



Director-General Krishnaswamy Natarajan PTM TM assumes charge as 23rd Director-General of Indian Coast Guard, in Delhi on Saturday

More than 200 bodies found at school in Canada

KAMLOOPS: The remains of 215 children, some as young as 3 years old, have been found buried on the site of what was once Canada's largest indigenous residential school — one of the institutions that held children taken from families across the nation. Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation said in a news release that the remains were confirmed last week-end with the help of ground-penetrating radar. More bodies may be found because there are more areas to search on the school grounds, Casimir said Friday. In an earlier release, she called the discovery an "unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.



Kom eyes sixth gold medal

Lockdown likely for another 2 weeks in AP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE Andhra Pradesh government is likely to extend the lockdown for some more weeks to contain the Covid pandemic.

Though the number of Covid positive cases are coming down, the government is planning to extend the lockdown by another 10 to 15 days. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is likely to take a decision on extending the lockdown on Monday.

On Saturday, 13,756 Covid positive cases were reported in the state against 18,767 cases last Saturday. However, 104 covid deaths were reported in the past 24 hours.

The Covid positive rate came down from 25.5 percent to 17.29 percent by May 29. The recovery rate also increased to 89 percent by May 20. But still the number of Covid positive cases are increasing in some districts, including twin Godavari districts and Chittoor district.

The Chief Minister on Saturday sought the opinion of the officials on extending the lockdown in the state.



Chittoor lockdown extended till June 15

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

AS there has been no downward trend in Covid cases in the district, the district task force committee on Saturday decided to extend the lockdown in the district up to June 15.

The present rules pertaining to the relaxation of four hours from 6 am to 10 am to facilitate people to buy essentials will continue. Though the partial lockdown was imposed on May 5, so far there has been no reduction in the number of Covid-19 cases and the daily count has been over 2,000 cases every day. It has also been noticed that the spread

No let-up in surge in Covid cases



was more in rural areas. After the task force meeting, Minister Gowtham Reddy announced that the police officials were told to enforce the lockdown restrictions strictly. Due to total lockdown in the neighbouring Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, people are coming to Chittoor district which was said to be the major reason for the surge in Covid cases.

To prevent this, vigil on the border check posts will be increased and people will be allowed into the district only on production of Covid negative certificates. He said the officials have taken all steps to overcome oxygen shortage, mobile testing and to provide best medical care to Covid patients.

District Collector Hari Narayanan said that Covid care centres have been increased from 10 to 24 in the district. For Covid testing, samples are being collected through 14 mobile vehicles. Testing capacity in labs has been increased to conduct 10,000 tests per day. He said the current positivity rate is 13.92 percent.

Govt halts Remdesivir allocation to States

NEW DELHI

AS the production of Remdesivir was ramped up ten times from 33,000 vials per day to 3.5 lakh, the Central government on Saturday decided to discontinue the central allocation of Remdesivir vials to states.

Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Mansukh Mandaviya, made the announcement and also directed the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Agency and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to continuously monitor the availability of Remdesivir in the country.

The Minister informed that the production of Remdesivir was ramped up ten times from 33,000 vials per day on April 11 this year to 3,50,000 vials per day on Saturday.

He said that the Central government has also increased the number of plants producing Remdesivir from 20 to 60 within a month. "Now the country has

enough Remdesivir as the supply is much more than the demand." The Central government has decided to procure 50 lakh vials of Remdesivir to maintain it as a strategic reserve for emergency requirement, the Minister added.

During the peak of the second wave of the pandemic in April, there was an acute shortage of Remdesivir across the country. The drug which is only to be used in severe Covid-19 cases was hoarded and black-marketed. Remdesivir is a patented drug that was recommended as an investigational therapy drug given in acute and severe Covid-19 cases. This drug is to be administered only to patients under oxygen support. Seven pharmaceutical companies, including Cipla, Dr Reddy's Lab, Hetero, Jubilant Pharma, Mylan, Syngene and Zydus Cadila, manufacture Remdesivir in India under voluntary licences granted by Gilead Life Sciences, USA, the company which holds the patent of Remdesivir.



Enough vax doses to tackle virus

NEW DELHI

MORE than 1.82 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses are available with states and Union territories, and over 4 lakh will be received by them within the next three days, the Union health ministry said on Saturday.

The central government has so far provided, through the free of cost category and direct state procurement category, more than 22.77 crore vaccine doses to states and UTs. Of these, the total consumption, including wastages is 20,80,09,397 doses, according to data available at 8 am on Saturday, the ministry said.

"More than 1.82 crore (1,82,21,403) Covid-19 vaccine doses are still available with the states and UTs to be administered. Furthermore, 4,86,180 vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be received by the states and



More than 1.82 crore (1,82,21,403) Covid-19 vaccine doses are still available with the states and UTs to be administered. Furthermore, 4,86,180 vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be received by the states and UTs within the next 3 days

Beneficiaries wait to receive the Covid-19 vaccine in Kanyakumari on Saturday

providing them Covid vaccines free of cost.

In addition, it has been facilitating direct procurement of vaccines by the states and UTs. Vaccination is an integral pillar of the comprehensive strategy of Union government for containment and management of the pandemic, along with test, track, treat and Covid-appropriate behaviour, the ministry said.

Under the strategy, 50 per cent of the total Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) cleared vaccine doses of any manufacturer would be procured by the government of India every month. It would continue to make these doses available to the states free of cost as was being done earlier, the ministry said.

Also, 20,80,048 tests were conducted on Friday taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid-19 in the country to 34,11,19,909. The active cases have further reduced to 22,28,724 with a decline of 1,14,428 cases being recorded in the active caseload. It now comprises 8.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has improved to 90.80 per cent. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 2,51,78,011 while the case fatality rate stands at 1.16 per cent, the data stated. The daily recoveries outnumbered the daily new cases for the 16th consecutive day.

Daily Covid count lowest in 45 days

NEW DELHI

THE single day rise in coronavirus cases was recorded at 1,73,790, the lowest in last 45 days, taking India's total tally of Covid-19 cases to 2,77,29,247, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Saturday. The daily positivity further declined to 8.36 per cent, remaining below 10 per cent for five consecutive days, while the weekly positivity rate dropped to 9.84 per cent, it said. The death toll climbed to 3,22,512 with 3,617 daily deaths, the data updated by the ministry at 8 am showed. Also, 20,80,048 tests were conducted on Friday taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid-19 in the country to 34,11,19,909. The active cases have further reduced to 22,28,724 with a decline of 1,14,428 cases being recorded in the active caseload. It now comprises 8.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has improved to 90.80 per cent. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 2,51,78,011 while the case fatality rate stands at 1.16 per cent, the data stated. The daily recoveries outnumbered the daily new cases for the 16th consecutive day.

India-Pak ceasefire contributed to feeling of peace: Army Chief

MANASH PRATIM BHUYAN
NEW DELHI

THE holding of the ceasefire between Indian and Pakistani armies along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir for the last three months has contributed to a feeling of peace and security and it is the first step towards a long road of normalisation of ties between the two countries, Chief of Army Staff Gen M M Naravane has said.

At the same time, Gen Naravane said the ceasefire does not mean that India's fight against terrorism has come to a halt

and noted that there was no reason to believe that the terror infrastructure along the LoC has been dismantled by the Pakistan Army.

The Army Chief also said that consistency in the reduction in infiltration attempts and terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir will go a long way in assuring India of Pakistani intent to foster good neighbourly relations.

Gen Naravane said adherence to the ceasefire pact has "definitely" contributed to the overall feeling of peace and security in the region and boosted prospects of peace after a long



spell of flare-ups. In a sudden and significant move aimed at reducing tensions, the Indian

and Pakistani armies on February 25 announced that they would cease firing across the

LoC while committing themselves to a 2003 ceasefire agreement.

"Ceasefire along the LoC does not mean that our fight against terrorism has come to a halt. We do not have any reasons to believe that the terror infrastructure along the LoC has been dismantled by the Pakistan Army. Whether it is their inability or unwillingness, both are equally dangerous and concerning, especially seen in the light of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan," the Army chief said, referring to the Biden administration's decision to pull out American

troops from Afghanistan by September 11.

Referring to the ceasefire, Gen Naravane said there was not a single incident of cross-border firing by the two armies after the pact came into effect though there was an incident involving the Pakistani Rangers in the Jammu sector. "This year, we have seen a drastic reduction in the violence levels in Jammu and Kashmir. Security forces and other government agencies are working in sync to maintain pressure on terror groups and squeeze out the logistics support," he said.

"Consistency in a reduction

in infiltration attempts and terrorist incidents in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will go a long way in assuring us of Pakistani intent to foster good neighbourly relations with us," Gen Naravane said.

He said there was a renewed emphasis on observing the ceasefire agreement of 2003 due to the heavy losses of civilian and military lives across the LoC. "Cessation of firing is in the interest of building trust between the two armies, for giving chance to peace and for the benefit of the population residing along the LoC," he said.

Continued on Page 4



Isolation wards set up at Amma Nana orphanage

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHOUTUPPAL (YADADRI-
BHONGIR)

CORONA has been throwing its paw on orphanages and homes for elders in erstwhile Nalgonda. As many as 79 of 386 orphans of Amma Nana Anada Ashramam in Choutuppal are suffering from Covid-19. Upon knowing the information, The District Collector Ramachandran directed the District Medical and Health department to set up an isolation center in the orphanage and carry out the treatment.

Women, child, disabled and senior citizens department District Welfare Officer K V Krishna Veni speaking to The Hans India

informed that separate isolation centers for men and women were established on the premises of the orphanage. Healthy diet including eggs, Ragi Java has been provided to victims to improve their immunity, at the same time, masks, sanitizers, medicines worth Rs 50,000 were provided to them.

District Collector Anitha Ramchandran, Department Principal Secretary Divya Devaraj, Director Shailaja are enquiring about the status of corona patients.

Meanwhile, DMHO Sambasiva Rao and Choutuppal RDO Suraj Kumar have been supervising the treatment of the victims time to time and providing necessary facilities to them.

BJP Kisan Morcha organises blood donation camp

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

THE National Kisan Morcha President Raj Kumar Chatham, BJP State President Bandi Sanjay Kumar the Kisan Morcha Khammam district unit conducted a blood donation camp in Khammam on Saturday. The programme was launched by the State Kisan Morcha President Kondapalli Sridhar Reddy. He along with the other leaders donated their blood. Speaking after the programme, Sridhar Reddy informed that the programme “Seva hi Sangathan” was conducted across the State. He said that the camp is very useful to the Thalassemia patients and during the Covid-19 crisis. It was the greatest opportunity to participate in the blood donation camp in this situation, he added.

Kisan Morcha District President Chava Kiran, leaders Vikram Jadevee, N Koteswara Rao, B Prabhakar, Radar Pradeep, Yella Rao Goud and others were present.



BJP State Kisan Morcha State President Kondapalli Sridhar Reddy donating blood in Khammam on Saturday

Yadadri temple finds difficult to pay staffs' salaries

HANS NEWS SERVICE
YADADRI

LOCKDOWN imposed by the government to curb the spread of Covid-19 has impacted the revenue sources of Yadadri temple. The present pandemic has been creating problems for the authorities to pay salaries to the temple staff. Half of the temple's revenue comes from the sale of temple prasadam. As devotees were not allowed for darshan of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple as per lockdown rules and regulations, officials had to

stop preparation of prasadam. About Rs 1.85 crore per month is required to pay the salaries. A similar situation arose during the first wave of Covid-19 in June 2020. Officials of the temple had to withdraw Rs 2 crores from fixed deposits and paid the salaries of the staff.

Cut in revenue of temple has become a burden on the temple for paying salaries. Temple officials stated that they have to submit a report to the government on the payment of wages of the staff, if lockdown is extended further.



RPF and GRP Inspectors K Madhusudhan and Indrasen Reddy displaying the seized mobile and gold ornaments at Khammam railway station on Saturday

Railway police recover gold, mobile phones worth ₹6L

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

RAILWAY Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) officials arrested a robber and recovered gold ornaments and mobile phones worth Rs 6 lakh from his possession.

RPF and GRP CI's, K Madhusudhan and Indrasena Reddy informed the media here on Saturday that a joint team of RPF/GRP took the offender, Palapu Gopi of Mahabubabad into

custody at Khammam railway station.

During interrogation, he confessed that he robbed Ganga Kaveri Express on May 5 between Motamarri and Madhira railway stations in Khammam district and took away two bags, containing four cell phones, one watch and six tulas of gold ornaments. He was involved in a theft case and served a sentence in a juvenile jail in Vijayawada, Krishna district of AP and was sent to jail for a few days in a case under

the one town police limits in Khammam.

He also confessed of stealing eight cell phones from trains two months ago. The police have seized all the stolen items and remanded Gopi in the robbery case, the CIs informed. Three friends of Gopi who helped in selling the stolen property in the market were also arrested and served notices under 41 Cr P C A suspect sheet was opened against the accused and he would be constantly monitored, they added.

