



## WINDOWS

### Raghuvansh Singh dies at AIIMS, Delhi

Patna (PTI): Former Union minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh died at AIIMS, Delhi on Sunday, a close aide said. Singh died around 11am due to breathlessness and other complications, Kedar Yadav, who remains by the side of the septuagenarian, told PTI over phone. He is survived by two sons and a daughter, he said. Singh's wife had died earlier. The body of the 74-year-old leader will be brought to Patna for performance of the last rites, the aide said. Singh had fallen critically ill late Friday night and was put on a ventilator in ICU in the AIIMS, Yadav added. Earlier in June he had tested positive for COVID and was admitted at AIIMS Patna. He was taken to AIIMS in the national capital recently following post COVID complications.

### Vatican urges return to in-person Mass at the earliest

Vatican City (AP): The Vatican on Saturday said it was "necessary and urgent" to return to in-person Masses as soon as anti-coronavirus measures permit. The head of the Vatican's liturgy office, Cardinal Robert Sarah, said in a letter to bishops conferences that virtual liturgies, while useful, were no replacement for the real thing. He said physical presence by the faithful in churches was "vital, indispensable, irreplaceable." The Vatican said on Saturday that Francis had approved Sarah's letter to bishops conferences, which makes clear that government authorities cannot dictate liturgical practices. Francis had urged the Catholic faithful to obey anti-COVID measures, saying government authorities were responsible for public health. He was seen this week wearing a face mask for the first time, and has been using hand sanitiser.

## BUSINESS

### Stock Market Trading



**Mkts likely to be choppy amid swings**  
**P6**



**Yes, I'm here to sign her. But I'm not a film maker. I run a news channel.**

# Stormy monsoon sessions

## OPPN TO PIN GOVT ON LAC STANDOFF

New Delhi (PTI): The issues of ongoing LAC standoff, handling of the corona virus pandemic and economic slowdown are likely to dominate the Monsoon session of Parliament which begins on Monday, with the opposition demanding a discussion on them, while the government is seeking passage of nearly two dozen legislations during the COVID-curtailed proceedings.

The 18-day session is being held amid unprecedented precautionary measures against COVID-19 due to a continuing spike in cases. On the eve of the session, the Union Health Ministry reported 94,372 fresh cases in 24 hours. The government has listed 23 legislations for consideration and passage including 11 bills replacing ordinances. Several of the opposition parties are likely to oppose four of these bills replacing ordinances relating to the farm sector and the banking regulation amendments.

The opposition is seeking to corner the government on its handling of the standoff with China at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, the COVID-19 situation, economic downturn and unemployment, and is pressing for discussions on these issues. The Congress and other opposition parties raised these demands in the first business advisory committee (BAC) meeting for Lok Sabha chaired by Speaker Om Birla today, but the time for these discussions is yet to be allocated.



Security personnel wearing face shields and masks patrol the premises of Parliament House, in New Delhi on Sunday

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The BAC for Lok Sabha will be held again on September 15 afternoon to further discuss the issues to chalk out the business

Parliament House canteen employees wearing gloves serve tea, in New Delhi on Sunday

schedule for the first week. The same demands were raised by the Congress in the BAC for Rajya Sabha too. The session will commence on Monday with both Houses paying obituary references to former President Pranab Mukherjee and other sitting and former members who have died during the interregnum period. Both houses will be adjourned for an hour after the obituary references.

Rajya Sabha will then hold the election to the post of Deputy Chairman, while Lok Sabha will take up 'The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020' and 'The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020', to replace the ordinances issued earlier.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said that the government is ready to discuss all issues decided by the BAC and has appealed to all parties for their co-operation.

Continued on Page 5

### Kangana meets Guv, seeks 'justice'

Mumbai (PTI): Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut, who is locked in a bitter battle with the ruling Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, met state Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari here on Sunday to apprise him of the "injustice" done to her. She said she explained to the governor her "point of view" and sought "justice". The meeting took place days after the Sena-ruled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) demolished alleged illegal alterations at Kangana's bungalow at Pali Hill in suburban Bandra following a verbal spat between the ruling party and her over her remarks on Mumbai and the city police.

Talking to reporters after the meeting at Raj Bhavan, the actor said, "I met the governor. He heard me as a daughter. I came to meet him as a citizen. I have nothing to do with politics." "I told him about the injustice meted out to me and what happened was improper. It was indecent behaviour," she said.

## Conspiracy to malign M'ashtra: Uddhav

Mumbai (PTI): Facing flak from detractors on both political and corona virus fronts, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said a conspiracy is afoot to malign Maharashtra. "Whatever political storms come, I will face... I will fight coronavirus too," Thackeray said in a televised public address.

A day after COVID-19 cases in Maharashtra crossed the 10-lakh mark, Thackeray said his government has done effective work to tackle the pandemic. Speaking in the backdrop of political criticism over demolition of actress Kangana Ranaut's bungalow in Mumbai and the way his government handled the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, Thackeray assured people that he would fight the political crisis too. "I will have to remove the mask of Chief Minister to respond to politics. I don't speak doesn't mean I don't have answers," Thackeray said.

Speaking on the state government's "Mission Begin Again" campaign during the pandemic, Thackeray said his administration effectively tackled the COVID-19 situa-



**I will have to remove the mask of Chief Minister to respond to politics. I don't speak doesn't mean I don't have answers**

tion, cyclones and floods and will also deal with the political storm with people's support. Thackeray said the pandemic is showing no sign of a respite and the virus is spreading in rural Maharashtra as well.

"But the number of patients recovering is also more. Facts and figures show that if detected early, all patients recover fast," he said.

### Shah re-admitted to AIIMS

New Delhi (IANS): Two weeks after his discharge, Home Minister Amit Shah has been re-admitted to All India Institute for Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after complaining breathing issue on Saturday, multiple sources told IANS. However, the hospital did not come on record to confirm this. The sources told that Shah was admitted around 11 p.m. on Saturday night. As per the sources, he is being kept in CN

tower, a facility reserved for VVIPs. Shah is getting treatment under Dr Ran-deep Guleria, director of AIIMS. His condition is said to be stable now. Shah has been suffering from post-COVID ailments for a month now. He was previously admitted to AIIMS on August 18 after he suffered post-COVID ailments days after his recovery from COVID-19 disease which he contracted in early August. **Cont'd on P5**

## Students write NEET amid strict Covid protocols

New Delhi (PTI): Medical entrance exam NEET began on Sunday amid strict precautions in view of the COVID-19 pandemic at over 3,800 centres across the country with students queuing up as per their designated time slots, adhering to social distancing norms.

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) began at 2 pm, but entry to centres started at 11 am.

Students were allotted different slots for entry to ensure there is staggered movement and social distancing is maintained. Over 15 lakh candidates have registered for NEET, which was earlier postponed twice in view of the pandemic.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' wished luck to the candidates appearing for the exam and assured that



arrangements are in place for their safety. "I wish luck to candidates appearing for NEET today. I am confident that students will appear for the exam with confidence and follow all

guidelines. All states have made required arrangements to ensure hygiene and safety of students as per guidelines," he tweeted.

Mohammad Ovais, who came from Moradabad to his exam centre in Dilshad Garden here, said his entry slot was at 11 am. "I left from Moradabad at 5 am. It is not that risky if everybody follows all precautions, the problem arises when people take it casually. There was no crowding at the centres as everybody had designated slots," he said.

Vanhika Chaurasia, a resident of Rohini said, "Online exam would have been a better option than a pen and paper-based test but we have no option. More delay in exams would have caused loss of a year".

For Yuvraj Kumar, the bigger concern was travelling by public transport.



## Humid Delhi to get rains next week

New Delhi (PTI): Dry weather pushed the mercury slightly up in the city on Sunday and a fresh spell of rains is likely next week, the weatherman said.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, recorded a maximum

of 37 degrees Celsius, three notches more than normal. Humidity levels ranged between 52 and 86 per cent.

The national capital has recorded 74 per cent less rainfall in September so far, according to India Meteorological Department

data. The Safdarjung Observatory has recorded just 20.9 mm rainfall against the normal of 80.3 mm this month so far, while the Lodhi road weather station has gauged only 18.5 mm precipitation against the normal of 80.3 mm -- a deficiency of 77 per cent.

## Ban on TikTok only, not on talent!

V PRADEEP KUMAR

Tirupati: The ban on the Chinese app TikTok could not stop the talent of youth for whom a few Indian apps were ready in store. Though the banned TikTok had millions of users -- both content creators and mere viewers -- who got disappointed initially when the government announced its decision, they were able to switch over to the available Indian apps within no time.

For the TikTokers, it was not only an app but also a medium of expressing their innate talent through which they get rid of their

■ Indian apps give platform for enthusiasts to showcase their skills

■ They rely now on Instagram Reels, YouTube channel, Roposo, Josh, etc

■ Many youngsters have earned thousands of followers for their creativity

boredom from the stereotyped lifestyle. In Tirupati city only, there were thousands of TikTokers though the number of content-oriented talented contributors among them are around one hundred only. They do videos in the apps out of passion and showcase their talent in their chosen field.

