sky-high heels might be a little much for a simple house gathering.

Be smart with footwear

If you plan on dancing at any point in the evening, high heels might not be your best bet.

Don't wear super skin-tight clothing

If you plan on staying for several hours. You won't feel comfortable, especially if you are drinking or eating.

Keep your look low-maintenance

The last thing you want as you try and enjoy yourself is to have to stop and adjust an annoying strap or retuck your tank top all night long.

Tuck some makeup wipes and extra makeup in your purse

House parties can sometimes get a little hot and crowded. A discreet wipe under your eyes with a wet cloth and an extra swipe of lipstick will keep you feeling fresh all night long.

Wear layers for a winter house party

Dress for an indoor party and simply layer up your outerwear so you can ditch those layers in the spare bedroom or in the coat closet.

Keep your outfit casual but chic

A well-fitting, flattering outfit that doesn't pinch or make you have to suck your stomach in all night will allow you to enjoy yourself and feel confident in your body and clothing.



QUICK TIP

Statement earrings

Intricately designed earrings instantly add a character to an attire. Jhumar-style earrings, chandbalis and multi-layered jhumkas create a minimalistic yet chic look when paired with bold coloured outfits.



Me time with an at home hair spa

PUJA GUPTA

Do It Yourself spas have become an essential part of "Me time", as we juggle work from home and living at work (for most of us during the lockdown). Melissa Hughe, National Technical Head of Schwarzkopf Professional, shares some quality tips to get help you make the most of your hair spa.

- Keep products, tools, towels ready. Create a relaxing environment – relaxing music, candles, essential oils. It is important to relax your mind before any spa session.
- Ensure your hair is completely detangled.

Cleanse your hair thoroughly with the shampoo (twice if required) to get the full effect of the spa mask.

- Apply the mask generously on your scalp and hair.

Massage – Scalp massage with finger tips, pressure as per your liking, circular movements and pressure point techniques are most enjoyable. Build a rhythm moving your fingertips over your entire scalp in a repeated pattern (moving from hairline to nape and vice versa).

For the hair lengths use a wide tooth comb for uniform distribution of the cream and a downward milking action to allow product absorption and smoothing

While you work from home and complete domestic shares, remember to take some time out of yourself

of the hair cuticles. Secure your hair with a clip and wrap a fresh hot towel. Enjoy for 10 minutes. The hot towel will improve better penetration of the product into your hair and enhance blood circulation.

- Apply a little water, emulsify your hair in a milking fashion and remove the product with your fingers. Rinse thoroughly. Remember to rub your scalp while rinsing (it helps in proper and thorough removal of product). For extra conditioning, apply the conditioner, keep for 2 minutes and rinse.

Use normal to cool water for the final rinse. It helps seal the cuticle.



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 26

CROSSWORD

Across

- Totals or adds up (4)
- Eyelike spots (6)
- Lob trajectory (3)
- Breakfast order (4)
- Athenian philosopher (8)
- Chirping insect (7)
- Young cow (6)
- The warrior as per Indian caste system ? (9)
- Cause to burst (3)
- Direct a gun (3)
- Bother by scolding (3)
- Battle in France 1415 (9)
- Specify (6)
- A pistol case (7)
- 70s Soviet leader (8)
- Indian exercise method (4)
- Maiden-name (3)
- Board ship (6)
- Ran away (4)

Down

- Plan detail (4)
- The wise men (4)
- Gaelic language (4)
- Eye membrane (6)
- Illuminated (3)
- "Delete" neighbour on keyboard (6)
- Baby's bed (3)
- Clutch (5)
- Small fight (5)
- Religious song (4)
- German Mrs (4)
- Animal foot (4)
- Anger (4)
- Latin trio (3)
- Loud (5)
- Norwegian composer (5)
- Fit to eat (6)
- Part of a stamen (6)
- Female fowl (3)
- Above (4)
- Ring slowly (4)
- South African currency (4)
- Flow back (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 26

NEWS ROUNDUP

Taapsee eats right to acquire athlete's look for 'Rashmi Rocket'

Actress Taapsee Pannu has started working on her diet to get an athletic frame for the upcoming sports film, Rashmi Rocket. The actress shared a picture of her morning meal on Instagram. "This is how prepping for #RashmiRocket looks like! Starting off my day with this carb-rich breakfast planned by my fuss free @munmun.ganeriwal. As she says, working to get an athletic body isn't about eating only proteins. Keeping the right balance is important. On my plate are sweet potato tikkis which @munmun.ganeriwal recommends for its high fibre content and I recommend for its great taste! Bon appetit," she wrote along with the picture, which shows her enjoying her breakfast. The actress will start shooting for the film in November.

"Getting back on track, one lap at a time! #RashmiRocket to start shooting this November," she wrote on Instagram. Along with it, she posted a picture of her look in the film. The Akarsh Khurana directorial is about a runner from the Rann of Kutch, who fights for her identity and becomes an athlete. Actor Priyanshu Painyuli will be seen playing the role of Taapsee's husband in the project.



Choksi moves Delhi HC against Netflix's 'Bad Boy Billionaires'

New Delhi: Fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi on Wednesday approached the Delhi High Court against Netflix's upcoming web series 'Bad Boy Billionaires: India' seeking postponement of the release date.

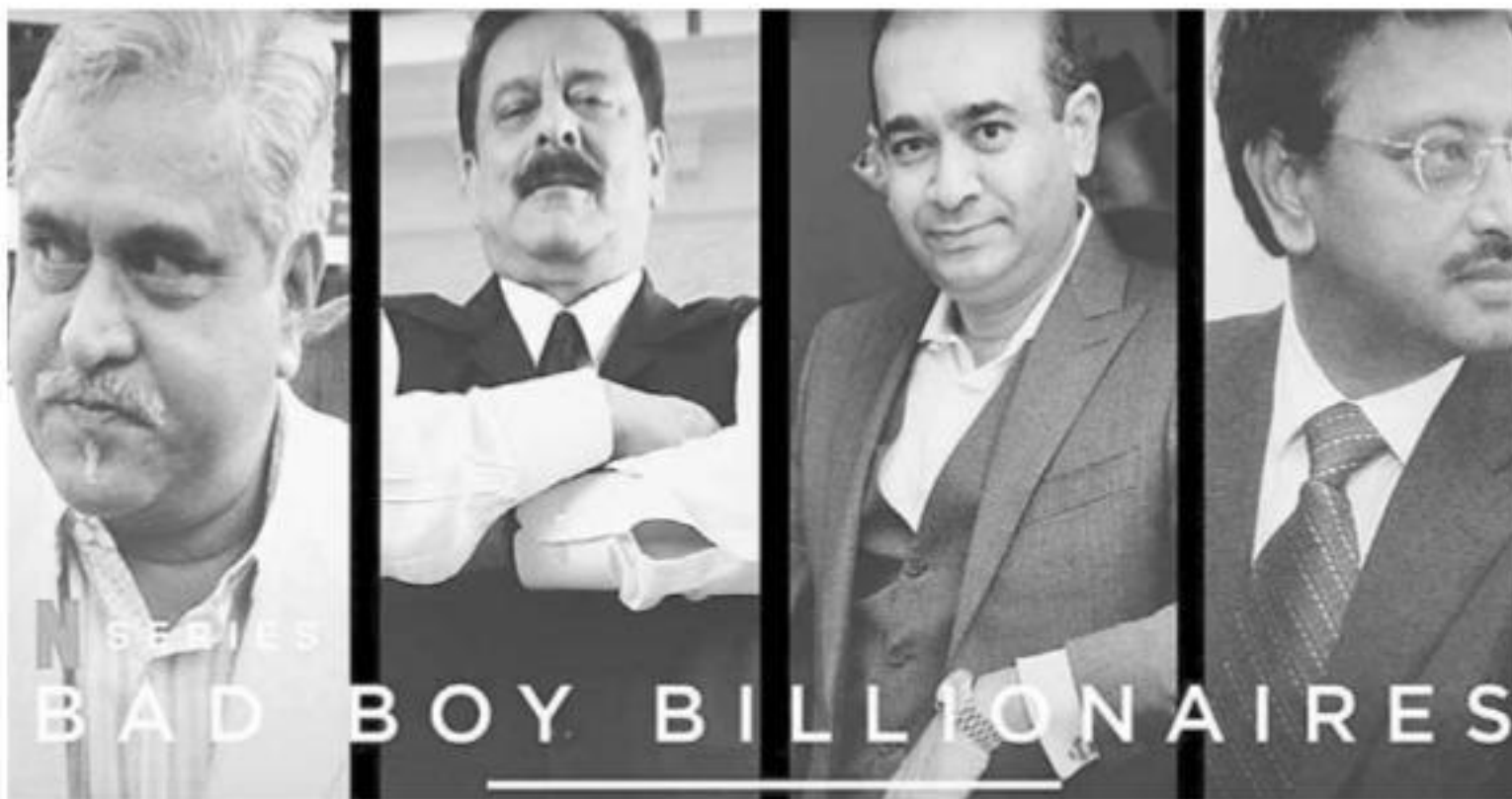
A single-judge bench of the high court presided over by Justice Navin Chawla, after hearing brief arguments, posted the matter for further hearing on August 28. The adjournment came in as senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul appearing for Netflix sought time to go through the petition and seek instructions.

The petition filed by Choksi through advocate Vijay Aggarwal sought the court's direction to the OTT platform to not

release the episode/portion of the Documentary "Bad Boy Billionaires: India" in so far as it relates to Choksi or is prejudicial to his rights or mentions him during the pendency of investigations and/or trials against him.

It also sought the court's direction to Netflix to conduct a pre-screening of the documentary for the court and the counsels for the Petitioner. Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Vijay Aggarwal argued that he is not seeking a stay on the documentary but he is seeking that he be shown the preview so that he can agitate.

"My Lords, the matter is under investigation and the said documentary will prejudice the rights of the accused (peti-



tioner)," Aggarwal submitted. On the other hand, senior

advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul appearing for Netflix opposed

the said petition on the grounds of maintainability say-

ing that the documentary has a two minute piece where mention of Choksi has been made.

Choksi in his petition states that he became aware of the documentary's imminent release on 24.8.2020 when he saw the trailer and started receiving phone calls from various persons across the world, including from Delhi, asking him whether he was part of the documentary and to solicit his comments qua the same. "Thereafter, the petitioner discovered that one of the persons seen speaking in the trailer was one Mr. Pavan C. Lall who had written a book titled "Flawed: The Rise and Fall of India's Diamond Mogul Nirav Modi" where also the petitioner's name had been coming led with

Nirav Modi's," said the plea.

The plea states that with the release of this documentary there is a real and substantial threat of prejudice to the fairness of the trial and to the rights of the Petitioner (Choksi) under Article 21. "A trial by media is always detrimental to the case of the Petitioner and is totally contrary to the trite rule that an accused person is innocent until proven guilty by a court of law," the plea read.