Sathya Sai Seva helps out cobblers



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

MEMBERS of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi helped a few cobblers who were facing severe financial crisis due to the lockdown. Samithi members came to know that a few cobblers (Mochees) who live on repairing footwear in Nalgonda town on the way to Bus station are in pity position and family members of the respective mochees are not getting two times meal a day as their earn-

ing fall suddenly due to only four hours relaxation in the name of lockdown. The Convenor of Sathya Sai Seva Samithi and other members decided to help them.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi Convenor, K Krishna Babu, Dr Jayaprakash Reddy, Seva Dal coordinator Tukaramu approached two mochees and presented them “Amrutha Kalasham” (essential goods including rice, oil, groceries etc). Two mochees thanked Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi members for their kind gesture toward them.

Forest official suspended

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHAGUDEM

A Deputy Forest Range Officer was suspended and a saw mill was seized for alleged irregularities in timber sales at the saw mill in Kothagudem on Saturday.

Kothagudem Forest Divisional Officer, A Appaiah informed that the Deputy Forest Range Officer, T Venkateshwar Rao was suspended for ignoring irregularities in timber sales at Sri Venkateshwara Saw Mill located at Kothagudem.

Sri Venkateshwara Saw Mill management was accused for selling timber without proper records. During inspections at the saw mill discrepancies were found in the timber stocks. Three teams were inspecting the timber stocks.

The owners of saw mills and timber depots and carpenters should use the timber as the law permitted them, advised Appaiah.

Covid control, by super spreaders vaccination



Collector Narayana Reddy examining inoculation of super spreaders

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

COLLECTOR Narayana Reddy said that some help would be provided to control covid and reduce the burden on hospitals through super spreaders vaccination. The Collector on Saturday visited the vaccination center set up for super-spreaders at Nizamabad Giriraj Government College and urged people to wear a mask to protect themselves even after taking the vaccine and to wash their hands frequently with soap for a minute to get rid of the virus immediately. He then visited Chandrasekhara Nagar Colony, Dhubba UPHC Vaccine Centers.

Collector Narayana Reddy told those who have been vaccinated that they should follow the Covid protocol and take care that the immunity would come a few days after taking the second dose. The collector warned not to take painkillers and injections after taking the jab. Narayana Reddy inquired about the performance of the vaccinating staff and the facilities included in the center. Speaking to medical officials, he urged the people coming for the vaccine should be taken care of as none should get into trouble. The Collector instructed the doctors, staff and managers to carry out all the planning without increasing the rush.

Collector Narayana Reddy was accompanied by Additional Collector Chandrasekhara and other officials.

Students' kind gesture towards teachers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHADRACHALAM

The batch of 2003-04 of St. Paul's Lutheran School helped their teachers during the Covid-19 pan-

demic. The private teachers who are suffering from financial crises, was noticed by the students. The students collected Rs 46,000 and donated to teachers at St. Paul's

Lutheran school on Saturday.

23 teachers were presented cheques worth Rs 2,000 each. The teachers appreciated and blessed the students.



Students presenting cheques to teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran School on Saturday.

RAIN FURY



Trees uprooted due to sudden downpour in Nalgonda on Saturday

‘JAB TO SUPER-SPREADERS IS GOOD IDEA’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WARANGAL

COVID-19 vaccination process is expected to be completed by December this year, Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao said. Inaugurating a vaccination centre exclusively for the super-spreaders here on Saturday, he heaped praise on Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao for giving priority to the super-spreaders. The idea of the CM is to stop the spread of coronavirus by identifying the potential su-

per-spreaders and administering them the vaccine, Errabelli said.

The authorities have identified nearly 91,500 super-spreaders and the vaccination programme is ongoing at Inner Wheel Club, RR Gardens, Vishnupriya Gardens, Madikonda Multipurpose Hall and GMR gardens in Bheemaram, the Minister said. In another programme at the Academic Hall in the MGM Hospital, the minister lauded the 1986 Batch doctors of the Kakatiya Medical College

(KMC) who donated health equipment worth around Rs 20 lakh to the MGM Hospital. Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences Registrar Dr Praveen Devulapalli was among other doctors who donated the equipment – 10 Bi-Pap machines, 50 Bi-Pap masks, 125 oxygen flow meters, 10 multi-channel monitors, 350 PPE kits and 1,000 N-95 masks.

Later, Errabelli inaugurated a 50-bed black fungus ward in the MGM hospital. He directed the

Urban district collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu and MGM hospital superintendent Dr V Chandrasekhara to address the problems faced by the medical staff in the hospital with immediate effect. He expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the command control room.

Chief Whip D Vinay Bhaskar, Mayor Gundu Sudharani, MPs Pasunuri Dayakar, Banda Prakash and Municipal Commissioner Pamela Satpathy were among others present.



The 1986 Batch doctors of the Kakatiya Medical College (KMC) donated health equipment worth around Rs 20 lakh to the MGM Hospital in the presence of Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao in Warangal on Saturday

Nearly 1/3rd Indians support Modi's decision on lockdown

NEW DELHI

At a time when the Covid-19 pandemic and its fallout are having huge impact on the lives of the people across India, nearly one-third of the population has supported Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi's two key decisions -- imposing nationwide lockdown during the first wave last year and not imposing a similar countrywide shutdown during the ongoing second wave this year -- as per the ABP-C Voter Modi 2.0 Report

Card.

According to the ABP-C Voter survey, 68.4 per cent of the respondents feel that Modi government's decision to impose countrywide lockdown last year was right, while 53.4 per cent said that not imposing

nationwide lockdown this year was the right decision taken by the Prime Minister.

The survey was carried out between May 23 and May 27 on 12,070 people across the country. Asked "do you think imposing countrywide lockdown last

year was a right decision", 68.4 per cent said "Yes", 22.5 per cent said "No" and 9.1 per cent replied, "Can't say anything".

Over 75 per cent people from the urban areas and 65.2 per cent respondents from the rural areas supported the decision to

impose nationwide lockdown last year.

Asked "Do you think not imposing countrywide lockdown this year is a right decision of the Modi government", 53.4 per cent replied "Yes", 33.1 per cent said "No", and 13.5 per cent

mentioned "Can't say anything".

Of them, 56.9 per cent from urban and 51.9 per cent from rural areas said the Modi government's decision of not imposing lockdown this year was correct.

PM-CARES to support children orphaned owing to Covid



NEW DELHI

IN a major welfare scheme for children who have been orphaned due to Covid, the Union Government on Saturday announced a monthly stipend once they turn 18 and a fund of Rs 10 lakh when they turn 23 from PM-CARES.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to discuss and deliberate on steps which can be taken to support children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19. The Prime Minister announced a number of benefits to children impacted by the current Covid pandemic. While announcing these measures, the Prime Minister emphasised that children represent the future of the country and the country will do everything possible to support and protect the children so that they develop as strong citizens and have a bright future.

"In such trying times it is our duty, as a society, to care for our children and instil hope for a bright future. All children who have lost both parents or surviving parents or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to Covid 19 will be supported under 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme," Modi said.

He further stated that the measures being announced have only been possible due to the generous contributions to the PM CARES Fund which will support India's fight against Covid-19. As per the government, PM CARES will contribute through

an especially designed scheme to create a corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age.

This corpus will be used to give a monthly financial support or stipend from 18 years of age, for the next five years to take care of his or her personal requirements during the period of higher education and on reaching the age of 23 years, he or she will get the corpus amount as one lump-sum for personal and professional use.

Children below the age of 10 years will be given admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar. If the child is admitted in a private school, the fees as per the RTE norms will be given from the PM CARES. The PM-CARES will also pay for expenditure on uniforms, textbooks and notebooks.

Children between 11-18 years will be given admission in any central government residential school such as Sainik School, Navodaya Vidyalaya.

In case the child is to continue under the care of guardian/grandparents/ extended family, then he or she will be given admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.

For higher education, the child will be assisted in obtaining education loans for professional courses and higher education in India as per the existing education loan norms and the interest on this loan will be paid by the PM CARES.

NEW DELHI

REVOCATION of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir is the biggest achievement of Narendra Modi government in its second term, as per the ABP-C Voter Modi 2.0 Report Card.

As per the ABP-C Voter survey, 47.4 per cent respondents said that abrogation of Article 370 is the biggest achievement, while 23.7 per cent feel that the Supreme Court decision on Ram Temple is the biggest achievement.

The sample size of the survey was 1.39 lakh with the samples spread across 543 Lok Sabha seats. The fieldwork was done between January 1 and May 28, 2021.

Voters are also supporting the government on lockdowns, the survey found. A massive

68.4 per cent said imposing countrywide lockdowns last year was a right decision.

Similarly, 53.4 per cent said not imposing countrywide lockdowns this year is a right decision of the Modi government.

There is support for the Central Vista project with 41.8 per cent respondents backing the Modi government's decision to start and continue with the project during Corona times.

The opinion is divided on the handling of the vaccination programme though with 44.9 per cent saying the government has appropriately handled vaccine management in the country, while 43.9 per cent feeling otherwise.

The decision to export vaccines also enjoys wide support



as 47.9 per cent backing the government's decision to export Covid vaccines.

A majority of 51 per cent said revocation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir has led to the permanent solution of the vexed issues in J&K. Similarly, 59.3 per cent say that the situation in Kashmir has improved in the past two years.

There is massive endorsement of foreign policy with 62.3 per cent saying India's relations with different countries around the world have improved during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, voters support the farmers' agitation with 41.9 per cent saying the Centre should have accepted farmers' demand of revoking the three new farm laws.

Cyclone Tauktae after-effects: Grounded barge spills oil, sparks concerns



PALGHAR (MAHARASHTRA)

TWELVE days after the devastating Cyclone Tauktae grounded a barge near Palghar coast, fresh concerns have

cropped up following an oil-spill reported from the huge vessel, locals and fisherfolk said here on Saturday.

The fishing community is worried as oil is reported to be leaking from the Barge GAL Constructor which got stuck in the rocky shores off Vadrai on May 17 with 135 people on board.

While all crewmen were saved by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard battling extreme weather conditions in the Ara-

bian Sea during those three harrowing days, a new problem has emerged now with oil seeping out of the stranded vessel, 12 days after it hit the ground.

Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti Palghar President Manendra Arekar said that the barge had more than 80 tonnes of diesel, grease and other lubricants on board, which is now being seen on the sea waters, posing a huge threat to the marine life and livelihood of the fisherfolk.

"There is usually a ban on all fishing activities from May 31-July 31 owing to the breeding season of the marine life during the monsoon. Thousands of fish-

ermen here depend on the sea for their survival. People have complained about the odour of oil emanating from the fish," Arekar told mediapersons today.

Though nearly a fortnight has elapsed since the barge hit the rocky sea bottom here, he said the concerned authorities and the vessel owners and contractors have taken no steps in the matter.

According to an official, the Satpati Coastal Police Station has been approached by the vessel owners-contractors to examine and take up containment measures while the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has been apprised of the situation.



Delhi issues first global tender for Covid vaccines

NEW DELHI

AMID a shortage of Covid-19 vaccines across the country, the Delhi government has issued its first global tender for 10 million doses of vaccines, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday.

"We have rolled out global tenders. All our efforts are on but other states that went for it so far did not receive encouraging results," Kejriwal said while inaugurating the drive-through vaccination centre in Chhatrasal Stadium at Model Town on Saturday. He added, "We have floated the tendering and are hopeful, it will be great if any company comes to us. But I think most of the renowned vaccine manufacturers in the world want to talk to the central government. Let's see how successful the state government becomes."

The Chief Minister added that the Delhi government has started drive-through vaccina-

tion centres for 45 and above age groups and the same facility will be provided to people aged between 18-44.

"The Delhi government has started a drive-in vaccination facility here at the Chhatrasal Stadium. People can come here in their cars, motorcycles, some are even on foot, and can get vaccinated here. The vaccination is free at this centre. Right now, this has been initiated for those above the age of 45 years because there is no vaccine for those below the age of 45 years. As soon as adequate vaccines arrive, vaccination for those below the age of 45 (18-44 years) will also be started."

The Delhi government will accept an offer or expression of interest through e-mail by 5 pm on June 7. According to Delhi government's health bulletin issued on Saturday, Delhi reported 1,141 positive cases and 139 deaths, while the daily positivity rate remained below 2 per cent.

Key US base in Kabul handed to Afghan forces

KABUL

A key military US base called the New Kabul Compound (NKC) has been handed over to the Afghan forces, the Ministry of Defence announced.

Fawad Aman, a spokesman for the Ministry, said that at a ceremony on the occasion on Friday, US and NATO forces commander Gen. Scott Miller emphasised the international community's continued support to Afghan forces, reports TOLO News.

The withdrawal of the US and NATO forces from the country started on May 1.

According to figures provided by US Central Command, the Pentagon has so far removed the equivalent of approximately 160 C-17 loads of

material out of Afghanistan and has turned over more than 10,000 pieces of equipment to the Defense Logistics Agency for disposition.

The figures also show that the US had by last week officially handed over five facilities to the Ministry of Defence.

Pentagon officials have said that the US has completed up to 25 per cent of the entire withdrawal process.

Violence however, remains high in the country, especially after the three-day ceasefire from May 13-15.

The Ministry of Defence on Saturday said that at least 210 Taliban were killed in clashes and defensive operations by Afghan forces in 18 provinces, including Kabul, in the last 24 hours.

