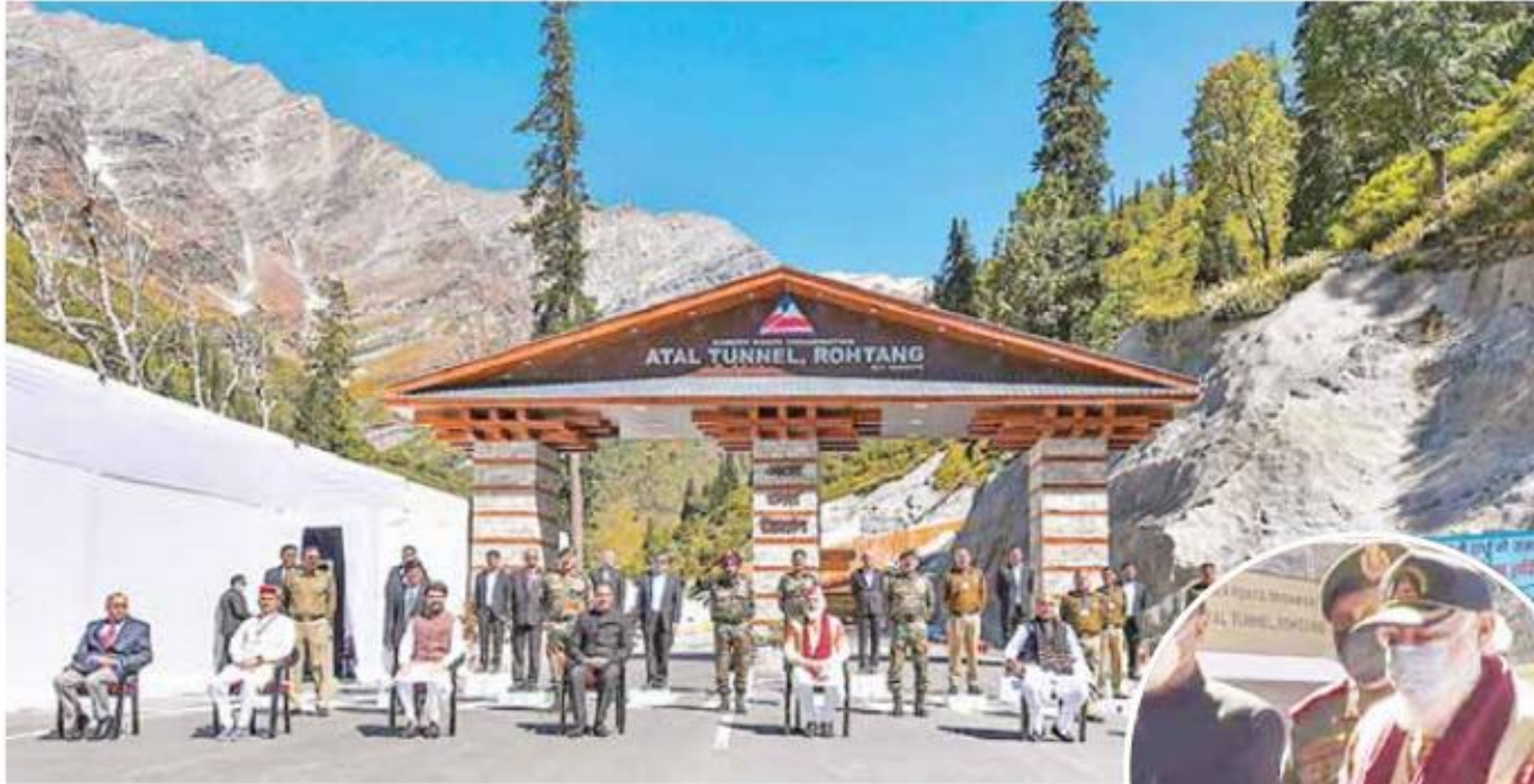


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PM Narendra Modi with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur and others during the inauguration of Atal Tunnel in Manali on Saturday. (Inset) Modi inaugurating the tunnel

PM opens Atal Tunnel

INDIA'S BORDER INFRA GETS A SHOT IN THE ARM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang, which connects Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district.

Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world (9.02-km), built at an altitude of 3,000 meters. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Army Chief General MM Naravane.

The tunnel cuts through a mountain west of the Rohtang La and will now

SALIENT FEATURES

- ▶ 9.02-km Atal Tunnel passes thru Rohtang pass
- ▶ It is the longest highway tunnel in the World
- ▶ It connects Manali with Lahaul-Spiti valley
- ▶ It is horseshoe-shaped, single tube double lane tunnel
- ▶ The tunnel is built at an altitude of 10,171 feet
- ▶ It has emergency route under the main tunnel
- ▶ Telephone facility available at every 150 meters

shorten the distance between the two points by around 46 km. What was a nearly 4-hour journey will now take around 15 minutes. The double-lane tunnel can handle around 3,000 cars and 1,500 trucks per day, with a maximum speed of 80 km per hour. Launching the

tunnel, Modi said, "Atal Tunnel will give new strength to India's border infrastructure. It is an example of world-class border connectivity. There have been demands to improve border infrastructure but for a long time, such projects either couldn't get out of the plan-

ning stage or got stuck midway. Connectivity has a direct connection with development. Connectivity in border areas is directly related to security issues."

The Prime Minister said that such border connectivity projects will also aid the security forces in ensuring regular supplies to them and in their patrolling. "Atal Ji laid the foundation stone of approach road of this tunnel in 2002. Till 2013-2014, progress was made only on 1,300 meters of this tunnel. After 2014, the project progressed with an unprecedented pace.

Continued on Page 4

India successfully test fires N-capable Shaurya missile

Balasure (Odisha): India on Saturday successfully test fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable hypersonic missile 'Shaurya' with a strike range of around 1,000 km from a test range in Odisha, defence sources said. 'Shaurya', which is the land variant of Indias K-15 missile, has a strike range of 700 km to 1000 km and is capable of carrying payloads of 200 kg to 1,000 kg, the sources said.



Jagan likely to attend river disputes meet from Delhi

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is likely to participate in the Apex Council meeting, convened by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on October 6, from New Delhi. Though the river disputes meeting is organised through video conference, Jagan will leave for New Delhi on October 5 (Monday), a day before the Apex Council meeting and stay put in the national capital, according to sources. They said that Jagan will take part in the council meeting from AP Bhavan in Delhi, called by Shekhawat to resolve the issues raised on the construction of irrigation projects on Krishna and Godavari rivers by the two states. Telangana State Chief Minister K Chandrabab Naidu will attend the meeting from Hyderabad. The two State Governments claimed the projects constructed after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh were illegal. Jagan will meet the Jal Shakti Minister in the national capital after the meeting. The AP CM will also meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other Union ministers during his stay.

Gandhis meet victim's family, demand justice

- ▶ Cops permit only 5-member team to visit Hathras
- ▶ Media allowed after SIT completed its investigation
- ▶ Top officials meet kin of the deceased in the village

New Delhi: It is the Uttar Pradesh government's responsibility to protect the family of the alleged gangrape victim, said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after meeting with the family in Hathras. Gandhi said they would fight till justice was done in the case.

Rahul Gandhi, along with party general secretary and sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, spoke with the family of the 20-year-old Dalit woman who died in Delhi after allegedly being gangraped and tortured in Hathras. The woman's body was then cremated in the dead of night by the police in a secretive ceremony. Earlier the Noida police allowed only five members to go to Hathras via Noida considering the restrictions imposed under CrPC Section 144.

Continued on Page 4

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Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi at Delhi-Noida border as she attempts to move towards Hathras to meet family members of the 19-year-old woman who died after she was allegedly gang-raped, in Noida on Saturday

Yogi recommends CBI probe

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday recommended a CBI probe into the death of a 19-year-old Dalit woman who was allegedly gangraped in Hathras, officials said.

The development comes within hours of Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi and Director General of Police H C

Awasthi meeting the victim's family at her home. "Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered that a probe should be done by the CBI into the complete Hathras case," the chief minister's office tweeted. Reacting to the announcement, the family members of the victim said they want a Supreme Court-monitored inquiry.

Draft voters' list to begin from Nov 1

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The State Election Commission would start preparing a draft integrated voters' list from November 1 onwards. Announcing the schedule, Additional Commissioner S Pankaj said the total number of polling stations is 15.

Assembly constituencies in Hyderabad district were 3,977 and total number of locations was 1,586. As per the final rolls published on February 7, 2020, the total voters in the Hyderabad city were 42,37,190. The officials would be completing the rationalization, change of boundaries and approval of final polling centres by October 31.

According to the officials, the process of preparing the draft voters' list would start from November 1 and would continue till November 15. The EC would be publishing the integrated draft electoral rolls on November 16.



Claims and objections would be accepted between November 16 and December 15.

The claims and objections would be accepted on two Saturdays and Sundays suggested by the Chief Electoral Officer during the period of November 16 to December 15. The claims and objections would be settled by January 5, 2021.

The final publication of electoral rolls would be on

January 15, 2021. The Commission would be meeting the political parties again on Monday to discuss the location of polling stations and changes if there are any in the existing locations, said Pankaj. The officials sought the political party leaders to give their suggestions on the new locations. The political party leaders were asked to give proposals to the GHMC election wing.

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So you are feeling bigoted, dumb, racist and full of hatred! Weren't you told not to go near Trump?

Trump on Remdesivir therapy in military hosp

Washington: President Trump was flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Friday less than 24 hours after announcing he and first lady Melania Trump tested positive for Covid-19. It's the most serious health crisis a President has faced since President Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981.

The White House physician said on Friday that the President is "doing well"



and has not required supplemental oxygen. He said Trump started treatment with Remdesivir, a drug that

has shortened the recovery time for some patients with the virus. Trump tweeted an update from the hospital,

where the White House says he will spend the next few days. "Going well, I think! Thank you to all. LOVE!!!!" he wrote late on Friday. White House spokesperson Kayleigh McEnany said earlier that Trump had "mild symptoms" and was being transferred to Walter Reed "out of an abundance of caution and at the recommendation of his physician and medical experts."

Continued on Page 4

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Govt pins hopes on Dharani portal to shore up finances

PATAN AFZAL BABU

Hyderabad: The State government has experienced a peculiar economic situation in the current 2020-2021 financial year.

In the first two quarters, the total borrowings of the State were higher than the revenues generated through different sources mainly property registrations, Excise duty, VAT, GST and non tax revenues. While the officials are confident that the State economy will bounce back with double revenues once the much-hyped Dharani portal opens for online land and property registrations from October 25 this year.

The officials attributed the Covid pandemic and slowdown in the economy post lockdown period for the steep fall in the State revenues. The stoppage of land registrations from September first week and the delay in the release of GST amount to Telangana by the Centre also deepened the financial crisis in the end of the second quarter of the current financial year.

Top officials said that from March to till August end, the State could rake in Rs 3,200 crore through property registrations by achieving 30 per cent of the target of Rs 10,000 crore from registrations this year. In September, the entire registration process was put on hold as part of the implementation of Dharani portal.

As against the target of Rs 27,000 crore VAT collections, the state could generate only 7,000 crore due to sudden fall in fuel consumption during the three



- The officials are confident that the State economy will bounce back with double revenues once the much-hyped Dharani portal opens for online land and property registrations from October 25
- The State couldn't get more than Rs 24,000 crore revenues from all resources in the last six months against the target of Rs 40,000 crore revenues in the first two quarters of the financial year
- The generation of a mere Rs 2000 crore out of Rs 30,000 crore from non-tax revenues also gave a big jolt to the government
- The stoppage of land registrations from September first week and the delay in the release of GST amount to Telangana by the Centre also deepened the financial crisis
- The government has targeted to seek nearly Rs 40,000 crore borrowings to bridge the revenue deficit this year

month lockdown period from March to June. The release of GST amount from Centre was also less than Rs 10,000 crore against the expected 32,500 crore. The generation of a mere Rs 2,000 crore out of Rs 30,000 crore from non-tax revenues also gave a big jolt to the government, officials said that state couldn't get more than Rs 24,000 crore revenues from all resources in the last six months. Whereas, the State had expected more than Rs 40,000 crore revenues in the first two quarters.

In a contrast, the State has

gone for huge borrowings more than the revenues generated. A total of Rs 26,000 crore including the Centre's recent permit to Telangana to seek Rs 2,508 crore borrowings were sought from RBI and other public financial institutions till date by the State government to meet the financial needs, officials said, adding that during the lockdown, the government borrowed Rs 5,709 crore in April, Rs 7,642 crore in May, Rs 4,318 crore in June, Rs 3,113 crore in July and in August the State borrowed Rs 3,000 crore. In view of the economic slowdown,

government has targeted to seek nearly Rs 40,000 crore borrowings to bridge the revenue deficit this year.

The government is expecting state economic activity will move fast forward once the Dharani portal comes into operation as the government is planning to enhance the market value of the lands so that the stamps and registration fee collected will double and it will fill the State coffers from October end onwards. The new Dharani portal will come into operational from the auspicious Dussera festival this year.

KTR rolls out 21 new Covid ambulances

Ministers, MLAs donate ambulances to operate in different places across the State



Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao with party leaders who donated ambulances in Hyderabad on Saturday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Saturday flagged off 21 new Covid response ambulances donated by the TRS public representatives as part of 'Gift a smile' campaign started on the birthday of the minister.