Choksi further stated that the release of the documentary would cause severe impact on his reputation as well as create a widespread perception of guilt notwithstanding the fact that no competent court has found him guilty.

GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

Fire at secretariat conspiracy to save Kerala CM: Congress

Thiruvananthapuram (IANS) : Launching a scathing attack against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Chief Secretary Vishwas Mehta, Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala on Wednesday said that the fire at the state Secretariat is a conspiracy to save Vijayan in the gold smuggling case.

The Kerala government, meanwhile, directed Additional Director General of Police Manoj Abraham to conduct a probe into the fire. On Wednesday morning, the team began the probe.

Launching a protest in front of the Secretariat here to demand Vijayan's resignation, Chennithala said: "All the people of the state saw the action of Mehta yesterday when a fire broke out in the General Administration Department at the Secretariat. He was seen chasing away the media who came to find out what happened. He is no longer Vishwas Mehta -- he is 'Avishwas Mehta'. He has lost credibility as his main aim now is to save Vijayan."

The fire broke out around 4.30 pm on Tuesday, following which top leaders of the opposition



Congress and the BJP reached there.

"Our MLAs, including area legislator and former Minister VS Sivakumar went there to find out what happened. But the police and other top officials did not allow them entry. It was only after I went to the spot that we were allowed entry. The fact of the matter is, this fire is a 'created one' meant to save Vijayan as the National Investigation Agency has now reached his doorstep. We met the Governor last night and briefed him about what happened. We do not want a probe by Mehta; we demand that the NIA should take up this fire case

also," added the Leader of Opposition.

There are reports that gold smuggling case accused PS Sarith and Swapna Suresh had links with officials of the GAD (Protocol) wing, where the fire broke out.

"All heard Vijayan saying that a thunder had recently damaged CCTV at his official residence. Soon came another news that CCTV in the Secretariat has also been damaged, and now this fire. Everything is mysterious as Vijayan now leads a gang out to undo everything. We will not rest until he is ousted," said Chennithala.

7-yr-old boy attacks 4-year-old with knife

Bareilly (IANS) In a shocking incident, a seven-year-old boy allegedly slit the throat of his four-year-old cousin with a knife during a fight over a game they were playing outside their house in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly district.

The boy is battling for his life at a private hospital.

The incident was reported from Chopula locality of Nawabganj area where both families live and earn their living by working as labourers.

Nawabganj Station House Officer Surendra Singh Pachauri said that both the families have reached a compromise as it was a fight between their children.

No FIR has been registered in the matter. "Both parents said the boy was too young to realise what he was doing and gave a written declaration that they did not want any action," he said. The incident took place two days ago when the fathers of both the children had gone out to work. The children were playing outside their house when they began fighting among themselves. The older boy went into his house and returned with a knife and attacked the younger cousin.

The younger boy sustained a deep cut on his throat and chin and fell unconscious. He was rushed to the community health centre, where doctors referred him to a higher medical facility after preliminary treatment.

2 die in US protests over shooting of black man

Kenosha: Two people were shot dead on Tuesday night in the US city of Kenosha, police said, as groups clashed during protests over the shooting of a black man.

"The shooting resulted in two fatalities and a third gunshot victim was transported to a hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries," the Kenosha police department said in a tweet. Footage posted online showed people running through the streets of Kenosha, Wisconsin, as gunshots rang out, while videos showed wounded men lying on the ground.

"Three people had been shot, and one was killed," Sheriff David Beth of Kenosha County said, according to



the New York Times.

The violence occurred as hundreds of protesters marched for a third night in anger after Jacob Blake was seen in video being shot up to seven

times at point-blank range by a white Kenosha police officer on Sunday.

Blake was trying to get into his car, with his three children inside, when he was shot.

China's envoy to India says Galwan face-off 'unfortunate incident'

New Delhi: China's Ambassador to India, Sun Weidong, speaking at the China-India Youth forum, called the Galwan Valley clash an "unfortunate incident" and a "brief moment from the perspective of history".

The combat in June claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers, including 16 Bihar's commanding officer, Colonel Santosh Babu, many because of protracted exposure to sub-zero temperatures. As talks to resolve the stand-off at the LAC are currently at a stalemate, Weidong said that in the new century, bilateral relations should continue to move forward instead of backward.

"Not long ago, an unfortunate incident happened in the border areas that neither China nor India would like to

see. Now we are working to handle it properly. It is a brief moment from the perspective of history," the transcript of his speech at the August 18 event, read. He said that as two rising major neighbors, China and India should abandon the old mindset of drawing lines by ideology, and get rid of the old game of "One's gain is another's loss" and "zero-sum game". "Otherwise, you would be led astray and go down a wrong path," he added. "We need to see that friendly cooperation between China and India is the mainstream and the general trend," he said, adding that only by seeing to it could objective and rational judgement be maintained, and differences between the two sides could be handled.

Another teen raped, killed in UP

Lakhimpur Kheri (IANS): A 17-year-old girl, whose mutilated body was found near a village in Lakhimpur Kheri district was also raped, police has confirmed. This is the second rape and murder of a teenage girl in this district in the past 10 days.

The confirmation came late on Tuesday after the body was recovered the same morning.

The police had initially said the girl appeared to have been killed with a sharp weapon and that she had sustained injuries to her neck. The body was found near a dried-up pond, around 200 metres from her village. SP Satendar Kumar said: "The post-mortem report has confirmed rape. We are making all possible efforts to identify and arrest the accused. We hope to make a breakthrough soon."

India's tally breaches 32-lakh mark

Over 3.76 cr samples tested for Covid so far: ICMR

New Delhi (IANS): With 67,151 fresh coronavirus infections in 24 hours, India's tally mounted to 32,34,474 on Wednesday, while the death toll climbed to 59,449 with 1,059 more fatalities, said the Health Ministry.

The actual caseload is the active cases, which currently stands at 7,07,267. The silver lining is that the recoveries are over three times more than the active cases. A total of 8,23,992 samples were tested for the novel coronavirus on Tuesday, taking the total number of samples tested to 3,76,51,512 so far, informed the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Wednesday.

The country breached the 30-lakh mark on August 23 and added more than two lakh fresh Covid cases in just three days.

Recoveries have crossed the 24-lakh mark and surged to

24,67,758 with 63,173 more people recuperating in the past 24 hours, taking the recovery rate to 75.92 per cent.

Out of the total active cases, 2.7 per cent patients are on oxygen support, 1.92 per cent patients in intensive care units (ICU) and 0.29 per cent are on ventilator support.

In India the fatality rate, which is the proportion of people who die from the disease among individuals diagnosed, has dropped to 1.84 per cent, the Health Ministry said.

As per Ministry's data, 87 per cent of deaths due to coronavirus were recorded among people aged 45 and above, while people in the 60-years and above category were among the 51 per cent of total deaths. Meanwhile, the mortality rate among people under 26 years of age was 2 per cent.

Hospital gets notice for allowing Rhea in morgue

Mumbai: In a fresh turn of developments in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC) has sent a notice to Cooper Hospital and Mumbai Police for allowing actor Rhea Chakraborty to enter the hospital's mortuary and seek details of the regulation following which she was allowed, said MA Sayeed, MSHRC chief.

Sandip Shridhar, Rajput's CA, arrived at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) guest house in Santacruz for questioning, where the CBI team investigating the actor's death case, is staying.



Meanwhile, Rajput's friend and cook Siddharth Pitthani and Neeraj respectively also arrived

at the DRDO guest house for further questioning. The two were also called in for question-

ing on Monday as well.

Also, a team of Mumbai Police had also arrived at the guest house yesterday and left after some time. A team of Enforcement Directorate on August 3 questioned Shridhar "about the transactions regarding bank accounts of Rajput. The ED has recorded his statement and will question further if required," an official had told ANI.

The ED had on July 31 registered an Enforcement Case Information Report in the late actor's death case after a First Information Report was filed by Rajput's father KK Singh against actor Rhea Chakraborty in Bihar on July 28.

PAK CONFIRMS DAWOOD IBRAHIM'S KARACHI ADDRESS

Not answerable to any government, says Chhota Shakeel

Mumbai: Fugitive don Chhota Shakeel on Wednesday denied that Dawood Ibrahim, one of India's most wanted men, lives in Karachi despite the Pakistan government admitting to his presence in the city.

The high-ranking member of the D-Company said it was the Indian media's responsibility to show that Ibrahim lived in Karachi's upmarket Clifton area, as was reported, and said they were not answerable to any government, including Pakistan's, according to CNN-News18 report.

"It's your responsibility, not ours. When we are not there (in Karachi)... how can anyone own us?" he replied to a question on the Pakistan government listing his address in a sanction order proscribing 88 terrorists.

"In the time of media and social media, you can project anything - bungalow or car as his.



Whatever you show as Dawood Ibrahim's house then it's your responsibility, not ours. You are free to show anything," he told over the phone. Ibrahim has been accused by India of being the mastermind behind the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts, and Indian authorities have often said that they believe Ibrahim lives in Karachi's Clifton area. But Pakistan often denied his presence in that country.

After years of denying that it shelters the underworld don, Pakistan authorities on Saturday listed his address as "White House, Near Saudi Mosque, Clifton" in Karachi.

He also has other properties listed as "House Nu 37 - 30th Street - defence, Housing Authority, Karachi" and "Palatial bungalow in the hilly area of Noorabad in Karachi". Indian officials have said that

Pakistan seems to have accepted the details of Ibrahim presented by India in UN to escape the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list, and avoid tough sanctions for helping terrorists.

Among the 88 banned terror groups and their leaders, Pakistan has also imposed sanctions on 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar.

However, later on Saturday, the Pakistani government tried to distance itself from the admission, saying that it was not the source of the information.

Dawood Ibrahim, who heads a vast and multifaceted illegal business empire, emerged as India's most wanted terrorist after the 1993 Mumbai bombings in which 257 people were killed and 700 were injured.

Tamannaah's parents infected

Chennai: Actor Tamannaah Bhatia on Wednesday said her parents have tested positive for Covid. The "Baahubali" actor shared the news on social media, saying that her father Santosh and mother Rajani were showing "mild COVID-19 symptoms" last week after which everyone at their residence got tested for the virus. "The results have just come in, and unfortunately my parents have tested positive. The necessary authorities have been updated of their situation and we are complying with the precautionary guidelines.



Covid +ve AYUSH Minister doing better



Panaji: According to Goa CM Pramod Sawant "Union Minister for AYUSH Shripad Naik is admitted to Manipal Hospital for last 14 days. His health condition is better. He is doing very well. A team of doctors from AIIMS, Delhi visited him again and said he's not required to be shifted to AIIMS, Delhi."

Former Assam CM Covid +ve

Gauhati: Former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi tested positive for Covid-19. He asked people, who came in contact with him during the last few days, to immediately get themselves tested for Corona.