Lyricist declines award after controversy

CHENNAI

TAMIL lyricist Vairamuthu on Saturday said he is declining the ONV Kurup literary award announced by the Kerala-based ONV Cultural Academy. The announcement of the award for Vairamuthu recently resulted in a controversy with many noted personalities opposing it citing that he is accused of sexual harassment.

Vairamuthu is accused of sexual harassment by 17 women including singer Chinmayi Sri-paada in the Me Too movement

in 2018. The ONV Cultural Academy too later announced that it would relook at the selection. In a video Vairamuthu said in order to avoid any embarrassment to ONV Cultural Academy he has decided to decline the award. Vairamuthu also requested the Academy to contribute prize money of Rs.3 lakh to the Kerala Chief Minister Relief Fund and added that he will contribute Rs.2 lakh to the same fund. He also thanked Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin for wishing him when the award was announced.

Earliest surviving Hindu painting unveiled in Mumbai

MUMBAI

IN an epochal event marking the revelation of the lost traditions of ancient Indian art, the earliest surviving Hindu painting, photographed and digitally restored by Benoy K. Behl, was unveiled before a global audience here, the organisers said here on Saturday.

Behl enlightened top international dignitaries including over two dozen global ambassadors, historians and experts, the significance of the Badami Cave Temple 6th century painting - Queen and her attendants - in what is a UNESCO World Heritage site in northern Karnataka.

Behl explained how India has a continuous tradition of paintings, coming through ancient and medieval times and he himself had documented Indian paint-

ings from the 2nd BC till 13th AD, and the lost ancient Indian mural painting styles.

The online event on Friday evening saw a galaxy of personalities like ICCR President Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde and India's Sherpa to G7 and G20 Suresh Prabhu, ex-Cabinet Minister of Guyana Manniram Parshad, Guinea Bissau Minister Rajeshwar Prasad, UITV Chairman Balkrishna Choolun in London, Sapio Analytics CEO Ashwin Srivastava, authors, corporate and media bigwigs, among others.

According to Behl, the ancient murals are the foundations of the manuscript paintings and miniatures of the medieval period which was significant as until now the world has been studying the tradition of Indian paintings, starting from the medieval era.



Prabhu discussed "the dependence of the progress of a nation on its culture, and art being the manifestation of its culture", while Sahasrabudde pointed out

that "one can know who we are through ancient Indian art", and the need to create academic courses to prepare experts in digitization and ancient art preser-

vation.

Behl said much of the Badami paintings, as described in the 1950s, was lost when he went to photograph it in 2001, and seven years later, the National Geographic magazine could hardly even see anything in 2008 when its team went there for a major story.

"Therefore, this photography (of Badami) and the restoration are of considerable importance in the documentation of the tradition of Indian paintings," Behl pointed out.

Sapio Analytics will now show these path-breaking pictures and their restored digital versions to the world at exhibitions around the world starting next year, marking the 75 years of India's Independence, informed Srivastava.

AP logs 13,756 new cases, 104 deaths

AMARAVATI

THE state reported 13,756 fresh cases of coronavirus from 79,564 tests in 24 hours ending 9 am on Saturday at a positivity rate of 17 per cent.

The state also reported 20,392 recoveries and 104 Covid-19 fatalities in a day, a health department bulletin said.

The gross positives increased to 16,71,742, recoveries to 14,87,382 and deaths 10,738, it said.

The number of active cases dropped to 1,73,622.

In 24 hours, East Godavari district added 2,301 and Chittoor 2,155 new coronavirus infections.

Three districts reported between 1,000 and 1,400 each and eight more registered less than 900 fresh cases each in a day.

West Godavari reported 20 Covid-19 fatalities, the highest in any district in the state in a day so far.

Chittoor had 13, Visakhapatnam 10, Anantapur and East Godavari nine each, Guntur and Krishna eight each, Kurnool seven, Nellore and Vizianagaram six each, Srikakulam five, Kadapa two and Prakasam, one death. PTI

‘Welfare, social justice given top priority’

- The govt says DBT system has eliminated corruption and touts ushering in transparency in administration
- Claims the results of recent local body elections and Tirupati LS bypoll proved beyond doubt the people are happy with the governance of Jagan Mohan Reddy
- The CMO statement says the State govt has so far directly credited Rs 95,528.50 cr into the accounts of beneficiaries, spent a total of Rs 1.31 lakh cr on scheme benefiting various sections of population

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

PRIORITY has been given to welfare schemes, social justice and empowerment of weaker sections and women in the two years rule of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy which is celebrating its 2nd anniversary on May 30.

According to a release from Chief Minister's Office on Saturday, Jagan Mohan Reddy set an example for good governance by fulfilling majority of his poll promises. The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has rooted out corruption and middlemen ushering in transparency in administration. Nowhere in the country pensions are being disbursed at doorstep



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy signs the file increasing old age pension after taking oath of office on May 30, 2019

of the beneficiaries, it added.

The statement said overwhelming mandate in the panchayat and municipal elections and Tirupati bypoll endorsed the governance of Jagan Mohan Reddy in clear terms while farmers have been getting a slew of sops from sowing to marketing, education getting the right syntax from Amma Vodi to skill development courses, medicare getting the pulse right with YSR Aarogyasri and welfare touching all sections of society.

The CMO statement said the state gov-

ernment had directly credited Rs 95,528.50 crore in to the beneficiaries accounts with no role of middlemen and indirectly spent over Rs 36,197.05 crore on Sampoorna Poshana, free power to farmers, Goru Muddha and many more schemes, aggregating to Rs 1.31 lakh crores.

In fact, Andhra Pradesh is the first state to bring corona treatment and black fungus under Dr YSR Aarogyasri scheme. The government has spent Rs 2,229 crores for Covid treatment in the past 14 months, it noted.

Referring to education sector, the statement said the government had taken initiatives to strengthen the education system by revamping the government schools, providing English medium education, besides supporting the families with welfare schemes like Vidya Deevana, Vasati Deevana, Amma Vodi and Vidya Kanuka. In the education sector alone, the government has spent Rs 25,714 crore in two years since 2019.

The farmer-friendly government had spent Rs 83,000 crore towards farmer welfare in the last two years, whereas for Rythu Bharosa alone Rs 17,029 crore was spent. This is the only government that has extended this scheme to tenant farmers, the CMO release said.

“Keeping up the poll promise, the Chief Minister has embarked on providing nine hours of free quality electricity for farmers during day time with an expenditure of Rs17,430 crore. On the social front, the government had provided 50 per cent reservations to SCs, STs, BCs, minorities in nominated posts and prioritised women with 50 percent reservations. The Chief Minister has introduced, the first-of-its-kind public distribution system in the country, to deliver the ration to the beneficiaries at their doorstep through mobile delivery vehicles every month,” the statement said.

It added that paving the way for social justice, in the municipal elections, 10 out of the 11 mayor posts were given to weaker sections and six of them went to women who are heading big cities like Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati municipal corporations.

4 IAS officers transferred in a minor rejig

- Prakasam District Collector Bhaskara has been posted as Commissioner, Collegiate Education

AMARAVATI

IN a minor bureaucratic rejig, four IAS officers have received fresh postings in the state. The orders have been issued by chief secretary Aditya Nath Das.

As per the orders issued on Friday, P Bhaskara, collector and district magistrate, Prakasam district is transferred and posted as commissioner, collegiate education. He is also placed in full additional charge of the post of director, technical education, until further orders, duly relieving Mudavatu M Nayak.

Pravin Kumar, managing director, AP Tourism Development Corporation, has been moved out of youth advancement, tourism and culture department, and posted as collector and district magistrate, Prakasam district. S Satyanarayana, an IAS officer of 2006 batch, who is waiting, has been moved to the youth advancement, tourism and culture department, for posting as managing director, AP Tourism Development Corporation.

P Basanth Kumar, a 2007 batch IAS officer who is waiting for posting is posted as special officer, in the newly-created post of MIG Project under municipal administration and urban development department. He is also placed in full additional charge of the post of managing director, APUFIDC, until further orders.

P-G doctors on protest path

- They have been seeking senior residency, stipend hike and Covid duty incentives
- Contend that their academic time is lost due to postponement of examinations

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

THE final year-post graduate medical students in the state who have completed their tenure have stopped attending all duties from May 27 in protest against the improper clarification regarding senior residency consideration, stipend hike and Covid duty incentives.

The exam-going post-graduates have earlier sought clarification from the director of medical education regarding their grievances. They have been seeking revised exam schedule with a gap of 40 days prior to notification as they were involved in Covid duties.

General secretary of AP JUDA Dr D Venkata Saiteja said that the final PGs are in a state of confusion on whether



Junior and PG doctors with black badges at Ruia hospital on Saturday

to continue the duties after their tenure as till date there is no official circular regarding their tenure and stipend.

Though tenure was already completed and they lost their academic time due to postponement of exams, still they were being exploited by not considering them as senior residents and providing the required stipends. They further want a hike in the senior resident stipend pay in line with Telangana government.

Dr Saiteja also said that the government had not responded to their Covid incentives for the last one year. Due to the

more Covid infectivity rate and they directly combat the virus, many of their family members are getting infected. There is a need to boost their morale in this situation.

As they did not get any response from the government on their demands, they have been boycotting all duties whereas other PGs and interns have staged black badge protests and been involved in mass mailing about their issues to all the higher officials. If the government fails to respond even now, they want to take further radical steps in the next few days, he said.

Software worth ₹100 cr stolen from Sri Chaitanya

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

Software worth Rs 100 crore was stolen from Sri Chaitanya educational institutions office located at Punadipadu in Kankipadu mandal of Krishna district.

Kankipadu police registered a case under the IT Act based on a complaint lodged by Sri Chaitanya educational institutions AGM Murali Krishna on Friday.

According to Kankipadu police, three former employees of the institutions had stolen the software which was purchased by Sri Chaitanya to maintain the data and details of the students. The stolen software is now being used by other educational institutions in Kankipadu. The Sri Chaitanya staff said that some parents have informed about the phone calls they received from other institutions in the same village for admissions recently. The police registered a case under the IT Act under the sections of 120 (b), 403, 408, 420, 497 A. etc and began the investigation.

Sri Chaitanya purchased the special software to maintain student data, including fee and admissions. But, the data was missing in recent days from the college and finally the staff lodged a complaint.

Polavaram a mirage under Jagan rule, says TDP

- Party MLA Yeluru Sambasiva Rao states that only 0.63% works have been completed in the last 18 months
- Accuses the YSRCP govt of blaming the previous TDP govt even two years after coming to power to cover its inefficiency in completion of the project

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

WITH a severe fund crunch, the future of Polavaram project remains uncertain and the committed timeline of June 2021 looks unrealistic, said TDP Parchuru MLA Yeluru Sambasiva Rao, on the occasion of completion of 2 years governance of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

After assuming power in May 2019, Jagan Reddy announced that the project would be completed by June 2021 and ordered for re-tendering of the project



Yeluru Sambasiva Rao

claiming irregularities in the allocation.

Sambasiva Rao said in the last 18 months YSRCP tenure, only 0.63 per cent of works have been completed. Despite the dearth of evidence suggesting irregularities in the project, the government took up re-tendering and terminated the contract with Navayuga Engineering Company Limited and signed a contract with another firm which quoted 12.6 per cent less than the previous contractor.

The YSRCP government and Jagan Mohan Reddy government

are only focussed on blaming the previous TDP regime even after two years of coming to power in the state to cover their government's inefficiency in completion of the project, he said.

The budgetary allocations of the YSRCP too reflect the same. He said in 2019-20, the government allocated Rs 5,254 crore and in 2020-21 it allocated Rs 4,804 crore for the project. Of these budgetary allocations, in 2019-20, Rs 1,200 crore was set aside for R&R and in 2020-21 again Rs 1,200 crore was earmarked for R&R measures. However, only a paltry figure of 600 crores for R&R was released by the government in May 2020. Thus, providing adequate relief only to 25% of the amount earmarked and leaving most of the remaining R&R households untouched.

The Union government's latest decision of withdrawing financial support to Polavaram project is another example of how the people of Andhra Pradesh are being made to suffer because of the present government's spending habits, Sambasiva Rao said.

India-Pak ceasefire contributed to feeling of peace: Army Chief

Continued from P1

The Army Chief said India would like to continue with the ceasefire so that it contributes to stability and improvement in the relationship. “It is the first step towards the long road of normalisation of relations with Pakistan. From our side, we would like to continue with the ceasefire so that it contributes to stability and improvement in the relationship,” he said.

Gen Naravane also said that recruitment of local youths into militant outfits have also witnessed reduction, adding it is an indicator that the common people desired peace. “We remain committed to providing a conducive environment for peace to prevail. Economic activity had commenced well this year but has been slowed down due to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic,” he said.

“I am sure that this is a temporary pause and commercial activities will resume soon as, during the winter months, we had seen a record number of tourists visiting the Valley,” he noted. At the same time, he said smuggling of weapons and narcotics remained a concern and there have been attempts to use unmanned systems after individuals have been caught. “We continue to monitor these de-

velopments and maintain a robust counter-infiltration grid. We do not want the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to indulge in drugs, crime or violence,” he said.