One such youngster K

Sasidhar, who loves nature photography, made it as a hobby to click the beautiful pictures in Seshachalam forest and the lovely places in Tirumala. His photos can be found in 'beautiful Tirupati' page which became viral in the social media. Having millions of followers in TikTok, he felt that only TikTok was banned not the

talent as there are no dearth of other apps like Instagram Reels, YouTube channel, Roposo and Josh to reach out to the followers.

For a micro artist D Moulesh, the pencil is his canvas on which he draws artefacts. He used TikTok to exhibit talent and earned thousands of admirers. Now he relies on Instagram Reels and YouTube channel. However, he felt that his followers have scattered in the absence of TikTok but expressed confidence that he could earn many fans with his talent even if he starts with zero now.

Continued on Page 5

## KAPIL KAVURI

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# Womenia



Founder of Green Twigs Ravipati Kumuda explaining the significance of natural oxygen-generators in Visakhapatnam

## A POT OF PLANT FOR A BREATH OF FRESH AIR!

RANI DEVALLA

Every individual can contribute to counter pollution. Bringing home a pot of plant is a simple yet cost-effective step towards this direction, says Ravipati Kumuda, founder of Green Twigs. Apart from selling a whole range of plants in eye-pleasing pots and containers, her six-and-a-half-year-old endeavour offers services in landscaping, vertical gardening, roof gardening and gardening solutions along with maintenance works.

An M. Pharmacy graduate, Kumuda says that she is in a line of profession where she could place her heart. "When you are passionate about what you do, your work eventually stands out," believes Kumuda, who discontinued her tutorial centre that focussed on training aspirants in soft skills.

"I wanted to bring down pollution levels in Visakhapatnam. The simplest solution is encouraging people to invest in indoor plants as most of them act as air purifiers and oxygen generators. Moreover, they are affordable and need very little maintenance. Even if each individual brings home a plant, half of my mission is accomplished," explains Kumuda, who has close to 4,000 plants for assorted purposes, varying from Rs.30 to Rs.40,000 each.

Besides investing in indoor plants, Kumuda lays stress on their maintenance. "It really bothers me when people get their dead plants for repair. The trick lies in adding the right amount of potting mix which varies based on the variety of the plant. But a blend of soil, vermicompost and co-peat aids in longer survival of the plants. Similarly, water requirement and sunlight too differ from plant to plant," explains Kumuda, who underlines the need to understand the nature of the plant and its maintenance before investing.

With the health-conscious keen on finding ways to get rid of indoor pollutants, the founder of Green Twigs says that the demand for natural oxygen-generators has gone up, especially in times of the pandemic. "When certain plants are placed in the rooms, they not only help in sucking away the toxic chemicals present in the atmosphere and purifying the air but also in increasing the oxygen volume. But placement of the indoor plants plays a key role," elaborates Kumuda.

**Indoor air quality can be enhanced with oxygen-generating plants and natural air-purifiers**

Areca Palm trees, Snake plants and Peace Lily for living hall; Syngonium varieties, succulents and cacti for kitchen; ZZ plants for bedrooms; Boston ferns, Orchids and Bromeliad for washrooms are some of the indoor plants, the entrepreneur says, are best suited.

"Prolonged exposure to low air quality impacts our health at large and leads to respiratory issues, headache, allergies and in some cases even stress-induced infertility. By placing right plants in specific quantities at right corners, the indoor air quality is sure to improve and eventually boosts our overall well-being. However, the number of plants is directly proportional to the number of individuals residing in the house," adds Kumuda.

For instance, three medium-sized Areca Palm trees are sufficient for a person to get good oxygen volume. Similarly, four to five

Pothos and Peace Lily plants are required for an adult. However, Kumuda suggests to maintain the soil a little loose and check the topsoil before watering as the frequency is dependent on its moisture retention capacity.

With less investment and minimal maintenance, Kumuda says that oxygen-emanating plants work wonders to enhance indoor air quality.



PUJA GUPTA

The wedding season is upon us, and every bride wants to get that glowing flawless look for her special day. Especially when face masks and humidity are leading to acne and breakouts. If you are a bride-to-be but are unable to follow a pre-bridal beauty regimen because of your busy schedule, don't fret. Here are some skincare habits guaranteed to give you a quick bridal glow.

**Melt away dirt and oil with a gentle face wash**

It is a quick step to start your day with and prepare your skin for a glowing look. This will save time and the need for double cleansing while going through an extra step of CTM routine.

**Puffy eyes**

Get rid of puffy eyes and refresh tired-looking eyes

with a cooling eye stick or a gel based cooling eye mask. It is an easy and quick way to reduce under-eye puffiness on the go. Top it up with avocado eye treatment or cooling aloe vera gel.

**Lip Glowing**

Give yourself a lip glowing treatment, which provides replenishment of oil and the shine of a lip gloss. Invest in lip oils infused with vital fruit extracts and essential oils at night and wake up with fuller and smooth lips.

**Protect your skin**

Start protecting your skin from the sun. Defend skin from skin-damaging pollutants and prevent the dullness for a bright looking skin. Apply a quarter tablespoon of sunscreen before heading out with a minimum of spf 50. Opt for paraben and sulfate free sunscreen.

**Brightening face mask**

Energise and invigorate skin with a brightening face mask. The radiance mask helps brighten fatigued, dull skin. The exfoliating face mask leaves skin feeling soft and smooth ready to steal the show. Look out for glow inducing masks with ingredients like turmeric and cranberry to be applied at night for that awestruck freshness in the morning.

## Be more stylish!

It sounds obvious, but it's easy to forget what's sitting in our wardrobes – and, for many of us, there will be great pieces hidden away that haven't seen the light of day for years, or that will have been forgotten about during lockdown. So, before you go ahead and buy something new, make sure that you have a very clear idea of what is in your wardrobe already.

Here are some goals to attempt now so you can make space, set aside cash and look the best you actually have.

**Don't buy something for just one occasion**

Rather than buying something explicit for specific occasions, attempt to have a couple of dressier pieces in your closet that are more flexible. In the event that you go for something straightforward and more work of art, as opposed to drift drove, you'll have the option to wear it over and over. Decorated cunningly, it will never feel like a similar look.

**Try not to purchase that doesn't fit**

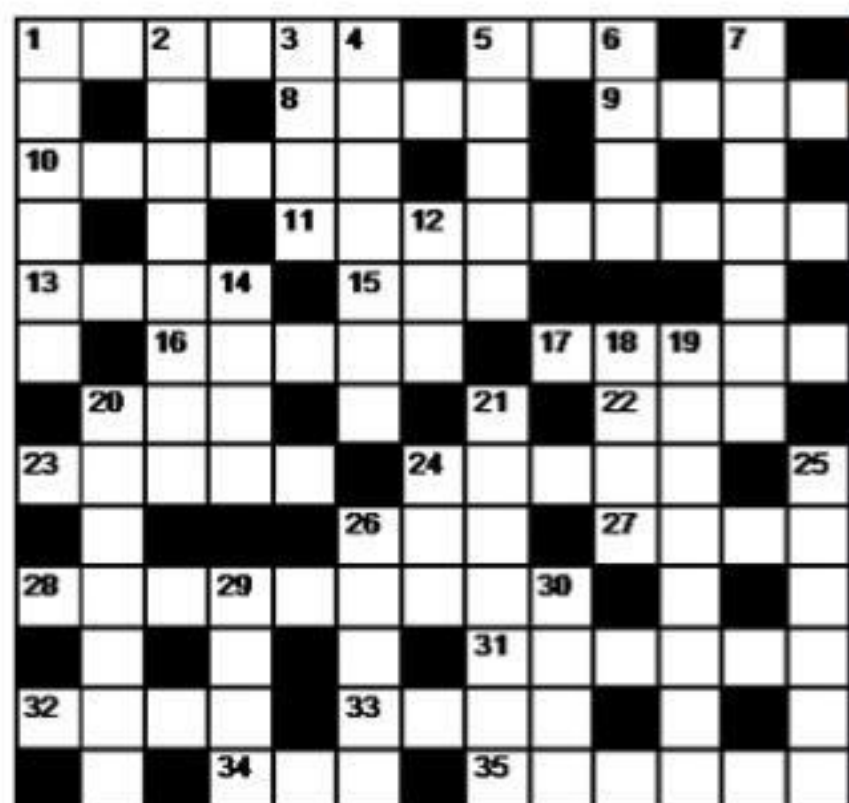
It's normal to clutch things that not, at this point fit you with the expectation that they will again one day. It's additionally normal to purchase something in a size too little as a motivating force to shed pounds or on the grounds that it's in the deal and they don't have your typical size. In any case, clutching these things – that you can't truly wear – is one of the most exceedingly terrible things you can do in case you're attempting to diminish the size of your closet. Be sensible and legit with yourself. In the event that it doesn't fit you, it's an ideal opportunity to sell or give it away.

**Don't that doesn't suit you**

As well as holding onto things that don't fit, many of us keep pieces that we know don't suit us. Often we've bought something on a whim because it's a big trend or because we saw someone else wearing it and thought they looked amazing – but because it just doesn't suit us, we've never actually taken it out of the cupboard. If a piece of clothing doesn't make you feel confident and comfortable, it has no place in your life.