Antonio Banderas recovers

London: Hollywood star Antonio Banderas has revealed that he is "cured" of coronavirus after three weeks of strict self-quarantine measures. The actor, who was tested positive for COVID-19 on his 60th birthday on August 10, took to social media to give a health update to fans and followers. "After 21 days of disciplinary confinement I can say now that today I overcame the Covid 19 infection. I am cured," Banderas wrote on Twitter in Spanish.



Congress opposing DNA Bill ridiculous

Rational irrationality is not doublethink and does not state that the individual deliberately chooses to believe something he or she knows to be false. Rather, the theory is that when the costs of having erroneous beliefs are low, people relax their intellectual standards and allow themselves to be more easily influenced by fallacious reasoning, cognitive biases, and emotional appeals. In other words, people do not deliberately seek to believe false things but stop putting in the intellectual effort to be open to evidence that may contradict their beliefs. Sadly, the Opposition in our country is going through this phase now. One of the latest flashpoints seems to be over the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2019. It had called upon the government to drop it. DNA profiling and fingerprinting came into use around three

decades ago and since then it has grown widely and has been of tremendous help in cracking several criminal and civil cases. It has been a useful tool in law enforcement as it works both ways, vis securing correct convictions and also exonerating the innocent. Furthermore, DNA fingerprinting, unlike other forensic evidence, can be collected easily and sustains for long thereby increasing chances of accurate analysis by manifold. Agreed that it has two sides to it, the darker and gloomier side being the misuse of the data so obtained which can result in huge damage to the individual and to the society as a whole. This brings us to the question, how important it is to regulate the said technology and streamline its usage only for the benefit and betterment of society and how it can be done. With a technology with extensive usage such as this one, regulation cannot be merely done by making changes to the existing law, rather it requires to be controlled and dealt with by a special law. This question was taken up by Parliament through the Department of Biotechnology, when it came up with 'The Use and Regulation of DNA-based Technology in Civil

and Criminal Proceedings, Identification of Missing Persons and Human Remains Bill, 2016'. Parliament forwarded the Bill to the Law Commission of India and it was edited and redrafted as "The DNA Technology (Use and Regulation) Bill, 2017". The Bill has been passed in the Lok Sabha and is awaiting for the Rajya Sabha's confirmation and the Presidential assent. The fact that the Bill has been passed itself is proof that it has been debated (if not, the Opposition must have felt it was not worthwhile to do so). The technology is necessary not only for civil and criminal cases but also in the research to cure genetic defects. Its usage will only grow in future. The Constitution under Article 51A(h) and (j) casts duty upon the citizens to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform to strive towards excellence in individual and collective activity and thereby the Parliament can legitimately undertake and promote technical and scientific methods to expedite the criminal justice system as provided under the Union List. Why oppose a move to modernise the society for greater good?

BJP, RSS hold sway over social media platforms

RUDRA RAJU GIDUGU

As India was celebrating her Independence Day this year, rejoicing the overthrow of the imperial power through peaceful, non-violent means more than 70 years ago, that very same day there was a startling revelation about the state of affairs in India. A respected newspaper in the United States, The Wall Street Journal, revealed how the ruling BJP and its mentor RSS are controlling the social media platforms. This violates the most personal and precious Fundamental Right to Freedom of Expression.

The US newspaper revealed how hundreds of millions of Indians are controlled, divided and manipulated through fake news and hate speech that have become the bane of the social media platforms in recent times under the BJP dispensation. For several years now, fake news and hate speeches are being freely propagated by the BJP dispensation through the American social media giant, Facebook, which also owns WhatsApp.

The Wall Street Journal story stated, "Ms Ankhi Das of Facebook India has provided the BJP with favourable treatment on election-related issues." It further says, "Facebook deleted some of the BJP MLAs' hate speech posts after The Wall Street Journal asked about them."

An estimated 700 pages belonging to the Congress were deleted from the Facebook. This goes against the principles of fair play and level-playing field for different political parties. What is shocking is the fact about Facebook interference, at least in the general elections in 2019 - it intruded, interfered with and intervened in the great Indian democratic process, which is a serious affront to all right-thinking and patriotic citizens of India.

There are two interesting developments linked to this controversy. One is the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Facebook headquarters in the United States in 2015. The other is the appointment of Ms Ankhi Das as India head of Facebook, who belongs to the Sangh Parivar outfit of ABVP.

This point was brought out effectively and forcefully by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who said in a Tweet, "BJP and RSS control Facebook and WhatsApp in India.

They spread fake news and hatred through it and use it to influence the electorate. Finally, the American media has come out with the truth about the Facebook."

Fortunately, it is not just the Congress party, or I, as a Congress leader, am saying this. If it was so, then the BJP would have dismissed the charge and dubbed the party and me as anti-national and traitors. But, fortunately, it is a respected newspaper of the United States that has brought this to light and so the BJP cannot dismiss it off as easily as it would have otherwise done.

For India and the Congress, this is not something entirely new. The Congress has been raising the issue of saffron organisations controlling most social media platforms. This can be seen more openly in Facebook and WhatsApp.

The Congress demands a probe by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) into the charges mentioned in The Wall Street Journal report. This is just another glaring instance of assaulting an institution. It also threatens the very foundations of the Indian democracy. It is for this reason that the Congress has voiced its demand that this matter should be investigated by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).

On this very same Independence Day, when such a shocking revelation came, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was thundering away with empty slogans, in his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort in the capital. Even on such a sacred occasion as the Independence Day, the Prime Minister could not desist from speaking untruths. What he claimed and what exactly is the situation on the ground, the two do not match.

For example, in his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Modi spoke about Jammu & Kashmir, a year after the abrogation of Article 370 and it was downgraded from a State to Union Territory. "This one year is a year of the new journey of development for Jammu & Kashmir. This one year is the year of the rights received by the women and the Dalits in Jammu & Kashmir. This one year is also the year of a life of dignity for the refugees in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Normally, a Union Territory is upgraded to Statehood. Never before was a State ever downgraded to a Union Territory. For the first time since Indian Independence, Prime Minister Modi has achieved this feat. Jammu & Kashmir, which is the pride of India as it is only Muslim-majority State that opted to join the Indian Union after Indian Independence, was bifurcated and reorganised into two Union Territories, of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The entire Valley is under lockdown for one year. Children and youth have lost academic year. Small business and tourism industry have suffered irreparable loss. What has he done to Jammu & Kashmir?

Prime Minister Modi said, "Today, neighbour is not just the one with whom we share a border but also those with whom our heart stays connected, where there is harmony in relations. I am happy that in the past some time India has further strengthened its relations with all countries in the extended neighbourhood."

For his first swearing in ceremony in 2014, Prime Minister Modi invited all the neighbouring heads of States and governments. At that time, he prided in his new slogan of Neighbourhood First. Today, India's relations are strained with all the neighbouring countries. No talking terms even with Pakistan; Nepal has come up with and going ahead with a controversial map, despite the protests from India; Sri Lanka is warming up to investments from China; and the list goes on. As relations are strained with all the countries in the immediate neighbourhood, now, Prime Minister Modi has forgotten his old slogan of Neighbourhood First. His latest slogan is Extended Neighbourhood.

Yet another claim of Prime Minister Modi was more interesting. He said, "From LoC to LAC, whoever tried to raise their eyes towards the sovereignty of our country, our soldiers responded to it in the same manner."

Prime Minister Modi has tooed the Chinese line to say no Indian territory is under Chinese occupation, which is music to Chinese ears. He has not been able to name China for its transgressions.

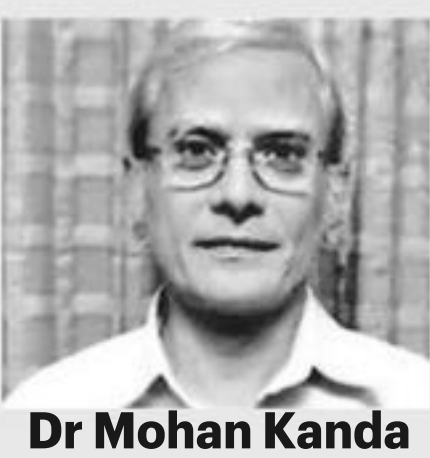
It is high time, Prime Minister Modi gives up his penchant for sloganeering and starts working on the ground to improve the situation that has been ravaged by his wrong policies.

The writer is AIICC secretary and former MLC. Views expressed are personal



On this very same Independence Day, when such a shocking revelation came, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was thundering away with empty slogans, in his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort in the capital. Even on such a sacred occasion as the Independence Day, the Prime Minister could not desist from speaking untruths. What he claimed and what exactly is the situation on the ground, the two do not match. For example, in his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Modi spoke about Jammu & Kashmir, a year after the abrogation of Article 370 and it was downgraded from a State to Union Territory. "This one year is a year of the new journey of development for Jammu & Kashmir. This one year is the year of the rights received by the women and the Dalits in Jammu & Kashmir. This one year is also the year of a life of dignity for the refugees in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



Dr Mohan Kanda

Of all the stages in a person's life, childhood is easily the most carefree, joy-filled and memorable period. The dependence of infancy is behind one, and youth and adulthood to come many years later.

I recollect my own fun years of childhood with great fondness and a sense of sweet nostalgia. In the first few years, there was Balanandam at Chennai (then Madras), and also the movies in which I acted. Later on, in Hyderabad, games and sports came and went with the season. They were tops for sometimes during the year, then marbles, succeeded by "gilli danda", and the month of January, coinciding with the "Sankranti" festival, flying of kites. All these were apart from the normal games and sports in which children participated those days such as tennis, table tennis, swimming, football, hockey and, of course, cricket. Then there were the usual children's games such as "I spy" and "follow the leader" etc. And there were other things to learn such as drawing or painting at school, and for girls, classical music or even dancing.

And now? Children do, of course, play the occasional game of cricket, football or hockey in schools or at home. But most of the time one finds them glued to either a desktop or a smartphone, playing video games and moving their head from side to side as if they were watching a tennis match in progress! Apart from the obvious damage staring at an electronic screen must be doing to their eyes, it is indeed a pity that the freshness of the outdoors and the exhilarating feeling of vigorous physical exercise seem to have gone out of children's lives altogether.

Since neither school nor home appear to be equal to facing this challenging deprivation that is happening to children in their most important years, organisations that are dedicated to the

cause of encouraging children to remain physically fit, mentally alert and give vent to their talent for the fine arts, should be promoted and encouraged.

Andhra Balananda Sangham (ABS), started in Chennai in the 1940s, was the brainchild of Nya-pathi Raghava Rao, and his wife Kameswari. Its birth was the culmination of a long-cherished desire of that couple, to take to the logical conclusion their interest in children's activities and institutionalising them.

They were popularly known as Annayya garu and Akkayya garu. The organisation was most well-known for the weekly programmes conducted for the children on (the then) All India radio.

There used to be two programmes every week, 'Balanandam' for the younger children and 'Aatavidupu' for the older ones, on Saturdays and Sundays respectively.