“The youth are bright and many have demonstrated their capability by doing well in sports and academics, bringing laurels to their families, their village, town, district and the union territory,” he said. Gen Naravane said the Indian Army actively encourages such aspirations by organising various sports and educational events. “We remain hopeful that the menace will end with concerted efforts of the government and ‘Awaam’,” he noted.

Pakistan has been making concerted efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue. The neighbouring country stepped up its anti-India campaign after New Delhi announced in August 2019 its decision to withdraw the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the state into two union territories. India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbouring relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. It has said the onus is on Pakistan to create an environment free of terror and hostility.

IIT-H ready with oral drug tech to fight black fungus

Continued from P1

This is the reason the oral administration has abstained, although being the most comfortable and effective route.

In the present research, funded by DST-Nanomission, a team led by Prof Saptarshi Majumdar and Dr Chandra Shekhar Sharma along with their PhD scholars Mrunalini Gaydhane and Anindita Laha, intended to deliver Amphotericin B orally at an extremely

slow rate, of course within the therapeutic window. The purpose was to increase the drug absorption and reduce aggregation to lower the drug toxicity. For this, the team has selected gelatin, an FDA-approved polymer as an excipient for drug molecules.

Citing the importance of solutions in given circumstances, Dr Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, said, “As

the main idea behind our research is to find a solution to serve society. The technology developed, is made free from IP, so that it can be mass-produced and is affordable and available to the public at large.”

People and other pharma entities interested in the technology transfer can reach the researchers through the IIT-H, public and corporate relations office at office.pcr@iith.ac.in, he said.

Lokesh seeks cancellation of SSC, Inter exams

- Urges the govt not to create confusion among children and their parents about the exams
- Reminds that last year too, the govt postponed exams twice before cancelling them

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP national general secretary and MLC Nara Lokesh on Saturday demanded the Jagan Mohan Reddy government not to take hasty and mindless decisions on conducting the examinations so that the students' lives would not be in risk.

Lokesh urged for the cancellation of the 10th and Intermediate examinations by making an imme-

diated announcement to this effect. It was not correct on the part of the government to create confusion on examinations. Last year also, the government postponed the examinations twice before being forced to cancel them in view of the coronavirus threat.

In a statement here, the TDP MLC criticised that the future of the students in the AP was being thrown into risk because of the thoughtless decisions of the Chief Minister. If the exams would be held in July, it would take a month for valuation and the final results could be released only in September. Revaluation and admissions would have to be continued up to the end of October. It would not be wise to start the academic year after October when it used to be started by the month of June every

year.

Lokesh recalled that the Chief Minister himself had said it would not be possible to give vaccines to the 18 to 45 years age group until after September. So, the children would not be vaccinated in the near future. There were reports about the threat of the third wave to the children also. At such a time, it was atrocious on the part of the YSRCP government to put the lives of the children at risk by conducting the examinations.

Lokesh asked why the Chief Minister and his minister were taking “insane” decisions without taking a look at how other states were taking care of their students. CBSE, ICSE and boards of 14 states have already cancelled the 10th and Intermediate first year exams, he said.

NTR Trust to perform last rites to unclaimed bodies

The trust says as part of its efforts to help people in time of pandemic, efforts on to open four oxygen plants in the State

AMARAVATI

THE NTR Memorial Trust has decided to conduct last rites to the unclaimed bodies of Covid victims.

The trust in a statement on Saturday said the decision was taken in the face of rising instances of families and relatives not coming forward to perform funeral rites to those dying due to coronavirus infection. Moved at these reports, NTR Trust managing trustee Nara Bhuvaneshwari has initiated efforts for ensuring an honourable last journey for these victims of Covid. For this, special vehicles have been made available for performing proper funeral rites for the unclaimed bodies, it said.

The trust is also speeding up efforts to open oxygen generation plants in four towns in Andhra Pradesh. The arrangements are being made to start these plants

at Repalle, Palacole, Kuppam and Tekkeli towns in order to help the patients overcome the oxygen shortage problems. These generation plants would be set up with the CSR funds of Heritage.

Already, the NTR Trust has made available over 10 oxygen concentrators for the Covid patients who are taking treatment in home isolation. In addition to this, the online consultation services have been launched with the help of experienced foreign doctors. There has been a very good response to the online services from the patients and their families.

The 24/7 call centre opened by the NTR Trust is serving the patients round-the-clock. It has been designed to rush help whenever anybody would make a call. On the other hand, the activists of the NTR Trust and the TDP are coming forward to give assurance of support to the coronavirus patients.

Are we heading towards 'One Nation, One Vaccine, One Shot'?

This refers to "Center State quagmire over Vaccination" (29 May) by Ramu Sarma which has exposed the politics. Confusion over gaps apart, it's turning from serious to comical one way or another.

It should not surprise us when we got to read and hear a report about how some twenty villagers in UP near Lucknow were first administered Covishield and Covaxin to complete their second shot. Whether it is a lapse on the part of health officials or trial done by government, if one goes by what the head of Covid Task Force has claimed that there is no harm as such as only standard protocol has been broken, I don't think even the health worker who administered two different should be punished.

To support his claim few doctors have said that the mixture of two available vaccines in India



would better enhancement and that even shot is enough. Does this mean, India would soon follow "One Nation, One Vaccine, One Shot" instead more than a vaccine that is leading to people waiting in two or more lines depending on the number of vac-

cines that may land in India in near future. If the mix is normal and no adverse effect would happen to those who got it, why enforce on the same vaccine for the first and second shot and also different gaps for two vaccines. If and when one shot mix of Cov-

ishield and Covaxin are made available, I suggest following names : Covixin, Covimix and maybe in Hindi "Teeka milavati".

On vaccine mix fiasco, we should remember that our politicians for the sake of votes and power, would mix religion, language, caste etc so vaccine mix probably a boon for our country where at the moment one vaccine or another will not be available. As for shortages, those of us who have grown up in the 1970s have always faced shortages and also found what is called "juggad".

Those days, with no LPG, our household depended on cooking coal which was always rationed and whenever it arrived in winter months, we have to stand in the long queue. When we faced, shortage of sugar, like vaccines we were forced to mix sugar and jaggery or even only jaggery for tea/coffee. As for a shortage of

rice, we used Wheat to go along with south Indian accompaniment like sambar, rasam, etc. Kerosine was another item on the shortage list and we had to depend on firewood.

Now we are living in an era, when life-saving medical support is not only facing a shortage, and like in the past people are again standing in the queue without remembering the promise of our PM who said, the demonetisation queue would end all the queues created by the previous regime since 1947.

So, it seems, the village health staff probably by default have found a way to end shortage by attempting to administer two different vaccines between the first and second dose, and thankfully all has ended well. Long live Juggad in the land of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

N Nagarajan, Secunderabad



Is Allopathy, a panacea for all ills?

The hounding of Baba Ramdev must end, once and for all by the allopathy medical fraternity in the country. There is no system of medicine that can be called perfect, and all encompassing. The choice and preference must be left to the prudence and wisdom of users. The advancement of allopathy undoubtedly made diagnosis and surgery easy, and almost perfect.

There is a yawning gap in the system of medicine too, when it comes to treating several other diseases and medical problem which can be tackled and treated more easily and effortlessly by other systems of medicine, like Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy in tackling medical problem like the arthritis and neurological issues; and there are wise allopathy doctors who suggest these line of treatment to their patients who hit a road-block in finding relief.

Any level-headed individual will know that all systems of medicine must mutually and harmoniously compensate one another in treating and bringing relief to patients; and there must be no politics, and ego clash being played out by any party in this regard. There is no doubt that Ramdev should have been more circumspect, tactful and prudent in calling shots challenging others. The practitioners of allopathy must not doggedly be asking for scientific proof for each and everything that is akin to courts demanding evidence to settle a case, as evidences are not easy and always possible to produce as the relief aspects are based on the wellbeing and overall relief experienced patients despite the main problem to which he or she is treated may not show marked progress. It is interesting in this context to recall the Uttarakhand chapter of Indian Medical Association challenging Baba Ramdev for an open debate on a public platform in the presence of the media over 25 questions raised by him relating to Ayurveda. The letter by IMA UA stated that Ramdev and his aide Balkrishna can also join the team but only as spectators because they both did not send their qualification status to the state office of the IMA.

The IMA, in another letter also demanded a list of hospitals where thousands of patients experienced the effective impact of products of Patanjali Yogpeeth, so that the IMA could verify that the studies had some rational basis. The IMA wrote earlier asking the Prime Minister to stop the misinformation campaign by Baba Ramdev and take appropriate action against him.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

From a PM-in-waiting, this was peak arrogance

The West Bengal CM Ms Mamata Banerjee is reported to have skipped the meeting conducted by the PM at the Kalaikunda Air Force station near Kharagpur to assess the damages caused by the severe cyclonic storm Yaas that hit the state recently. The meeting was skipped by Didi on the pretext of preoccupations. This is unwanted and uncalled for. She has no political decency. No state staff was too deputed to revive the PM. It is political arrogance at its height.

The State failed to comply to the protocol rules. It is an insult on the nation and the PM. The controversy at this point in time when the pandemic is at its peak could have well being avoided by Didi. For the

simple reason that her former aide Suvendra Adhikari was also present had irked her. Didi should work in unison with the Centre to get the work done. The state has to get vaccines, oxygen and compel for gold damages. She had won the recent elections with a thumping majority does not qualify her to disrespect the PM of the nation. The violence that erupted in the aftermath of the elections in which over 17 lives were lost was act of brutality. TMC is establishing goonda Raj back in WB. Stopping of the Governor from visiting the riot hit places is unpardonable. Didi should refrain from encouraging violence in the state. It will prove counterproductive in the days to come. She has to win a

by-election in the near future. People should second get and not punish her. She should use more restraint.

Sravana Ramachandran, Chennai

II

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has not distinguished herself by skipping the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, held to assess the damage caused by Cyclone Yaas and to discuss relief measures. Banerjee and the West Bengal Chief Secretary were present at the venue of the review meeting but did not receive the Prime Minister. Banerjee arrived with officials after 30 minutes and presented a



sheaf of papers containing the state government's assessment of the cyclone damage but walked out of the meeting within minutes, stating that she has to attend other official work. This is the second time in a week

that the Mamata has turned her back on a meeting convened by the PM, and the arrogance has taken away the sheen from her win in the Assembly polls.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Demystifying mental health from Asian perspective



Sanskriti University School of Law and Legal studies organised a webinar on "Demystifying Mental Health from Asian Perspective". The webinar aimed to inform the students about mental health and how we can treat it just like another part of our body. Sandeep Saib (Mental Health advocate, philanthropist and public speaker, UK) was the keynote speaker of the Webinar and gave a brief insight into mental health and how we should treat our mental problems.

While interacting with students Sandeep said "Mental health is all about the mind and the life expe-

riences. Some experiences can be very impactful and can lead to severe mental health cases. There are wide range of mental health issues out there from schizophrenia to psychosis, to anxiety, to depression and so much more. There are so many misconceptions around mental health among the people. It is a highly stigmatised and discriminated topic and in this, there is a lot of name-calling, bullying and being seen as a burden to the family." She further added "the tip for all the students is it's okay to not be okay. It's okay to feel down for few days and it's okay to feel vulnerable and there is no shame

in that. Please talk to somebody either to your parents, teachers, mentors or even friends. If you are not able to talk, try to write it down and maintain a journal. You can also write the reflection of your day in it. It will be very helpful and don't feel ashamed in reaching out someone whom you trust."

Vivek Agrawal (Director General, Sanskriti University) said "our thoughts about mental health were different but after listening to Sandeep Saib, we understand it differently. Covid has made us realise how important our mental health is. There is so much information on what we should do and don't around this pandemic situation, I would request students to clarify every information you get from professionals before applying it."

Rana Singh Vice-Chancellor said, "It was a very informative session for all of us and the students community learnt a lot about mental health." He extended his heartfelt thanks to the International Speaker and congratulated her for conducting the webinar perfectly and addressing the questions wonderfully.

Jagan scores on the medical front



The statesmanly vision and foresight of AP CM Y.S. Jagan, to create 16 health hubs and 16 medical colleges, superspecialty hospitals in 13 districts plus 3 corporations in the state of AP, within a span of next three yrs, in these difficult times is highly commendable. (Jagan moots 16 health hubs, 29 May). It is the badly felt need of the people in these pandemic times. post bifurcation, the Telugu people are forced to go to cities like Hyderabad and Bengaluru, or CMC Vellore, for advanced medical treatment and facilities at huge cost. This major health need of the people was evidently neglected by the TDP government, in the last 5 years.

However, there is no crying over spilt milk, as the caring GOAP has embarked on a grand plans for Arogyandhra and according to the same, the people will have super speciality hospital at affordable

cost in their district Head quarters only. Hope and pray that AP will become a top medical destination in the country soon.

PH Hema Sagar, Secunderabad

II

The Jagan Mohan Reddy government in AP has taken a good initiative by proposing 16 health hubs across the state to promote health care. The proposed hubs will come up in districts head quarters and other corporations including Vijayawada and Rajahmundry

These hubs will be developed under public and private partnership in 30 to 40 acres land. The private firms or people which/who can invest Rs 100 crore in three years will be given 5 acre land free of cost in which they can develop super speciality hospitals. Through this the government

wants to develop tertiary health care in the state. The vulnerability in the health sector came to surface following the outbreak of coronavirus.