The Warangal leaders led by Minister E Dayakar Rao handed over the ambulances to the party working president. The Warangal leaders who donated money for the ambulances include MP M Kavitha, MLAs Shankar Naik, A Ramesh, N Narender, N Lakshman Rao. Three ambulances each were donated

by the leaders like Ministers Eatala Rajender, Malla Reddy, Srinivas Goud, Chevella MP G Ranjeeth Reddy, Mahabubnagar MP Srinivas Reddy. The other leaders who donated the ambulances include MLA M Janardhan Reddy (2), one each by Minister S Niranjan Reddy, MLC P Mahender Reddy, N Narender, Upender Reddy, Aroori Ramesh, Chief Whip D Vinay Bhaskar, Warangal leader Lakshman Rao. These ambulances would be used in the constituencies in the districts of Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Rangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Warangal, Khammam. The Municipal Administration Minister thanked the party leaders for their gesture.

Kishan asks TS, AP CMs to resolve water sharing rows

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy asked the Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy to sort out the differences on sharing of Krishna river waters between the two in the spirit of mutual cooperation.

He said on here on Saturday, both the Telugu chief ministers have been meeting each other for dinners. They should sit and discuss and the Centre would give its full support in peacefully sorting out the differences. Dismissing that the Centre is at fault, Kishan

Union Minister wants the two Chief Ministers to sit and discuss and the Centre would give its full support in peacefully sorting out the differences

Reddy said, "the Centre is not at fault. The Centre did not interfere and accepted when Telangana and Maharashtra had reached an agreement through mutual understanding and cooperation."

He remained that earlier the Centre had convened the Apex Council meet. But, it was postponed because of the State not attending the same. The Centre is ready to mediate between the two States in sorting out the differences. The Centre wants both the States to develop and get

their due share in the river waters. Earlier, Telangana had faced injustice in sharing of river waters during the Congress and TDP regimes.

Both the States should sort out their differences in a spirit of co-operation and understanding, for their development without causing discontent. The Centre is always there for extending its co-operation and mediate in the peaceful and amicably settle the outstanding disputes between the two states, he added.

TS EAMCET-2020 preliminary key released

Candidates asked to submit objections till Monday evening

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Students who have appeared for the TS EAMCET-2020 in the Agriculture and Medical stream can submit objections they have any objections on the preliminary key from October 3. They have to submit the online objections by 4.50 pm by October 5.

TS EAMCET-2020 Convenor, Prof A Govardhan said on Saturday that the computer-based test was held in online mode and the candidates' response sheets, preliminary key and master question papers of all four sessions of

the test will be uploaded on the TS EAMCET-2020 websites at <https://eamcet.tsche.ac.in> on October 3.

The candidates can download their response sheets and by clicking on "objections on the preliminary key" option on the TS EAMCET-2020 website, and to submit their objections.

Any other mode of submission of objections on the preliminary key will not be accepted, he said.

Further, the key objections link will be strictly closed, after the due date and the candidates are advised to complete submissions before the due date and timing.

Bangladeshi woman rescued from human trafficking gang

Police says that the woman has been trafficked into the city by Imran and Rahul and paid for her so, that they can force her into prostitution

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Anti Human Trafficking Unit of Rachakonda police, along with Hayath Nagar police on Saturday raided a residence in Lecturer's Colony at Hayath Nagar and rescued a Bangladeshi woman aged around 26 from the clutches of a trafficker and two agents. The accused trafficker was identified as Rahul and the agents were a couple, U Yadaiah and U Chittamma who colluded with Rahul and were helping him with accommodation.

According to police, they received a tip-off that a Bangladeshi woman has been trafficked into the city by one Imran and Rahul and paid for her so that he can force her into prostitution. Upon receiving the information, the cops formed special teams and raided the place and arrested the trafficker and the couple who were involved in the offence. Apart from it one customer Bhaskar who was also present at the residence was arrested.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the couple has been into the flesh trade since many years but, their activities were hidden as they always maintained that they are poor people and are doing some odd jobs for their livelihood. However, their modus operandi was revealed and they were arrested along with the trafficker u/s 370 (A) of IPC and section 3, 4, 5 & 7 of PITA Act and were remanded to judicial custody, said the police.

Director, agent of stock broking firm arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The officers of Central Crime Station (CCS) on Saturday brought the director, Rajdeep Manoj Zaveri and agent Anil Karkala of M/s Manoj Zaveri Stock Broking Pvt. Ltd on prisoner transit warrant from Mumbai to Hyderabad for cheating gullible persons on the pretext of doubling their incomes through investments in stocks.

The issue came to light when the complainant Pradeep Yarlagadda filed a complaint at CCS and alleged that he was cheated to the tune of Rs 7 crore by the accused duo. Based on the complaint the CCS registered a case and the matter was investigated.

While investigating it was known that the agent Anil Karkala was working as a stock agent to two other companies titled, M/s Conard Securities Pvt. Ltd and M/s Trillion Capital in Mumbai. The agent got the details of the complainant and found that he was interested in investing in stocks. So, he lured him to invest in the stocks, but when the victim started investing the accused duo did not purchase any stocks on his name nor on his family member's name. However, they diverted the amount through their personal accounts and invested elsewhere, said the ACP of CCS, SV Hari Krishna.

He said, "When the victim demanded for the return of the principal amount the accused duo shut their office and fled the city. Further, it was revealed that they have cheated many gullible persons in different States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat on the pretext of investment in stocks. But, they were finally arrested and was charged u/s 406, 409, 420 r/w 34 of IPC and were remanded to judicial custody."

Temple doors open for devotees as sevas resume across State today

- Endowments Minister A Indrakaran Reddy has asked the temple managements to strictly adhere to the Covid19 protocols regarding following physical distancing
- However, only 50 per cent tickets would be on offer in order to avoid overcrowding in the temples

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Arjita Sevas, poojas and other regular programmes, which were halted because of the corona pandemic, would be starting in all the temples in the State from Sunday after the Centre gave relaxations.

Endowments Minister A Indrakaran Reddy said that all the sevas would resume from Sunday onwards following the guidelines of the government of India. The Minister asked the temple managements in the State to strictly adhere to the Covid-19 protocols following physical distancing. He also asked the officials to sanitize



Arjitha Sevas at Yadadri temple

Yadadri: The temple EO Geetha Reddy stated that Arjitha sevas in Balalayam is going to resume from October-4 (Sunday) as per the directions of commissioner of endowments

In a press statement on Thursday, she stated that Arjitha Sevas to Lord Laxmi Narasimha Swamy in Balalayam is going to start after a gap of 6 months 11 days. She informed that Kalyana

Katta counter also will be opened to pay the vows of devotees

She further informed that Arjitha Sevas also will re-start in associated temple Sri Purvagiri Laxmi Narasimha Swamy

Temple will be opened at 4 am and closes at 9 pm as per the changed timings and suggested devotees to follow guidelines of Covid-19 during the visit of both temples.

the temple premise frequently.

All the district assistant commissioners were asked to ensure that orders were implemented in all the temples under their respective jurisdictions strictly without any deviation. With this order, the sevas like Kalyanam, Satyanarayana Swamy Vratams,

Kode Mekkulu (Vemulawada temple) etc would be starting from Sunday onwards. However, only 50 per cent tickets would be on offer in order to avoid overcrowding in the temples. Also, accommodation facility will be provided at all the major temples across the State.

Chorus against rising rape cases grows louder

Activists from different organisations demand justice for rape victims

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Human rights organisations on Saturday staged protest against rape incidents in UP and Moinabad.

The activists of Human Rights Forum, National Alliance of People's Movement and CHATRI (Campaign for Housing and Tenurial Rights) took part in the protest. While pointing out that in both cases the victims were from weaker sections and have not survive to narrate their ordeal, the voluntary organisations said that powerful men were involved and hence to get justice people should stand with the family for justice. "The rape incidents have become common in UP under the current government. Hence we demand the President's Rule be imposed to restore law and order in India's largest State," said Md Ashfaq of CHATRI. The activist Khalida Parveen, who vowed to pursue

sue the case of Haya (name changed), who was allegedly raped by a TRS leader and committed suicide in Moinabad, also took part in the protest. She later tweeted "Am not convinced by the word of suicide, but it appears as a murder. The hanging visuals are forcing me to think like this. According to her sister, the girl was crying since morning."

Human Rights Forum's Syed Bilal said that the police should take all measures to see that the perpetrators are given stringent punishment. "In the Moinabad case, we appeal to the Telangana government to protect the sister of the victim as she is an important eyewitness. She should be kept under government protection home. We demand the government pay Rs50 lakh compensation and sanction a double bedroom house, as the family is very poor and she was a breadwinner," he added.



Don't take Council polls lightly: KCR to party netas

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday told the party leaders not to take ensuing Council polls lightly and asked them to encourage the graduates to enroll their names and also to counter the criticism of the opposition that youth were not with the party.

The Chief Minister held a meeting with the leaders from Khammam-Warangal-Nalgonda here on Saturday. According to sources, the Chief Minister wanted the party leaders to ensure that the party wins in both the Graduates constituencies.

The Chief Minister wanted the leaders to shut the mouths of critics who are running campaigns that youth and unemployed are not with TRS. He said that the youth have always been with TRS right from the days of Telangana move-



- The Chief Minister wants the party leaders to ensure the party wins in both the Graduates constituencies
- Asks the leaders to shut the mouths of critics who are running campaigns that youth and unemployed are not with TRS

ment. He asked the leaders to focus on the graduates who have completed their graduation before the year 2014.

The Chief Minister said that the party would win the Dubbaka by-poll and also the GHMC elections with a clear majority, the Chief Minister was confident of winning 104 divisions in GHMC polls and added that the surveys were in favour of the party in Dubbaka.

The Chief Minister focused on the new Revenue Act brought by the government and said that the

new Act would be helpful to common people. He asked the party leaders to encourage people to submit their property details on the the Dharani portal. He wanted to know the pulse of the people on the Layout Regularization Scheme. The leaders told the Chief Minister that people are happy. The Chief Minister said that 90 per cent of the properties do not have litigations and remaining would also be solved. He wanted the party leaders to clear the doubts of the people and added that if needed a special

session of the Assembly would also be called.

The Chief Minister lashed out at the Centre for its policies alleging that it was not protecting the interests of the people and neither solving disputes of the State governments. He disclosed to the leaders that many leaders had pressurized him to support the Agriculture Bill, which he refused keeping in view the interests of the farmers and also the State. He mentioned the water disputes between AP and Telangana states, which are decade's old, said sources. "The TRS has been supporting the Centre on issues like GST, keeping in view the interest of the nation but the Centre is not serious on the issues of the State governments," said the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister was critical of the new Electricity Act by the Centre. Rao said that the new Act was to provide Adamis to sell their power.

SIT gives clean chit to all 25 cops named in Nayeem's case

The issue came to light when the secretary of Forum for Good Governance, M. Padmanabha Reddy filed an RTI to enquire about the status of the case wherein the police officers were suspended for their links with the gangster

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by Telangana government to investigate the alleged nexus between police officers and the gangster Nayeem gave clean to all 25 cops named in the case. The issue came to light when the secretary of Forum for Good Governance, M. Padmanabha Reddy filed an RTI to enquire about the status of the case wherein the police officers were suspended for their links with the gangster.

In his response, the Inspector General of SIT, Y Nagi Reddy replied that no case was registered against the cops, hence no charge sheet was filed. However



the petitioner contended that about 240 cases were registered after the encounter of Nayeem.

"The RTI said that in 173 cases charge sheets were filed, but even after 4 years not a single case was brought to its logical conclusion.

Though 25 police officers were said to have been associated with Nayeem in his criminal activities, no action was taken against the police officers. Also, the SIT stated that they had to take two counting machines to count the money seized from the gangster's house, but they submitted that only Rs 3, 74, 600 was recovered. So what was the need to take two counting machines to count such a small amount," he asked.

He further added, "It was known to everyone that Nayeem has meticulously noted down the names of people whom he helped. During the raid of Nayeem's house some dairies containing a lot of information about senior police officers were seized but the dairies were not used in inquiry and in a way some IPS officers and politicians were let off the hook. Apart from it there are many issues on which the SIT is not able to inquire effectively."

The petitioner further appealed to the Governor of Telangana, Tamsilai Soundararajan to transfer the case to CBI and, in a letter which he wrote to the Governor, stated that it is not a simple case of Nayeem gangster. It is a case of a deadly combination of police, politicians and gangsters coming together and committing atrocities on innocent people, their lands grabbed and if any resistance from the public, those who resisted were eliminated. The involved politicians, police and gang of Nayeem deserve severe punishment. Henceforth action should be taken against the culprits at the earliest and the confidence in law and order shall be restored in the minds of the public, he said.

Decades-old vegetable market in Narayanaguda demolished

The market was constructed in the 1960's which is spread across 1,500 square yards and accommodated around 56 shops

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The 60-year-old vegetable market named as Lingampally vegetable market in Narayanaguda flyover was demolished by the officials of GHMC on Saturday which created a mild tension in the area as the vendors argued with the officials. The market was constructed in the 1960's which is spread across 1,500 square yards and accommodated around 56 shops. According to the officials of GHMC, it is said that the structure was in dilapidated condition and became weak so, it needed a renovation and for this reason the corporation started sending notices to the vendors from December 2019, but they never vacated.

The GHMC also promised the vendors to construct a new structure comprising ground plus three floors, but still nobody vacated. So, the corporation had to take the step



Shop owners search for their belongings after GHMC officials razed the market building in Narayanaguda on Saturday morning. Photo : Prabhu Das

of demolishing. However, the vendors have been assured that they will be given first priority in new complex and they can participate in bidding to get their spot. Also most of the vendors were tenants in the present structure and if they want to retain their spot, they can participate in bidding and avail it, stated the officials of GHMC.

But, no amount of pacifying helped the GHMC officials as

the shopkeepers were not in a mood to listen and due to this reason the police was called in to control the situation. But, the vendors kept on asking only one question to the officials, that how can they demolish their existing structure without providing any alternate structure and how will they earn their livelihoods till the time the new structure is constructed.