ABS also started publishing a magazine 'Bala' for children. It became the inspiration for successful subsequent publications such as 'Chandamama' and 'Bala Mitra'. The Central Social Welfare Board also encouraged them by extending financial assistance to ABS.

Until I left Chennai, I always went only for the Saturday programme. The programme normally comprised a variety of entertaining items such as songs, plays and the occasional quiz. A van would come home precisely at 7 am. Once the programme was over, we were given cool drinks and snacks.

It was a wonderful experience which combined entertainment and personality building. Participating in the various events was a wholesome and innocent experience, and one learnt the art of speaking and acting in public, thus gaining in self-confidence. The plays, which, were based on historical and mythological events, were instructive and educating. Discipline, application and hard work were the buzzwords in preparing for the programmes. Not the slightest mistake was tolerated. I remember how, once, sitting on Akkayya garu's lap, I started stuttering and stammering a dialogue of a play, and received a good pinch on my thigh as the punishment! And Annayya garu was a one-man orchestra all by himself! Apart from playing the piano, he made oral sounds that substituted for var-



ious musical instruments including drums.

ABS in 1952 organised the first children's conference of its kind in South India in (the then) Madras.

After the formation of the Andhra State with Kurnool as capital, ABS organised the second children's conference in 1954. The third children's conference was held in Guntur in 1956.

Soon after the formation of the new State of Andhra Pradesh, Telugu Children's Conference was organised with the assistance of the government.

Once in a while, we were also taken on a tour to places such as Narsapuram in West Godavari district. On one occasion, an excursion was arranged to a place called Tonakela near Chennai, where a number of facilities were available for sports and games including swimming. There was also a very good exhibition of posters and pictures that spoke of principles and morals.

In the 1950s, a Telugu movie was produced called 'Balanandam', comprising pictured versions of three plays normally enacted by ABS. The plays where 'Boorela Mookudu', 'Konte Kishtaiha' and 'Rajayogam'. Somehow, I ended up playing the role of an astrologer in the last play.

I remember how the author of the script of the movie, 'Aarudra' narrated the story to me and asked me to suggest a name for the third play. He sug-

gested two names, 'Rajayogam' and 'Marana Dandana'. I chose the former and that finally became the name of that portion of the movie.

Shortly before the formation of Andhra Pradesh State, the Hyderabad branch of ABS was inaugurated by Durgabai Deshmukh. A building in Narayana-guda area of the city was allotted to the organisation, on a hire purchase basis to run its office and activities. In 1965, Annayya garu and Akkayya garu were invited by the government to prepare a blueprint for a recreational centre for children. The present Jawahar Bal Bhavan and the Public Gardens are the outcome of those plans.

In 1966, the decennial celebrations of ABS were celebrated and a souvenir, "10 years of Balanandam at Hyderabad" was brought out. The government, pleased with the work of ABS, provided financial assistance to it to acquire the building and its occupation. ABS, has, since then, become the living centre for cultural activities for children in the twin cities.

In accordance with the wishes of Annayya garu, as expressed in his will, my wife Usha served as Secretary of ABS from 1984 to 1996.

The centenary celebrations of Annayya took place during the year 2004 to 2005. They covered a variety of events including the release of Annayya garu's biography, musical programmes and theatre workshops, apart from a conference

of writers of children's literature.

The centenary celebrations of Akkayya garu were conducted from February 2008 to December that year. During that period, an event "Ananda Bazar" was organised. Children donated money to support orphanage, a story writing competition was organised and CDs and children's story books were released, apart from organising a workshop for children on illustrating of stories. A special souvenir was also brought out highlighting the achievements of Akkayya garu. The celebrations also took place in places abroad such as Melbourne. The concluding event was held on Christmas Day at Ravindra Bharati in Hyderabad, attended by people from many parts of the country as well as the world.

A Trust called the Balanandam Trust now manages all the activities and assets of ABS.

How one wishes that visionary persons such as Annayya garu and Akkayya garu were there today to inculcate in children, in their growing years, the spirit of adventure, the pleasure of learning the fine arts with all their grace and beauty and the joy of competing innocently and freely with others of their age in games and sports! And, therefore, laying the foundation for them only to become productive and progressive citizens of tomorrow.

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

LETTERS

Liberalizing education is need of the hour

This refers to the article 'Indian education: From darkness to light' (August 26). As a teacher with deep interest in critical pedagogy, I believe that we have to rethink education — the way we grow up, see the world and engage with it. It is not about formal, technical education.

It is about education as some sort of politico-ethical consciousness. Creative role of concerned citizens and organic public intellectuals as educators should be taken into account.

The education that seeks to liberate us from the chains of domination would make us realise that politics is not a 24x7 dramaturgical performance; nor is it about promoting one's narcissistic self. Instead, politics ought to be experienced as a vocation that aims at creating a just society.

With this liberating education, we would demand civility, sanity and intellectual honesty in the public sphere.

And then, we would be able to distinguish truth from falsehood, outer glitz from inner substance, and honest dialogue from toxic rhetoric.

Only then would it be possible for us to activate the emancipatory power of 'non-cooperation' with what is brutal, exploitative and violent.

Raghu VV, Hyderabad

Poor healthcare leads to disaster

It is alarming to read about the lackadaisical attitude of the Telangana government in containing Covid-19 from further spreading. The main aim of a lockdown is to give enough time to build up healthcare infrastructure to meet the needs of a pandemic. The problem is, many States are now finding that the utter neglect of the healthcare sector in the past has led to a situation in which it has become virtually impossible to upgrade facilities sufficiently to deal with the crisis. The reason for this dismal state of affairs is simply that the country has neglected healthcare over the last seven decades. India's expenditure on health was a mere 1.8 per cent of the GDP in 2017-18. It has now risen to 3.6 per cent, but this is way lower than China with five per cent, the US with 16.9 per cent and Japan with 10.9 per cent. The disinterest in building up healthcare services has resulted in the present lack of preparedness for the current pandemic. Big cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai are able to cope because of the concentration of hospitals in these metros, but smaller towns as well as rural areas are in a predicament. Apart from Covid-19, the creaking health system now has to face the onslaught of seasonal diseases like malaria, dengue and chikungunya.

Nikita Reddy Ch, Hyderabad

Education policy underrates importance of sports

The new national education policy (NEP) overlooks the profound importance of empowering students

with key skills through the wonderful medium of sports and making them their own best educators. It misses out on using sports as a vehicle to foster team spirit, empathy and compassion in the young minds that it seeks to enlighten and make them look beyond the restrictive confines of narrow self-interest.

All these objectives are deeply ingrained in sports education which is why sports training should automatically form an integral part of the NEP and be used as a learning and character-building tool, especially in the formative years at school.

Everyone thinks of sports as a mere physical expression of human prowess without realising that it is so much more than that, in the way it moulds personalities and shapes thought processes. And yet, there is no mention in the NEP of this crucial usage, or any insistence on compulsory mass participation in sport, which should have been a must, at least in the primary stages of schooling.

It's time we recognise that education for life does not happen only in classrooms, nor is it imbued from textbooks alone, but comes from experiencing real life situations and through the confidence derived from coping with them. This is why experiential learning has been such a big word in recent times. What could be more experiential than sports?

Ajay Kumar Mukamala, Vijayawada

thehansreader@gmail.com

Sowing of Sona Masoori gathers pace in Kurnool

- The Kurnool Sona variety, particularly cultivated in black soil has great demand in the country and abroad as well
- The farmers of Nandyal, Allagadda and Nandikotkur will cultivate the crop to a larger extent
- The food cooked out of the Kurnool Sona is very soft and spongy

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Kurnool: With the availability of sufficient water due to recent rains, the sowing of Sona Masoori (Kurnool Sona) has gathered pace in Kurnool district.

The district is famous for its two unique varieties, one is Banginapalli mangoes, the King of Fruits and the famous Kurnool Sona (Sona Masoori) rice variety. During every kharif season, the rice variety is widely cultivated in the district under various water bodies. The food cooked out of the Kurnool Sona is very soft and spongy. Three years ago, the Chief Minister of Kerala P Vijayan on learning about the uniqueness of rice variety asked to export the rice variety, during a press meet, said the then Deputy Chief Minister K E Krishna Murthy.

The rice variety, Kurnool Sona in other terms is also known as BPT 5204. This variety has great demand in the country and abroad as well. Kurnool Sona is particularly cultivated in black soil which



Labourers sowing 'Kurnool Sona' saplings in Kurnool on Wednesday

is suitable for good yields. The total extent of cultivated area in the district is 6,22,921 hectares.

Of the total extent, Kurnool Sona is now being cultivated in an extent of 71,358 hectares and the remaining area is cultivated with various crops like, Jowar, Bazra, Maize, Foxtail millets, Red gram, Green gram, Black gram, Horse gram, Groundnut, Sesamum, Sunflower, castor, Soyabean, Chillies, Onion, Cotton, Turmeric and

other crops. The farmers of Nandyal, Allagadda and Nandikotkur will cultivate the crop to a larger extent. The Kurnool-Cuddapah (KC) canal and Tungabhadra River is the main water resource for raising the crop. Due to abundant receiving of rains, almost all water bodies are brimming with water. The crop yielding duration is three months and would be harvested in the last week of December or in the first week of January.

MAN KILLS 48-YEAR-OLD FATHER

Kurnool: A man allegedly killed his 48-year-old father at Mirzapuram village under Kolimigundla police station limits in the early hours of Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Srinu. According to information, the deceased was addicted to bad vices and was harassing his wife for money. On several occasions, his son Narendra has warned Srinu to mend his attitude. Despite his warning, Srinu kept on torturing his wife. On Tuesday night, Srinu came home in an inebriated state and picked up quarrel with his wife. While the wife and husband were quarreling, Narendra intervened to sort out the issue. But Srinu instead of listening to his son has also attacked him. Narendra, unable to control his anger, picked up a stick and attacked on Srinu's head. The family members immediately rushed the seriously injured Srinu to hospital at Allagadda.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Anantapur: An official team headed by district collector Gnadhram Chandrudu and MPs Talari Rangaiah and Gorantla Madhav including officials of AP-MIC project director Padmalatha, AP Dairy deputy director Shasankadhar and Animal Husbandry joint director Sanyasi Rao visited the Srija Milk Dairy in Chandragiri mandal in Chittoor district on Wednesday.

The team visited the dairy and studied the modus operandi of milk collection, purchase price and other factors that brought success to the dairy. The MPs took interest on the subject with a view to develop the Vijaya Milk Dairy, and boost its milk procurement. The collector and MPs and other officials interacted with the milk dairy personnel, milk farmers and



Collector Gnadhram Chandrudu and MPs Talari Rangaiah and Gorantla Madhav inspect the Srija Milk Dairy in Chandragiri mandal in Chittoor district on Wednesday to study its success

sought information on the milk procurement strategies for implementation in the Vijaya Dairy in the district. The officials too interacted with the dairy functionaries and sought detailed information on the subject. The team members

also enquired about the price of milk procurement and also on milk pooling centre. The team will meet once again meet to formulate strategies for boosting milk procurement and boost milk production in the district.