It is because of developing of Hyderabad as metropolitan city even at the cost other cities especially in Andhra region by the successive CMs of United AP. So, the people of AP have been facing troubles to get quality treatment during pandemic. For which Andhra people have to go either Hyderabad or Bangalore or Chennai. In the recent past TS govern-

ment was very adamant and refused allow ambulances to carry patients to hospitals located in Hyderabad, following which some patients died at AP and TS borders. If we don't want to repeat the same fate in future, it is time to develop tertiary health sector in AP. The AP government is focusing on the same by promoting not only health hubs but also starting medical colleges in every district. With this robust health facilities will come up in AP very soon.

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru

Yechury's failure

The influence of Communism in India (Dr. Mohan Kanda) makes a very interesting beginning. A tender mind is inconvenienced by a communist sabotage depriving him of fun and frolic. Later on he has many interactions with eminent ideologues and erudite friends of Left and perhaps with some who are inclined to Right. But what makes me uncomfortable is how an illustrious administrator bearing true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law estab-

lished and that he shall uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India, sheltered a fugitive (lighter sense) for a month. Of course I am referring to Yechury, the limelight of whatever is left of our Left wing politics of today. Perhaps it was an aberration of the youth or the virtue of family values cherished. It is another matter altogether that the ever persuasive Yechury failed the author to become a Leftist which is to our fortune.

Yaddanapudi Srinivas, Secunderabad

Mass prison system: The surveillance state in India



BHAGYANAGAR
VIPANCHIKA SAHASRI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued guidelines to social media companies operative in India. This move to come up with new IT Rules is alarming as the Government will now have legal access to all the chats of Indian citizens. This is a blatant breach of the Right to Privacy. The right to privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21. The current Government has used every opportunity to arrest the democratic voices, including the arbitrary arrests of journalists, students, ac-

tivists and professors. Now this move will effectively be used by the Indian illiberal, ethnic Government to pro-actively further their agenda.

Alongside, the Union Home Ministry is already underway to make changes to criminal law to make "hate speech" an offence punishable with up to two years in prison. These upcoming changes will add two sections to the IPC: 153C and 505A. These rules and upcoming amendments come with a colourable justification: to maintain internal security. But citizens know how the state uses "security" as an excuse to detain democracy.

Foucault, a post-structuralist philosopher, is popularly known to have understood the power in different terms. In medieval times, power is vested with a king. Those violating the law of the land are immediately put to death in public. With ages passing, sovereign power is no more functional. It is disciplinary power. In the modern era, the state confines the "criminals" to



prisons and correct them, discipline them. Disciplining is at the intersection of utility and subjection. State disciplines the prisoners so that when they join the society, they should be productive. But for

that to realise, they have got to subject the prisoners to power and violence. A peek into the Indian prison will expose you to a range of techniques employed to make these prisoners docile bodies via

constant surveillance from Benthamite panopticon like prison structures and discipline through the subjection.

Writing in the 1970s, Foucault did not locate the disciplining

power in certain institutions. He said that this power flows in capillaries. Taking on from there, the French philosopher, Deleuze, wrote about "society of control". In such a society, while freedoms may seem like expanding, the control extends too.

We have moved away from disciplining society to a society of control. Anyone can put their opinions on digital media, and anybody can file a complaint under the upcoming amendments to IPC.

Today, such arbitrary arrests are already underway. But, these new IT rules may make the citizens fear the consequences of speaking their opinion even with the people they trust. This will create gaps in the creation of democratic capacities and dry out the social capital. Social capital is significant for the development of a country. These new rules will only alienate people from each other. All this results from the fear that we are constantly watched. The target of these new rules could well be an investigative journalistic piece or a student's opinion of

Kashmir under the banner of "hate speech". Varavara Rao in his book Captive Imaginations writes, "The jail is but a microcosm of this complex, turbulent and enslaved world." Never have what he told resonated very much in me than today- looking at the trajectory of the Government's will to reduce the citizenry into docile bodies, whose thoughts and emotions are subjected through constant surveillance. What is alarming this time is that while erstwhile laws for surveillance have been under a shadow, today's Government has in broad daylight said that "no fundamental rights are absolute". This open embracing of undemocratic ways of ruling a country brings India much closer to Trump's America once again. This genocide of democracy in India is not welcome. Transforming the world's largest democracy into a mass prison system under constant surveillance should be democratically challenged.

(The author is pursuing her Masters course at Centre for Political Studies, JNU, Delhi)

BRAHMINS AS REFORMERS

VANAM JWALA NARASIMHA RAO
WITH VJM DIVAKAR

THE caste system as a social hierarchy is still prevalent today. Brahmin is said to be the highest Varna in Vedic Hinduism. The Brahmin Varna consists of priests and individuals and are separated into sub-castes called Gotras. Religious and cultural diversity divides Brahmins into these sub-castes. Only some are priests whereas others have held professions as educators, law makers, scholars, doctors, writers, poets, land owners, and politicians. Brahmin came from the term Brahman, which is a magical force. The Rig Veda is one of the most sacred Hindu scriptures, and it contains the mythological origin of the Brahmin.

In this backdrop, if we study and analyse the role played by Brahmins in the two Telugu States, we can come to a safe conclusion that Brahmins played a vital role in the evolution of the modern society in whatever capacity they were. Revolutionary social reforms took place in the Telugu States in the past and are taking place even today, thanks to the pro-active role played by the Brahmins. From social reforms to modern science, from literature to cinema, from politics to public administration, from spirituality to communism, from traditional values to progressive thinking, the Brahmins played their role perfectly to the precision. This is an attempt to record albeit briefly about the great Brahmin personalities who have contributed and enriched our society at every stage.

To name few among them were: Swami Ramanand Tirtha, Kaloji Narayana Rao, Pamulaparathi Venkata Narasimha Rao, Daasarathi Krishnamacharya, Kondapalli Seshagiri Rao, Dr Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Pamulaparathi Sadashiv Rao, Rau Bahadur Kandukuri Veereshalingam Pantulu, Gurajada Venkata Apparao, Chilakamarthi Lakshmi Narasimham, Kallakuri Narayana Rao, Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy, Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu, Tenneti Viswanadham, Srirangam Srinivasa Rao, Devulapalli Venkata Krishnasastri, Bellary Raghava, Bhandaru Acchamamba, Dr Yellapragada Subbarow, Durgabai Deshmukh and so on.

Swami Ramanand Tirtha, leader of the Hyderabad State Congress, born on 3 October 1903 and died on 22 January 1972, was a freedom fighter, educator and social activist who led the Hyderabad liberation struggle during the reign of Osman Ali Khan, the last Nizam of Hyderabad State. He created a revolutionary movement to integrate Hyderabad State with the Indian Union in 1948.

Kaloji Narayana Rao born on 9 September 1914 and died on 13 November 2002 was an Indian poet, freedom fighter, anti-fascist and political activist of Telangana. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1992. The Telangana government honored Kaloji's birthday as Telangana Language Day. During his student days and later, he was deeply influenced by and participated in popular movements of the time, like the Arya Samaj Movement, especially in the domain of civil rights. Considered by many to be a freedom fighter he was part of the freedom movement of Hyderabad State and underwent imprisonment under the Nizam.

Pamulaparathi Venkata Narasimha Rao born on 28 June 1921 and died on 23 De-

cember 2004, was often referred as the modern day Chanakya and Polyglot. PV's ascendancy to the prime Ministership was politically significant in that he was the first from South India to held this post. He led an important administration, overseeing a major economic transformation and several home incidents affecting national security of India. Rao was personally responsible for the dismantling of the License Raj. He is often referred to as the Father of Indian Economic Reforms.

Daasarathi Krishnamacharya popularly known as Daasarathi born on 22 July 1925 and died on 5 November 1987 was a leading Telugu poet, united AP State Poet Laurent and a very famous Telugu film lyricist and writer. As a volunteer in the left-wing Andhra Mahasabha movement, Daasarathi travelled from village to village in Telangana to enlighten the public. Mahatma Gandhi and Kandukuri Veereshalingam influenced him. However, he joined the political left, as most of his friends were leftists and communist revolutionaries.

Kondapalli Seshagiri Rao born on January 22, 1924 and died on July 26, 2012) was a very famous artist, painter and was trained in Santi Niketan. He was a teacher in the JNTU College of Fine Arts, Hyderabad.

Dr Burgula Ramakrishna Rao born on 13 March 1899 and died on 15 September 1967 was the first elected Chief Minister of the erstwhile Hyderabad State. He was among the Telugu-speaking leaders to resist the

shalingam Pantulu born on 16 April 1848 and died on 27 May 1919 was a social reformer. He is considered as the father of the Telugu Renaissance movement. He was one of the early social reformers who encouraged the education of women and the remarriage of widows. He also fought against child marriage and the dowry system. He is often considered as the Raja Ramamohan Roy of Andhra. Considering literature as an instrument to fight against social evils, his writings also reflected the same.

Gurajada Venkata Apparao born on 21 September 1862 and died on 30 November 1915 was a noted Indian playwright, dramatist, poet, and writer known for his works in Telugu theatre. He was one of the pioneers of Indian theatre. In 1897, his famous book Kanyasulkam was published by Vavilla Ramaswamy Sastrulu and Sons.

Chilakamarthi Lakshmi Narasimham born on 26 September 1867 and died on 17 June 1946 was a romantic and a social reformer in the tradition founded by Veereshalingam. He was active in the Indian independence movement; he eschewed "foreign cloth" and wore Khadi dhoti, shirt, coat and turban.

Kallakuri Narayana Rao born on 28 April 1871 and died on 27 June 1927 was social reformer, play writer, Cinematographer and nationalist. His novel "Varavikrayam" is about the dowry system prevalent in British India. The film Varavikrayam is based on the novel and play of the same

India's struggle for independence. He is remembered now for his role in the establishment of a modern and shore-based steel plant at Visakhapatnam.

Srirangam Srinivasa Rao born on 30 April 1910 and died on 15 June 1983, popularly known as Sri Sri, was an Indian poet and lyricist who is known for his works in Telugu literature and films. Noted for his anthology Maha Prasthanam, Sri Sri is a recipient of a National Film Award, a Nandi Award and a Sahitya Academy Award.

Devulapalli Venkata Krishnasastri born on November 1897 and died on 24 February 1980 was a Telugu poet, playwright and translator. He is known as Andhra Shelley. Bellary Raghava born on 2 August 1880 and died on 16 April 1946 was an Indian playwright, thespian and film actor, known for his works predominantly in Telugu theatre and cinema. Bhandaru Acchamamba born in 1874 and died in 1905 was one of the pioneers in the early stages of women's movement. She is regarded as one of the early feminist historians in India.

Dr Yellapragada Subbarow born on 12 January 1895 and died on 8 August 1948 was a pioneering Indian biochemist who discovered the function of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) as an energy source in the cell, developed methotrexate for the treatment of cancer and led the department at Lederle laboratories in which Benjamin Minge Duggar discovered chlortetracycline (Aureomycin) in 1945.



Nizam in the princely state of Hyderabad. Burgula was one of the founding members of the Hyderabad State Congress. He was also involved in promoting the library movement in the State. He eradicated the system of Jaghirdar and makthedar in Telangana and introduced the law of tenancy and became the first Indian land reformer.

Pamulaparathi Sadashiv Rao born on 17 July 1921 and died on 26 August 1996 was a thinker, philosopher, and freelance journalist. He started the monthly magazine Kakatiya Patrika in 1944 in Warangal along with his cousin PV Narasimha Rao, later Prime Minister of India.

Rau Bahadur Kandukuri Veere-

name by him. Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy born in 1863 and died in 1940 was a Telugu writer and one of the earliest modern Telugu linguists and social visionaries during the British rule.

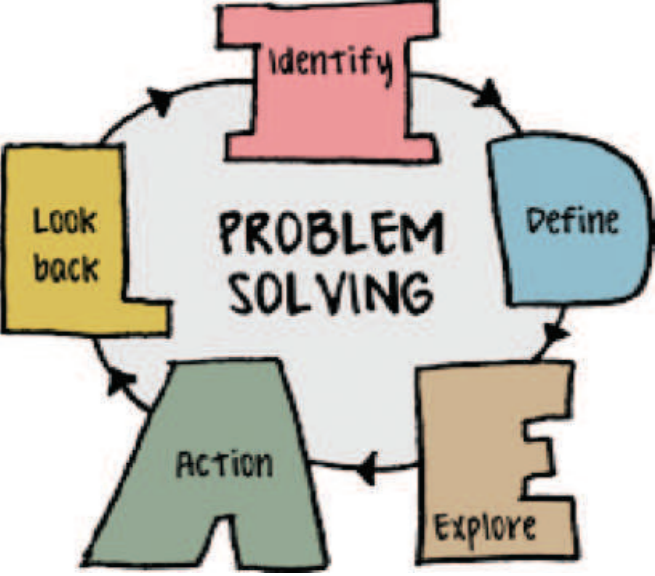
Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu born on 23 August 1872 and died on 20 May 1957 was an Indian politician and freedom fighter, Chief Minister of the Madras Presidency, and subsequently became the first Chief Minister of the new Andhra state, created by the partition of Madras State along linguistic lines. He was also known as Andhra Kesari.