## Skincare tips for busy brides



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 12

### CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Fly larva (6)
- 5 Not even ? (3)
- 8 Fling (4)
- 9 Brainstorm (4)
- 10 Panacea, nostrum (6)
- 11 Externalize (9)
- 13 Noted times (4)
- 15 Charged particle (3)
- 16 Metallic sound (5)
- 17 Dusting powders (5)
- 20 A Hawaiian garland (3)
- 22 Make a brief note (3)
- 23 Botch (5)
- 24 Detection device (5)
- 26 In place of (3)
- 27 Radiograph (4)
- 28 Conceited, snot-nosed (3-6)
- 31 Monkey-like (6)
- 32 Bovine meat (4)
- 33 An extent of land (4)

Down

- 34 Little bit (3)
- 35 First-born (6)
- 1 More humbly submissive (6)
- 2 Scorns, smirks or sneers (8)
- 3 State of USA (4)
- 4 Rotary engine (7)
- 5 Bygone (5)
- 6 Grime (4)
- 7 Exemplary (7)
- 12 Slow run (3)
- 14 Went down (4)
- 18 Trojan War hero (4)
- 19 French region, cross (8)
- 20 Restricted (7)
- 21 Realize beforehand (7)
- 24 Ground cover (3)
- 25 Young swan (6)
- 26 Fundamental unit of capacitance (5)
- 29 Handle of a knife (4)
- 30 Clock face (4)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 12

### NEWS ROUNDUP

#### Indo-American singer Subhi's animated video solution amid pandemic

Independent Indo-American musician Subhi came up with a smart alternative for the video of her new song, considering she could not shoot amid the pandemic.

For the video of her latest number 'Aagosh', she has opted for an animated lyric video.

"Due to the pandemic, I did not shoot this song. Instead, I worked with a talented artist, Susmita Patel, who created the animated lyric video for 'Aagosh'. Creating an animated video is a great option especially at a time like this when we are trying to stay safe and maintain physical distance," she shared.

Speaking of 'Aagosh', it is based on the concept of long distance relationships. "A few years ago, I was living in Mumbai, working on a few music projects while the love of my life was in Chicago. It was one of the most difficult times in our relationship. At one point, we did not meet for three to four months at a stretch. It felt like we were beginning to drift apart.

Fortunately, they came out of this long-distance phase stronger and closer. 'Aagosh' is a song she wrote during those times. I acknowledged the insecurities I developed while being away from my partner. I remember the longing to be with him and wanting time to slow down when he was with me. It was so special when we were together that the thought of going back to India without him used to haunt me. This song is about being in the embrace (aagosh) of the one you love and wanting to hold on to that one moment forever," she said.





# Yechury's name in Delhi riots case: Cong to raise issue in Parl

**New Delhi(IANS):** The Congress has flayed the naming of Left leader Sitaram Yechury and others in a Delhi Police supplementary charge sheet in a Delhi riots case and said it will raise the issue in Parliament.

The other Opposition parties too will raise the issue during the Monsoon Session of Parliament commencing on Monday.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said: "We are definitely going to raise the issue as it is a case of misuse of official machin-

ery." The party is in talks with non-NDA leaders and working on a joint strategy. Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ahmed Patel and Ramesh have spoken to all opposition political parties on the matter. Delhi Police has named Communist Party of India-Marxist General Secretary Sitaram Yechury, Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogendra Yadav, former JNU student Umar Khalid, and others in its charge sheet in one of the Delhi riots cases.

The Delhi Police have brought

the criminal justice system to "ridicule" by mentioning the names of Yechury, Swaraj Abhiyan's Yogendra Yadav and other scholars in a disclosure statement of an accused, attached to the February riots supplementary chargesheet, Congress leader P Chidambaram said on Sunday.

"Has the Delhi Police forgotten that between Information and Chargesheet there are important steps called investigation and corroboration?" Chidambaram, a former Union Home Minister,

tweeted. "Delhi Police have brought the criminal justice system to ridicule by naming Yechury and many other scholars and activists in a supplementary charge sheet in the Delhi riots case," he added. The other people named in the disclosure statement include economist Jayati Ghosh, Delhi University professor Apoorvanand and documentary filmmaker Rahul Roy. The Delhi Police on Saturday clarified that they have not been named as an accused.



# 'Corona disrupts Maoists' supply chain in C'garh'

**Raipur (PTI):** Maoists are facing a crisis, specially disruption of supplies, amid the COVID-19 pandemic and also suffered "huge casualties" during an encounter with security forces in Sukma district in March, an official said citing Maoists documents seized by Chhattisgarh Police.

Cashing-in on the situation, security forces have stepped up anti-Maoist operations in strongholds of ultras in the state's Bastar division, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI on Sunday.

These documents, including some letters written by cadres, were recovered by a joint team of security forces following an exchange of fire with Naxals in a forest near Entapad village of Sukma on September 8, he said.

The gunfight lasted for about half-an-hour after which Naxals escaped into the dense forest leaving behind their bags, documents and other camping material, he said.



"An analysis of the recovered documents has revealed that Maoists have been experiencing tremendous hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic following the lockdown imposed in March this year," the official said.

They have been facing an acute shortage of provisions and their supply networks have been choked due to round-the-clock checking by security forces along the inter-state and inter-district borders, and regular patrolling,

he said.

Arrangements of medicines and ration has been the main concern for rebels during this period, he said.

"We were well aware of the situation and now the documents have confirmed that Maoists are in deep crisis during the ongoing phase," the official said.

He further said that translation of a letter, written in local Gondi dialect by a subordinate to a senior cadre of south Bastar di-

vision, disclosed that Maoists lost their 23 cadres during the encounter at Minpa in Sukma district on March 21 this year.

During the gun battle, 17 personnel of the District Reserve Guard and the Special Task Force were killed.

The official said Maoists had then issued a press release, admitting death of only three operatives of its People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) battalion no.01, headed by Naxal commander Hidma.

"However, we had intelligence inputs that more than 25 Maoists were killed in that encounter," he said.

In order to keep up the morale of their lower-rung cadres, Maoists normally do not disclose details about the huge casualties they suffer during face-off with security forces, he said.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and carrying out operations in Maoists' strongholds in the interiors of Bastar division," the official added.

## Missing Bengaluru youth who helped many join IS killed in Syria



**New Delhi:** A business management graduate from Bengaluru, who was suspected to have joined the Islamic State, has reportedly been killed in Syria.

Faiz Masood, belonging to a wealthy family in Bengaluru, was missing for the last seven years, a report in Indian Express said.

The death of Faiz Masood had been confirmed by a doctor who was arrested recently by the NIA in connection with an Islamic State Khurasan Province case, sources speaking to Indian Express said.

According to sources, Abdur Rahman, an ophthalmologist, was among those who travelled to Syria in 2013-14 to join the IS.

Masood was closely associated with the IS in Iraq and Syria and was a key player in recruiting youths from Bengaluru. He is left behind his parents, wife and two children.

## India battles mental health crisis post lockdown

**New Delhi:** Hemmed inside their homes for months on end as a pandemic raged outside, millions of people are emerging timorously into a world that has drastically changed -- an uneasy adjustment process resulting in a spectrum of mental health issues ranging from depression to that final step, suicide.

The dread of contracting the disease combined with the realisation that the incidence of COVID-19 spiralled instead of being contained in the lockdown and that the days of suspending life as they knew it could extend indefinitely has been profoundly disturbing for many.

Add to this new normal, ill-health, joblessness, financial crises and the everyday stresses that people anyway had to deal with and the COVID-19 tunnel stretches dark and seemingly endless with no light at the end of it. "This prolonged uncertainty has led people to feel a lot more anxious. So people who were on a mild anxiety spectrum earlier have moved to moderate and severe anxiety. When anxiety gets severe, the kinds of be-

haviour of self harm increase," said Arvinder Singh, psychologist, psychotherapist and director of the Ashoka Centre for Well-Being in New Delhi.

In Gujarat, for instance, the 108 emergency ambulance service received about 800 cases of "self injuries" and 90 cases of



suicide in April, May, June and July, officials said. The numbers began to spike soon after the nationwide lockdown, which came into effect on March 25.

Vikas Bihani, 108 service official, said the suicide prevention and counselling helpline usually got around eight to nine calls per month but the numbers have doubled since March.

"Between March and August, we got 142 calls from depressed people. A majority of the callers were facing economic, family or mental health related issues and wanted to end their lives," he further added.

## CRPF jawan kills wife before ending life

**Jammu (IANS):** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan killed his wife and himself while his sister-in-law escaped miraculously on Sunday in Jammu and Kashmir's Jammu division.

Police sources said a CRPF jawan identified as constable Madan Singh Chib shot his wife and himself dead after a heated verbal exchange with his family.

"He also shot at his sister-in-law who was injured, but escaped death miraculously. Eight-year old daughter of the couple was also present when the incident took place. She is safe. "The jawan was posted at the CRPF headquarters in Jammu division. An FIR has been registered in the incident", police sources said.

Reports said the CRPF has also ordered an inquiry to ascertain the facts of the incident.