Fire destroys records in hospital

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Anantapur: An electrical short circuit in the records room of the local government general hospital on Tuesday midnight, resulted in the burning of office medical records. However, there were no human casualties, according to the hospital sources. Fire broke out yesterday mid-

night in the records room and gutted office stationery and furniture. The fire office which is located opposite the hospital had been alerted and fire personnel within no time doused the flames and prevented it from spreading to the adjacent Covid patient's ward. As a safety measure, the patients were shifted to another ward. Heath minister Alla Nani, who

was in the town, rushed to the hospital along with district collector Gandham Chandrudu and SP Sathya Yesu Babu and the hospital superintendent Naik and MLA Anantha Reddy and reviewed the situation. They interacted with the staff and instructed the superintendent to take foolproof measures for preventing recurrence of such mishaps in future.

‘Speed up R& R works for Gandikota displaced’

Kadapa: Joint Collector M Gouthami has directed the officials to speed up development works taken up under R&R package to the displaced families of Gandikota reservoir. The JC has inspected the layouts prepared for Gandikota reservoir displaced in Yerragudi, Chamaluru, Talaprodatturu villages in Kondapuram mandal on Wednesday. Speaking the occasion, she said that the government was keen to store more water in Gandikota reservoir from October. She said the government had already paid the compensation to displaced and providing houses to them under R&R package. She said that works should be completed as early as possible in the interest of shifting displaced families to the government colonies. Jammalamadugu RDO Naganna and other officials were present.

People need not panic on Covid test results: Collector

Nellore: District Collector K V N Chakradhar Babu informed that number of Covid cases are increasing due to a greater number of tests being conducted now. Releasing a note on Wednesday, he stated they had conducted 5,196 tests on Tuesday and hence the number is 1,168, declared on Wednesday. He said Nellore is at the forefront in conducting COVID tests in the state and they had engaged three laboratories for conducting them. They were taking all measures to contain the spread of the virus and the people needn't worry about the number of increased positive cases, he said.

TTD chief inspects Divya Kshetra site in Jammu

Tirupati: TTD Trust Board Chairman Y V Subba Reddy on Wednesday inspected the site proposed for the construction of Sri Venkateswara Temple (Divya Kshetra) in Jammu. The Jammu and Kashmir government has come forward to allocate suitable land towards the construction of the Srivari temple, which was already approved by the TTD board. The Chairman informed the local officials that a team of officials from the engineering department of TTD would soon visit the site and prepare a detailed report. Jammu district collector Sushma Chauhan, District Additional Development Commissioner Ramesh Chander, Additional Deputy Commissioner Shyam Singh, Assistant Commissioner General Rakesh Dube, Mata Vaishnodevi temple CEO Ramesh Kumar and Additional CEO Vivek Varma accompanied the TTD Chairman during the site inspection.

IIT-T inks pact with CFTRI to work in food technology

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Tirupati and Central Food Technological Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Mysore have signed a memorandum of understanding for scientific collaboration in a virtual event held on Wednesday. The MoU between the two premier institutes allows for exchange of faculty and scientists, collaboration on research projects and joint guidance of students.

Speaking at the event, IIT Director Prof K N Satyanarayana said that food technology and precision agriculture was one of the thrust areas of the institute due to its national relevance. Though the country is primarily agriculture driven, very few premier institutes focus on agriculture and food technology, he added.

Don't hide behind RBI: SC to Centre

Continued from P1

The top court had earlier said there was "no merit in charging interest on interest" for deferred loan payment installments during the moratorium period announced in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by Agra resident Gajendra Sharma, who has sought a direction to declare the portion of the RBI's March 27 notification "as ultra vires to the extent it charges interest on the loan amount during the moratorium period, which create hardship to the petitioner being borrower and creates hindrance and obstruction in 'right to life' guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India".

Sharma has also sought a direction to the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to provide relief in repayment of loan by not charging interest during the moratorium period.

Focus on Covid infected pregnant women: Collector

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nellore: District Collector K V N Chakradhar Babu asked the Anganwadi staff members to focus on health condition of pregnant women being treated at the Covid care centres.

He conducted a review meeting with the officials and staff members of the ICDS here on Wednesday and said they have to take care of the women till completion of the delivery, preferring the local Primary Health Centre.

He said Anganwadi centres would be started from September 1 and the officials should get ready with prior arrangements. He said the staff members have to wear facemasks and maintain social

distance as per Covid protocols while performing their duties. He asked the officials to prepare a report on the status of material being provided to the pregnant, children, and lactating women. Collector also asked the ICDS officials to visit Covid care centres frequently and check the quality of food being served to patients. He also said they have to plan for deliveries of the pregnant women at the Centres maintaining the required quantity of blood for meeting the demand in case of any emergency. He said the infected pregnant can be treated even in the private hospitals and they had directed the hospitals to treat them. Further, he said that schools were likely to open from

September 5 and asked the officials to complete all works under Naadu-Nedu before August 1. The Collector said they were waiting for guidelines from the Centre on Unlock-4 and the teachers should attend schools following Covid protocols.

Both students and teachers have to wear facemasks and maintain social distancing as part of the preventive measures. He asked the teachers to create awareness among parents on the protocols to be followed by the students certainly. He asked them to handover Vidya Kanuka kits to the students on the day of opening schools. Project Director of SSA Dr Brahmananda Reddy and others were present.

‘Nothing short of betrayal’

Continued from P1

Paying GST compensation on time to states was crucial but it was not happening. The states were suffering while the Centre continues to profiteer from unilateral cesses.

She also said that some announcements by the government like the National Education Policy should worry all of them. "This is a setback for progressive, secular and scientific values and reveals insensitivity to what the states have been saying," she said. This meeting assumed importance as it was held a day ahead of the GST council meeting on Thursday and the monsoon session of Parliament, which would begin on September 14.

The Congress chief emphasised on the need for a coordinated approach among like-minded parties on issues that impinge on the Centre-state relations.

All the Chief Ministers opposed conducting JEE and NEET examinations in view of corona pandemic and decided to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and submit a memorandum urging the Centre to reconsider its decision. In case if the government does not respond favourably, they will move the Supreme Court. Sonia felt that problems of students and examinations were being dealt uncaringly.

She took objection to ordinances being issued by the Centre without consulting states on agricultural marketing and said this will destroy the MSP regime and would impact the PDS. "There has been a nationwide outcry against the Draft EIA Notification 2020 which is anti-democratic. Laws meant to protect the environment, livelihoods and public health are being weakened," she said.

Strongly opposing selling off public sector assets like the Railways, the life-line of the country to private sector, she said that more such meetings should be held in the larger interest of the country.

Indian techie becomes US citizen in rare ceremony

Continued from P1

Trump handed Narayanan, who was wearing a bright coral pink sari, her Certificate of Citizenship.

In his remarks, Trump congratulated the new citizens and said it is his honour to be with them. He added that with the rights and freedoms each of them now enjoy as citizens, there is no dream beyond their wildest reach because Americans can do anything. "Today you have also accepted the profound duties and responsibilities that come with American citizenship. By swearing the Oath of Allegiance, each of you has entered a sacred and unbreakable covenant with our nation."



SV Ruia Hospital contract nurses staging a dharna in front of SVRR Government Hospital in Tirupati on Wednesday

Contract nurses demand equal pay with Covid staff

Tirupati: The contract staff nurses working in Ruia hospital since 2016 held a protest on Wednesday demanding equal pay to them along with those recruited for Covid duties. They said that though they have been discharging Covid duties for the last five months they were being paid only Rs 22,500 per month as against Rs 34,000 to those specially recruited for Covid duties.

They also sought day off and casual leaves and quarantine

leave as being given to Covid-19 staff in other districts. The nurses have pointed out that they were providing bed side treatment wearing PPE kits in which Covid staff and regular staff also to be involved besides increasing nurse - patient ratio. The protesting nurses have demanded payment of salaries before 5th of every month. They have submitted a memorandum with all their demands to the superintendent of Ruia hospital.

Call to improve higher education standards

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India (NAAC) Advisor Dr Shyam Sunder has said that for effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), all stakeholders and academic leaders in the state must gear up to adapt innovative guidelines for improving standards of higher education in the country. He addressed the national webinar on 'NAAC assessment and accreditation process and awareness about the NEP 2020' held by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam here on Wednesday. He urged institu-

tions to go for continuous quality enhancement that goes beyond aiming at obtaining a higher grade, but focus on improving the overall quality of education. Vice Chancellor Prof D Jamuna observed that the institution has effectively faced the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic and has been effectively conducting online classes and assignments for the students. APSCHE Chairman Prof K Hemachandra Reddy stated that without compromising on the mandatory requirements of teaching-learning as stipulated by UGC, the government aims to introduce 10 months of mandatory internship programmes in industries for students of all programmes.

AP to make Yoga mandatory in all govt schools: MLA

Chittoor: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has been contemplating to make Yoga as mandatory in all the educational institutions run by the government to combat the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic, declared MLA A Srinivasulu. Participating as a chief guest at a medical camp organised by Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas here on Wednesday, he said instructions were given to the concerned authorities to conduct Yoga classes in all the Municipal Elementary and High schools with immediate effect. He reiterated that the government is committed to allocate lion's share of funds in the state budget for health and education as its prime priorities. He appealed to all the teachers to conduct online Yoga classes to the students for time being until regular classes were conducted in the schools.

BIZ BRIEFS

Paytm to hire over 1,000

New Delhi: Setting the stage for a major expansion amid the pandemic, leading digital payments service Paytm on Wednesday said it is in the process of hiring over 1,000 engineers, data scientists, financial analysts among other positions for tech and non-tech roles. Paytm in April announced to hire over 500 people for multiple roles, aside from continued hiring in product and technology and the current move is to ramp up recruitments for expanding its financial and wealth management services. Other than tech and non-tech hires to fill positions across its operations in New Delhi National Capital Region (NCR), Mumbai and Bengaluru, Paytm said it is also bringing in over 50 senior-level executives in Vice President and above roles to bolster its leadership.

ImpactGuru's free platform

Hyderabad: ImpactGuru.com, a healthcare financing platform for patients, is facilitating free fundraising by offering its services at zero platform fee. This free platform option is available to all types of fundraisers hosted on the platform - whether it's for patients facing medical emergencies such as Covid-19, cancer, organ transplants, or for nonprofits fundraising for their programmes, or for individuals raising money to fund animal causes, education expenses, or any other cause they are passionate about. Through this new fundraising option, ImpactGuru is waiving off its platform fees so that fundraisers can receive maximum funds for the causes they support. To help sustain the platform to provide a free fundraising option, donors will be asked for a voluntary tip. These optional tips will help ImpactGuru fund costs relating to technology infrastructure, dedicated staff, fundraiser outreach, etc.