Tenneti Viswanadham born in 1896 and died in 1979 was a political figure from Visakhapatnam. He took an active part in

Durgabai Deshmukh born on 15 July 1909 and died on 9 May 1981 was a freedom fighter, lawyer, social worker and politician. She was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India and of the Planning Commission of India. A public activist for women's emancipation, she founded the Andhra Mahila Sabha in 1937.

Thus, number of Brahmins contributed their lot to the society in their own way, often selflessly.

From the Vedic period to the present day, Brahmins contributed to the society for its welfare, progress, development and its overall wellbeing. No one could ever ignore them or their supreme sacrifice for the sake of society.



Techniques of problem solving

JYOTHI GOSALA

PROBLEM solving is an intricate art which only a few are good at. It needs the right mindset, agility and farsightedness to deal with a critical issue seeking solution. Problems exist day in and day out professionally, personally and in other social situations. Problems revolve around people and situations that come in from different fronts. Whether at the official level or personal, problem solving is a technique which has to go through many situational folds to see the solution.

At the professional realm, there are professionals who take charge of solving problems affecting the workforce. Mastering to solve a problem is a task by itself. One has to decipher the type of problem that needs immediate attention and the reasons for the same. One benefits if one is equipped to solve a problem, else one has to choose the right source. Relationships get affected most time due to the lack of an innate understanding of both the issue and the people.

Most times variations in perspective is the root cause of misunderstanding. One fails to understand the point of view of others and vice versa and people are labelled in the negative way.

Problem-solving is a psychological framework that analyses and solves problems. The key goal of problem-solving is to overcome impediments in the path through amicable solutions resolving issue. Understanding the cause and effect of the problem is crucial not the after effects. Handling CRM is an art for most brands as it needs hands on connect and deft dealing with clients when confronted with issues.

Having good, strong problem solving skills will make a huge difference to one's career. Problems are all around us, in different forms and shapes, in many dimensions testing our mettle every now & then. Most interesting method to analyse a situation is through perceptiveness. Most times what is right from the other person's perspective may not match ours and vice-versa. With a practical plan which can keep complexities at bay by bringing out the right measurable solutions to an impending problem requires the best practical techniques. Handling tough situations be it challenges or problems in various dimensions require a strong grit and capability of being amidst the most nerve wrecking situations, but it brings out the best in you at the end of the process.

Objectives

- Identifying the real problem
- Generating possible solutions
- Brainstorming
- Using your intuition and logic
- Selecting the best solution
- Considering implementation
- Identify the causes
- Examine the Whys
- View the Whole

Solutions

- Define the Problem area
- Generating best solutions
- Analyse the solutions
- Recommendations
- Thinking
- Brainstorming
- Mapping Tools
- Making right decisions
- Risk Analysis
- Decisions
- Conformity
- Group Consensus

Addressing a business problem needs a hands-on-approach during uncertain times when change is imperative. Knowing the cause, one has to come out with a practical recommendation to get to the groove of the issue with the right solution. Problem solving is an important skillset at work. Apart from be-

ing a confident, determined person, one should have the skills to navigate their way through a problem. Thinking, farsightedness, ability to come out with good results in a crisis, maintaining a calm demeanour will help through to a great extent. The dimension of problems are very uncertain, having a plan to address them will see one through. To be an effective problem-solver, one has to be systematic and logical in approach. Are you good at Solving Problems?

Steps for Problem Solving

Know the problem In a given situation, when one is inundated with problems, it's good to know the problem first hand before moving further. Understanding the cause and effect will have a better perspective on any given issue.

Facts Knowing factoids of any issue is crucial so that one doesn't seem judgemental and is rational in approach. In problem solving, assessing facts is a good testimony on the results.

Ideas Brainstorming for a range of creative solutions of a problem will bring the most measurable results, with the exchange of best creative brains. At work good ideation wins which add value.

Evaluation This helps in scouting the best measurable results with a realistic approach of addressing cross sectional audiences. Through research, opinions or background under will help in leaps and bounds.

Plan Good solutions keep problems at bay with fresh layouts through action plans. When implemented in the most strategic and result oriented way, the results will be favourable.

Act The momentum one builds by being in the action mode after adding value with ideas which are being implemented, will boost one further to do better after the implementation stage.

- Skills
- Business Perspective
- Problem solving
- Resilience
- Lateral Thinking
- Transparency
- Adaptability

With many techniques, problem solving will be a good stimulant for those at work to understand the intricacies of various problems by giving them a good perspective. Factors like resilience, adaptability, clear thinking, will be helpful in official workstations. However, small or big problems with a good perspective will emerge with sound solutions.

The best strategy for solving a problem depends on situational factors. Case to case, people are better with learning about the issue by using the snippets of information to address the solution. Creativity and a good hindsight approach are a win-win for both simple and complex problems.

Adopting techniques which address problems will be a major boost in arriving at probable solutions. When faced with a challenge or problem, one should have the drive to move ahead in tackling it; this will boost the confidence and build the experience in facing any amount of challenges big or small. Moving away from reality will only further add to the problem.

Our thinking has to be changed to face the reality of situations and problems. Unless we see things from the right perspective, we will not generate the positivity in getting the right solutions. When confronted with problems, one gets a new maturity to view the situation. The reality of life is not about finding constant solutions to our problems but to experience the reality in manifold.

The sun finally shines on Indian women's cricket

YAJURVINDRA SINGH

WOMEN have been playing cricket since 1745. Unfortunately, the gentlemen of the game never gave women's cricket prominence and importance, and so it remained a village entertainment. In the late 19th and early 20th century in England, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, there emerged a movement to establish women's cricket.

In 1926, a women's cricket association was founded. It was only in 1958 that the International Women's Cricket Council was formed to coordinate cricket around the world.

In India, the efforts of just one man who selflessly pioneered the formation of the Women's Cricket Association of India in 1973 has now borne fruit because of his vision and belief. Mahendra Kumar Sharma, a young cricket enthusiast from Lucknow, finally put women's cricket on the Indian map. He conducted the first ever national tournament amongst only three teams -- Maharashtra, Mumbai, and Uttar Pradesh -- in Pune.

Preceding that his marketing efforts to get 200 spectators to watch the games in Lucknow and also his efforts in popularising women's cricket should be recognised in the annals of Indian cricket history. With very limited financial resources at his beck and call, he went around the streets of Lucknow in a cycle rickshaw broadcasting the first ever match to be played by women at the Queen's Anglo Sanskrit College. Sharma's efforts bore fruit as women from other associations also joined in taking the game to several parts of the country.

The first national camp at National Institute of Sports for women was held in Patiala. Legendary cricketer Lala Amarnath took the onus of supervising it. The women could not have had a better coach and mentor than him. Amarnath's immense knowledge of the game and his strict regime turned the girls into a cricketing unit. He



taught them the nuances of the game and the seed that he sowed has now blossomed into a fruitful entity.

It was only in 2006, when the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) finally accepted to recognise women's cricket. Until then they had several ups and downs. Finance was always a constraint and so they depended on the generosity of well-wishers and corporate sponsorships. The Indian Railway, public limited banks, and Indian Airlines played a major part in encouraging and boosting women's cricket. The railway, however, is still the major supporter of the women's game.

The sunshine days of women's cricket have finally come to roost. A tour to England next month followed by a visit to Australia was just a dream come true for them. Having just played 36 Test matches in all these years, playing another in Bristol, England, from June 16 and a day-night Test from September 30 in Sydney will be a challenge.

India last played a Test match way back in 2014 against England in Wormsley and beat the host. India were led astutely by Mithali Raj, who is still at the helm when India play England next month.

Unfortunately, women's Test cricket has not been the prime agenda of the ICC. The format is not, according to them, a commercially viable option and so the ODIs and the

T20s are what they have focused on. The conventional form of cricket needs to be encouraged. If money is the be-all and end-all of keeping a sport alive, then men's Test matches may also become unimportant.

The Indian women's team is a bunch of very talented cricketers. They seem to have gone astray more with infighting and jealousy rather than their cricket. There has been more chopping and changing of their coaches rather than the players. One gathers from several articles published that the senior players are warring amongst each other and their unhappiness with a coach is all it takes to replace him.

Ramesh Powar, the recently appointed coach, has already had an open tiff with Mithali Raj, who will lead India in the only Test and the three ODIs in England. Both are professionals and so a truce, we hope, will soon be in the offing. However, the past could catch up if things do not go their way. Powar's first task would be to get the captain and her teammates together believing in the one word that is so important to get harmony -- trust.

The Indian women's team reminds one of the Indian men's team of the early 2000s. The stylish Smriti Mandhana is as graceful as Rohit Sharma and a hard hitter like Yuvraj Singh. Young Shafali Verma is in the same mould as Virender Sehwag while

Jemimah Rodrigues and Poonam Raut have the ability to play their game in the way Rahul Dravid approached it.

Mithali has proven to be the Sachin Tendulkar of women's cricket. Since she is close to the end of her career, she can be the aspiring star for young women cricketers. The cricketing brilliance of Harmanpreet Kaur puts her as the most destructive batter in the team. The unbeaten 171-run innings that she played in a World Cup semi-final match against Australia in 2017 will be remembered as the best innings ever played by an Indian woman. She along with Deepti Sharma are the all-rounders that India will depend on immensely.

Tania Bhatia, back as the wicketkeeper, is a live wire behind the sticks and with the evergreen Jhulam Goswami to spearhead the pace bowling, the duo should complement one another in the pace friendly English conditions that most likely will prevail.

Spin bowling is an area that the Indian team needs to take a relook at, especially the leg-spin of Poonam Yadav. Teams have analysed her to a fair degree and, therefore, she will need to mix her deliveries to surprise her opponent.

The two weakest links in Indian women's cricket is the fielding and their mental state when put against the wall. Fitness, agility, and a safe pair of hands are the areas that they can practice in the bio-secure bubble, however, they need to get not just physically fit, but also mentally.

With both the men's and the women's team in the bubble, some good interaction between the two squads would be extremely helpful, especially to the women, to build and learn how to approach the highs and lows of the game.

Embarking on a cricket journey to two of the top playing countries is sunshine for women's cricket. One can already see a wonderful rainbow at the end of it. All the best to women in blue!

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

INCUBATING RURAL IDEAS KEY FOR STARTUP PUSH



Viiveek Verma

THE startup ecosystem in India, home to over 41,000 active startups has expanded tremendously over the past decade. While it has emerged as the world's third largest startup ecosystem, with 38 firms being valued at over \$1 billion, or 'unicorns', it has tended to gravitate towards select urban centres. In a country where over 60 per cent of the population hails from rural provenances, this is a glaring obstacle in the way of inclusive innovation and development. Rural and grassroots innovation often finds itself outside mainstream economic imaginations and gets little endorsement from governmental and international actors. Bridging this gap in India's innovation trajectory would require extending what was offered to urban innovators to their rural counterparts—support, promotion and incubation.

Once we appraise why rural innovation must be incubated, it can be discerned that it is not simply an ethical choice to make, but also a certain way to integrate specialisations and skills from the rural economy into the mainstream and generate massive amounts of revenue. Successful incubation programmes do not merely launch businesses but bring regional networks of contact and capital in synergy with the national economy. For example, Sasisekar Krish's 'nanoPix', based in the Hubli district of Karnataka, founded with donations and loans amounting to less than a crore, makes image and video processing products for agriculture and healthcare and could generate revenues of over Rs 2.2 crore in the year 2014. With greater

Rural entrepreneurship can also show the way for inventive and cost-effective models for startup development



WE-Hub, the government-backed startup incubator for women, one of its kind in the country, engaged over 3,000 women entrepreneurs and breached the urban-rural divide. If Telangana's success story is anything to go by, the difference incubating rural entrepreneurship can make is likely to be nothing short of gargantuan

support and promotion, non-urban entrepreneurial ventures could scale greater heights.

Rural entrepreneurship can also show the way for inventive and cost-effective models for startup development. As Sanchit Khera, writing for a noted publication remarks, urban startups generally rely on the western model of pre-money funding or scaled revenue generation. In contrast to this, rural innovation, with limited funds, relies on the acumen of individual innovators who come up with solutions to local needs which lead to prominent breakthroughs. Arunachalam Muruganantham from Coimbatore, popularly known as Padman, invented low-cost sanitary pad-making machines, which run all over the country and internationally credits his origins to the problem of hygiene among women in rural India. Widely appreciated as a social entrepreneur who has generated tremendous local employment and social impact, his success story is an exemplification of the untapped excellence that lies in the non-urban parts of the country.

Several such innovators populate the landscape of Indian talent. In Jharkhand, for instance, the National Innovation Foundation recognised ritual inventions ranging from portable welding machines to tower irrigation systems.