ITIs play important role in skilling: Kishan

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy said that the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country are playing important role in providing skill development and livelihood opportunities to youth.

Addressing after inaugurating the Model ITI at Mallepalli here on Saturday, he said the Centre has decided to strengthen the ITIs in the country. As part of the scheme, the development of Mallepalli ITI has been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore funds from the Centre and the State government.

He said that the Centre has allocated Rs 300 crore for the development of the identified ITIs into model ITIs. Similarly, it was also decided to introduce new courses in 29 States, by developing model ITIs along with the State governments, he added.

50 plasma donors felicitated



Apollo Hospital's joint managing director, Dr Sangita Reddy felicitating a plasma donor at the 'Thank You Plasma Angels' programme organised by Telangana Plasma Donors Association (TPDA) in Hyderabad on Saturday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: As many as 50 plasma donors were felicitated on Saturday for setting an example of humanity and saving lives of Covid-19 patients.

While addressing the 'Thank You Plasma Angels' programme organised by Telangana Plasma Donors Association (TPDA), Apollo Hospital's joint managing director, Dr Sangita Reddy lauded the efforts of donors who helped others recover from the coronavirus. She said the way plague had led to renaissance in Europe, the Covid-19 crisis would also help in the same way to bring the world together.

Citing the comments of Lancet (a medical journal) Edi-

tor, Sangita Reddy said that the Covid-19 has been described as tridemic as it led to three types of epidemics. According to her with the all-out efforts of governments, people and medical personnel brought down the mortality rate. TPDA president Gudur Narayana Reddy informed that about 50 plasma donors were felicitated on this occasion from 800 donors who have donated plasma through his newly-formed association. Sunshine Hospital chairman AV Gurava Reddy said he wants to touch the feet of the donors who have donated plasma selflessly as a respect towards them. He appreciated the efforts of the association in bringing together the plasma donors.

Cricket betting gang busted, 3 arrested

Hyderabad: The Shamshabad Special Operation Team (SOT) police have arrested three bookies of IPL cricket betting gang and seized an amount of Rs 5.60 lakh from them on Saturday. The SOT Shamshabad Zone received reliable information professional cricket betting gang were organising cricket betting in Rajendranagar PS limits and other areas of Hyderabad city. Based on the reliable information, the team of SOT apprehended 2 collection boys, along with one Sub bookie in front of Brand Factory, Upparpally under Rajendranagar police station limits. They were indulging in cricket betting and exchanging the money which was related to cricket betting and seized an amount of Rs 5.60 lakh net cash, and arrested 3 persons. 5 Cell Phones, One Calculator and 02 bikes were seized.

Governor lauds GCOT for promoting Swadeshi, Gram Swarajya concept

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana Governor Tamsilai Soundararajan has appreciated Gramodaya Chamber of Commerce and Technology (GCOT) for coming forward with a global declaration called "Reimagining India for the New World Order".

Participating in the virtual meeting conducted by GCOT, she said it's a new Swadeshi movement. The Governor said that GCOT's efforts in understanding various challenges villages are facing and evolving a model called, "Village Monograph" are highly commendable.

The vision, mission, and various activities of GCOT reinforced by belief and showcase the power of alumni of any institution coming together for a cause and working together to fulfil the "Gram Swarajya" dream of the Father of the Nation Ma-



Telangana Governor Tamsilai Soundararajan participating in the virtual meeting conducted by GCOT in Hyderabad on Saturday

hatma Gandhi, she added.

Tamsilai praised the GCOT for working closely with PJTSAU (Professor Jayashankar Agricultural University) to set up an Incubation Centre, promote Telangana Sona Rice, and several other initiatives. She urged all the universities to work with GCOT on

developing Village Monograph and empower the rural Indians in line with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan initiative taken by the Union government. GCOT Chairman Shyam Prasad Reddy, Chief Advisor Shyam Mohan and General Secretary Ram Reddy were present.

28 prisoners released from Chanchalguda jail

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Telangana State prisons department on Saturday released 28 prisoners lodged in Chanchalguda prison comprising 13 women and 15 men. According to officials, it is known that the prisoners were supposed to be released on August 15, but due to some technicalities their release was postponed to October 2 and after completing the formalities on Friday they were released.

The government of Telangana planned for a premature release of prisoners on special remission and it was planned for Independence Day but, it was postponed to Gandhi Jayanti. However, the amend-

ment of government met with criticism because if the amendment would have been taken place then 270 prisoners would be released and it was mainly criticised because 'non-life' convicts, and those serving life sentences, were eligible for remission, said an official on condition of anonymity.

He said, "However, the amendment did not take place and the new proposal only excluded non-lifers because the women who had undergone six years and men who had undergone 10 years of punishment were eligible. The others who are eligible will be released in a span of few days after completing the required formalities."

ONLINE TEACHING DOESN'T WORK IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Medicos require practical knowledge more than other courses, says the principal of a government medical college

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Uncertainty prevails over the resumption of MBBS classes in medical colleges in the State. Kaloji Health University officials stated that MCI has to take a call on re-opening of classes in all medical colleges in the country including Telangana. However, private medical colleges have already started the online mode of teaching. Theory classes are being run through online mode. Kaloji University has not given any directions in this regard.

Colleges, individually, are following their own procedures and they have given the freedom to teaching faculty to conduct classes in coordination with medicos from second to final year. However, the principal of a government medical college stated that the online mode of teaching does not work for medical education. Here practical knowledge is most important apart from theoretical knowledge. In the majority professional courses, theory knowledge will be more than enough but the same cannot be said

when it comes to medical education, he said.

"Bedside training, examining patients, and talking to them in person to get an idea of what treatment they require are all possible only through offline teaching. And this all not possible in online mode," the principal pointed out.

According to the principal, students will be at a loss if they are promoted to next class without having clinical experience. It remains to be seen how MCI goes about this issue. If syllabus will be condensed then to what ex-

tent it will be done so that medicos study is not affected are all that has to be addressed," the principal added.

On the other confusion persists regarding the annual exams for first-year MBBS students from the 2019-20 batch. They were slated to write exams in July, but that had to put off due to the corona pandemic. Annual exams for second, third, and final year students are held in January and February every year, and it is very unlikely that they will be held on time this year.



Eatala wants most of patients be treated at district hospitals

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Health Minister Eatala Rajender wanted 90% of patients to be treated in Primary Health Centers and District and Area Hospitals. He said only those with major ailments should be referred to tertiary care hospitals Gandhi, and Osmania Hospitals.

The Health Minister held a day-long review on Saturday with senior officials from different wings of the Health department including DME, TVVP, DPH, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Yoga & Naturopathy departments.

Eatala stated that every house became an Ayurveda center in this corona pandemic by switching to or following practices and medicines of the ancient medical form. He ordered filling of teaching posts in Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy, Naturopathy & Yoga wings immediately. Eatala, also expressed dissatisfaction over non-implementation of sev-

- Only those with major ailments should be referred to OGH, Gandhi, says the Health Minister
- Orders filling of teaching posts in Ayush departments immediately



eral key decisions taken in the past after lengthy reviews on Ayush department.

He wanted Ayush Dispensary Centers to be converted into Wellness Centers. Currently, 440 government dispensaries and 394 NRHM dispensaries are functioning in the State. He instructed all Ayush dispensaries where less patients are coming to be moved into PHCs. Further, the Health Minister wanted all PHCs to have Ayush units also. Eatala wanted a task force to be

set up for the development of Ayush in the State and a full report be prepared. Reviewing the functioning of Vaidya Vidhana Parishad, the Minister suggested that all the bottlenecks for recruitment should be resolved.

He said a decision would be taken in consultation with the Chief Minister to fill the vacant posts by the Medical Recruitment Board once every 6 months.

Eatala wanted modifications in rules and regulations to take action against staff showing cal-

lous attitude at work. Eatala wanted all TVVP hospitals to have a patient counselor and reception counter to guide patients.

Reviewing Public Health wing, Eatala asked for details of all the vacancies from the sub-center to the PHC level. He said necessary steps should be taken for time-bound promotions. After doing in-service PG, services of PHC doctors should be utilised in VVP hospitals and DME hospitals, he said.

He made a mention of the State government's stand on health and various policies to the Central government earlier. Eatala explained that Telangana made it clear that States should be not forced to follow any policy (indirect reference to Ayushman Bharat) that Centre might think of implementing across the country without looking into some of the better schemes already under implementation in some States.

CLAT candidates will have to pay for raising objections from next year

Raising unnecessary objections made CNLUs decide to charge a fee

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Candidates appearing the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) from next year will have to pay a fee for submitting objections and representations against the questions and answer key.

NALSAR University of Law Vice-Chancellor Prof Faizan Mustafa on Saturday said, the Consortium of National Law Universities (CNLU) has authorised convenor of CLAT-2020 Prof Balraj Chauhan to constitute an expert committee. The committee was asked to look into the objections and representation from the candidates regarding CLAT-2020.

The committee went into the objections raised and found that a large number of them were unnecessary. He said that the objections were filed because unlike NEET, JEE and NET etc which charge Rs. 1,000 per objection, CLAT-2020 had made filing of objections absolutely free. Hence,

the number of objections filed gone high.

Following this, the governing body and the executive committee of CNLUs accepted the expert committee recommendation to impose a fee for filing objections from next year. However, if the objection is accepted then the fee paid will be refunded, he added.

He said that the technical problems raised by the CLAT-2020 candidates were closely examined. Besides, conducting a random check of the audit log of the number of candidates, and it did not show any discrepancies. However, the usage of the calculator was denied to the candidates in the CLAT 2020. He said that the three questions of the UG and one question of PG have been dropped by the consortium. Also in UG examination, keys of four answers are being changed i.e., one each in English and current affairs including general knowledge and two in quantitative techniques.

Trisha accepts Prakash Raj's Green India Challenge



Ranga Reddy: Famous actress Trisha Krishnan accepted Prakash Raj's Green India Challenge and planted saplings at her home in Chennai on Saturday.

She posted the pictures of her planting saplings in her Twitter account. She appreciated the efforts of the Telangana government, Rajya Sabha MP Joginpally Santosh Kumar for the initiative.



TS BJP holding a meeting on Dubbaka bypoll in Hyderabad on Saturday

BJP aims to give tough fight to TRS in Dubbaka bypoll

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP is chalking out its strategy to give a tough fight to the ruling TRS in the ensuing by-election of Dubbaka Assembly bypoll.

The party has roped in former MP Jithender Reddy to oversee the party's poll activities in the Assembly segment. The party will deploy MPs, MLAs and the party senior leaders to intensify the election campaign at the Mandal level.

According to party sources, the saffron party feels it is a strong contender in the by-poll, people don't see Congress as an alternative to TRS. Union Min-

ister G Kishan Reddy and party senior leaders and core committee members held the first election meeting of the party on Saturday. The leaders took stock of the current scenario in the constituency. It was decided to draft a plan of action for each Mandal to intensive party campaign.

Though there are two candidates for the party ticket, party senior leader Raghunandan Rao is reportedly the front runner. According to Kishan Reddy and Jitender Reddy, the State party leadership will convene another meeting to finalise the campaign plan, after the national leadership decides the candidate for the by-election.

BJP to launch awareness campaign on farm laws

- Awareness programmes will to be conducted at the polling booth level in villages
- Round table conferences will be organised at district and Mandal headquarters

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: State BJP State president Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the party is chalking out an action plan to create awareness among farmers on the new farm Act enacted by the Centre.

Addressing the media here on Saturday, he said that the awareness campaign will be taken up at polling booth level in every village and to brief them on the benefits of the new acts. Also, the party will be



writing a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to thank him and his government for bringing new agriculture policies and reforms for the benefit of the farmers. Besides, the party will also hold round table conferences at the district and Mandal headquarters to create awareness on the new farm reforms among people.

Kumar said that the new re-

forms removed the middlemen to protect the farmers by giving them the freedom to sell their agriculture produce anywhere they want. The sole motto of the reforms was to double the income of the farmers, he added.

The BJP State chief said that until now the farmers have no right to decide the sale price for their produce. The buyers will be purchasing the agriculture produce at the doorsteps of the farmers. In turn, these will provide relief to farmers of incurring the transport changes. Besides, they don't have to pay any cess, market fee and other taxes to sell their hard cultivated agriculture yields, he said. He alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao is opposing the new farm laws for selfish motives. He asked the TRS chief to do some self-inspection on the issue.

MRPS leaders stage protest near district collectorate



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Ranga Reddy: MRPS and BSP Leaders staged a protest at the Ranga Reddy District Collectorate on Saturday. The protest was conducted under the supervision of MRPS and DSP leaders separately.

On the occasion, the MRPS and DSP leaders expressed regret over the rape incidents of Manisha Valmiki in Uttar Pradesh. MRPS and BSP leaders submitted the representations to the collector.

The BSP leaders said that a 19-year old, Manisha Valmiki was

sexually assaulted by 4 men and she could not survive. The Hathras rape incident is a blot on the society and the country. They demanded the government for an CBI enquiry and the police must be punished. The men in the crime should be punished.

BSP Chevella Parliamentary Constituency In-charge Katikala Srihari, Nagaraju, Janganna, Ramulu and Narasimhulu were also present.

MRPS leaders submitted the representation to the collector under the supervision of MRPS Rangareddy district in-charge Vemula Surya prakash.

Sarpanch helps bikers come out of ditch

Ranga Reddy: Chevella Sarpanch Bandari Shailaja Agireddy on her way to Vikarabad on Friday evening helped two bikers who fell into a ditch between Damaragidda and Mirzaguda. Later the victims were sent to the hospital. Chevella Sarpanch had made arrangements to repair the



pits formed between Damaragidda-Mirzaguda and Mirzaguda-Khanapur roads on Saturday. On the occasion, she said that how can the officers who noticed many accidents not respond and take proper actions. She said that she will make sure that all the pits formed on the road will be repaired soon.