## Man carves out 3-km canal in 30 yrs to irrigate fields

**Gaya:** A man has carved out a three-kilometre long canal to take rainwater coming down from nearby hills to fields of his village, Kothilwa in Lahthua area of Gaya in Bihar. "It took me 30 years to dig this canal which takes the water to a pond in the village," said Laungi Bhuiyan who has dug out the canal single-handedly in Gaya. "For the last 30 years, I would go to the nearby jungle to tend my cattle and dig out the canal. No one joined me in this endeavour... Villagers are going to cities to

earn a livelihood but I decided to stay back," he added.

Kothilwa village is surrounded by dense forest and mountains, about 80 km away from Gaya district headquarters. This village is marked as a refuge for Maoists.

The main means of livelihood for the people in Gaya are farming and animal husbandry. During the rainy season, the water falling from the mountains used to flow into the river which used to bother Bhuiyan following which he thought of carving out a canal.

## PM praises Nitish, takes dig at Lalu



**New Delhi:** Ahead of the assembly elections in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday gave chief minister Nitish Kumar a pat on his back for ushering in sushasan (good governance) and expressed confidence that the good work will continue under the leadership of the Janata Dal-United chief. Modi dedicated to the nation three petroleum sector projects worth about Rs 900 crore via video conferencing.

Without naming the opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal or its leader Lalu Prasad, and the party's ally the Congress, Modi blamed the states backwardness on a mindset which made them sneer at economic progress and thought lip-service was enough when it came to the betterment of the poor.



## India's Covid tally crosses 4.7mn mark

**New Delhi (IANS):** With a massive spike of 94,372 cases including 1,112 fresh deaths, India on Sunday crossed the 4.7 million-mark on the Covid-19 tally with a total of 47,54,356 cases.

Out of the total 47,54,356 cases, 9,73,175 are active cases, 37,02,595 have been cured and discharged so far while 78,586 lost the battle against the deadly virus. In the last 24 hours, 78,399 patients were discharged while 14,859 fresh cases came up.

While the recovery rate was at a whopping high of 77.77 per cent, the fatality rate has come

down to 1.66 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 10,15,681 cases including 28,726 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, and Bihar come next.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 10,71,702 sample tests in a single day on Saturday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 5,62,60,928.

## Uddhav must resign: Ex-Navy officer

**Mumbai:** Madan Sharma, the retired Navy officer who alleged he was beaten up by Shiv Sena workers in Mumbai, on Sunday hit out at Uddhav Thackeray stating that the Maharashtra chief minister should "resign" if he is unable to run the government. "I request Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray ji that if you cannot run the government, then you should resign. Let people elect a government that can maintain law and order in Maharashtra," he said while speaking to media.

Earlier in the morning, Union minister Ramdas Athawale met Sharma at his residence and extended his support to the retired navy officer in seeking justice.

## AMID ROW, KANGANA MEETS MAHA GOVERNOR

**Mumbai:** Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut met Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Sunday amid friction between the actor and the Shiv Sena. It is believed that the actor will apprise the governor of the situation before she leaves Mumbai on September 14. The actor's meeting comes in the backdrop of Ranaut's bitter war of words with Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut after her remarks that she feels unsafe in Mumbai and has no trust in the Mumbai Police after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

## Lack of English fluency limits online fraudsters to Hindi belt

**New Delhi (IANS):** Online fraudsters might have mastered the art of duping people with various new stratagems but their inability to communicate fluently in English has limited their reach to the Hindi-speaking belt. An analysis of complaints received on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal reveals that the majority of the victims are from Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

On the contrary, when it comes to getting SIM cards to be used in the crime, the fraudsters are getting them from distant places like Assam and Telangana. It was established that the SIM cards are sourced from regions as far-off as Assam's Barpeta, and also Telangana.

"This is done mostly with the help of long-distance transporters (mostly truck drivers) that are from the Mewat region as well as some distant relatives of these cyber criminals who have



settled in those areas," DCP, Cyber Cell, Anyesh Roy said.

A module recently busted by the Delhi Police with the arrest of at least 10 people and apprehension of two juveniles has revealed that the fraudsters use two basic

bikes. They even post photographs of vehicles, mostly taken from the internet, that have either Indian Army or the name of a paramilitary force written on them, with the intent to first win the trust of the victim.

They, then, lure potential buyers to transfer an advance amount into a bank account or an e-Wallet account to seal the deal.

Once this initial amount is paid, they coax the victim to pay more on the pretext of transport and handling charges, GST, etc. Once this is done, they cut all contacts with the victim.

In the second mode, the accused, posing as army or paramilitary personnel, contact the seller of any second-hand goods on e-commerce sites. Once initial contact is established, they tell the seller that they would send the money via a QR code that needs to be scanned. The victim, believing the accused to be a genuine buyer, scans the

malicious QR code sent to their mobile and the money, instead of getting credited, gets debited from their account.

With the objective of dismantling the cyber fraud 'industry' flourishing in the tri-junction region of Haryana, Rajasthan and UP, the Delhi Police's Cyber Crime Unit/CyPAD, has started concerted action against its entire ecosystem comprising callers, the 'money mules' and the SIM sellers.

Acting on approximately 300 complaints received on National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, action has been initiated against the entire fraud chain comprising of callers impersonating as prospective buyers of second hand goods listed on mobile apps, account holders in whose bank accounts the defrauded money is transferred and SIM sellers who have issued multiple SIM cards on fake and bogus IDs.



## TS govt should explore State's tourism potential

While implementing welfare measures for those who really deserve it, the Telangana government should broaden its outlook and explore the potential of tourism sector to generate good revenue. During the agitation for separate Telangana, this was one of the issues the TRS had raised and had said that tourism sector has been grossly neglected in the region though it has tremendous potential to create direct and indirect jobs and can fill the coffers of the State. Though six years have passed by, not much efforts have been made to give push to the tourism sector in the State. Globally tourism is growing in leaps and bounds but here even if one wants to go for a day's outing, there are hardly any proper places or facilities. We still have not been able to sort out basic infrastructural issues. There appears to be systemic neglect and lack of in-

terest on the part of the government. Tourism promotion is not an easy task. It requires synergy among various players, both government and private. A few five-star hotels, spas and resorts cannot attract tourists. This sector has been most disorganised and there has been no professional approach to convert it into a money earning sector. Government officials alone cannot give boost to Tourism in the State. Unless there is professionalism and unless the public and private sectors work in unison, the tourism sector can never grow in the State. There is an urgent need to first identify high calibre professionals and intention to invest in creating necessary engines to develop infrastructure facilities and then a perfect marketing strategy wherein there should be single window system which can help the potential tourist from planning to different options of stay, transport and helping in entire travel itinerary. It should be on a mission mode and become part of 'Incredible India' campaign. The State government needs to develop effective and attractive communication system and popularise tourist spots through brochures, attractive promotional films focussing the tourism facilities, the ambience of the place, and vari-

ous packages that are available to suit different budgets. This sector has tremendous potential to create several jobs and as in Rajasthan or Gujarat, the taxi drivers should be well trained to perform the jobs of story tellers. They should just not be mere drivers but should be more of guides and should be explaining the history and importance of the place they are going to visit during the journey. They need to be well groomed and good in communication skills. Even the tour operators should be encouraged properly and should be given some incentives to promote sustainable and responsible tourism which should be aimed at getting high customer satisfaction and rating. If Rajasthan could utilise its desert, If Gujarat could sell Kutch as tourist destination, why can't Telangana with several potential tourism spots learn to earn revenue by encouraging this sector? It can focus both on ecotourism and temple tourism. What is lagging and what is required is strong determination to accord high priority to this sector. Such schemes will help people earn good money and the need to give freebies or financial doles can be reduced over a period. This would be real people's participation in development.



## Politics by blackmail: Eulalie syndrome in Indian public life

SAEED NAQVI

If the Gandhi trio stirred themselves into action as a serious Opposition, is there a possibility that they would end up in jail? If they were spared despite this affront, it would imply that the Modi outfit has come to the conclusion that the Gandhis are now totally harmless.

Requirements of the media in this regard are helpful to the Narendra Modi establishment in a peculiar way. It keeps the Gandhis in frequent focus with the express purpose of sustaining the delusion that they are still the rallying point for a national opposition. This salience given to the Gandhis keeps them in the public eye and thereby a massive roadblock in the way of any Opposition unity, particularly since the Gandhis and their limping cohorts constantly "emote" an urge to "revive". They know that such a revival is impossible, but the belief serves a purpose indicated above: it obstructs opposition unity. The media is content with the simplicity of the tweedledum versus tweedledee narrative. After all, coalitions and regional diversities are complexities impossible to contain in sound bites.

In recent times, a story that has wafted out of the Gandhi enclosure is one of differences between them. Sonia Gandhi, with reliable retainers like Ahmad Patel is averse to rocking any boat. Status quo, uncomfortable though it be, is about the best she sees for the brood in the given circumstances. Her listless politics is also a function of her indifferent health.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's status quoism derives from her personal anxieties, family problems and an inability to cope with responsibilities. Ask Kishori Lal Sharma, appointed years ago to nurse the 'family burroughs' of Rae Bareilly and Amethi and he will guardedly spill the beans. The poor fellow's Stan Hardy (as in Laurel and Hardy) moustache greyed waiting for Priyanka to address the 'Congress volunteers'. But Priyanka, like Godot, never showed up.