What rural India effectively needs is greater acknowledgement of its novel creations and greater financial and promotional support. Incubators dedicated to this mission can make all the difference in this regard and governments must emerge such ventures. The government of Telangana has led by example in this direction, with the setting up of the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) that aims to promote grassroots innovation and has supported noteworthy rural-origin businesses like Vishwaja Reddy's HiCode and has reached all thirty-three districts of the State. WE-Hub, the government-backed startup incubator for women, one of its kind in the country engaged over 3,000 women entrepreneurs and breached the urban-rural divide.

If Telangana's success story is anything to go by, the difference incubating rural entrepreneurship can make is likely to be nothing short of gargantuan. When the incubator boom reaches villages and smaller towns, poverty, which continues to be rampant in rural pockets can be countered with employment generation, funding and promotion of local talent and a culture of innovation. Incubation centres should be established across all districts of the country to provide assistance to emerging and existing businesses and enable them to accomplish major breakthroughs, alongside bringing their narratives to national consciousness.

The policy measures to be demanded in this regard would include development of financial services in non-urban regions and bridging of the digital divide. On one hand, availability of banking services and provision of funds are crucial to bolstering the capacity of communities to use financial resources better. On the other hand, the presence of digital infrastructure can enable wider and immediate connectivity with the national consciousness and economy. Incubators can engage experts and bring the academia-industry collaboration to villages to nurture regional human capital and provide them access to new markets and the larger economic sphere.

There is no national development without keeping everyone on board and a holistic and inclusive approach towards the same has to do justice to grassroots entrepreneurs and rural endeavour and talent. With greater emphasis on the same, coupled with substantial initiative, India can anticipate monumental advances.

(The author is Founder, Upsurge Global, and Senior Advisor, Telangana State Innovation Council)

Is nuclear power a viable clean energy alternative?



Suresh Reddy

When we hear the words "clean energy," we think of solar panels or wind turbines, but we rarely think of nuclear energy. Nuclear is usually left out of the "clean energy" narrative despite it being one of the largest sources of low-carbon electric power in the world.

France already meets 70 per cent of its electricity needs from nuclear energy. US President Joe Biden committed to cut overall carbon emissions to half by 2030. The US will have to move to carbon-free power generation by then. They projected that renewable energy would produce more than 40 per cent by 2050 - a remarkable growth, but still short of what's needed to decarbonize the grid by 2035. This challenge has led some prominent thinkers such as Bill Gates to reconsider nuclear power as a viable alternative. Nuclear power has a lot going for it. Its carbon footprint is the same as the wind, less than solar, and far less than coal-based power. Gates has been thinking about nuclear power for a while. He founded TerraPower in 2006 and recently told lawmakers that he would invest \$1 billion and raise \$1 billion more in private capital.

But there are still serious debates on the expansion of nuclear power. The main concerns being the safety and disposal of radioactive waste. Plus, nuclear reactors are expensive and take time to build. And despite residual public misgivings over Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, the industry has learned its lessons and established a solid safety record during the past decade.

Its carbon footprint is the same as the wind, less than solar, and far less than coal-based power



On a global scale, nuclear power could be a significant player in the years to come. China, the largest greenhouse gas emitter, increased its nuclear output to six per cent in 2020 and currently has 17 new reactors under construction.

This led to the next-generation designs, producing small, modular and advanced reactors designed to be safer and flexible. An MIT study suggests that standardizing reactor designs and building the same reactor many times is a key to reducing costs. One way to do that may be with small modular reactors (SMRs), which are generally considered to be less than 300 megawatts. This allows these reactors' components to be built efficiently in factories. The small reactors could either be used individually or combined to make a single large power plant.

The US Department of Energy awarded \$80 million each to two companies working on advanced reactor designs intended to address this problem. The first, TerraPower, a startup founded by Bill Gates, is working on a sodium-cooled reactor that, instead of using its heat directly to drive a turbine and generate electricity, stores the heat in a tank of molten salt, where it can be tapped to generate electricity when needed. The second grant went to a company called X-energy for a gas-cooled reactor that

operates at very high temperatures, producing steam that would be suitable for industrial processes and generating electricity.

On a global scale, nuclear power could be a significant player in the years to come. China, the largest greenhouse gas emitter, increased its nuclear output to six per cent in 2020 and currently has 17 new reactors under construction. Most other countries with large nuclear power programs—including France, Japan and the UK - employ a closed nuclear fuel cycle. In these countries, used fuel is recycled to recover uranium and plutonium (produced during irradiation in reactors) and reprocess it into new fuel.

While there is a contingent that believes nuclear is the solution to this impending global crisis, there is also a severe ongoing debate on the risks involved in using nuclear power. Only time will tell in which way this balance will eventually tilt.

(The author is Chairman and CEO of Hyderabad-based Brightcom Group)

Telecom journey from Morse code to mobile



L Antharam

BSNL is replacing its exchanges with NGN (Next Generation Network) ones which work on Packet switching (instead of circuit switching) principle



TELECOMMUNICATIONS and Space are the sectors which witnessed tremendous growth in our country. In fact, proper term for the growth of telecom is not expansion but 'explosion'.

Indian telecom is having more than 170 years of saga. It started with Telegraph. In 1850 first experimental telegraph line started between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour. In Telegraph system, messages are sent using Morse code using dots and dashes. For example, the Morse code for A is • - (dot dash).

Earlier licensing, regulation of tariffs and telecom operations were performed by single entity i.e., Department of Telecommunications. On 20th February 1997, TRAI was formed to regulate telecom services and tariffs and to ensure fair competition among all players and level playing field for them. On 24.1.2000 TDSAT was formed by taking away adjudication and dispute settlement functions from TRAI. On 1.10.2000 BSNL was formed by taking away operations from DOT retaining licensing function with DOT. With the advent of SMS, telegraph service became outdated and was laid to rest in 2013.

Graham Bell invented Telephone. Telephone service started with Manual telephone exchanges and operator at exchange used to ask "number please" and connect to the desired telephone number. At that time, only rich could afford telephones. Many people didn't have access to telephone and never heard of dial tone. Now telephone that too mobile phone and that too smart phone has become a

bare necessity. For connecting long distance calls, Trunk Exchanges used to be there. Trunk lines were running between towns for providing long distance telephone service. Many times, it used to take days for the trunk call to get matured. Lightning calls used to get top priority. With the progress in technology, subscribers themselves can dial trunk calls.

With the advent of technology, manual exchanges were replaced with automatic ones. Initially Strowger exchanges working on relays were inducted, later replaced with Cross bar exchanges.

With the progress in technology, these electromechanical exchanges were replaced with electronic exchanges, initially analogue and later digital ones. Compared to electro mechanical exchanges, the electronic ones have better features including faster switching speed and offer better facilities to subscribers as well as to administration. Similarly manual trunk exchanges were replaced by electro mechanical Trunk Automatic exchanges and ultimately by Digital Trunk Automatic Exchanges (DTAX).

BSNL is replacing its exchanges with NGN (Next Generation Network) ones which work on Packet switching (instead of circuit switching) principle. They handle both voice and data and offer Value added services like Fixed - Mo-

bile convergence, IP Centrex, Multimedia conference etc.

Telecom broadly consists of two technologies, switching and transmission. Telephone Exchanges take care of switching function. Transmission technology deals with how telephone signal from one end to another end is carried. In transmission, technology has transitioned from open wire lines to coaxial and to radio/satellite/optic fibre.

Satellite medium is an ideal one to connect BAcKward, Hilly And Remote (BAHAR) areas which can't be connected by radio or wire. Satellite calls have made people disciplined during conversation. To avoid echo problem, one has to speak only after other man finishes. Echo suppressors/cancellers are used to combat echo.

Satellites revolving in geosynchronous orbit are used for communication purpose. Ours is the first country to have multipurpose satellite, with communication, TV and metrology pay load.

Optical fibre technology is a real boon to telecom. There is no electric interference as there is no metal in it. Light wave travels through it using the phenomenon of 'Total internal reflection'.

Recently BSNL has commissioned Optical fibre link between Chennai and Port Blair, which will revolutionise digital transactions at this island city. Soon, similar link will be established between

Kochi and Lakshadweep islands.

C-Dot exchanges and optic fibre have revolutionised telecom in our country. Their use made it possible to establish exchanges in rural areas and provide STD facility. C-Dot exchanges are suitable for tropical country like ours and air-conditioning is not required. It is an indigenous technology and not a 'transplanted' one. Penetration of STD booths, apart from providing employment opportunities, facilitated people who did not have phones/STD facility, to make long distance calls. As cell phones are available with everybody now, STD booths are closed.

Narrow band internet service was introduced on land lines followed by CLI (Calling line identification) based internet. Now broad band is available on land lines.

Like umbilical cord, land lines connect customers to mother BSNL and BSNL ('Best Spoken National Language') land lines are highly suitable for long duration conversation. It acts as address proof. FTTH service in which optical fibres are laid to customer premises for the provision of high-speed broadband apart from voice is having lot of demand. BSNL has recently started Air fibre service on radio medium for the provision of Broadband in the areas in which fibre is not available. BSNL is giving number portability for the customers who migrate from land line (NGN exchange) to FTTH.

With the advent of mobile communications, land line lost its charm. Lack of storage of contacts and telephone numbers of incoming/outgoing calls and nonavailability of SMS facility are draw backs.

Some TSPs including BSNL have obtained licence for the provision of In-flight Wi-Fi service by using satellites and BTSs. Let us hope that shortly we will be enjoying internet

service while flying.

When 2G services started in our country, it was private operators who offered them. By the time BSNL entered the fray as third operator, these private ones were well entrenched. As BSNL was not charging for incoming calls they had to do the same.

Though it entered mobile segment late, BSNL took over other operators because of its competitive tariff and coverage in rural areas.

2G services support slow speed data. 3G supports faster data speeds. BSNL was well ahead of others in introducing 3G technology. 3G supports video call, data and mobile TV.

With increase in digital transactions, online entertainment, on line education and with WhatsApp and similar applications getting popular, data consumption per person increased and requirement for higher data speeds grew necessitating the introduction of 4G. In the introduction of 4G, BSNL is lagging. Its competitors have already introduced 4G. Wherever it introduced 4G using the spectrum of 3G, the data speeds are quite good. Since now all decks are cleared, we can hope that BSNL will introduce 4G shortly throughout its service area.

Coming to 5G, it supports still higher data speeds with low latency. Self-driven cars is one of the applications. Remote surgery, smart cities, automated factories are other interesting applications. Spectrum is allotted to operators for conducting 5G trials. 5G is likely to be introduced by mid-2021.

Telecom journey from Morse to Mobile 5th Generation and Manual Exchanges to Next generation Network Exchanges is really mind boggling.

(The author is retired Advisor, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) Government of India)

QUIZ NO.
173

HANS BIZ QUIZ

"World No Tobacco Day"

1. Nicotine speeds up heartbeat, is responsible for tobacco addiction. Nicotinic receptors present in the autonomic nervous system get stimulated by Nicotine, a tobacco alkaloid. What is psychological dependence concerning nicotine/drug addiction?

- a) The subordination of emotional withdrawal symptoms to cravings and urges
- b) A state of unease, dissatisfaction, irritability, restlessness
- c) A reduced capacity to experience happiness, pleasure, or anxiety
- d) All of the above

2. Who introduced the MPOWER measures, which correspond to articles of the framework convention? The objective of MPOWER: Protect from second-hand smoke offer help to quit, warn about the dangers of tobacco, enforce ban on tobacco advertisement, raise taxes. Which State government has declared all the post offices in the State are tobacco-free?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Mizoram
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Karnataka

3. Behavioural therapy helps to overcome the psychological dependence upon tobacco and drugs. Which State Government was first to make mandatory that all persons seeking government jobs be non-smokers and non-tobacco users?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Delhi
- c) Bihar
- d) Gujarat

4. Globally, passive smoking causes over six lakh deaths every year. One-third of those killed due to passive smoking are children, often exposed to smoke at home and in public places. Parliament of India enacted the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) in 2003. Which of the following is correct concerning COPTA?

- a) Curb on smoking in public places and mandatory depiction of pictorial warnings
- b) Prohibition of advt and promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products
- c) Ban on sale of tobacco products to below 18 yrs and within a radius of 100 yards from schools
- d) All of the above



5. Kottayam, Kerala, became the first tobacco-free district in the country. What does carbon monoxide in tobacco cause to our body?

- a) Poisonous and odorless gas produced when tobacco burns
- b) Attaches to red blood cells and prevents them from carrying a whole load of oxygen
- c) Cuts oxygen supply to the brain
- d) All of the above

6. Globally, how many non-smokers die each year from second-hand smoke?

- a) Over 10 lakhs
- b) Over 70 lakhs
- c) Over 1 crore
- d) Over 4 crore

7. Which district in India became the first tobacco-free district in the country?

- a) Shimoga, Karnataka
- b) Kottayam, Kerala
- c) Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh
- d) Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh

8. Which part of the nervous system is stimulated by nicotine?

- a) Ventral primary ramus brain
- b) Dorsal primary ramus and brain
- c) Autonomic ganglia and brain in the parasympathetic nervous system
- d) Ventral root and brain

9. Which is India's first tobacco-free village?

- a) Gariphema, Nagaland
- b) Koolimadu, Kerala
- c) Noorundumalai, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu
- d) Pongalipaka, Vizag, Andhra Pradesh

10. What percentage of the world's GDP equals the economic impact of tobacco-related health care expenses and productivity losses?