Gandhis meet victim's family, demand justice

Continued from P1

Among Congress leaders who are headed to Hathras besides Rahul and Priyanka are KC Venugopal, Randeep Singh Surjewala, and Adhir Ranjan Choudhury.

A huge contingent of police was deployed at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border in Noida before Gandhis arrived. On Thursday, Rahul got into a scuffle with the police and was arrested along with Priyanka while they tried to visit the kin of the deceased.

The death of the victim and her hurried cremation by the police without letting the family perform her last rites has sparked widespread outrage across the nation, with the Opposition demanding the resignation of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Earlier in the day, journalists were allowed to enter the village after the Uttar Pradesh administration said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) had com-

pleted its investigation into the case. Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi and DGP Hitesh Chandra Awasthy also met the kin of the deceased on Saturday. Under fire for its handling of the murder and hurried cremation of the woman, the Uttar Pradesh government suspended three police officers, including Hathras Superintendent of Police Vikrant Vir.

A government spokesperson said polygraph and narco tests would be conducted on the accused, the victim's relatives and police officers involved in the probe. Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party workers, including its youth wing vice president Gaurav Jain and district media in-charge Sajid Hasan, were booked for violation of prohibitory orders, police said on Saturday. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday took out a rally in protest against the Hathras gangrape

Trump on Remdesivir therapy in military hospital

Continued from P1

White House sources said Trump was suffering from a low-grade fever. The White House physician had said he was feeling "fatigued" and would be taking an antibody cocktail. Late on Friday, former Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conyway said she had tested positive for the coronavirus. His campaign manager Bill Stepien has also been infected. They join two members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, GOP chair Ronna McDaniel and long-time aide Hope Hicks in testing positive for the virus. Vice President Mike Pence, who would take over for Trump if he were incapacitated or deemed unable to carry out the duties of the presidency, said on Friday he had tested negative. Democratic nominee Joe Biden, who was on stage with Trump at the first Presidential debate on Tuesday, said on Friday that he and his wife also tested negative. The Biden campaign halted its negative ads on Friday, and Biden tweeted a call for unity.

INDIA'S BORDER INFRA GETS A SHOT IN THE ARM

Continued from P1

In just six years, we completed the work of 26 years."

Modi also said, "Emphasis has been put on the development of border infrastructure. Its benefits are being extended to the common people as well as our armed forces personnel. There is nothing more important for us than protecting the country. But the country has also seen that a period when the defence interests of the country were compromised." The Prime Minister also flagged off a bus carrying 15 passengers from the north portal of Atal tunnel in Sissu, Lahaul Valley for the south portal for the tunnel.

He lauded the efforts of the engineers, technicians and workers who risked their lives in making this dream come true. He also said that farmers, horticulturalists and youth will now also have easy access to the capital of Delhi and other markets. Rajnath Singh, who reached the site on Friday to re-

view the preparations, said, "Border Roads Organisation completed construction of Atal Tunnel within its estimated cost of construction. This tunnel is dedicated to the soldiers guarding our borders & those living near border areas."

The tunnel has been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The construction, which used 15,000 tonnes of steel, took nearly a decade and cost around Rs 3,200 crore. It was scheduled to be completed by May 2020 but was delayed by a few months due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The tunnel is a boon to the residents of the Lahaul and Spiti Valley who remain cut off from the rest of the country in winters for nearly six months due to heavy snowfall, the tunnel will provide almost all-weather connectivity to the troops stationed in Ladakh. The unique features of this tunnel begin a fair distance away from it on the approach roads to the north and south portals. Bridges in

rivers on the approach to the tunnel from both the portals have also been completed and are now being painted. Snow galleries have also been built at the approach road to the tunnel from Manali side, and this will ensure all-weather connectivity.

Other features include an emergency escape tunnel under the main tunnel. This would provide an emergency exit in case of any untoward incident which may render the main tunnel unusable. The tunnel also provides a telephone every 150 metres, fire hydrant every 60 metres, emergency exit every 500 metres, turning cavern every 2.2 km, air quality monitoring every one km, broadcasting system and automatic incident detection system with CCTV cameras every 250 metres. Meanwhile, residents of Lahaul are hoping that its inauguration will give a fresh impetus to tourism and winter sports in Lahaul.

Congress party leaders launch signature drive

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Ranga Reddy: Farmers signature drive was organised by Congress party leaders in Chegur village, to oppose anti-farmer bill passed by the Central government on Saturday.

On the occasion, Shadnagar Congress party leader Veerlapally Shankar on Saturday alleged that the Central government is looking down on farmers and hence brought in an anti-farmers bill which is unfair to them. He demanded the immediate repeal of anti-farmer bill. The collection of signatures for the repeal of the bill will continue till October 31.

He also said that BJP leaders are incensed that they are committing anarchy against Dalits. We condemn the rape and murder of Dalit minor girl in UP and demanded that culprits should be severely punished. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath should submit his immediate resignation for not taking proper actions. Shankar demanded that action should be taken against the police for obstructing Rahul Gandhi who went to visit the young woman's family.

Chegur Sarpanch Santhosh Vittal and other congress leaders participated in the programme.

LET LAW TAKE ITS COURSE, NOT STATE-SPONSORED GOONDAISM

Cases of rapes and gang rapes continue to be reported from all over the country and nothing deters the rapists even the hanging of Nirbhaya rapists. Hathras rape and murder of a 19 years old girl speaks of the horrors in which young girls live their lives. Those who are politicising the incidents and parties who are showing their commitment to the victims are those parties in opposition which had covered almost similar several cases when they were in power. Nothing has changed. BJP shall cry for the blood for the rapists and gun for the government wherever they are not in power but will behave differently in states where they are in power.

UP police is not covering itself with any glory the way they are handling this case. Disposing body in the dead of night and forcing family members to do the same, now disputing the rape theory are all signs of hushing up case on casteist lines. Girl belonged to Dalit caste and all rapists are Thakurs, the same caste to which CM Yogi belongs.

Yogi government had earlier tried to scuttle case of rape against its own MLA Sengar but alert media and courts intervened. Its pty that fate of under privileged classes depends upon the whims and fancies of politicians, not by the law. Other thing is that people have double standards to deal with the problem. Thanks if they find culprits belonged to their caste, they change the narrative. Why is it so the sympathies are not always with the victims?

Why stringent laws like capital punishment is not considered enough to put fears in the minds of rapists, there is a need to go deep into the psyche of a rapist, if we really want to deal with it.

It's not the severity of punishment but certainty of punishment which needs to be built in the system. Even fast track courts will find it difficult to punish culprits because of insufficient forensics. Most of culprits gets bailed out and acquitted from courts because of police's shoddy work. So need is to tighten and modernize the forensics and make fool proof cases rather than showing phoney concerns.

Other option of eliminating culprits through extra judicial methods, like what Telangana Govt did to four rapists while escorting them to courts is no solution at all. Now, if BJP Gen. secretary Vijayvargiya goes on record that in 'Yogi Jee govt car can turn anytime' is a tacit approval that car which was carrying gangster Dubey turned turtle and now what can happen to the rapists is unfortunate. If elected governments start behaving like this and feel that current crop of laws is insufficient to deal with such tragedies, it's time for all the parties to sit and evolve strategies rather than browbeat each other with sham protests and rallies. Where is the justice for the victim?. Either political parties are playing some goonda game or goondas are ruling the streets. We want law to take the course, not state goondaism to deal with the goondas.



Hathras case not only to be tried in fast track courts, complete forensics to nail the culprits and hang them. That would be closure and put fear into the minds of rapists.

Ashok Goswami, Mumbai

The police know the victim's family is powerless

It is indeed a shame on India that girls are being gang raped and the accused are getting off scot-free by either greasing the palm of police officers or intense lobbying on behalf of the perpetrators of crime. In the recent gang rape case in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, the police's role was highly contemptible. In a sheer mockery of justice, the police clearly tried to manipulate the case as there were attempts from the higher-ups to hush up the case. In the dying declaration of the rape victim, it was stated that she was gangraped by four men, but the police on Thursday claimed that the forensic report has revealed that the woman was not raped. The administration has also come under a cloud for allegedly threatening the family members of the victim.

The police version of the death of the rape victim in Hathras is that the woman's death caused due to an injury on the neck and resultant trauma. Unfortunately, they were less concerned about the cruel killing of the woman and wanted to pass it off as a normal death. Just think how callous the police is towards such brutal killing of the young woman. Furthermore, they face charges of cover-up the entire murder story.

Another glaring lapse on the part of police was their deliberate attempt to deny the victim the dignity of traditional cremation. In the dead of night, the rape victim was hurriedly consigned to flames leaving no clues at all to trace from her mortal body. If she had been buried, investigation team could have exhumed her body and retest on her body could have been done.

So, it is to be assumed that the police did everything with the deliberate plan to end the murder story there itself at the behest of some political higher-ups in the state. They knew well that the family of the rape victim had neither political clout nor wealth to pursue their case till its successful end of getting justice.

Cries for justice are being heard for the Hathras' rape victim across the country. Moreover, millions of people are keenly watching the developments of the rape episode whether the UP government will investigate properly or not.

Congress party with its attempt to get justice for the rape victim's family has started waging battles, and Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi made a beeline for Hathras to meet the gangrape victim's family without making any announcement beforehand. But as usual, the two Congress leaders were stopped earlier by the police administration citing law and order. So, it is good to see that Congress leaders at last got out to express their solidarity with the people protesting over the gangrape case.

There is no doubt that the Hathras' gangrape case has not only tarnished the image of the police and the administration but the entire country. The reputation of the UP government has also been tarnished after allegations of forcible funeral of this Dalit woman by the police. The lacuna left in the attempts to cover up the gruesome rape and murder of the hapless young woman stand as towering testimonies against the Yogi administration.

Yes, the rape victim's soul is supposed to be waging a lone and strong battle against the Yogi administration since the earthly mortals miserably fail to retribute the perpetrators. Still, time is not lapsed for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to correct himself by taking stern action against the police officials who have been found favouring the rape-accused and Yogi has to see that the perpetrators get their due punishment.

T K Nandan, Kochi

Inhuman horror

The rising inhuman horrors and heinous crimes on the girls, women, Dalits and the minorities in the country is extremely alarming and bothersome. Even the Prime Minister has expressed his concern on the inhuman Hathras rape incident where in the victim's tongue was cut off, spinal cord broken.

I believe we need a cultural shift, a radical change in mindsets towards Humanism, towards Social harmony, and the true spirits of Vasudhaiva Kutumbam (universal brotherhood) are to be promoted in the society. These values and principles form the bedrock of Indian democracy and strengthen its social fabric.

Raising more questions than answers

It is indeed a matter of concern for every nationalist and socially conscious person to learn that the number of incidents of rape are growing. It is all the more disgusting to know that the police and the government are so casual about it but act more vigorously to cover them up instead ensuring deterrent punishment. The ruling dispensation in UP that boasts of having executed the maximum number of encounters, is not able to prioritise ensuring safety to girls in the State.

More vexing news is that majority of victims are from socially weaker sections. It looks more to be an organised act than something that happens spontaneously in a spur of the moment. The act of police in Hathras incident throws more suspicions on the functioning of the department that tries rabidly to suppress even the evidence.

The police cremating the body without the consent or presence of the family members and claiming the forensic report to be non supportive of rape makes its effort to save the culprits. Now the body having been burnt

in midnight hurriedly the opportunity to do second study also seems to be lost.

Preventing political leaders meeting the family members of the victims further prove that the State and the police administration are at fault. The Prime Minister, who hardly reacts on such happenings, has directed the Chief Minister to take this matter seriously speaks of the importance this incident has gained. Not acting seriously in proper manner in such incidents are potential enough to mar the prospects in elections to be held in Bihar.

The interest evinced in building temple for Ram is not shown to protect Sita's incarnations living in the State in particular and the country in general. It is time to prioritise the tasks to ensure safety, better livelihood and peace for the have nots and socially oppressed section. Let us also remember what the Prime Minister said, "Tractors are worshipped by farmers and burning it disturbs their sentiments". If so what about girls being raped and murdered horribly?

A G Rajmohan, Anantapur

cial fabric. Hope we raise the bar collectively as a society.

Sri Harsha Gajjarapu, Mandapeta

A blot on our democracy

Rape of helpless women are not only disquieting and disturbing but a grim pointer to how a situation can get out of control when parochial sentiments are left untouched. On account of cold-blooded rape of Hathras Dalit girl and cases of rape at various places across the country reported frequently, our democracy only stands discredited everytime. Further, it mars democracy when countless other underprivileged and vulnerable young women are falling prey to monsters. The harsh truth that rape cases rising rampantly year after year since past two decades points to the fact that rape is almost culturally sanctioned in India.

In the past few days, minor girls raped and murdered brutally in Jammu and parts of UP sending shock waves across the country makes one shudder at the apathetic attitude which only emboldened the perpetrators to commit heinous crimes without fear of law. The sheer and unspeakable brutality of the gangrape of a 19-year old Dalit girl in a village in UP is virtually a symbol of rot that has set in our system is a fall-out to collective indifference of callous administration, law-enforcing machinery that has engulfed the society.

Even as the nation is in deep shock and angry over prevailing lawlessness, what is more horrifying is the manner in which police tried to hush up by doing cremation in haste at midnight without the consent of family members? This is unpardonable by any yardstick. As inflicting ignominy on the family of Hathras victim by police no matter how much defense they attribute is clearly visible, their actions to deny the victim dignity in death by not allowing family members to have a last look at the body is also crime. In short, this terrifying incident is certainly going to haunt the families for years to come.