Rahul Gandhi, meanwhile, is being more assertive about beliefs he has long held and which approximate to the line Rajiv Gandhi enunciated at the 1985 Congress Centenary in Mumbai chastising the 'power brokers'. Is Rahul Gandhi looking for that kind of a platform?

In 1969, when his grandmother, Indira Gandhi, split the Congress away from the 'power brokers', the regional satraps, the capitalists, eventually joined up with the Socialists and the RSS in the Bihar movement of 1974 under the leadership of arch Gandhian, Jayaprakash Narayan.

The 1969 split had a Left-Right dimension to it because it was in the context of the Cold War. In the post Cold War world 'Inequality' has emerged as the principal affliction of democracies where people's demands are dismissed as 'populism'. Crony capitalism thrives but no political party is allowed to find its feet if it intends to harness the discontent of the people who have borne the brunt of, say, the extended lockdown in India. There is a huge Left-of-Centre space for the opposition to occupy. It does not have to be terribly ideological. All it has to do is to make available to the people social benefits such as health, education, housing etcetera. Surely Rahul is aware of this opening, even though Sonia Gandhi is averse to any politics that would incur the wrath of the state.

Politics these days is at a standstill because of the lockdown, of course, but also because of what I call the 'Eulalie' syndrome. This light-hearted diversion comes from Wodehouse. The resourceful Jeeves has come to the assistance of his master, Bertie Wooster, at a particularly challenging moment. Spode, the Earl of Sidwick, has become a permanent social menace in a country house which is Bertie's favourite haunt. How to cut down Spode's bombast? That is Bertie's challenge. Jeeves provides the panacea. Bertie has to sneak upto Spode and whisper, "I know all about Eulalie." Bertie follows Jeeves' advice. The result is electric. Spode becomes white as a sheet and collapses in the chair like a deflated balloon. It turns out that before Spode began to float in London's high society, he owned a store called Eulalie which sold lingerie known for its bras with bold designs. Eulalie, then is harmless blackmail. But the blackmail which has become the staple in contemporary politics is brutal.

A whisper on the National Herald case or Robert Vadra's land deals and Sonia Gandhi will begin to resemble Spode after the latter heard the threat made to him, "I know all about Eulalie."

After the BJP's stunning victory in UP in 2017, the opposition, armed with data on electoral fraud, sought Sonia Gandhi's permission to hold a press conference. She refused to get involved in "controversies".

Take a look at Lucknow. Jockeying has begun for the 10 Rajya Sabha seats from UP. Conventional wisdom concedes eight to the BJP and one to the SP. One would have expected the opposition to jointly keep the BJP out of the solitary remaining seat. But individual party leaders are in an almighty state of funk just in case the Enforcement Directorate comes knocking at their door.

Even though the Opposition has a comfortable majority in the Upper House, the BJP rammed through nearly a hundred Bills without any vote. A petrified Akhilesh Yadav is hiding behind columns to avoid political leaders who are pressing him to approach the Supreme Court. What if Yogi Adityanath sets the dogs on him?

In uninformed cities like New Delhi these examples of the ruling party's impunity, away from the media's critical glare, enhance an impression of the BJP's invincibility. Forgotten are dismal economic figures and the simple catalogue that the party is not in power in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Delhi. Just as your eye settles on these facts, India Today thrusts before you its poll results: Modi's approval ratings are 78 per cent. Like the Priest in Kurosawa's Rashomon, you walk away nodding your head, "What is the truth?"

(Saeed Naqvi is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues. The views expressed are personal)

# Learning from China's governance

### THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjhunwala

About 20 years ago, a press officer of the Chinese Embassy in Delhi sought a meeting with me. She asked me at the end of the discussion whether I thought China was India's friend or foe. I replied "foe."

There the exchange ended. Yet we must understand the strengths of our opponent if we have to win against them. At present, China is being internationally derided for crushing democracy in Hong Kong. This anti-democratic tirade started with the 1989 Tiananmen massacre. Since then, US experts have been predicting the imminent collapse of autocracy in China. They have held that there was an irreconcilable contradiction between market capitalism and autocracy. Capitalism needed freedom to grow while autocracy required restricting that same freedom. However, these predictions have been utterly disproven. China has become world's number two economic power while maintaining an autocratic State.

Political scientists say that the fundamental ingredient of governance was "legitimacy." Any system works as long as people consider the rulers to be legitimate. The form of the particular system was not important as long as the people considered it to be legitimate. And, it seems, the Chinese people do consider the autocratic State to be legitimate. The Edelman Trust of the United States publishes an annual report on governance. In their 2020 report, they said that, according to a survey done in October-November 2019, 90 percent of Chinese people have trust in their government. In comparison, 81 percent people in India and only 39 percent in the United States had trust in their governments. Further, 59 percent people in China fear that they may be left behind in the march of humankind. In comparison, 73 percent people in India and 55 percent people in the United States feared so. More numbers of Indian people are afraid that their government will take them into the dumps.

Another study done by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance at the Harvard University has surveyed the governance in China from 2003 to 2016. Here I am giving figures from 2011 to 2016 only since these overlap with the ascendancy of Xi Jinping who is considered to be moving fast to create an absolute autocracy. Harvard University has said that 61 percent of the people considered their local governance to be kind towards the ordinary people in 2011. This increased to 74 percent in 2016. Forty-five percent of the people considered the local bureaucracy to work for the rich in 2011. This reduced to 40 percent in 2016. Forty-four percent of the people considered their local bureaucracy to be concerned with the difficulties of ordinary people. This increased to 52 percent in 2016. Thirty-two

32 percent of the people said that local bureaucracy imposed illegal taxes and fees in 2011. This reduced to 23 percent in 2016. It is clear that the bureaucracy has become more benign during the reign of Jinping.

An article published in the New York Times says that Deng Xiaoping started to reward bureaucracy for ushering in economic development. They were ranked and promoted on the basis of their performance in securing economic prosperity. Thus, the "ossified bureaucracy," says the New York Times, was transformed into a "capitalist machine." In recent times, Xi Jinping has added criteria such as social harmony, environment protection, public service and happiness of people. Clearly, the Chinese government is meeting the expectations of the people even if it is autocratic.

Now, let us consider the views of our tradition regarding democracy. Yudhishtira says in Chapter 108 of Shanti Parva of Mahabharata, "Differences among the top people of democracy is the cause of destruction." Question then is this: Why is it that the United States is, in the words of New York Times, "exporting" democracy when it is not delivering within America and China is doing well without it? Here too Yudhishtira comes to our aid. He says, "The best of the persons in a democracy get controlled by enemies due to differences in their inner thoughts." Again, "Enemies control a democratic country by creating differences among the best of persons." These teachings suggest that the United States is exporting democracy to countries like India so that they can create differences with India and control India. Our democracy, if we hearken to Yudhishtira, may be the route to disintegration of our sovereignty. We should, therefore, not blindly assume that democracy is the best. Let us not forget that democratic India and autocratic China were economically at par in 1981. Today autocrat China has far overtaken democratic us. We must be careful in accepting American diatribes against China because American assessment of the perils of Chinese autocracy has proven utterly wrong. I must admit here that I had also thought in the nineties that Chinese economy will flounder, However, my logic was that Chinese dependence on exports to the West will create trouble for that country if and when the Western economies go into a recession as they indeed did in 2008. I too have been proven wrong on that count. Instead of floundering with the American economy, China has successfully overpowered its rival.

These perils of democracy notwithstanding, it is also true that democracy has been the foundation of development of mankind. The common man gets mental freedom to think and act. Every citizen is free to explore her potential, and this leads to inventions that have transformed our lives in a positive direction. The likes of steam engine, electricity, nuclear power and jet airplanes are all products of democracy, not autocracy. The challenge



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before us, therefore, is to adopt the free-thinking environment of democracy along with the pro-people ambience of Chinese autocracy. We need to take two steps in this direction. One, our rulers must have deep conversations with the opposition instead of deriding them. Dialogue leads to commonality of views and, as Yudhishtira says, the chances of internal division leading to destruction are minimized. Two, we need to transform our bureaucracy the character of which appears to be exactly opposite to that of China. The loot by Indian bureaucracy is destroying every facet of our lives. Our politics is getting focused on reservations rather than on economic growth because

people want their share of the loot by getting government jobs. Our education system continues to sell certificates because highly paid teachers and professors do not have any compulsion to teach. Our economy is going down since the Fifth Pay Commission because wealth of the country is being used to pay high salaries to government servants rather than investing in space research. The combination of deeper democratic dialogue and accountability of bureaucracy can beget us both mental freedom and economic prowess.

(The writer is formerly Professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)

## LETTERS

### Postpone LRS for two years

The Telangana government has announced that the applications of the LRS have to be submitted before 30th Sept, 20 and the applicable fee should be paid before 31st, Jan, 21.

I would like to appeal to the Chief Minister that all people are in trouble due to Covid-19 and several people have lost their jobs or their salaries reduced substantially. Further all are in financial trouble due to someone being sick in the family especially old parents and the medical expenditure is very high. Therefore, I request the Chief Minister to reconsider the LRS scheme and it may be postponed by two years or till situation improves and people are relieved of this severe pandemic which is shaking all the nations of the world. Meanwhile, the people who want to sell their lands, it may be made compulsory getting LRS approved by the govt because it would be easy for them as they would be getting money on sale of their lands. Please reconsider the implementation of the scheme so that 'Telangana 'biddalu' are not put into extreme difficulties. Eagerly awaiting your helping hand to the people who had purchased house plots with a dream to have a house of their own.