- a) 32%
- b) 22%
- c) 12%
- d) 2%

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

Asian Boxing Championships

Kom eyes sixth gold medal

Three Indian men Panghal (52kg), Thapa (64kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) a win away from gold medals, summit faceoffs tomorrow

DUBAI

SIX-time world champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) will seek her sixth gold when she squares off against Kazakhstan's Nazym Kyzaiybay in the women's 51kg final of the Asian Boxing Championships here on Sunday.

The 38-year-old Olympic-bound Mary Kom had prevailed 4-1 over Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altantsetseg in the semifinals on Thursday. She will face a stiff challenge from the two-time world champion Kyzaiybay in the summit clash.

Another Olympic-bound boxer Pooja Rani, who received a walk-over in the semi-finals, will fight against an in-form Mavluda Movlonova of Uzbekistan, who ended the challenge of London Olympics medallist Marina Volnova in the last-4 stage.

Anupama (+81kg) and Lalbunatsahi (64kg) will also face strong Kazakh boxers in their respective finals.

On Monday, defending champion Amit Panghal (52kg), Shiva Thapa (64kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) will be seen in action in the men's gold-medal bouts on Monday.

Panghal will be up against 2016 Rio Olympics and world champion Zoirov Shakhobidin of Uzbekistan while Thapa will face Asian Games silver medallist Baatarsukh Chinzorig of Mongolia.

Second seeded Sanjeet will fight against 2016 Rio Olympics silver medallist Vassiliy Levit, who is chasing his fourth gold medal of the Asian Championships.

The Indian boxers have already ensured their best-ever show by securing an unprecedented 15 medals, bettering their previous highest of 13 (2 gold, 4 silver and 7 bronze) achieved during the 2019 edition.

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) has allocated USD 4,00,000 prize money for this championships. The gold medallists of men's and women's categories will be receive USD 10,000 each while the silver and bronze winners will take home USD 5,000 and USD 2,500 respectively.

Eight Indian pugilists -- Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), Jaismine (57kg), Sakshi Chaudhary (64kg), Monika (48kg), Saweety (81kg) among women and Vikas Krishan (69kg) and Varinder Singh (60kg) among men -- have secured bronze medals with their semi-final finish. (PTI)

A Delhi court on Saturday sent Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar to four more days of police custody in the murder case of a 23-year-old wrestler.

The Delhi police had sought seven more days of police custody, after Kumar was produced before Metropolitan Magistrate Mayank Goel in the case, after the expiry of his 6-day police custody. However, the court ordered another four days of police custody.

According to the prosecution, Kumar and other accused took the deceased allegedly to Chhatrasal Stadium and beat him up mercilessly. The police submitted that eight people have been arrested so far in the case and one licenced pistol was recovered from Kumar. The police added that Kumar did not cooperate during the 6-day custody period.

The prosecutor argued that Kumar's custody is required to recover more incriminating evidence, unearth the complete conspiracy and trace the accused who are yet to be arrested. The prosecution alleged that Kumar is the main culprit in the heinous crime, where a young wrestler had died, and added that it was evident in the video clip seized from one of the accused and statement of eyewitness.



Court sends Sushil to another 4 days of police custody

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday sent Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar to four more days of police custody in the murder case of a 23-year-old wrestler.

The Delhi police had sought seven more days of police custody, after Kumar was produced before Metropolitan Magistrate Mayank Goel in the case, after the expiry of his 6-day police custody. However, the court ordered another four days of police custody.

According to the prosecution, Kumar and other accused took the deceased allegedly to Chhatrasal Stadium and beat him up mercilessly. The police submitted that eight people have been arrested so far in the case and one licenced pistol was recovered from Kumar. The police added that Kumar did not cooperate during the 6-day custody period.

The prosecutor argued that Kumar's custody is required to recover more incriminating evidence, unearth the complete conspiracy and trace the accused who are yet to be arrested. The prosecution alleged that Kumar is the main culprit in the heinous crime, where a young wrestler had died, and added that it was evident in the video clip seized from one of the accused and statement of eyewitness.

Indian team to stay in managed isolation before WTC: ICC

DUBAI

THE Indian team will stay in "managed isolation" before the World Test Championship final against New Zealand, the ICC announced on Saturday but did not mention the exact period of hard quarantine upon reaching UK.

World's top two Test teams will fight it out at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton from June 18-22. While New Zealand are already in England for a bilateral series against the hosts, the Virat Kohli-led Indian team will arrive in the UK on June 3 after competing a 14-day quarantine period in India.

"The event has now been granted an exemption by the UK government as outlined in The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel and Operator Liability) (England) Regulations 2021, released on 17 May 2021," the ICC said in a release.

"...Upon landing, they will proceed directly to the on-site hotel at the Hampshire Bowl where they will be tested again before commencing a period of managed isolation," said the ICC release.

However the ICC release doesn't specify the duration of hard (room) quarantine in Southampton. For New Zealand team, ECB made it a three-day mandatory room quarantine before allowing the players to train. Regular tests will be conducted during the pe-

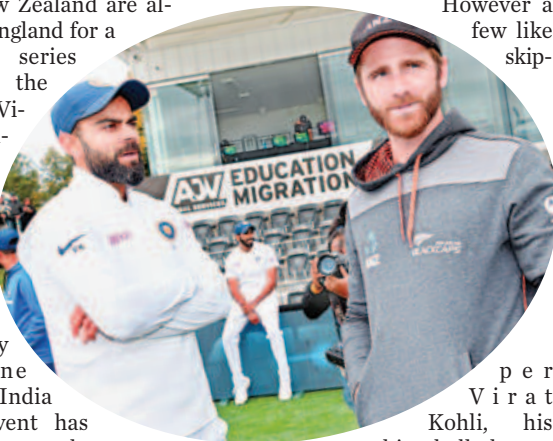
riod of isolation.

The Indian team will enter UK after completing 14-days in a bio-bubble in Mumbai with six RT-PCR negative tests. Some of the players like R Ashwin, Mayank Agarwal, Washington Sundar are now allowed to use the hotel gymnasium from May 25 after a week-long room quarantine and three negative tests.

However a few like skipper Virat Kohli, his white ball deputy Rohit Sharma, all of whom joined late will have a complete room quarantine before boarding the UK flight. They have been provided with gym equipments inside their rooms.

In the UK, players' activity will be allowed in a gradually increasing manner after each round of negative testing, moving from exercise in isolation to small group and then larger squad activity, whilst always remaining within the bio-secure venue.

The New Zealand team will move from the ECB bio-secure environment into the World Test Championship Final bubble on June 15 and will be subject to regular testing prior to and post arrival in Southampton. (PTI)



India to draw on 2019 experience against Qatar in FIFA World Cup qualifiers

DOHA

MIDFIELDERS Rowlin Borges and Brandon Fernandes said on Saturday that the Indian football team would draw upon the experience of playing Qatar in 2019 when they take on the Asian champions in the World Cup 2022 and Asian Cup 2023 qualification fixture here on June 3.

The Sunil Chhetri-captained India will play

Qatar (June 3), Bangladesh (June 7) and Afghanistan (June 15) in the combined qualifying tournament.

"We were motivated to do better. We were frustrated after the match against Oman [India lost 1-2]. We wanted a better result from that match, but we did not get it. So, the pent-up motivation and frustration showed against Qatar. I think because of that we got a good result. It was

a huge result. You could see the celebrations on the pitch," said Borges of the match in 2019.

Fernandes, who plays for Indian Super League side FC Goa, recalled: "We went into the match with a positive mindset. We knew Qatar were a very good team and we could not afford to concede early. We wanted to be in the game till the second half and once we had the momentum, we tried creating opportunities. It was a great game

for us and we defended really well."

It was at this very venue -- Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium -- that India had held Felix Sanchez Bas's men to a goalless draw in the previous set of World Cup Qualifiers 2022 matches in September 2019. Qatar had scored 25 goals in eight matches, and it was India's defence that forced them to a draw. Borges felt that the conditions at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium would be con-

ducive for India to play their natural game.

"The cooling technology in the stadium is amazing. You know it's very hot in Qatar. But you will get cold vibes in the stadium. It keeps you refreshed. That was the first time I had seen something of that sort in a stadium. Even at the 85th minute, you will remain fresh when that air blows. You feel that you can keep on running," said Borges. (IANS)

Sri Lanka open account in ICC Super League, languish in 12th position

DUBAI

SRI Lanka's 97-run victory over Bangladesh on Friday in the third ODI of the bilateral series, which they lost 1-2, earned them their first points in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League.

The islanders, who are due to play India in a limited-overs series in July, have played six matches in the Super League but have won just one.

While the victory has not done them any good in terms of position on the points table as they are still languishing in 12th place, they have managed to earn eight points which is one less than 11th placed South Africa's nine and two less than Zimbabwe and Ireland's 10. While Zimbabwe are in ninth place, Ireland are in 10th position.

Bangladesh, who lead the table with five wins in nine matches, have 50 points. They are followed by England with 40 points from four wins in nine matches.

Pakistan and Australia are third and fourth respectively with 40 points each. The net run-rate differentiates the three sides.

New Zealand, Afghanistan and West Indies are fifth, sixth and seventh with 30 points, while India are eighth with 29 points.

The top seven teams, plus hosts India, from the 13 in the Super League will qualify directly for the ODI World Cup to be staged in India in 2023.

India, being the host country, are guaranteed a place in the tournament.

The bottom five teams will play a qualifying tournament, which will also feature the best teams from the lower rungs of the competition.

The Netherlands are yet to get going in the Super League. (IANS)

Bajrang to miss ranking tourney in Poland, opts for training in Russia

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S top wrestler Bajrang Punia will not compete in the upcoming Ranking Series event in Poland, saying more than the ranking points he desperately needs mat-training with strong sparring partners ahead of the Tokyo Olympics since the 65kg category is loaded with top performers.

The 27-year-old said the pandemic has adversely impacted his training schedule because neither he could travel abroad nor anyone could be invited to India for practice.

While India's other Olympic-bound wrestlers will travel to Poland, Bajrang will go to Russia with his coach Georgian Shako Bentineidis. The June 8-13 event in Warsaw is the last ranking series event before the Olympics. The Indian team will stay in Warsaw for a training camp also after the tournament.

"Before Olympics, I need more training. The last 18 months have been tough. There were neither competitions nor training camps outside. It became a huge challenge to get sparring partners. Staying fit was also a challenge," Bajrang said during an interaction facilitated by Sports Authority of India.

"In my category there are 10-12 wrestlers and each of them is capable of beating anyone. There is no one wrestler who is favourite in 65kg. I can't prepare for one particular rival, what if I don't get him in the draw.

"So I need to focus on my training, so I have planned this Russia trip. I am awaiting my visa. There will be lot of strong wrestlers there in Russia, including world and olympic champions."

A weak leg defence and conceding early points has been a bane for him but Bajrang said he has worked hard to improve on both the counts. His immense power and stamina always gives him

an edge over his rivals.

"My coaches say I end up wasting a lot of power in that point recovery process, so I now try not to concede those early points. My training has been such since my early days that my game has become power-oriented. But still I have worked on my leg defence and it has got better," he said.

Bajrang said he is in favour of Tokyo Olympics going ahead as scheduled even as there is a growing chorus for the Games to be cancelled amidst the pandemic. "As an athlete I want the Olympics to go ahead. No player will say that he wants Olympic Games to be cancelled."

India will field a strong eight-member contingent at the Tokyo Games and Bajrang exuded confidence that the country will get at least four medals. Bajrang said though support to athletes has got much better since 2016 but more needs to be done at the grassroots level.

"We always talk about Olympic medals but we need to support athletes in their junior days. If facilities and support is given to athletes from an early age, then India will be also be a strong Olympic nation like US," he said.

Answering to a different question, Bajrang said till 2005 he did not even know about the Olympic Games. "As I made progress, step by step, my horizon got broad. The goals got bigger, from national to international and then I started thinking about Olympics. Till 2005 I did not even know about the Games. I did not know follow much. I just loved the 'Dangals', he said adding that Abhinav Bindra's gold winning performance at the 2008 Beijing Games is one of his favourite Olympic moments.

Bajrang said getting a foreign coach has helped him as earlier he had struggled to get strong partners when in abroad due to language barrier but since the arrival of Shako Bentineidis, things have become easier. (PTI)







"A premium Co-Living Space"

PROPERTY MULTIPLIER
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

KT Residency approved by  Approved No. PO2400001598

SAFE

Earn extra sft*

AFFORDABLE

9% to 11% Returns

NO MAINTENANCE

Assured rental income for 20years

+91 95337 76694

www.ktresidency.com | sales@kapilproperties.com

Printed and Published by K. Hanumanta Rao, on behalf of Hyderabad Media House Pvt. Limited, Flat No.609, 6th Floor, Kirti Shikhar Building, Plot.No.11, Dist.Center, Janakpuri, New Delhi- 110058.
and Printed at M/s. Marutinandan Printers & Publishers, A-15, Bara Bagh, G.T Karnal Road, Industrial Area, New Delhi - 110033. Editor: V Ramu Sarma. RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095