Notwithstanding the fact that large-scale anger and protests by opposition in the northern belt erupted due to rise of rape cases in UP, it is quite correct and understandable that UP cops have stopped opposition party leaders from entering Hathras and meeting the victim's family who were deeply disturbed at the loss of the girl citing epidemic.

However, keeping in view that rape convictions remaining low, slack in preventing such crimes, particularly against dalits by the law-enforcing agencies on account of deep prejudices in the rank and file, the need of the hour is high-decibel policing and greater accountability against caste and gender based oppressions more than making cosmetic changes in laws which only saw fear of punishment disappeared in perpetrators.

In the final analysis, it is time political parties stop shedding crocodile tears and lip sympathy which seem only to score brownie points to build vote banks than helping the cause to prevent such heinous crimes on women which are a blot on the society.

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad

PAST & PRESENT

Waiting for the 'helicopter shot'



ANIL KUMAR PATNAIK

Two Bollywood movies of yesteryears, you never get bored watching. The first is, "3 Idiots" and the second one is "M. S. Dhoni: The Untold Story." There exists always a strange excitement in watching them as the story unfolds like petals of a flower. Every alternate day the movies are found on popular channels, watching these movies from any point in its graph is worth enjoying.

Recently, "M.S.Dhoni: The untold story" was on screen, but this time, somehow I could not hold on to the screen, didn't feel like watching. Every time watching the movie, I used to recollect the "Mahi moments" but somehow mind could not see what it wanted to witness. I switched off the TV and opened YouTube, searched M.S.Dhoni, and all his charisma, starting from his maiden run out till the "1-inch" run out of the semi-final against New Zealand followed by the advertisements Mahi has endorsed. Oh! a bit of solace to my heart...

Even though you have everything around, sometimes you feel empty, which can only be filled up by special people called friends, I called up a few and

planned for a video conferencing the same evening. It is ineffable joy speaking to your high-school buddies, you forget time, space, language everything. The advertisement says it right " Baat karne se baat banti hai."

Celebrities are the uncommonly common people, their lives are different. The unbridled path that they come across is their au courant. But the hoi polloi think of them as mythological characters, they consider their on-screen presence as the reality. The emotional and social quotient of a celebrity is best known to them.

Time has come to believe that - film stars too are ordinary people like us, they too have a simple heart and go through the mundane chores, they too have pain but the difficult part is, he/she can't come to the public to share their innermost feeling, because the mass doesn't exist to give a shoulder but just to click a selfie with them to post in different social media platforms.

"Mahi mar raha hai..." must happen again, he must come with his thappad shots, crazy run-outs, and magnificent gait to distinguish between 'Reel and Real' for the Indian cricket fans.

Scrapping of old vehicles seems difficult

The central government announced that the old vehicle scrapping policy would be announced shortly and it is in the final stages of approval and may be tabled in Parliament for legislation. No doubt it is an innovative policy and it aims at the replacement of old vehicles with new ones to stimulate the slack automobile vehicle sales. The policy if implemented effectively, all vehicles completed 15-years age have be scrapped which paves way for the condemnation of obsolete and high polluting vehicles.

The idea is good but can it be implemented in India? As far as 4-wheelers are concerned, this may be implemented braving the initial resistance from owners. When it comes to light, medium and heavy trucks, the implementation of policy will be stiffly resisted. The all India lorry owners association may reject the policy on several grounds. The first solid ground is it deprives the loss of livelihood of thousands of families depend on transport business.

Take for instance the case of AP, there are about 3 lakh transport vehicles plying in the state and of them about one lakh vehicles have crossed 15-years of age. If the scrapping policy is implemented strictly, thousands of families livelihood is immediately affected and many work shop owners, spare parts shops, old disposal parts sellers who are eking out their livelihood depending solely on the automobile transport industry will be thrown on to the roads.

A good number of old and high polluting vehicles are used locally to transport goods to and fro from godowns to railway stations, ports vice versa and the vehicles are mostly operated by the owners aged above 50-years and for them it will be a big blow. Apart from this, the drivers who got used to the operation of conservative type transport vehicles who crossed 50 years cannot operate the new transport vehicles fitted with sophisticated operation modes.

Rama Krishna M, Kakinada

Will we ever see such a protean artiste again? For the flow of eternal time offers only occasionally it's choicest of gifts to delight the mankind, of which SPB was one, released on the canvas of arts, but withdrawn in 2020, as good things cannot last forever! How can we ever forget his exhilaratingly vibrant and stunningly ever-youthful voice and sparkling personality comprised of cheerful mien, dignified conduct, witty and sensible speech and above all the extraordinary capacity to take everyone along for these many years in an industry where professional longevity and relationships are short. Specially to be mentioned is his philanthropic sensitivity towards various causes.

Starting as an ordinary singer he rose to lend his voice to the likes of MGR, NTR, ANR, Sivaji Ganesan, Gemini Ganesan to a host of next generation heroes and their next generation and their next too in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada over a period of 50 years! The stroke of luck he got at the hands of MGR needs special mention.

Just as he was about to sing for MGR for the super hit song tuned by K.V. Mahadevan "Aayiram Nilavey Vaa..." ("Adimai Penn", 1969), the neophyte was down with a sudden fever. However, instead of getting the song sung by someone else like say T.M.Soundararajan(TMS), MGR chose to postpone the shooting of the song and wait until the former had recovered and recorded the song! He later told SPB that he didn't want the career of a newcomer like him to get destroyed due to his decision to replace him!

SPB will live as long as music exists

Well, how many newcomers would be so lucky! This much-talked-about incident gave him the much-needed push to gain a foothold in the industry and since then there was no looking back for him. A star was born! And the same K.V. Mahadevan who trusted SPB with MGR, went on to make him sing for Sankara Sastri too in Sankarabharanam, in a long and fruitful bonding!

The death of Ghantasala, marks the second turning point in his career which made him the sole voice to rely upon in Telugu forever and for every hero! In Kannada and Tamil too, the entry of new generation heroes naturally meant opting for a fresh voice over the then reigning voices like P.B.Srinivas and TMS! Kannada superstar Vishnuvardhan would stipulate in his movie contracts that we would act only if SPB sings all the songs for him!

In the meantime, something was brewing in his life, that is, a new person entered his life, the association with whom would turn out to be a sensational, world-famous one! In order to help an up-and-coming pair of siblings from a remote Tamil Nadu village trying their luck in the music industry, he took them on board his

orchestra band and gave concerts across the South to their instrumental accompaniment! The brothers, known as Paavalalar brothers, were none other than Ilayaraja and Gangai Amaran, and the former in his own right became a music director in 1976, whose music together with SPB, marked the advent of a delectable epoch in the annals of Indian film music! The rest as they say is history - as Andhra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka zealously vied for his vocal chords, the busy colossus straddled the trio of the three States in an enviably hectic career, leaving behind his fragrant and indelible foot-

prints or vocal prints, on the vinyl records, nay on the sands of Time!

In any case, was there any music director with whom SPB did not work? Karnataka people call them as their own, for the Tamils he is a household name and as famous as MGR no less and for we Telugus, I need not wax eloquent about his extensive and stellar contribution! Only someone who is singularly blessed would be able to achieve something of such prodigious magnitude!

It ought to be mentioned here that his innate vocal gift flowered amidst the cultural "genius loci" of Madras (then Chennai), the venerable ecosystem of all things musical (Carnatic and film)! There must be some magic on the soil of Chennai or Tamil Nadu itself. Earlier one Tyagaraja, one Syama Sastry took birth here, in the holy and picturesque land of Panchanada Kshetra or Tiruvaaroor. Earlier too, Sadasaiva Brahmendra and other divine Telugu saints took birth here, outstandingly contributing and consolidating the Bhakti and music culture in Tamil Nadu. After many decades, it seems SPB was destined to do the same thing here, albeit in a different sort of music.

I am reminded of the line "Telugu Tamizham jata kattenennado Meenakshi..." - "O Goddess Meenakshi! Telugu and Tamil have long paired with each other", written by the "aasu-kavi" Veturi Sundararama Murthy for the movie Arjun (2004), about the old and profound connection between Telugus and Tamils. How true! And he himself admittedly wished that he be born as a Kannadiga in his next birth, considering the greatest amount of affection he garnered from them!

Well, the beloved golden thread that strung the music garland of the three States has stopped weaving. Veritably has the south Indian film industry been orphaned with his untimely and avoidable demise due to the Chinese virus! But no, the reverberations of his mellifluous voice will ring forever in our hearts and the smiling face shines on us ala sharad-pournami-chandra, as long as music exists.

CV Krishna Manoj, Hyderabad

great music masters like Saluri Rajeswara Rao, P e n d y a l a Nageswara Rao, Kodandapani, K.V. Mahadevan etc., of that flourished Raagam, Taanam and Pallavi tinsel screen age. Balu always used to recollect the past aesthetic days on various platforms, especially Padutaa Teeyaga, an epitome selected by him as this was rendition by Ghantasala in Moogamanasulu movie. Balu occupies surely a place very next to Ghan-

tasala who is ultimate. More than fifty years ago, music composer Pendyala Nageswara Rao in a gathering expressed his opinion on Ghantasala's voice which was God gifted and no singer had that stentorian and sweet voice before and nobody after him could be borne in future. This was confessed by SPB himself on several platforms. NTR and ANR also confirmed that fifty percent of their success in their movies was due to his playback singing. SPB deserves a Bharatratna. Short lived Ghantasala, Mohammad Rafi and many songstresses also contributed hundreds of memorable songs. Though Balu acquired all crafts of music to a remarkable extent, he always used to say, he is yet a 'Baludu' in music world. That is his simplicity. Today he joined the clan immortals.

N Ramalakshmi, Secunderabad



A 'Baludu' of film music

S P Balasubrahmanyam's memories are haunting and all his ardent fans are still elieving his physical presence in their midst. Down the line, reminiscences are striking hearts right from his selection as a best singer in 1964 in a competition judged by Susarla, Pendyala and Ghantasala. Sitting in the gallery music director SP Kodandapani was very much impressed and offered him a first film song in Maryada Ramanna and SPB's journey was halt less thereafter. His long singing span had also spread by sharing the duet songs with his guides and mentors like Ghantasala and a host of the then cuckoo female vocal voices.

His refurbishing of Saptaswaras was attributable to

the past aesthetic days on various platforms, especially Padutaa Teeyaga, an epitome selected by him as this was rendition by Ghantasala in Moogamanasulu movie. Balu occupies surely a place very next to Ghan-

‘Basically, humanity is fighting World War III against Covid-19’



Professor Francis A Boyle

Namaste! Thank you very much for having me here today to speak to this outstanding group of peace-makers, to which cause I have devoted the last five decades of my life. I drafted the United States domestic implementing legislation for the Biological Weapons Convention known as the Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act (BWATA) of 1989 that was approved unanimously by both Houses of the United States Congress and signed into law by President George Bush Senior.

My BWATA was instigated by the fact that the Reagan administration and its neoconservatives had gotten heavily involved into the use of DNA genetic engineering techniques to research, develop, and test illegal biological warfare weapons. I set out to stop this with the assistance of my friends and colleagues at the Council for Responsible Genetics at that time – some of the top life scientists in the world from Harvard, MIT, Sloan-Kettering, etc. They were founded in 1983 and soon thereafter asked me to join with them in order to work against biological weapons.

Now so far I have appeared live on Indian television twice in order to discuss and analyze the coronavirus at the very beginning of this pandemic. Once with Indian CNN, and it was a very good session. Then a second time with an indigenous Indian TV station, once again a very good session. Both times I told the Indian People that on the basis of my research I have concluded that COVID-19 is an offensive biological warfare weapon that leaked out of the Wuhan BSL4 in China.

You have to understand that this Wuhan BSL4 is China's First Fort Detrick. Let me repeat that; this is China's First Fort Detrick. We all know what goes on at Fort Detrick. Historically they have researched, developed, tested, stockpiled, and sometimes used offensive biological warfare weapons, including and especially by means of DNA genetic engineering and now by means of synthetic biology. That is precisely what I set out to stop with my Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act of 1989. This is what is confronting us here today.

I am not a China-basher. I am not a neoconservative. I am not a warmonger. But I believe that under the circumstances of this global pandemic I have to tell the truth about what happened here for all of us citizens of humanity to understand and then to figure out how to come to grips with this. We are literally fighting World War 3 here. Not against China but against Covid-19. It threatens all humanity. As you and I just saw from the statistics as of yesterday, the highest level of infection in the world is the United States, then followed by Brazil, and then followed by your India. So this is a very serious battle that we are engaged in here.

Based on my scientific research that I won't go through it all here, COVID-19 originated out of that Wuhan BSL4 as a biological warfare weapon. It basically starts with SARS, and SARS is a weaponised version of coronavirus. Earlier SARS had leaked out of Chinese biological warfare labs before. At the Wuhan BSL4 they manufactured a synthetic recombinant virus for SARS. Then their notorious Bat Queen brought it to a laboratory at the University of North Carolina that is a BSL3, biosafety lab level 3. Indeed all these biosafety level labs 3 and 4 have to be terminated immediately. They all leak. That's exactly what happened at the Wuhan BSL4. I'm not saying China did this deliberately. It was a leak. Fort Detrick has leaked. All these BSL4s leak. They are existentially dangerous, and they must be shut down and the same is true for the BSL3s.