A M Daniel,  
Hyderabad

### Growing Islamophobia needs to be stopped

In a chilling incident of Islamophobia, a 28-year-old Muslim Iman was assaulted, and his right hand was allegedly chopped off by two men in Haryana's Panipat town. The incident happened on August 24, and the man's family members lodged an FIR on September 7. They took this time to recover their wits post the trauma. The victim identified as Akhlaq, had left his home in Nanauta, near Saharanpur city to find work in Panipat. When night fell, he sat down to rest in a park. Some youths came by, asking for his name and whereabouts. As soon as they came to know he was a Muslim, they beat him up and when they saw tattoo of 786 (means, in the name of God The Most Gracious The Most Merciful) on his hand, they got jealous and hacked it off with a chainsaw. He was then taken to the railway station and dumped on the tracks, to pass it off as an accident. The victim got help from a man crossing by who helped him inform his family about the mishap. This is absolutely a condemnable incident. Such unexpected incidents have been increasing in some parts of the country. But the government authority takes no accurate step against culprits to stop such bad things. As per reports, the family members reported to the police but unfortunately, they seemed to have already decided to dismiss the case by calling it an accident. I appeal to the government to take strong actions against those who committed such heinous act, which is destroying the peace and harmony in the country.

Noor Ahmad, Hyderabad

### Violence no solution to any problem

The biography of our nation is scarred by indescribable acts of individual and collective violence. Headlines of morning newspapers regularly disburse news about the latest incident of, often, incredible brutality etched onto the bodies of women, of children, of the so-called lower castes, of minority groups, and of vulnerable others. Violence is executed with deadly precision. At any given day and time, everyday violence ranges from road rage, to major destruction that follows brutal and completely amoral terror attacks, to crowds that run amuck setting fire to public property, to demonstrations that go painfully wrong and lead to death. Some forms of violence are extraordinarily collective – such as communal or caste riots, or civil wars resulting in thousands of deaths. Some penetrate deep into the body politic and appear as the ordinariness of everyday life, such as violence against women. Sadly institutions, procedures and agents which are supposed to protect citizens, such as tribunals, committees and courts, are compromised. All governments are arbitrary and heedless of the interest of their citizens, particularly the most vulnerable sections of society. Such arbitrary exercise of power has to be kept in check in a democracy by institutions, laws, processes, and civil society organisations.

Niharika N K, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com



# Step up vigil at places of worship: DGP

- Tells police officials to geo-tag all places of worship by Sept 16 and to hold discussions with stakeholders to ensure protection of places of worship
- Local stakeholders should be involved to maintain peace, law and order and ensure communal harmony

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** Director General of Police (DGP) D Gautam Sawang has asked the police to involve the local stakeholders to maintain peace, law and order and communal harmony in the State and ensure that the management committees of the places of worship install CC cameras and provide adequate lighting. The DGP has asked the police



DGP D Gautam Sawang speaking to police officers of different districts over a videoconference from the State Police Headquarters at Mangalagiri on Sunday

to step up vigil near the holy places by arranging night beats. He conducted videoconference with the police officials in the State on Sunday and discussed the measures taken by the police to ensure communal harmony, protection of the places of worship and other issues in view of the chariot getting burnt at Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy

temple at Antarvedi in East Godavari district recently.

The DGP instructed the officials for the geo-tagging of all places of worship by September 16 and asked them to hold discussions with the stakeholders to sort out differences on the holy places.

He said some vested interests may flare up communal tensions

in the State taking advantage of accidents or some incidents related to religion and places of worship. The DGP has recalled that during the course of investigation, the police noticed gross negligence of the temple administration at Antarvedi in maintenance of the temple and chariot.

The DGP said the police must ensure strict implementation of the Public Safety Act and work in co-ordination with the stakeholders, peace committees and others to protect communal harmony in the State. Sawang has made it clear that persons or organisations, who install an idol, construct the temples, church or mosque or arrange a religious symbol must take responsibility for its maintenance.

The DGP said there is a scope for giving communal colour to the offences committed by habitual and petty offenders like temple offenders, who rob hundi collections from the temples and asked the police to be highly vigilant in such cases and incidents. Police officials who participated

in the video conference on Sunday said they had collected the details of all chariots, churches, mosques, temples and other places of worship in the State and were asking the managements of the committees to take measures for their protection.

They said that in case of big temples, they were conducting mock drills to get prepared to face any eventuality.

In areas like Tirupati and Kurnool where temples are located in the hilly areas, the police said they had been working in co-ordination with the fire services and other departments for safety of the temples, chariots etc. Some police officials said treasure hunt was very common in their districts and informed the DGP that they would keep vigil on the habitual offenders.

The police officials informed the DGP on the list of churches, temples, mosques and chariots in their respective districts and that they had been working out to ensure safety of the places of worship.

## 9,536 new cases in 24 hours

**Amaravati:** The total number of coronavirus cases in Andhra Pradesh touched 5.67 lakh on Sunday after about 46 lakh sample tests were conducted so far, with a positivity rate of 12.33 per cent.

The latest Covid-19 bulletin said 10,131 patients had recovered from the infection in 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday while 9,536 more tested positive.

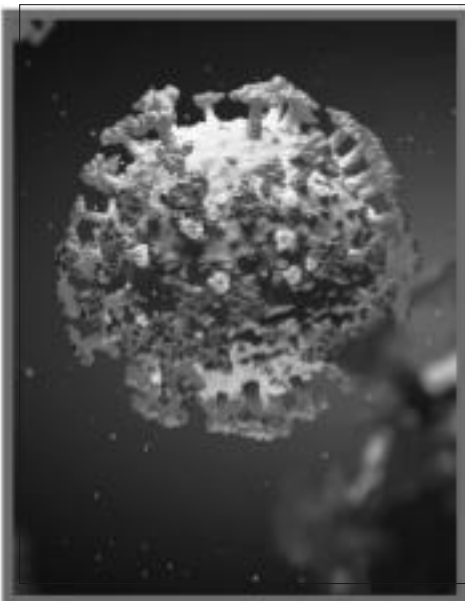
The State recorded 66 more coronavirus deaths, taking the toll to 4,912.

Till date, a total of 4.67 lakh patients had recovered from the pandemic, leaving 95,072 active cases in the State, the bulletin said.

The menacing rise in cases continued in East Godavari district, one of the worst performers in the country now, as 1,414 were added afresh in 24 hours, pushing its overall count to 76,808.

Its neighbour West Godavari crossed the 50,000 cases mark, adding 1,076 in a day.

Guntur district went past the 45,000 mark with



66 deaths reported and toll increases to 4,912

792 additions.

Chittoor and Anantapur are racing together towards the 50,000 cases mark.

In 24 hours, Anantapur, SPS Nellore and Prakasam each reported seven fresh casualties followed by Kadapa and Visakhapatnam with six each.

Chittoor, East Godavari, Krishna and Kurnool added five more deaths each to their tally.

## Low pressure area over Bay of Bengal

- Moderate to heavy rain forecast at isolated places in coastal districts
- Light to moderate rain also forecast in some places in Seema

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** A low pressure area persists over west central Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh coast. Associated upper level cy-

clonic circulation extends up to mid-tropospheric levels tilting southwestwards with height. It is likely to become more marked, based on IMD satellite and DWR observations.

Due to this, moderate to heavy rain may occur at isolated places over East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore, Kurnool and Kadapa districts.

Light to moderate rain may occur at isolated places over Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, Chittoor and Anantapur districts.

# IMMENSE RESPONSE FROM DEVOTEES TO PARAYANAMS

- Laud the TTD for facilitating live telecast of Parayanams on SVBC
- EO Anil Kumar Singhal points out that there is foolproof security to TTD chariots and its properties

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirupati:** Devotees from across the country heaped praises on the TTD for facilitating the live streaming of various Parayanams, devotional programmes in Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel of TTD during the monthly 'Dial your EO' programme held at the Meeting Hall of the TTD Administrative Building here on Sunday.

Callers poured in appreciation for Veda Parayanam, Sundarakanda Pathanam, Virataparva Parayanam and the newly introduced Bhagavat Gita Parayanam and complimented the efforts of TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal and Additional EO AV Dharma Reddy who is also the MD of SVBC, who are behind the introduction of series of devotional programmes which the SVBC has been telecasting live daily in the morning and evening adding more to its spiritual quotient.

The pilgrim callers lauded the TTD for the devotional programmes which are being telecast live on SVBC especially during the Covid-19 pandemic and sought to continue them as they act as morale boosters.

Thanking the pilgrim callers through live phone in programme, the EO said, all the parayanam programmes have won appreciation not only from across the country but globally.

"Never before in the history of SVBC since its inception some 12 years ago, it has received such an



TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal speaking at the 'Dial Your EO' programme from the administrative building in Tirupati on Sunday

overwhelming response for its programmes," Singhal said assuring devotees that the TTD will continue the programmes as SVBC is the best tool to reach wide range of pilgrims and to promote Hindu Sanatana Dharma to the nook and corner.