Cognigix to hold meet

Hyderabad: Cognigix, a digital learning solution startup, is organising virtual conference on 'Leadership During Crisis: Learning from the Forces' on August 29. The conference, which will be held on 3D VMix virtual platform, is an attempt to learn from the supremely efficient forces that have handled and taken the situation into control during times of Covid-19 pandemic. These leaders are some of the best crisis managers. The speakers include Julio Ribeiro, former Director General of Police, Punjab and Gujarat; K Durga Prasad, former Director General of CRPF and SPG, Arun Kumar, Director General, Railway Protection Force, among others. Industry leaders like Ronnie Screwvala, Chairman & Co-founder upGrad and Rashesh Shah, Chairman, Edelweiss Group, will also take place.

Valvoline's new initiative

Hyderabad: Valvoline Cummins Pvt Ltd, a lubricant maker, launched its first Suraksha initiative under which the company is reaching out to the mechanics in the entire country and providing them with 'Suraksha Kit'. It has distributed over 70,000 Suraksha kits in 100 markets across India, including Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntur, Vizag and Kurnool. "Valvoline through distributing these Suraksha Kits wants to assure that those who are on the front line will operate safely and their health is not compromised. We believe that each of us has to play an imperative role in keeping us all safe," said Sandeep Kalia, Managing Director, Valvoline Cummins. The CSR initiative also appraise the mechanics on how to keep their workplace safe in line with the government advisories, updating them on the risks and encouraging them to download and use Aarogya Setu app.

TODAY'S QUOTE

IT sector jobs will continue to grow

In absolute terms, Indian IT's employment potential will continue to be quite strong and will relatively keep growing in pace with increasing opportunities in the technology domain. Demand for talent will only increase due to stepped up technological innovations

- TCS CEO **Rajesh Gopinathan**



COVID BLUES

Telcos lose over 56L mobile users

The telecom industry lost around 56.11 lakh wireless subscribers in May amid the lockdown, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) data reveals. The overall telecom subscriber base for wireless connections stood at over 114.39 crore in May, compared to 114.95 crore in April.

Half of Amazon's Hyd campus vacant

Hyderabad: Amazon's Hyderabad campus, which is its biggest so far in the world, still has capacity to accommodate 8,000 employees, according to a news report in *The New York Times*.

This 15-storey campus - three amenity floors and 12 office floors - which opened last year has capacity to accommodate 15,000 employees and currently it is home to 7,000 employees, the report said on Tuesday.

The workforce in this office largely comprise tech teams focused mainly on using machine learning and software development to innovate services.



A New York Times report says the campus still has capacity to accommodate 8k employees

Sprawling over 9.7 acres, the Hyderabad campus is the on-line retail giant's biggest when compared to its other offices around the world. Amazon,

which has also faced protest from the country's retail industry groups from time to time over concerns of crushing competition, says that the total built-up area of the Hyderabad office when spread out will span over 68 acres - approximately 65 football fields.

The campus contains over 2.5 times more steel than the Eiffel Tower, measured by weight, Amazon earlier said in a blog post.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) which claims to represent seven crore traders and over 40,000 trade associations has time protested against what it describes as

deep discounting and unfair means by Amazon and Flipkart, which has impacted the offline traders.

Amazon also faced criticism after it announced the start of Amazon Pharmacy in Bengaluru this month.

The All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), which claims to represent more than 850,000 members across the country demanded that the government should immediately stop these "illegal online pharmacies".

While retailers suffered during the pandemic, Amazon saw a sharp spike in demand for its services.

India badly needs a bad bank: Subbarao

Former RBI chief says bad loans are likely to balloon due to Covid crisis

New Delhi: Former RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao made a strong case for setting up a bad bank saying it is not just necessary but unavoidable in the present circumstances when NPAs are likely to balloon and much of the resolution will have to take place outside the IBC framework. Even the Economic Survey 2017 had proposed this idea, suggesting the creation of a bad bank called Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA) to help tide over the problem of stressed assets.

The standard advantage of a bad bank is that the entity taking a decision on the sale price is different from the entity accepting that price. Conflict of interest and corruption are avoided.

There are some successful models of bad banks with carefully designed carrots and sticks. Danaharta of Malaysia, for example, is a good model to study in designing our own bad bank, Subbarao said.

The former RBI Governor noted that with the economy contracting by at least five per cent this fiscal year, non-performing assets (NPAs) will balloon.

Also, according to RBI's Financial Stability Report, gross NPAs of banks may rise to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 under baseline scenario, from 8.5 per cent in March 2020.

"The bankruptcy framework is already overloaded and it simply will be unable to deal with this huge additional burden. It is important, therefore, indeed more than ever before, that much of the resolution takes place outside the Insolvency and



Economic Survey 2017 also proposed the creation of a bad bank to help tide over the problem of bad loans in banking sector



Bankruptcy Code (IBC) framework," he said.

Before Covid-19 crisis hit India, the economy was already decelerating, real gross domestic product (GDP) growth had moderated from 7.0 per cent in 2017-18 to 6.1 per cent in 2018-19 and 4.2 per cent in 2019-20.

Earlier on, Subbarao said he had some reservations about a bad bank but, in view of recent experience, he is veering towards the idea of it. "First, I believed the bankruptcy framework will put resolution on track and help clean up the system," he said, adding that in hindsight that faith seems misplaced.

Replying to a question on RBI's inflation targeting framework, the former RBI Governor said the point remains that the inflation targeting framework has not been fully tested.

"There has been no extraordinary circumstance to challenge the efficacy of the inflation targeting framework. Globally, there have been no hiccups on

the financial stability front up until the corona crisis hit us six months ago," he said.

Subbarao pointed out that sure, the coronavirus crisis has turned our world upside down and caused a host of problems, but not much on the inflation front.

Noting that there have been no inflation pressures either from domestic or external forces, he said private demand for credit has been low because of, among other things, the NPA problem; so, not much demand push inflation. On consumer price index (CPI) inflation staying outside the mandated 2-6 per cent target for some months, Subbarao said he does not see that as a failure on the part of the MPC.

"We are in a very unusual economic situation, hit simultaneously by a demand slump and supply disruptions," he said adding that and there is a great deal of uncertainty from outside the financial system.

Markets hit 6-month high, Sensex regains 39,000 mark

Mumbai: The BSE Sensex closed above the 39,000-mark for the first time in six months on Wednesday as equities extended their winning streak for the fourth straight session amid upbeat global cues.

The BSE benchmark, which opened on a cautious note, touched a high of 39,111.55 amid flag-end buying. It finally ended at 39,073.92, up 230.04 points or 0.59 per cent. The Sensex had last closed above the 39,000-level on February 27 this year. On similar lines, the NSE Nifty advanced 77.35 points or 0.67 per cent to finish at 11,549.60. IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 5.93 per cent, followed by Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Kotak Bank, Bajaj Auto and HCL Tech. Market heavyweight RIL contributed to over half of the index's gains. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech

Nifty closes above 11,500 amid upbeat global cues



Cement, Asian Paints, Maruti, L&T, NTPC and HDFC were among the main laggards, skidding up to 2.66 per cent. Global markets were on the upswing ahead of a key speech by US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell at the Jackson Hole symposium. "Volumes on the NSE were in line with recent average, with auto stocks (on hopes of GST cut on two-wheelers), banks and media stocks doing well, while pharma and FMCG stocks were dull.

Further consolidation likely in aviation biz

Mumbai: Weak liquidity position of some Indian airlines is likely to force them to curtail operations and allow stronger rivals to enhance their presence in the domestic aviation sector, Fitch Ratings said on Wednesday. Accordingly, the ratings agency cited that a higher market share, apart from cost-cutting measures, will allow airlines such as market leader IndiGo to improve their performance after a sharp drop in earnings in 2Q20, even though overall travel demand is unlikely to rebound quickly. "We think IndiGo is well placed



to further consolidate its market position in the coming months due to the liquidity pressure at rival airlines. Its share of domestic passengers has already risen to 60 per cent by end-July 2020 from 48 per cent in 1Q20," the agency said in a statement.

CBDT issues tax refunds of ₹95,853 cr

New Delhi: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued refunds of over Rs 95,853 crore to over 25.55 lakh taxpayers so far in the current financial year. The total refunds include income tax refunds of Rs 29,361 crore and corporate tax refunds of Rs 66,493 crore. "CBDT issues refunds of over Rs 95,853 crore to more than 25.55 lakh taxpayers between 1st April, 2020 to 25th August, 2020. Income tax refunds of Rs 29,361 crore have been issued in 23,91,517 cases & corporate tax refunds of Rs 66,493 crore have been issued in 1,63,272 cases," the Income Tax Department said in a tweet on Thursday.

Gujarat tops Niti Aayog's export index

Telangana 2nd among landlocked States; Coastal States dominate top 10

New Delhi: Gujarat has topped the Niti Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2020 followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in the second and third place respectively, according to the government think tank's report released on Wednesday.

According to the report, six coastal states - Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala - feature in the top ten rankings, indicating the presence of strong enabling and facilitating factors to promote exports. Among the landlocked states, Rajasthan has performed the best, followed by Telangana and Haryana. Among the Himalayan States, Uttarakhand topped the chart, followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh, the report said adding that across Union Territories, Delhi has performed the best, followed by Goa and Chandigarh.

The report noted that Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are two



70% of India's export has been dominated by five States- Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana

landlocked States that had initiated several measures to promote exports.

Other States facing similar socio-economic challenges can look at the measures taken by Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and try to implement them to grow their exports, the report noted.

The report pointed out that at present, 70 per cent of India's export has been dominated by five States- Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Speaking at the launch

of the report, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said exports are an integral part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the country will have to keep striving to increase the share of exports in GDP and world trade. "We will try to double India's share in world trade in the coming years," he said. The Niti Aayog Vice Chairman pointed out that India's per capita exports stood at \$241, compared to South Korea's \$11,900 and China's \$18,000, so there is a huge potential for growth of In-

dia's exports, he said adding "States must look at creating a separate department for exports promotion."

Kumar said the government of India has made it clear that production linked incentive (PLI) schemes are critical to promote exports. He said there is a need to distinguish between coastal states and landlocked states because conditions for exports in coastal states and landlocked states are very different. Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said rapid growth of exports is a crucial component for long-term economic growth. A favourable ecosystem enables a country to contribute significantly to global value chains and reap the benefits of integrated production networks, globally, Kant added.

India's merchandise exports have witnessed growth from \$275.9 billion in 2016-17, to \$303.5 billion in 2017-18, and to \$331 billion in 2018-19.

85,000 2BHK houses to be handed over by year end

Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao says Telangana is the first in the list to take up such a large-scale project of ₹9,700 crore

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: State government would be handing over 85,000 double bedroom houses to the houseless poor in the 24 Assembly constituencies under Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation by December.

This was announced by Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao, who reviewed the progress of double bedroom houses here on Wednesday. The minister said that a massive construction of double



bedroom houses was going on in the GHMC limits and no other metro city in the country was taking up such a massive project with Rs 9,700 crore. "Nowhere in the country, a construction activity like this is going on and Telangana is the first in the list to take up such a vast number of houses," said Rao. The minister informed that about one lakh houses were being constructed in GHMC and majority of the

houses would be handed over to the beneficiaries by the year end.