So the Wuhan BSL4 took this synthetic recombinant SARS virus over to the University of North Carolina BSL3, which is a well-known biological warfare center here in the United States that I have publicly condemned before. BSL3s do every

• **It is an offensive biological warfare weapon that leaked out of China's Wuhan BSL4 Lab**

• **Since as the Indian scientists correctly determined, and that was confirmed by the French Nobel Prize winner in medicine, HIV is DNA genetically engineered into Covid-19**

• **Then you are not going to be able to develop a safe and effective vaccine for Covid-19. There is no vaccine today for HIV/AIDS despite having tried to develop one for the last three decades.**

• **Personally I don't think there will ever be a safe and effective vaccine for Covid-19. And even if big pharma says it has developed a vaccine for COVID-19, it will probably be more dangerous than useless.**



type of hideous Nazi biological warfare dirty work that you can possibly imagine as well as the BSL4s, which are far worse. And they took it to the UNC BSL3 for the purpose of applying gain-of-function technology to it, which means using DNA genetic engineering and synthetic biology to make it more lethal and more infectious.

Indeed involved in this Nazi death science dirty work was not only the University of North Carolina but the United States government's own Food and Drug Administration that has a long history of being involved in biological warfare. Likewise my alma mater Harvard, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at the Harvard Medical School, which is supposed to be the No. 1 ranked in the country if not the world, and is part of Harvard's world-renowned Massachusetts General Hospital Complex was involved in this project. (When I was a student at Harvard I was treated over at Harvard's MassGen on my Harvard student health plan.) There has long been an overlap between cancer research and biological warfare development.

This Nazi biowarfare death science project was approved and paid for by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and NIAID under the direction of Dr. Tony Fauci. Fauci has been up to his eyeballs in Nazi biowarfare death science dirty work since he became the Director of NIAID during the neoconservative Reagan administration and has been there ever since approving it and funding it and supervising it.

My BWATA was specifically designed to stop Fauci and these other American Nazi biowarfare death scientists. To complete the circle, the UNC BSL3/Wuhan BSL4 project also acknowledged receiving cells from Fort Detrick. The notorious PRC Bat Queen personally handled all of this Nazi biowarfare death science dirty work at the Wuhan BSL4, and then brought it to the UNC BSL3 for gain-of-function enhancement, and then brought this deadly combined biotechnology back to the Wuhan BSL4.

In addition, your courageous Indian scientists here pointed out right at the very beginning of this pandemic, there is HIV that has been DNA genetically engineered directly into Covid-19. I read that study. It certainly convinced me. They had the pictures there. Of course, enormous political pressure was applied upon them to withdraw that study. But even the French microbiologist Montagnier who won the Nobel Prize in medicine for determining that HIV causes AIDS, confirmed that study and said that yes, HIV is DNA genetically engineered right into Covid-19.

How did the Wuhan BSL4 get that? They sent a scientist down to Australia and working with the Australian Health Board they DNA genetically engineered HIV directly into SARS, which

I have already explained is a weaponized coronavirus. So they brought that deadly biotechnology back to the Wuhan BSL4, and that can be confirmed by another scientific research paper that I have cited in my interviews on this matter.

Indeed, if you doubt my analysis here, about a month ago there was a report by the well-known Five Eyes Committee of intelligence services from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Britain, that was leaked to the Australian Daily Telegraph completely agreeing with my analysis that the Covid-19 came out of the Wuhan BSL4 courtesy of the University of North Carolina and this Australian Health Board. That was published in the Australian news media and I appeared live on Sky News in Australia at the next available opportunity for about 10 minutes or so to discuss this with the Australian People.

The final piece of the puzzle, at least as I have been able to determine so far, and I'm certainly fully prepared to reevaluate my conclusions on the basis of further evidence, is that the Wuhan BSL4 bragged on their website that they have successfully applied nanotechnology to viruses. Nanotechnology to viruses! What is nanotechnology good for when it comes to viruses? Aerosolizing them! That's what you do with nanotechnology.

You aerosolize viruses and bacteria etc. to be used as weapons to be delivered by air in order to be breathed by human beings. Aerosolization – Fort Detrick does it too. Aerosolization is always the tip-off of a biological warfare weapon. It serves no legitimate scientific or medical purpose at all. That is why at the Wuhan BSL4 when they work there, they have to wear moon suits and with their own portable air supply. Likewise that's what they do at the BSL4 at Fort Detrick. That's what all these Nazi biowarfare death scientists do at all BSL4s.

This is what they do at the BSL4 right here in Pune. I've seen the pictures. Whatever nonsense they're telling you about what's going on there, this is India's Fort Detrick. India wants to play with the big boys – the United States and China and Russia, and especially compete with their longstanding adversary China. So they set up their own Fort Detrick in Pune despite the requirements of the Biological Weapons Convention.

So in my assessment of the situation, this is what we are dealing with. This is SARS on Steroids. SARS has a lethality rate of somewhere around 14-15 per cent based upon the scientific literature. This is what we are dealing with in India, in the United States, in Brazil and around the world. It is extremely infectious, it is highly lethal, it is existentially dangerous. Basically, humanity is fighting World War 3 against Covid-19. It will kill millions if somehow we do not figure

out collectively how to stop it.

In the meantime we have to shut down all these BSL3s and BSL4s including India's Pune BSL4 because they will leak again. They all leak. That is what happened here in China. I believe the leak occurred from as best as I can figure out from the public record sometime around or about the first week in November 2019. It had nothing to do with the so-called wet market. This is just a cover story and propaganda by the Chinese Communist government. They covered up the SARS bioweapon leak the first time and as you know maybe 1,200 died. Finally we were able to contain SARS. But this is gain-of-function SARS on steroids that has been aerosolized and has HIV in it. So it is far more and existentially dangerous than the original SARS itself. And that is why I went live onto Indian television twice to explain to the Indian People what you are up against here in India. And now I am doing this a third time at more length at this scholarly conference.

With all due respect to your previous speaker, and I mean that, the main problem here is not so-called terrorist organizations. The main problem here has always been terrorist governments like the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China, France, Israel, etc. and now I regret to say India, with your Pune BSL4. You will note that at your Pune BSL4 they're running around in there in moon suits with portable air supplies so that they can aerosolize whatever biological warfare weapons they have there for delivery to human beings.

This goes all the way back to the Neoconservative Reagan administration and their Tony Fauci getting involved in applying DNA genetic engineering to biological weapons which I tried to stop with my BWATA legislation. Since that time there has been an offensive biological warfare weapons arms race that has been going on by the major industrial countries of the world: United States, Britain, China, Russia, France, Israel and now I regret to report India has joined their ranks too. That is what is going on here. That is what we confront as human beings.

It is a long-term problem. All these BSL3s and BSL4s have to be shut down immediately including the one here at Pune. It will leak. There's no doubt about it. West Nile virus leaked in the United States from the Department of Agriculture Biowarfare Lab there on Plum Island. It has infected people all over the country. Lyme disease leaked also from that same USDA biowarfare lab on Plum Island and has infected people all over the country. There is a long history of the USDA doing dirty Nazi biowarfare work on plants and animals.

So Covid-19 leaked from that Wuhan BSL4 probably around or about the first week in November. The first case was publicly reported

about November 16. At that point at least if not sooner the Chinese government realized there was a leak there and they proceeded to lie about it and cover up about it just like they did on SARS, just like the United States government has done on Fort Detrick, and Plum Island and some of its other biowarfare labs. They all cover up on it because they know what they are doing violates the Biological Weapons Convention and is morbidly and fatally and existentially dangerous to human beings as well as to animals and plants. So I am not singling China out here. Indeed there was a U.S. State Department delegation that went out to that Wuhan BSL4. PRC had been asking for American help and advice to construct it – the world-renowned experts on biological weapons and warfare are made in the USA and UK.

The State Department came back, and you can read their report in the Washington Post, saying that there were serious safety and technology problems at the Wuhan BSL4. So it leaked. China covered it up, and here we are today. If PRC had acted immediately and effectively to shut down the City of Wuhan and its surrounding area the moment they had notice about it somewhere around or about between November 1-16, 2019 instead of covering it up, perhaps we could have avoided this entire calamity and worldwide pandemic.

Let me just repeat that that research was approved and funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases under Tony Fauci. They all knew all about it. They all funded it. That Wuhan BSL4 was also a WHO research lab. Imagine that, the WHO being a sponsor of China's First Fort Detrick!

My alma mater Harvard was involved, and they knew all about it and were a Wuhan BSL4 sponsoring institution as well. Imagine Harvard being a sponsoring institution for China's First Fort Detrick and their Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School/MassGen was involved in the manufacture of COVID-19. Harvard's chemistry professor department chair was over there. He is a specialist in nanotechnology applied to chemistry and biology. He worked for Fort Detrick. He had his own nanotechnology laboratory over in Wuhan. Harvard knew exactly what he was doing! So what we are dealing with here is a cabal and a cult of Nazi biological warfare death scientists who do this type of existentially dangerous dirty work in all of the advanced industrialized countries of the world.

Let me conclude then with where we stand today. Since as the Indian scientists correctly determined, and that was confirmed by the French Nobel Prize winner in medicine, HIV is DNA genetically engineered into Covid-19, which I agree is the case, then you are not going to be able to develop a safe and effective vaccine for Covid-19. There is no vaccine today for HIV/AIDS despite having tried to develop one for the last three decades. Personally I don't think there will ever be a safe and effective vaccine for Covid-19. And even if big pharma says it has developed a vaccine for COVID-19, it will probably be more dangerous than useless.

I think the best we will be left with is therapeutics and drugs. Therapeutics and drugs have significantly reduced the death rate for HIV/AIDS and it has significantly reduced the death rate for cancer. We've tried to find a vaccine for cancer for the last generation, and it's failed. But the therapeutics and drugs have worked. I respectfully recommend over here in India that you take your top scientists and put them to work at therapeutics and drugs. I believe any vaccine for COVID-19 will be more dangerous than useless. Therapeutics and drugs are where you should put your money, time, and scientific talents, resources, and expertise.

(This is a paper presented at the international conference on “Eradication of Biological and Chemical Weapons” at Maharashtra Institute of Technology World Peace University (Pune)



IPL 2020 captaincy: A task one is not envious of!

YAJURVINDRA SINGH

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has brought cricket once again into the lives of millions of Indian cricket enthusiasts. Most of the matches have been exciting and to have two of them as tied encounters have given it the extra boost, especially to the absorbing and thrilling T20 viewers. The Super Over tie-breaker concept that comes into play when teams are tied is a very interesting one, better than the previous law of a bowling shoot-out.

This is a very important area which many of the IPL team management have not given much thought to. The teams seem uncertain as to who from their side should be the ones to play in the Super

Over. The bowler and the three batsmen who are to be involved should have been identified well ahead, something which was seemingly not done from what one could gather from the two Super Over tie-breakers that took place recently. The players identified need to be mentally and physically prepared for the task, as a cavalier approach may not be the best option to undertake. One saw that in the way Mumbai Indians performed.

All eight IPL teams are very evenly matched this year. The first fortnight has clearly shown that each one of them can on their day conquer the other. Consistency will be important, but it is how a team gets the better of their opponents in close encounters will ultimately make the difference. The mental preparation

for that to happen will be a prime factor on every team's agenda. The tournament is at its initial stage and one has already seen some very close encounters and two unbelievable finishes.

The IPL has through its elaborate media coverage let several distinguished cricketers give their words of wisdom vis-a-vis teams, players, and the game plans. Words from renowned coaches, mentors and legends have somehow missed out on the most important issue and that is related to captaincy in the IPL.

This is an area that one feels has not been at its best. An IPL team is a franchise-owned outfit which has professional players from different countries and from different states of India. The team that is finally put together by a fran-

chise has been selected through the options and budgetary constraints and regulations put forth by the IPL organisers. Unfortunately, the IPL has still not matured enough in the way professional sports sides have done in baseball, basketball, football, and other sports around the world. Most of these franchise-based sides do not have auctions every three years like the IPL and, therefore, players remain consistent and their roles are well defined.

For someone to captain such a side becomes far easier, as apart from one's growth as a player in that side, one is familiar with the management, coaching and fitness staff, as well as the emerging talented youngsters. This is very much similar to what one encounters in India, when one plays for one's state team and also for one's country. A captain has an insight into each one of his players.

However, one gets the feeling that some of the captains are at sea in this IPL. The reason for that is that most of them have not had enough time to gauge for themselves the capabilities of their players. The Covid-19 pandemic has required

players to be in quarantine and many of the international players joined their outfits only a few days before the commencement of the tournament. Normally, there would have been a conditioning and get-to-know camp, where a captain would have had all the opportunity to discuss players and strategies of not only his own side, but also of the venues and opponents that the league would unfold.

Unfortunately, IPL 2020 has thrown the captains into the deep end on account of the current situation. Their strategies, players, and thought processes are being governed by the coaches and support staff and are presently being controlled from outside. One can see the faces of bewildered captains raising their eyebrows and wondering what bowling changes to make, what batting order to follow, and even what field placements they need to adopt. This is quite understandable as with insufficient knowledge about each individual, their form and capabilities, they are uncertain as to what to do.

Their captaincy, however, will come into its own once each of the leaders of their respective sides gets to know their

The Covid-19 pandemic has required players to be in quarantine and many of the international players joined their outfits only a few days before the commencement of the tournament. Normally, there would have been a conditioning and get-to-know camp, where a captain would have had all the opportunity to discuss players and strategies of not only his own side, but also of the venues and opponents that the league would unfold

players better. Even the well-known legendary captain of the Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Mahendra Singh Dhoni, seems to be struggling in getting his bowling and batting line-up in order. CSK has been unfortunate to not have the services of their earlier stalwarts like Suresh Raina, Harbhajan Singh, Dwayne Bravo and even Ambati Rayudu after the first match. Unable to replace these match winners and not shuffling his existing players perfectly was what caused their subsequent losses. Similarly, one can see some of the coaches and mentors directing their side from the sidelines and captains being fed what to do while fielding on the boundary line.