"Apart from Parayanams, we are also contemplating to design some more programmes targeting children and youth as there is every need to imbibe and teach the values embedded in our epics and scriptures to the next generations", he maintained.

Answering a caller from Visakhapatnam, who sought protection to sacred chariots of TTD temples in view of Antarvedi incident, the EO said, the TTD has hi-fi security cover for its properties and chariots. "Our Chief Vigilance and Security Officer along with Urban SP also had an elaborate meeting on how to extend protection at all temples recently. So no need to worry as we are fully geared up," he added.

When some pilgrims sought to resume Sarvadarshan, the EO told them that the TTD had earlier re-

leased 3,000 time slot Sarvadarshan tokens offline. "But following a caution call over the spread of corona as devotees are gathering in thousands from other States more so neighbouring Tamil Nadu owing to Peratasi holy month flouting the norms of social distancing and wearing masks, we have temporarily suspended issuing tokens in Tirupati till this month end," he pointed out.

Apparently miffed at adverse social media posts slamming the TTD for suspending issuance of time slotted Sarvadarshan tokens (SSD) and alleging commercial motives behind it, the EO said there is no truth in the allegations and added that it would resume soon after the situation improves in Tirupati.

CAG for transparency: Before taking the calls from pilgrims, the EO said to have a transparent administration, the TTD Trust Board decided to get the auditing of TTD accounts done by the autonomous Comptroller and Auditor General replacing the present State auditing.

In this connection, Singhal

said the TTD is often dragged into multiple controversies by those with vested interests who allege that the TTD funds were being diverted to other causes other than Hindu Dharma Prachara adding that handing of the auditing of the accounts of TTD which has an annual budget of Rs 3,200 crore to CAG will put an end to all such allegations.

The EO said darshan for Online Kalyanotsavam ticket-holders has been introduced by TTD and the devotees who booked online can avail darshan within 90 days from the day of their booking. He also said Kalyana Kankanams will also be sent along with Prasadam through postal department.

"Similarly as we have stalled all Arjitha Sevas due to Covid, the Udayasthamana Seva ticket holders and Vimsathi Varsha Darshini ticket holders will be given darshan in VIP break till situation turns to normalcy," he maintained.

Additional EO AV Dharma Reddy, JEOS P Basanth Kumar, Sada Bhargavi, CVSO Gopinath Jatti and CE M Ramesh Reddy were also present.

## Don't get cheated by middlemen, TTD tells devotees

**Tirupati:** In spite of repeated appeals by the TTD not to get cheated by middlemen or fake websites for darshan or job recruitment, some devotees are still falling prey to such dubious activities.

The TTD vigilance department once again appealed and cautioned the devotees not to get carried away and cheated by the middlemen offers of begetting prestigious seva tickets of Srivari Vastram, Udayasthamana and Abhisekam sevas.

In a statement on Sunday, the TTD vigilance department officials clarified that in view of Covid-19 restrictions tickets for such sevas are not issued at all to anyone.

With regard to all Arjitha Seva tickets every devotee is advised that they could be procured only through official TTD website [www.tirupati-balaji.ap.gov.in](http://www.tirupati-balaji.ap.gov.in)

Such prestigious Arjitha Seva tickets will be available after resumption of these sevas and that too through lucky dip platform after booking the tickets. The TTD has made a renewed appeal to devotees not to trust the middlemen who make such offers and that TTD will take stringent action against such elements who mislead the devotees.

## Shah re-admitted to AIIMS

*Continued from P1*

He had tested positive for COVID-19 on August 2 and received treatment at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram.

He was discharged after testing negative on August 14 only to re-admitted in AIIMS days after to treat his post-COVID syndromes on August 18. He had complained of breathing issues then.

## Ban on TikTok only, not on talent!

*Continued from P1*

There are many such talented youth in the city such as Yagna Priya Kandala who can sing in seven languages and make singing videos, Bhavya, who dances aptly for movie songs and Dr Bhavana, who posts videos on make-up and health tips, while B Sasidhar creating his own concepts about girls' safety to bring awareness and the list is endless.

Many of them have been using Instagram Reels as it is the next top most trending app to reach out to a wider section of society. While some have started their own YouTube channels some others are planning to start. They all strongly believe that the Indian apps such as Roposo, Chingari, Hello Cherry, Moj, etc, can undoubtedly replace Chinese apps very soon.



An official checking temperature of a student with thermal scanner at NEET exam centre in Tirupati on Sunday

## 93.17% aspirants turn up for NEET in Tirupati

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirupati:** The National Testing Agency (NTA) held the NEET (UG) – 2020 across the country on Sunday. In Tirupati, 24 centres were set up to facilitate 10,113 candidates to take the test while another 13 have changed their centres to attend in Tirupati taking the total to 10,126. Out of this 93.17 percent students have attended the test with 6.83 per cent absentees, said the Coordinator for Tirupati Palle Sindhu, Principal of 'Shloka - A Birla school'.

It was held peacefully by duly following all Covid protocols. The candidates were allowed into examination halls from 11 am onwards and upto 1.30 pm while the actual test was held between 2-5 pm. The examination was held under CCTV surveillance in all the rooms.

Only one Covid positive student had come to attend the examination, who was sent back following the guidelines received from NTA stating that the test for such students will be held later.

APSRTC has operated about 70 special buses for the candidates from 6 am to 11 am from several depots to Tirupati. Another 30 buses were operated from the central bus station to examination centres. About 100 buses were sent from Tirupati in Anantapur, Vijayawada, Kurnool, Kadapa, Nellore, Madanapalle routes to facilitate candidates to reach their places after the examination.

Meanwhile, The Hans India photographer Kalakatta Radha Krishna helped two girl students to go to their examination centres. Out of them, one was from Kuppam and the other one from Srikalahasti. They both reached Sri Padmavati Women's junior college instead of going to Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswavidyalayam (SPMVV) as they were confused with the two centres. When they started crying as the time was running out, Radha Krishna responded immediately and took them to SPMVV on his motorcycle by taking two trips. He received applause from the staff on duty near SPW junior college.

## Govt flayed for ignoring welfare of construction workers

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The YSRCP government failed to take care of the construction workers in the State for the last 15 months, lambasted Jana Sena president Pawan Kalyan, in a series of tweets on Sunday.

Stating that there are 22 lakh registered construction workers in the State, Pawan pointed out that they had earlier faced problems due to sand shortage and now the sector was badly hit due to the Covid pandemic. Despite the workers facing hardship, there has been no support from the government, he lamented.

Instead of taking care of the workers, the government has diverted funds worth Rs 450 crore which belonged to AP Construction Workers Welfare Fund for other purposes, Pawan said. He wondered why the funds were diverted even without consulting the Construction Workers Trade Union.

He asked the government to take immediate measures for the welfare of construction workers.

## Stormy monsoon sessions

*Continued from P1*

He said a meeting of leaders of various parties would be held on Tuesday on whether a discussion on the India-China border issue will be held.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said the Monsoon session is being held amid fear and unprecedented times due to COVID. He said, "India and China are in a conflict situation in Ladakh and there is tension, GDP is tumbling and inflation is rising". "We want to discuss many issues in Parliament that the country and its citizens would want to hear about," he said.

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the Congress has demanded that there should be a discussion on the situation at the border and Chinese aggression, besides on COVID-19 pandemic, the economy and joblessness, but the government is yet to give any assurance. "We have urged the government that our voice should be heard in Parliament," Chowdhury told reporters.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Congress and other opposition parties will oppose four of the 11 legislations the government proposes to

bring in the session to replace the ordinances issued earlier and expect Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reply to their concerns. Ramesh said the Congress is in touch with other like-minded parties and has decided to strongly oppose the three agriculture-related legislations and the amendment to the Banking Regulation Act in both Houses of Parliament.

"We hope the Opposition would get an opportunity to speak and serious national issues would be discussed. We expect the prime minister to be present in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and give a reply to the questions raised by us," he said.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi will miss a large part of the session as she left for the US on Saturday for a routine medical check-up and will return after a fortnight. She is accompanied by her son and party leader Rahul Gandhi, who is likely to return within a week to lead the Congress' offensive in Lok Sabha.

In a statement, the CPI(M) said it is opposed to 11 ordinances promulgated by the government during the period of lockdown. "Some of these, particularly concerning Indian agriculture, are extremely dan-

gerous and damaging to our farmers, Indian agriculture and India's economic sovereignty. The CPI(M) has moved a notice for statutory resolutions opposing these ordinances and demanding their withdrawal in both Houses of Parliament," it said.

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut has also demanded that there should be a discussion on the border conflict with China, COVID, GST dues and unemployment. All MPs have been asked to undergo a COVID test and only those with a negative report will be allowed to sit in the session. The security and secretarial staff in Parliament have also been asked to take coronavirus tests before their entry. While on the first day of the session on Monday, Lok Sabha will sit in the morning from 9 AM to 1 PM, Rajya Sabha will sit in the evening starting at 3 PM on Monday. On the rest of the days, Rajya Sabha will sit for four hours in the morning and Lok Sabha in the evening.

The chambers of both houses and the galleries will be used for each of the session of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and big screens have been put up to enable members to see the proceedings all over the Parliament.