Since the construction activity had been almost completed at many places, the minister asked the officials to speed up the works pertaining to basic amenities like drinking water, electricity and others. The minister said that construction of most of the double bedroom houses would be completed between August and December and

he directed the officials to prepare an action plan for identifying and handing over the houses to the beneficiaries. The officials informed the minister that apart from 75,000 double bedroom houses, another 10,000 houses would be ready under the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY). The officials further informed that 4,000 beneficiaries each from the 24 Assembly constituencies would be identified and houses would be handed over to them. Catchment area was also finalised for the identification of beneficiaries in the constituencies. Primarily, those who have given their house in the slums for construction of double bedroom houses would be given as in-situ beneficiaries. The officials were directed to prepare the list of such beneficiaries immediately. The minister further asked the collectors to identify the beneficiaries in the constituencies nearby the GHMC since ten per cent of the houses would be allocated to the locals.

New norm makes illegal registration of property difficult

The Registry department issues instructions to all Sub Registrar offices to register the plots and buildings only after the approval of local civic authorities in municipalities and panchayats

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The State government has enforced strict rules to check registration of unauthorised plots and buildings.

The Registry department issued instructions on Wednesday to all Sub Registrar offices to register the plots and buildings only after the approval of local civic authorities in Municipalities and Panchayats.

State Commissioner and Inspector General of Registration and Stamps, T Chiranjeevulu said in an order that it is mandatory that persons seeking registration of properties should produce relevant approvals from the civic authorities at the time of presentation of documents.

The order mentioned that the Telangana Municipal Act, 2019, stipulated that the registration authority will not register any building or structure or part of the building without the production of sanctioned plan by the Municipality. The Panchayat Raj act also mandated the same during the registration of properties.

The structures which have proceedings under BRS and BPS scheme issued by the government from time to time can be registered. Existing buildings in Grama Kanatam can also be registered under Panchayat Raj Act.



KTR flags off ambulances donated under 'Gift a Smile' campaign

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Wednesday flagged off ten ambulances which were funded by the TRS leaders from Warangal under the 'Gift a Smile' campaign started by the minister.

The TRS leaders from erstwhile Warangal district had come forward to donate 14 ambulances as a part of the campaign and handed over 10 ambulances on Wednesday. Speaking

at the occasion, the minister said that everyone earns money, but their greatness lies in the manner, in which they spend the money.

He thanked all for coming forward for donating the ambulances on his call. He said that these vehicles would be useful not only during the corona time but also post corona. The ambulances have a ventilator facility, which would be helpful in saving the patients under critical conditions.

SAVE DEMOCRACY YATRA

It is 'Political Yatra': TRS

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The TRS on Wednesday termed the 'Save Democracy Yatra' by the Congress Legislature as 'Political Yatra'.

Addressing a press conference here at TRSLP office Government Whip Gongadi Sunitha alleged that the Congress party was trying to stop the development programs in the state and their yatra was nothing but 'Political Yatra'. "The Congress leaders are taking up yatras for politics. They need to talk something in the Assembly sessions hence they are taking up hospital yatras. The opposition parties are criticizing each and every pro-

gram of the government," said Sunitha. However, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao would not like to respond to the criticism because he does not want the progress to stop, she added.

The TRS leader criticized the opposition party's allegations of huge loans taken by the government. She said that the State government was taking loans based on the limit prescribed by the Union government. She asked whether the Congress governments in other states were not taking any loans.

The TRS leader took exception to the criticism of Congress and BJP on failure of the government to tackle the corona

pandemic. She said that Telangana was a role model for the country. She had praise on the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. It was because of the efforts of KCR that Telangana became a food bowl of the country. Even in the time of Corona, Telangana produced record food grains. The farmers following the regulated cropping in the state shows their confidence in chief minister KCR, said Sunitha. She also said that it was a golden era for the people of Nalgonda as chief minister brought Krishna and Godavari water to the district and the fluoride problem was also ending.

NGOs donate N95 masks, sanitisers to cops

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Ranga Reddy: Global Banjara Welfare Society and Banjara Mahila NGO donated N95 masks and sanitisers to Cyberabad Police on Wednesday. Krishna Vangipuram and Anand handed over 250 N95 masks and 100 sanitisers to Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar.

On the occasion, commissioner appreciated the generosity of Global Banjara Welfare Society and Banjara Mahila NGO and urged the people to follow the lockdown norms seriously to avoid the spread of Covid-19 infection.

Madhapur ADCP Venkateswarlu also participated in the programme.



PD Act invoked against four repeat offenders

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Ranga Reddy: In an ongoing drive against repeat offenders in Cyberabad Commissionerate, Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar has invoked the PD Act against four offenders involved in several burglaries.

The offenders are identified as Vupthala Anand alias Ananthi, Jarpati Yadaiah alias Chinna, Jarpati Yadaiah Prakash and Nagesh Shinde alias Santhosh Kumar Shinde. Anand, Yadaiah, Yadaiah alias Chinna are residents of Shantinagar, Chandanagar.

They have been addicted to bad vices and conspired together to

commit house burglaries during the night time to earn easy money. They used to move in an auto searching for the locked houses and break open the locks with an iron rod and gain entry into the house and subsequently break open the locks of almirahs and commit theft of gold, silver ornaments and cash. They involved in five cases in a span of five months from September 2019 to February 2020, in the limits of Chandanagar police station of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate.

Prakash Shinde, a native of Nasik district, Maharashtra, formed a gang with seven associates. He used to commute by train from Nasik and commit of-

fences. After committing offence they used to return Nasik by train the same day and sell the booty and share it among them. He started committing offences since 2011 and was involved in as many as 28 cases till 2019 under different police station limits of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and other States.

The Commissioner said the four offenders' acts are considered to be prejudicial to the maintenance of public order are been detained under Preventive Detention (PD) Act to keep him out of the society for a considerable period in the prison and to prevent him from committing further such offences.

TS to get another spell of heavy rains

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana is likely to get another spell of heavy rains. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) officials warned heavy to very heavy rain in several parts Telangana following well marked low pressure area over north Bay of Bengal.

The officials said that thunderstorm accompanied with lightning is also likely to occur at isolated places in Telangana. And, some areas are likely to get heavy rains. The alerted Telangana government issued warning in the recently rain hit north Telangana districts. Old Warangal, Khammam and part of karimnagar bore the brunt of the recent heavy rains caused huge crop losses and property damages.

Only fourth unit reported huge asset damage in fire mishap: CMD

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: TSGENCO and TSTRANSCO Chairman and Managing Director D Prabhakar Rao has said that the property loss in the fire mishap at Srisaillam Left Bank Hydrel Power Project was still under assessment and the preliminary investigation revealed that huge asset damage was reported in the fourth unit of the project.

All the other units have been reported small damages and a panel was disfigured in the sixth unit only, the official said rubbished some reports which claimed a colossal property loss to the tune of thousands of crores due to fire accident in the project. He is confident of resuming power generation shortly.

The Genco CMD along with four member departmental enquiry committee visited the project site and enquired the measures being taken to restore normalcy in power generation. He also examined the functioning of equipment mainly Service Bay, Generators, Control Panels, Transformers, Indoor Gas Sub Station and main Control Rooms.

At a meeting with project officials, Rao said that required safety measures will be taken to prevent such fire mishaps in the future. He exhorted the officials to rededicate themselves and work hard once the power generation is resumed. Eom

Despite personal tragedy, CMD visits Srisaillam

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: TSTRANSCO and TSGENCO Chairman and Managing Director D Prabhakar Rao on Wednesday visited Srisaillam Power station to ascertain the damage in the recent fire mishap despite his own brother's death. On Tuesday, the official participated in his brother's last rites in Warangal and consoled the family members. His schedule to visit the station, to inquire on the fire accident, plant revival works, and other works was finalised for Wednesday, with this, suppressing his own emotions, he visited the station.

After 14 of kin recover from Covid, TRS leader assuages victims

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Fourteen members of a single-family from Shadnagar on city outskirts, including an 85-year old woman and a 15-month kid were all infected with coronavirus. However, it is known that all of them recovered fully without requiring admission into a hospital.

The head of the family, 61-year-old TRS State secretary Ande Babaiah said that they live in a joint family and all of them tested positive on June 15. As everyone had mild symptoms or were asymptomatic, the doctors had advised home isolation. My three sons and their wives, six grandchildren including a 15-month old kid and my mother were infected, he informed, adding that their driver had also



tested positive.

"Apart from a few antibiotic medicines and vitamin tablets, all of us took steam inhalation three times a day, drank

Kashayam, had soaked sprouts every morning, boiled egg twice a day, drank boiled water as well as ate non-vegetarian food regularly," he added.

Babaiah and his entire family assembled as a group where Babaiah shared his experiences in the form of a video, which he said was to enlighten and create awareness among people of the State.

He appealed to people not to get panicked and rush to corporate hospitals that are charging fees indiscriminately and fleecing patients.

The TRS leader thanked district health officials and Health Minister Eatata Rajender for their support and guidance that helped them in quick recovery.

First, the three of us – me and my two sons underwent rapid antigen tests and after the reports came positive we decided to conduct sample tests for the entire family as ours is a joint family and we stay in a single house, Babaiah said.

Second round of sero survey begins in 3 districts

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The second round of SARS Cov-2 sero-epidemiological survey commenced in three districts of Telangana.

NIN in association with the Telangana government has initiated this survey to monitor transmission of Covid infection in the general population as part of the nationwide survey undertaken by ICMR.

The baseline survey was conducted in the month of May 2020 in three districts including Jangaon, Kamareddy and Nalgonda. The data then showed only 2 pos-

itive cases in Jangaon (0.49%) and 1 in each in Kamareddy (0.25%) and Nalgonda (0.25%).

As per guidelines, 10 villages/wards were selected in each of these districts (total of 30 villages in three districts) and from each selected village 40 people (males and females) above 10 years of age are being randomly covered for the survey.

The State Health department and district authorities of the government are actively engaged in the survey process to ensure smooth operationalization of the house-to-house survey in 30 villages across three districts.

World Test C’ship: India continue to lead, England close in on Australia

Southampton (IANS): England could not overtake Australia but have closed the gap with their Ashes rivals in the ongoing ICC World Test Championship points table after the drawn third and final Test against Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl.

England are on 292 points after the 1-0 series win against the Azhar Ali-led side, only four behind second-placed Australia, with whom they drew a five-match Ashes series 2-2 early in the nine-team championship. The Three Lions have completed four series while Australia have played three so far.

England’s other championship engagements saw them beat South Africa 3-1 in a four-match series and the West Indies 2-1 in a three-match series at home last month.