The captains have many professional advisers. Most of the teams comprise well-paid mentors, senior and assistant coaches, along with coaches and their assistants for batting, bowling and fielding. Each one of them is doing their professional duty and is well accomplished. Therefore, with so many different advisory heads to listen to, the captain has a very difficult task to please them. The additional pressure is also faced at times from the franchise owners who feel they have the capability to think more astutely than the captains.

Therefore, unfortunately, when a side is not doing so well, the captain, in order to keep their respective owners happy, succumb to their way of thinking.

To be a captain of a 2020 IPL team is not an enviable task at present. However, to be a winning one is all that each one of them is aspiring for. But in order to do so, they will need to get their act together very quickly or the frustration that one sees now will continue to remain entrenched.

(Yajurvindra Singh is a former Test cricketer. Views expressed are personal)

Pent-up demand becoming more sustained: Kia Motors

ROHIT VAID

Emerging almost unscathed from the Covid impact, automobile major Kia Motors India sees the pent-up demand becoming more sustained and predictable now, which is expected to drive growth.

In a conversation with IANS, the company's Vice President and Head Sales and Marketing Manohar Bhat said: "Kia has been in India for a year now and in this duration, we have closely observed the functioning of the Indian market. Although it is a very short time period to exactly predict the demand."

"We are learning from our experiences every day and I can say that pent-up demand is now more sustained and predictable than when we started."

The company's performance can be gauged from its September sales numbers. It registered the highest-ever domestic sales since entry into the Indian market, with 18,676 units in September 2020. The biggest contributor in the company's sales was its recently launched compact SUV Sonet which recorded 9,266 unit sales in just 12 days.

"Till now, we have received almost 35,000 bookings. With a strong product like Sonet, we were expecting such feedback from the Indian consumers," he said.

Kia's first product for India, the Seltos recorded 9,079 unit sales.

"Due to Covid-19, various industries and businesses have been witnessing a slowdown period and have been adversely affected in the last few months. However, post zero sales in the month of April; we have witnessed a shift

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towards revival and recovery in the automobile industry," he elaborated.

"With an increase in sales and demand of our products, we have now observed a steady month on month growth with our existing range of products."

Similarly, in August, the company had registered healthy sales



figure. It had sold 10,845 units which represented 74 per cent YoY growth along with 1 lakh unit sales of Seltos in less than a year's time.

In July, Kia became the fastest automaker in India to reach the historic milestone of 1 lakh cumulative sales with two products Seltos and Carnival in just eleven months since its first car debuted in the country.

"The automobile industry is on a revival phase from a few months now where we have seen a surge in sales numbers across brands. At Kia Motors India, we have had good momentum for a few months and are moving towards a quick recovery in the industry," Bhat said.

"With our three strong product offerings, we are optimistic about driving further growth for the brand."

NO GDP CONTRACTION IN THIS FISCAL: PNB's RAO

Mallikarjuna Rao says India's GDP will grow at 1% or remain unchanged in FY21 as economic activity picked up

How do you expect the country's economy to play out in the next two quarters?

We are now seeing a lot of momentum. Rural economy is coming back very fast. We expect good traction in agriculture sector as well. The recent reforms in the agriculture brought in by the central government will provide good impetus to the sector. Consumption demand is picking up in the rural areas. The festive season, which will start from this month, will continue till March. During this period, our country celebrates Dasara, Diwali, Christmas, Sankranti and other festivals. So, we expect demand to pick up during the festive season. As banks are flush with funds now, they are ready to lend whenever demand gains traction.

But Covid-19 pandemic is spreading to rural areas. Do you see it impacting the economic activities there?

The important factor we need to observe is the confidence and psyche of the country and its citizens. In the initial days of the Covid-19 pandemic, people were frightened. But today, they have realised that there is no other way except accepting the reality and living with virus with certain precautionary measures. Secondly, we are also expecting vaccine to come out. It was initially estimated that the vaccine would be out by October. But it would take some more time. However, people started moving freely. Though there are risks, people are taking safety measures and doing their work.

Most of the global rating agencies are projecting a negative GDP growth of 11-12 per cent in this

fiscal year in India. What's your take on this?

Our GDP contracted by 23.9 per cent in the first quarter (April-June 2020). That's what RBI also indicated. The IMF and World Bank predicted a negative growth of 6-8 per cent for the Indian economy in FY21. But I have a different view. In my view, our economy will grow by one or zero per cent in FY21. I don't see any negative GDP growth this fiscal. The reason for my prediction is that India's GDP has three key components - industry, agriculture and services sector. Covid-19 has not impacted the services sector severely. We have already seen some improvement in the services sector. Industry has been going through tough times. But Covid is not the only reason for that. Industry has been in slow lane for the past one and a half years. And Covid-19 has aggravated the situation. When it comes to agriculture, we have seen good improvement there. Therefore, I am of the view that the performance of our economy will not be as bad as being painted by the

Launches Gram Sampark Abhiyan

To mark the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Punjab National Bank launched Gram Sampark Abhiyan, a nationwide financial inclusion and literacy campaign. The campaign centred on four key themes of digital, credit, social security and financial literacy. Recently, the bank under its CSR has concluded a nationwide three months district level campaign to fight against Covid-19.

World Bank and rating agencies. While respecting their projections which are based on some scientific methods, I strongly feel that human behaviour can't be measured mathematically. Given the animal spirits and entrepreneurial streak in the country, I feel that the economy will be back to normalcy at the earliest.

Don't you think the economy

will now need a second round of stimulus?

The Rs 20-lakh-crore stimulus package announced by the central government is playing out slowly. I don't think more stimulus measures will be required. However, the government can take some measures for specific sectors, for encouraging exports and also for import substitution. Otherwise, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan announced by the central government is more than enough for taking care of the economic recovery in the country.

What is your expectation from upcoming RBI monetary policy?

RBI monetary policy was supposed to be announced on October 1. But it got delayed. Also, the Supreme Court's judgement on interest charges on interest during the recent loan moratorium period will be out soon. The judgement will be considered. Besides, inflation trends and G-Secs prices are firming up now. So, I am not expecting RBI to reduce interest rates. However, in order to maintain sentiment in the economy, RBI

may stick to the status quo. But it may come out with an accommodative stance so that it can intervene whenever there is a requirement.

Does PNB have any plans to raise capital?

PNB has decided to raise a total capital of Rs 14,000 crore this financial year. We have already raised Rs 1,000 crore in tier 2 capital in July. In next one week, we will raise Rs 1,500 crore more tier 2 capital. Of the total Rs 14,000 crore, tier 2 capital will be Rs 4,000 crore. Besides, the bank will mop up Rs 3,000 crore in tier 1 capital and Rs 7,000 crore through QIP route.

What will be the focus areas of PNB in the post-Covid era?

We will focus on rural, semi-urban economies which are very predominant. Also, we are waiting for investments to take place in urban areas. Besides, retail and MSME sectors are showing good progress. Sectorally, our focus will be on logistics, automobile industry, steel, cement and others.



Reliance Retail raises ₹7,350 cr from GIC, TPG

Reliance Industries has sold 7.28 per cent stake in the retail unit since September 9 for a total of ₹32,297.50 crore

Reliance Industries on Saturday announced Rs 7,350 crore investments by Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC and global private equity firm TPG Capital in its retail unit, taking the total fundraising in the last one month to Rs 32,197.50 crore.

While GIC invested Rs 5,512.5 crore in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) for a 1.22 per cent stake, TPG took 0.41 per cent interest for Rs 1,837.5 crore, the company said. These investments value Reliance Retail at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.285 lakh crore, they said.

This is TPG's second investment in a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, following a Rs 4,546.8 crore investment in digital unit Jio Platforms announced earlier this year. With these, Reliance Industries has sold 7.28 per cent stake in the retail unit since September 9 for a total of Rs 32,297.50 crore. US private equity firm Silver Lake has made two investments totalling Rs 9,375 crore for a 2.13 per cent stake in Reliance Retail, while General Atlantic has picked up 0.84 per cent stake for Rs 3,675



crore, and KKR put in Rs 5,550 crore for a 1.28 per cent stake. Abu Dhabi-based sovereign wealth fund Mubadala Investment Co invested Rs 6,247.5 crore for a 1.4 per cent stake.

Reliance Retail Ltd, a subsidiary of RRVL, operates India's largest, fastest-growing and most profitable retail business spanning supermarkets, consumer electronics chain stores, cash and carry wholesale business, fast-fashion outlets, and online grocery store JioMart. It operates about 12,000 stores in nearly 7,000 towns, with 640 million footfalls across core categories of grocery, consumer electronics and apparel. Revenue

for Reliance Retail in FY20 was Rs 1.63 lakh crore.

The investment will add fire to Ambani's battle for dominance in the retail market that is also being eyed by Jeff Bezos' Amazon.com and Walmart Inc's Flipkart. TPG has more than \$83 billion of assets under management across a wide range of asset classes, including private equity, growth equity, real estate and public equity. Over TPG's nearly 30-year history, the firm has built an ecosystem made up of hundreds of portfolio companies and a value-added network of professionals, executives, and advisors around the world.

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, said, "TPG has a proven track record of being a valuable partner to global technology businesses and industry leaders and we look forward to their guidance and support in our journey."

Jim Coulter, Co-CEO, TPG, said, "Regulatory changes, consumer demographics and technological disruption are creating seismic shifts across the entire retail value chain in India. In

the midst of this transformation, Reliance Industries has utilised technology and scale to position Reliance Retail as an incredibly strong, well-organised, and innovative leader."

The transaction is subject to regulatory and other customary approvals. Morgan Stanley acted as financial advisor to Reliance Retail and Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas and Davis Polk & Wardwell acted as legal counsels. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP acted as financial advisor to TPG and Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co acted as legal counsel to TPG.

Following the sell-down in its digital unit Jio Platforms, Reliance's focus has shifted to retail with the acquisition of Future and investment by global private equity firms/strategic investors. All the 13 investors, who had poured in a combined Rs 1.52 lakh crore in Jio Platforms, have been offered a chance to explore investing in the retail unit. Besides Silver Lake, KKR, General Atlantic, TPG and Mubadala, the other investors in Jio Platforms - which houses India's youngest but largest telecom operator Jio - include Facebook and Google.

Covid-19 pandemic fuels job loss worries, anxiety

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in worries about job or income loss, and anxiety because of lack of social interactions, a survey by an insurance company revealed.

A 2,400-respondents survey by SBI Life Insurance said job or income loss is among the top three financial worries, and a bulk of 78 per cent respondents feel that stress or anxiety affects mental and physical immunity. The insurance company recently unveiled the comprehensive consumer survey, providing deep insights into consumer predispositions towards financial immunity in a post Covid world. It commissioned the 'Understanding consumer attitude towards Financial Immunity' survey with The

A survey by SBI Life Insurance said job or income loss is among the top three financial worries, and a bulk of 78 per cent respondents feel that stress or anxiety affects mental and physical immunity



Nielsen Company, reaching out to consumers across 13 key cities covering the length and breadth of India.

Understandably, in the wake of Covid-19, maintaining personal physical immunity has been on the fore, with almost every respondent confirming to have increased fo-

cus on physical immunity in some way. In fact, 8 out of 10 Indians are aware that 'stress' lowers mental and physical immunity. The survey further attempted to better understand the cause of stress, by enquiring about the top financial worries of the consumer today. The top three reasons

for stress are attributed to financial security against critical illness, family member getting infected by any lifestyle disease or Covid-19 and job or income loss. The reasons for financial worries cited by consumers underpin the stress caused by financial management of lifestyle diseases. Alarmingly, over 50 per cent Indians are not sufficiently prepared to face any financial emergencies related to lifestyle diseases.

M Anand, president - Zone II, SBI Life, said, "Over the last six months, individuals and families across the length and breadth of our nation, have shown tremendous resilience in coping with the pandemic. Despite the challenging environment, SBI Life's consumer study on 'Financial Immunity'

highlights the reassuring sentiment on the need to build a robust Financial Immunity to safeguarded one's future and be protected from financial adversities." We strongly believe that gaining financial immunity rests at the foundation of achieving one's life objectives, he added.

On the brighter side, the pandemic has brought in a realization on the need for protection, with seven out of 10 Indians who currently do not own a critical illness cover, explicitly expressing an intention to buy one in the next three months. Another encouraging insight thrown up by the survey, is that eight out of 10 consumers purchase life and health insurance with a clear motive of safeguarding family's future.

HANS BIZ QUIZ

Theme: 'Fifty Shades of Gold'



1. Which of the minerals are known as Fool's Gold, as it appears like gold and often is mistaken for gold?
a) Weathered Mica
b) Pyrite
c) Chalcocopyrite
d) All of the above

2. White gold was initially developed to imitate platinum. White gold is usually an alloy containing gold and other common metals. Which metals are not mixed with gold to make white gold?
a) Copper, Zinc
b) Silver, Nickel
c) Platinum
d) Palladium

3. 18 karat gold jewellery is made primarily of gold along with a mix of durable metals and a rhodium plating. If stamped 18 karats, what percentage of gold does the jewellery consist of?
a) 71%
b) 75%
c) 85%
d) 92%

4. In the United States, 14 karats is the most common type of gold used in jewellery, which is also more affordable. What percentage of gold is used in 14 karat gold?
a) 71.4%
b) 67.2%
c) 58.3%
d) 46.5%

5. Twenty four karat yellow gold is the base for all gold colours which is difficult to use in a pure state for jewellery due to its softness. 24 karat needs to be alloyed with other metals to strengthen it enough to wear. Which gold is known as Russian Gold since it was first used in the early 19th century in Russia?
a) Rose gold
b) Vanilla gold
c) Cream gold
d) White gold

6. Coloured gold in various other colours can be produced. Coloured golds can be classified as alloys, In-

termetallic compounds, and surface treatments. Rose gold is made of pure gold mixed with which of the alloys?
a) Copper and Silver
b) Zinc and Nickel
c) Platinum and Palladium
d) All of the above

7. Which gold is a blend of pure 24 karats yellow gold, copper and silver and the copper and silver not only helps to strengthen it but also gives it a colour?
a) White gold
b) Rose gold
c) Brown gold
d) Cream gold

8. Which of the below sets of gold are almost the same with slight differences in composition and appearance. The jewellery industry and goldsmiths often use which three gold names interchangeably?
a) White gold, Cream gold, Pearl gold
b) Peach gold, Magenta gold, Strawberry gold
c) Purple gold, Violet gold, Lavender gold
d) Rose gold, Pink gold and Red gold

9. The metal Cadmium can also be added to gold alloys, but cadmium is highly toxic, and there are health concerns. The alloy of 75% of yellow gold, 15% silver, 6% copper, and 4% cadmium yields which colour gold?
a) Grey
b) Blue
c) Black
d) Green

10. The manuscripts of the medieval alchemists reveals that they were able to obtain which colour of gold by fusing gold and sponge iron in the ratio of 18 parts of the precious metal and 6 parts of sponge iron?
a) Maroon-coloured gold
b) Turquoise-coloured gold
c) Blue-colored gold
d) Wheatish-coloured gold

The Hans Biz Quiz has been compiled by **Sunil Dhavala**, CEO, The Third Umpire Media. He had held senior management roles at Bertelsmann, NGC, Fox Broadcasting, Star TV and others. He is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

KEY 1D 2C 3B 4C 5A 6A 7B 8D 9D 10C

Kohli loves challenges, gives us freedom to play to our strength: Shami

New Delhi (IANS): Indian fast bowling spearhead Mohammad Shami has been a standout performer for the Kings XI Punjab so far in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). With eight wickets in four matches -- having best figures of 3/15 with an impressive economy rate of 7.86 -- Shami currently holds the Purple Cap holder.

Shami believes there is a great understanding between the players in Kings XI which in turn has helped them to perform well as a unit. Although, the team has managed to win just one game out of the four they have played so far, the performance from the Punjab-based franchise has been praised by many.

"I have played with KL

(Rahul) and I have worked with Anil (Kumble) sir for a long time. And I believe that it gets easier for a captain to manage a player if you have that understanding from a long time," Shami said while speaking on Amstrad InsideSport Face 2 Face cricket series.

"And there are many players who have known each other in the squad. You just have to tell them once and they understand what they are trying it. This has helped us perform well as a unit and one person has to come out as a leader and Rahul is the perfect man for it. He is our keeper also which allows him to have a clear view of everyone," he added.

Speaking about his time away from cricket during the Covid-19 pandemic, he said: "For any

athlete, this situation wasn't in our schedule and it wasn't even in our hand. As far as the Indian team goes, our schedule is pretty hectic throughout the year. We have back to back tours and we hardly get 10 days in between two tournaments."

He further spoke about his time practising alone and now for a month in United Arab Emirates (UAE). "When the lockdown started, I took 20-25 days off, but I pushed myself to utilise all the things I had which were needed for practice. Even though it gets a bit boring to practice alone but luckily I had my friend and my brother for the practice. The practice during the lockdown and a month of practice in UAE helped me keep the momentum."

Commenting on the factor of getting back in the rhythm, the right-arm pacer said, "The most difficult thing for a sports person it to maintain their weight and fitness levels which becomes very crucial to handle. I am very happy that I have been able to utilise what I got from cricket to keep myself in good shape."

When asked about Virat Kohli's role in promoting Team India's current pace attack, Shami was all praise for the skipper and said, "I think in international cricket, fast bowlers would definitely perform well when they have the backing from the captain and he is one such personality."

"Virat lives to take on a challenge. He is clear with what he wants and he gives us the free-



dom to play to our strength and backs us with our decisions as well which has helped us perform better."

He further went onto speak about the current pace attack of the national side and said: "The biggest factor is the culture of motivation and fitness in the team. We have a unit of six-seven fast bowlers who

STANDINGS					
TEAM	M	W	L	PT	NRR
DC	4	3	1	6	0.588
RCB	4	3	1	6	-0.954
MI	4	2	2	4	1.094
SRH	4	2	2	4	-0.084
KKR	4	2	2	4	-0.121
RR	4	2	2	4	-0.317
KXIP	4	1	3	2	0.521
CSK	4	1	3	2	-0.719

Today's fixture

Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai Indians at 3.30pm

Chennai Super Kings vs Kings XI Punjab at 7.30pm

Nadal storms into 4th round, Wawrinka loses

Paris (IANS): Twelve time champion Rafael Nadal has stormed into the fourth round of the ongoing French Open tournament after he registered an emphatic straight-sets win over Italy's Stefano Travaglia.

Nadal, who is seeking a 20th Grand Slam title to equal Roger Federer's record, on Friday defeated Travaglia 6-1, 6-4, 6-0 in one hour and 35 minutes on a covered Court Philippe-Chatrier to register his 96th victory at Roland Garros.

The defending champion has dropped just 19 games through his opening three matches at this year's clay court grand slam.

"We are in a very strange situation, after a lot of months without much tennis, especially for me, that I didn't play in America, I don't know if it's a positive thing or a negative thing," Nadal said, when asked how important it was to keep his early-round matches short and sweet as per the official

tournament website.

"But I take it like a very positive thing. I am playing quite well to win against a player like Stefano today with this score," he added.

The Spaniard produced 28 winners, 15 more than his opponent, while he made just 13 unforced errors. Travaglia, who had beaten former US Open finalist Kei Nishikori of Japan in his previous round, made 24 mistakes.

Nadal will face Sebastian Korda, the son of 1998 Australian Open winner Petr Korda, in the next round.

"Today I played against an opponent that he was playing very well," said Nadal, who may play US Open winner Dominic Thiem in the semi-final, followed by the top-seeded Djokovic in the title match. "I went on court with the highest respect, just with the goal to play my best. I made a step forward in



a lot of ways. He played a great second set, was close. I was able to find a way. Happy for that. I don't feel that I am that dominant. The result says, but the game is another story. Every single match is a challenge," he added.

In the other men's singles

match, former champion Stan Wawrinka saw his run at this year's Roland Garros end after he was turfed out by French wildcard and world No. 239 Hugo Gaston 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 in a five-set battle lasting over three hours.

Dhoni's CSK downfall continues

Dubai (IANS): Legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni looks tired and jaded as he battled a 'dry throat' -- probably cramps too.

This was the third successive defeat for three-time champions CSK, after they won the tournament opener against Mumbai Indians, and are now languishing at the bottom of the eight-team table with two points from four matches -- and a negative net run rate (-0.719).

CSK are at times referred to as 'Dad's Army' for comprising - and relying on - ageing players; the team's average age is 30-plus.

"I was not able to middle a lot of deliveries; was trying to hit it too hard. When the wicket is slightly at the slower side, it is better to time it. Looking at outfield it was subconsciously coming to us to hit the ball hard.

Tried to get as much as time as possible. It is quite dry out here. So, the throat gets dry and you start to cough. When you have legal signs, you can take some time off. Long time back once we lost three in a row," Dhoni, who was playing a record 194th IPL match, said after the game.

"We need to get a lot of things right. It is the professionalism. We need to take our catches not bowl no-balls. Those are the controllables and maybe we are getting too relaxed. We have been a bit too relaxed at times. After the 16th over, we had two good, overs but overall we could have been slightly better," he said, with-



Shreyas' unbeaten 88-run blitz scripts DC victory over KKR

Sharjah (Agencies): Delhi Capitals (DC) on Saturday made the most of the short boundaries on offer at the Sharjah International Cricket Stadium to set a mammoth score of 228/4 while the bowlers in their turn restricted Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to 210/8 to win the 16th match of the Indian Premier League by 18 runs.

Captain Shreyas Iyer led the way with an unbeaten 38-ball 88, while DC's top three added more than 50 runs for each wicket.

DC were on the charge from the first ball with openers Shikhar Dhawan (26) and Prithvi Shaw (66) ensuring that they cross 50 in the first five overs.



Dhawan fell in the sixth over to Varun Chakravarthy, but Shreyas came in and kept the momentum going.

Iyer brought up DC's 100 with an emphatic six over deep square-leg in the 11th over before Shaw fell in the 13th to Kamlesh Nagarkoti. It led to two relatively quiet overs before Iyer and Rishabh Pant (38) sent the ball to all parts of the ground in the death overs.

Their charge to 250 was stopped by Andre Russell. The big West Indies all-rounder dismissed Pant in the 18th and then got Marcus Stoinis (1) off the first ball of the 20th. He then gave away just seven runs in the over to keep DC down to 228.

KKR will have to break the record for the highest successful run chase to win this match, a feat that was achieved by Rajasthan Royals on the same ground last week.

ORANGE CAP WITH AGARWAL, SHAMI HOLDS ON TO PURPLE

Dubai (IANS): Mayank Agarwal and Mohammad Shami of Kings XI Punjab continue to hold the Orange and Purple Caps respectively following the end of the 14th match of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) which the David Warner-led side won by seven runs at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Agarwal has so far scored 246 runs from four games and is at the top of the list of leading run scorers. KL Rahul is at the second spot with 239 runs from four games. CSK's Faf du Plessis (195 runs in four games) is third on the list.

Happiest that my record is broken by you: Raina to MSD

Dubai (IANS): Veteran Chennai Super Kings batsman Suresh Raina has congratulated MS Dhoni after the former Indian captain became the most capped player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

During Friday's game against SunRisers Hyderabad, Dhoni played his 194th IPL match, surpassing Raina's tally of 193.

Raina took to Twitter to congratulate Dhoni and said: "Congratulations Mahibhai at becoming the most capped IPL player. Happiest that my record is being broken by you."

Out of favour fast bowler Sreesanth praised Dhoni and



tweeted: "Hats off to MS Dhoni-bhai...even in this heat keeping for 20 overs and then running

(sprinting for his team) lots and lots of respect...now that's what we call never ever giving up in toughest moments. Giving all in for his team."

Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma is ranked third in the list of most capped IPL players with 192 appearances, followed by Kolkata Knight Riders captain Dinesh Karthik (185 appearances) and Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli (180 appearances).

Dhoni, 39, retired from international cricket in August. And Raina, 33, opted out of the present tournament due to "personal reasons".

Anirban Lahiri tied at 7th spot



Mississippi (IANS): India's Anirban Lahiri fought swirly conditions and a misbehaving driver to post a 2-under 70 and retained his overnight tied seventh position after the end of the second round of the Sanderson Farms Championship.

Hitting only three fairways at Country Club of Jackson, the 33-year-old on Friday carded four birdies against a double bogey

for a two-day total of 8-under 136 to trail leader Keegan Bradley by five shots heading into the weekend. Bradley, a four-time PGA Tour winner, fired a 65 to lead by two from J.T. Poston.

Starting from the 10th hole, Lahiri started his round nicely with birdies on Hole numbers 12, 13 and 15. He made his first gain with a 25-foot conversion and then hit exquisite approach shots to five inches and two feet for his next two birdies.

However, an error on the sixth proved costly. After missing the fairway, Lahiri landed in the greenside bunker and he needed four more shots to get into the hole for a double bogey six before signing off with a 10-foot birdie on his last hole.



Liverpool forward Mane tests +ive for Covid-19

Liverpool (IANS): Liverpool forward Sadio Mane has tested positive for novel coronavirus, the Premier League club has confirmed. The forward, who started and scored in Monday's 3-1 victory over Arsenal, has "displayed minor symptoms" of the virus but feels in good health overall. "Sadio Mane has tested positive for Covid-19 and is currently self-isolating according to the necessary guidelines," Liverpool said in a statement late Friday. Earlier, midfielder Thiago Alcantara was diagnosed with Covid-19.

Kohli hits form in RCB's big win

Abu Dhabi: Captain Virat Kohli returned to form with a brilliant unbeaten 72 to help Royal Challengers Bangalore crush Rajasthan Royals by eight wickets in the 15th IPL 2020 match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Saturday.

Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal (63) put on 99 runs partnership for the second wicket, chasing RR's 156 for victory.

Earlier, middle-order batsman Mahipal Lomror's valuable 47 helped Rajasthan Royals set a 155-run target.

Electing to bat, Royals didn't have a great start as they lost skipper Steve Smith (5), Jos Buttler (22) and Sanju Samson (4) inside the first five overs with just 31 runs on the board.

Lomror -- who was playing his first match in this IPL season -- then took control of the innings and along with Robin Uthappa, took the team's score to 70. Uthappa looked to be finding his form before his 17-run knock came to an end in the 11th over.

Uthappa's dismissal, however, didn't affect Lomror as he held one end and

stitched another 35-run partnership with Riyan Parag. Parag was dismissed after contributing with 16 while Lomror felt short of scoring a well-deserved fifty as he lost his wicket while going for a maximum and was caught at long off after scoring 47. Rahul Tewatia and Jofra Archer then added 40 runs in the last 20 balls to take the team's score past 150 mark. While Tewatia remained not out on 24 (12 balls), Archer contributed with unbeaten 16 from 10 deliveries as Rajasthan managed 154/6 in their allotted 20 overs.

For Bangalore, Yuzvendra Chahal starred with the ball as he returned with figures of 3/24 from his four overs. Isuru Udana also picked up two wickets but he was expensive, giving away 41 runs in his full quota of overs. Navdeep Saini also chipped in with a wicket.

Brief scores: Rajasthan Royals 154/6 (Mahipal Lomror 47, Rahul Tewatia 24*; Yuzvendra Chahal 3/24) RCB 158 for 2 in 19.1 over (Virat Kohli 72 n.o., Devdutt Padikkal 63.