Pakistan are fifth with 166 points, 14 behind New Zealand. Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka 1-0 in a two-match series and lost both matches of their other completed series against Australia. They won the first match of their two-Test series at home against Bangladesh, with the second match due for a later leg postponed due to Covid-19.

India continue to lead the table with 360 points from four series. India and Australia are next slated to take on each other in the four-Test Border Gavaskar Trophy towards the end of the year.



Aus, Afghanistan likely to contest in one-off Test in Dec

Melbourne (IANS): Afghanistan are likely to play their first-ever Test match against Australia towards the end of the year. According to a report in ESPN-cricinfo, the Test match is slated to take place from December 7 to 11 in Perth. The report further stated that both Cricket Australia and the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) are in an advanced stage of negotiations before finalising the schedule for the one-off

Test and the only question which remains is that whether the can be played as a Day/Night Test or not. According to the Future Tours Programme (FTP) of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Australia were to host Afghanistan in November, immediately after the now postponed men’s T20 World Cup. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many bilateral engagements have to be resched-

uled. The proposed Test will not be a part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship as it is limited to the top nine teams and does not include three Full Members in Afghanistan, Ireland and Zimbabwe. The match against Australia will be Afghanistan’s fifth in red-ball cricket. They have lost Tests to India and the West Indies, but have registered wins against Ireland and Bangladesh.

Anderson back to top-10 in ICC Test rankings

Southampton (IANS): England fast bowler James Andersons match haul of seven wickets and batsman Zak Crawley’s massive 267 saw the duo shoot up in the latest ICC Test Rankings after the drawn third and final Test against Pakistan.

Anderson has moved back to the top-10 after briefly dropping out of it since the preceding home series against the West Indies.

The formerly top-ranked bowler has gained six spots to reach eighth position after a Test that saw him grab his 29th five-wicket haul in the first innings and become the first fast bowler to 600 wickets with Azhar Ali’s scalp in the second innings of the recently-concluded Test match.

Crawley ascended 53 spots to reach a career-best 28th position after recording the 10th highest individual score for England and their second highest maiden Test century. He had started the series in 95th position but his 320-run aggregate has made him the fourth best ranked England batsman after



only eight Tests, behind Ben Stokes, Joe Root and Jos Buttler. Buttler is another England player to make notable progress in the latest rankings update after scoring a fine 152 in his side’s only innings of the Test. He has reached a career-best 637 rating points and 21st position, three off his best of 18th achieved in November 2018.

All-rounder Ben Stokes has ceded the top spot for all-rounders to Jason Holder after missing two Test matches, dropping one point behind the West Indies captain. For each Test missed, players lose one per cent each of their batting and bowling points with a cumulative effect of about two per cent on a player’s all-round rating.



New Delhi (IANS): Indian cricket fraternity has heaped praise on James Anderson after he became the first fast-bowler in the history of Test cricket to

claim 600 wickets. Anderson achieved the feat after he dismissed Pakistan captain Azhar Ali on Day 5 of the third Test which ended in a

‘You’re the GOAT’: Indian cricket fraternity hails James Anderson

draw at the Ages Bowl in Southampton on Tuesday. “Well done James Anderson...this milestone is just greatness...156 Test matches as fast bowler is just unthinkable...u will make every young fast bowler believe that greatness is achievable,” former India captain and current BCCI President Sourav Ganguly said in a tweet. Sachin Tendulkar said: “What an incredible achievement James Anderson. Many congratulations on your feat. 600 wickets in Test Cricket over a span of 17 years

for a fast bowler is a testament to your grit, perseverance and accurate bowling.” “Congratulations James Anderson for this outstanding achievement of 600 wickets. Definitely one of the best bowlers I’ve faced,” said current Team India skipper Virat Kohli. Anderson is now the fourth highest wicket taker of all time in Test cricket behind Muttiah Muralitharan (800 wickets), Shane Warne (708) and Anil Kumble (619). Among fast bowlers, the 38-year-old is fol-

lowed by Glenn McGrath (563), Courtney Walsh (519) and his long-time new ball partner Stuart Broad (514). “Never thought I’d see in my lifetime a fast bowler take 600 test wickets! It’s not just the quantity but the quality with which he has bowled - be it slow or fast wickets, bounce or no bounce, seam or no seam, for him conditions never mattered! Sir James Anderson you are the #GOAT,” tweeted Yuvraj Singh. VVS Laxman said: “For a fast-bowler to play 156 Test matches is an incredible achievement, a

testament of his endurance. And becoming the first fast bowler to 600 test wickets is a just reward for the hard-work& the passion with which James Anderson has played his cricket. Many congratulations.” “The legend of #JimmyAnderson grows with every ball, every innings and every game. Congratulations on 600 Test wickets and counting...” tweeted Mohammad Kaif. “Great skills and even greater performer James Anderson #600wickets #test,” said Irfan Pathan.

England Women to host Windies for T20I series in Sept

London (IANS): England Women will host West Indies in five-match T20I series at the Incora County Ground, Derby in September, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has confirmed.

The series will be played behind closed doors in a bio-secure environment. It will replace scheduled series against India and South Africa after both teams were unavailable to travel due to COVID-19, ECB said on Tuesday. The five T20Is will be played on September 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30.

ECB CEO Tom Harrison said: “Protecting the momentum of the women’s game was one of our four stated aims right at the beginning of the pandemic in March and I’m delighted that, despite the enormous difficulties that COVID-19 has created, we’ll see England Women in action this summer.”

“It has been critical to us that our efforts to deliver bio-secure standards and support visiting opponents have been equal to those that have so successfully delivered in the England Men’s series. We are immensely grateful to the team at Derby who have supported this ambition throughout the summer with testing and now delivery.

“There were 86,000 fans in attendance at the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup final in March and the direction of travel in the women’s game in England and Wales has been relentlessly positive over the last few years. That momentum must continue despite the challenges of COVID-19, and we do not underestimate our role in driving that agenda,” he added.

Williams crash out of Western & Southern Open

New York (IANS): No.13 seed Maria Sakkari delivered a brilliant performance as she came from the brink of defeat to shock two-time champion Serena Williams and roar into the quarterfinals of the ongoing Western & Southern Open.

Sakkari, who started the week with a decisive victory over American teenager Coco Gauff, trailed by a set and a break in her first meeting with the 23-time Grand Slam champion only to roll through the final set after two hours and 17 minutes to win the match 5-7, 7-6(5), 6-1 on Tuesday evening.

“I haven’t realised it yet,” Sakkari said after the match as per the WTA website. “It feels pretty good, because she (Williams) has been a role model



for me growing up, and obviously what she has achieved is huge. So it feels very nice.” The No.13 seed made two more winners (27 to 25) and 15 fewer errors (43 to 58), converted five of 19 break point opportunities while maintaining a 59 per cent first serve percentage, striking seven aces to Williams’ nine.

Messi informs Barcelona he wants to leave

Barcelona (IANS): Lionel Messi has told Barcelona that he wants to leave the club this summer, reports said. According to ESPN, the club confirmed that they were notified by Messi of his decision via burofax, a service used in Spain to urgently dispatch a document that requires proof to third parties. The announcement comes 11 days after Barcelona’s humiliating 2-8 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinals, one of the worst defeats in the player’s career and in the club’s history. Messi (33) has a contract until 2021 but has grown disappointed with events on and off the pitch at Camp Nou in recent months. Coach Quique Setien was sacked after the Bayern loss.



Messi met with Setien’s replacement, Ronald Koeman, last week, telling him that he had doubts about his future in Catalonia.

‘India will organise BRICS Games during Khelo India Games 2021’

New Delhi (IANS): Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has said that BRICS Games 2021 is being planned and will be aligned with the Khelo India Games schedule in India. “BRICS Games 2021 will be held during same time and at same venues as of Khelo India Games 2021 so that our players from various parts of the country who will gather for Khelo India Games will have the benefit and great opportunity of witnessing BRICS Games from close quarters. This will be a

Sports and Games will be one of deliverables. The government of India organises annual sports competitions under the Khelo India Scheme.” “As we find ways to get over COVID-19, we are hopeful of organising Khelo India Youth Games and Khelo India University Games in 2021. During Khelo India Youth Games 2021, we will invite BRICS member countries to showcase their traditional indigenous games during the inaugural or closing ceremony of Khelo India.”

Stressing on the importance of building a fitness and sporting culture to promote well-being of citizens, Rijiju said: “One of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for UN Agenda 2030 is ‘to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.’” “To aligning sports activities and programs with this SDG, the government of India has taken several initiatives and launched schemes and programs. To keep people healthy and fit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched FIT INDIA movement in August 2019.”

“The main focus of the movement is to create awareness amongst Indians about the importance of fitness in daily life and showcasing the ease and simplicity of doing things which make us fit. For the Fit India movement, the government is playing the role of catalyst so that Fit India becomes a people’s movement. The movement has already gained great momentum in the last 1 year,” he added.



great morale booster and motivational moment for them,” Rijiju said on Tuesday. He made these comments as he attended the meeting of sports ministers of the BRICS nations and spoke about the importance of sport in improving the living standards and quality of life of citizens as well as of collaboration between BRICS nations in taking sport forward in post COVID-19 era. Speaking about organising sporting events as India unlocks, he said, “During India’s 2021 Chairmanship of the BRICS,

Suresh Raina wants to promote cricket in Jammu & Kashmir

New Delhi (IANS): Former Indian cricketer Suresh Raina has volunteered to promote cricket in Jammu and Kashmir by providing opportunities to the underprivileged kids in the union territory.

In a letter addressed to J&K DGP Dilbag Singh, Raina said that he wants to give back to the game by doing his bit. “I have etched a mark on the field of international cricket for 15 years, and thus I would like to make use of the knowledge and skills I learned over the years and pass it onto the next generation,” he wrote.

The 33-year-old, who recently announced his retirement from international cricket, said he wanted to promote the game in schools and colleges in the rural areas. He said his aim was to hunt for talented sportsmen in the rural areas of the union territory to organise master classes and offer skill training.

“My intention is finding out the talented youngsters or children from various parts in-



cluding schools’, colleges and rural areas of J&K. Cricket is not just a sport but it evolves a process which could shape and mould a group of individuals with professional ethics, discipline maintained further in their future life, staying fit and healthy both mentally and

physically. When a child undergoes the training for any sports activities he or she is automatically adapted to the discipline of lifestyle as well as aware of the importance of physical fitness. These could be the future of our nation,” the letter read. Last Saturday, the Jammu and Kashmir Police had invited Raina to develop cricketing skills in the union territory. In a tweet on their official Twitter handle, the J&K police said, “Congratulations on a successful career @ImRaina. Your contribution to Indian #Cricket, particularly the shorter format is a matter of pride for all of us. Some of your crucial innings which helped #India win many encounters on the play field are memorable.” “We are expecting you to work with us in developing the cricketing skills of the youth of #Jammu and #Kashmir. Looking forward to see you with our youth here. DGP J&K ShDilbag Singh & other ranks of #JKP extend best wishes for your next innings.”