Emotional investment is a sure way to make loss in stock markets

- Rakesh Jhunjhunwala



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## IN SHORT

### New norms on corporate governance

The market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed amendments to the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations-2015 to strengthen corporate governance practices and disclosure requirements. "In the interest of good corporate governance, it is proposed that provisions that become applicable to a listed entity on the basis of market capitalisation, shall continue to apply irrespective of change in the market capitalisation," Sebi said. The market regulator also aims to ease compliance burden on listed entities, harmonise with the Companies Act, 2013 and maintain consistency within the LODR Regulations. Under the proposed changes, Sebi has mulled insertion of a new sub-regulation, as per which the provisions of the regulations which become applicable to listed entities on the basis of market capitalisation criteria will continue to apply to such entities even if they fall below such thresholds. The report noted that certain provisions of the LODR are applicable to a defined set - top 100, 500, 1000, 2000 -- of listed entities on the basis of market capitalisation.

### Forex reserves rise to \$542 bn

India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves rose by \$582 million during the week ended September 4. According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly statistical supplement, the reserves increased to \$542.013 billion from \$541.431 billion reported for the week ended August 28. India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs), and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by \$269 million to \$498.362 billion. Similarly, the value of the country's gold reserves increased. It rose by \$321 million to \$37.521 billion. The SDR value inched up by \$2 million to \$1.482 billion. However, the India's reserve position with the IMF decreased by \$9 million to \$4.647 billion.

### Mid, small-caps to get ₹35,000 cr

To diversify the investments of multi-cap mutual fund (MF) schemes, the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has prescribed that a minimum of 25 per cent each be invested in large, mid and small-cap companies. With the new norms, an amount equivalent to Rs 35,000 crore will move out of large-caps and will move into mid and small-caps. This move will help mid-cap and small-cap stocks to move up on the light of their share going up in terms of allocation. As of August-end, the multi-cap funds had assets under management of Rs 1.46 lakh crore. Experts say that these funds will have to be moved out from large-cap stocks where currently the fund holdings are concentrated.

# Mkts likely to be choppy amid swings

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

Buoyed by sharp gains in Reliance Inds (RIL), easing of Indo-China border tensions and indications of 'green shoots' in economy, the domestic markets rebounded during the week ended September 12, 2020. The BSE Sensex climbed 497.37 points or 1.30 percent to close at 38,854.55, while the Nifty-50 gained 130.60 points or 1.15 percent at 11,464.45. However, the broader markets underperformed frontline indices with mid-cap and small-cap indices losing one per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively. The broader markets are expected to relatively outperform the benchmark indices, as after past two week's correction of nearly eight per cent both Nifty mid-cap and small-cap indices found support from 50 per cent of retracement of their August rally. After Sebi decision on allocation of funds by mutual funds (MF) to mid-cap and small-cap segments, market players expected heightened action in these segments. Re-allocation of Rs 40,000 crore from large-cap to mid and small-cap stocks is expected. Out of this Rs13,000 crore will go to midcap and Rs 27,000 crore to small-cap stocks. Accumulate quality mid-cap and small-cap stocks, which offer fresh entry opportunity with favourable risk reward. WPI and CPI inflation data for August will be released on Monday. US Fed meeting in the week ahead may set tone for global markets. US Fed is largely expected to keep interest rate zero, but all eyes will be on

## MARKET Khabrein

The Supreme Court adjourned a petition seeking extension of moratorium and waiver of interest on interest till September 28, 2020. Financial stocks are expected to remain range bound till the outcome of the SC judgment



The commentary with respect to economic recovery especially after the fall in US markets led by tech stocks and stalled much-awaited fiscal stimulus package in the Senate, and ahead of US Presidential elections in November.

*Heard on the Street:* Derivatives have been called weapons of mass destruction. However, in recent times the new breed of investors of Covid times armed with derivatives are raising volatility and exhibiting 'power of retail investors.'

This heavy use of derivatives may also explain some unusual market dynamics. Because shares tend to inch higher steadily, but drop more rapidly, rising markets usually occur amid falling volatility.

After blistering sell-off days, the stock markets are rebounding quickly, suggesting investors are still seeing buying opportunities when markets dip. But the dramatic swings have highlighted a shift in market dynamics that may continue to foster instability. The markets are driven by a rare combination of retail investors and high-octane derivatives trading. Because of the influential role of turbocharged retail investment, prices can be expected to remain choppy.

Moreover, the global markets are entering a period where typical covid-19 related volatility may be exacerbated by the twists and turns of America's presidential election.

*Quote of the week:* Know what

**Meghmani Organics Ltd** is a manufacturer of pigment and pesticide products. The company's segments include pigments, agro chemicals, basic chemicals and others. The company's brands include Megastar, Megacyper, Megaban, Synergy and Courage. The company's basic chemicals portfolio includes caustic soda, chlorine and hydrogen. Buy on declines for medium term target of Rs140.

### STOCK PICKS

**Aegis Logistics Ltd** is engaged in providing logistics and supply chain services to the oil, gas and chemical industry.

It markets LPG packed in cylinders, which are used for domestic, commercial and industrial applications. It operates a network of filling plants, distribution points and dealers under the Aegis Puregas brand. Buy for medium term target of Rs350.

yond the 25-30 range would be a cause of concern say observers. Indications are in favor of further consolidation in the Nifty. Sectorally, IT, energy outperformed while banks and metal underperformed during the week.

Reliance Industries (RIL) has been among the best performing stocks since the markets hit their low in March 2020 - rising from around Rs 875 levels then to Rs 2,315 now. The rally has been fuelled by the company's ability to attract marquee global investors - first in its telecom business vertical, Jio Platforms, and now in the retail arm. The stock looks strong from a medium-to-long term view and indicates a rally towards the Rs 3,000 mark over the next few months. The Supreme Court has adjourned a petition seeking extension of moratorium and waiver of interest on interest till September 28, 2020. Further, the court ordered that loans classified as performing as of August 2020 will remain standstill until the case is disposed. Financial stocks are expected to remain range bound till the outcome of the SC judgment. Industrial production contracted for the fifth consecutive month in July, by 10.4 per cent, slower than June's 16.5 per cent. Stock futures looking good are Adani Enterprises, BPCL, Dr Reddy's, L&T Finance, Siemens, TCS, TVS Motors and Zee Entertainment.

*(The author is a stock market expert. He is former vice chairman of AP Planning Board)*

# Quality micro-cap stocks remain in focus



K Naresh Kumar

Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Friday (September 11, 2020) issued a circular regarding the asset allocation in the multi-cap funds. The initial scheme categorization circular issued in October 2017 only wanted a multi-cap fund to maintain 65 per cent equity exposure with no other regulation on market cap allocation. Now, it has modified the asset allocation rules "in order to diversify the underlying investments of multi-cap funds across the large, mid and small cap companies and be true to label."

To understand better, multi-cap funds are seen as all-weather funds for their flexibility to invest across the capitalizations of the stock markets. The seamless transition from a large-cap heavy to mid and/or small-cap to take advantage of the opportunities is possible in these funds. The fund manager will also have the freedom and less restrictions in sticking to a profile other than to make greater returns to the investors. This is the largest category with about 20 per cent of the mutual funds (MF) industry similar to that of the large cap funds. From the investor perspective too, these funds offer better

risk adjusted returns than that of the mid and/or small-cap funds due to their very nature of having a buffer through the large cap exposures.

Ever since, the reorganization of mutual funds through categorization came into effect, the mid and small-cap stocks have taken a dent with particularly the smaller caps coming off from their heady 2017 performance levels. The categorization forced the divestment of allocations that were not in sync with their objective or category and mid and small caps have taken by a big portion of the hit due to the subsequent sell-off. The Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) on equity and related investments only added fuel to this exodus.

In a move that seems like a redemption of the earlier step, has come up with classification on the 75 per cent of the equity investment with a minimum of 25 per cent each in large, mid and small cap coming into effect from February 2021. It's to be observed that due to the current conditions of global and domestic uncertainty, most of the funds, especially with the larger asset size have majority of the allocation to the large caps among their multi-cap funds. This is just an aberration and none of the managers would pile up the large caps if the mid and small-cap stocks are as lucrative.

Also, need to be considered is that most of the current multi-cap funds are benchmarked against BSE/Nifty-500 where the large-cap stocks constitute about 80 per cent of the total capitalization. So, naturally fund managers would more or less imitate the benchmark and is evident from



Quality micro-cap stocks have remained in favor of the investors and fund managers, irrespective of the market conditions albeit at a lower end currently due to the prevailing market and macro environment due to the pandemic

their current asset allocations. The post-March rally has brought in new investors willing to make a quick gain by adding into the already discounted prices in the small cap. The slowing down economy and the lack of liquidity in the small cap space has resorted to flight to safety by the managers to stick to large caps.

Again, it is to be noted that quality micro-cap stocks have remained in favor of the investors and fund managers, irrespective of the market conditions albeit at a lower end currently due to the prevailing market and macro environment due to the pandemic. While the new circular gives about six months' time for the incumbents to mend to the restrictions imposed, there could be a lot of volatility in the performance especially

with funds of larger sizes. A quick estimate puts that over Rs27,000 crore is to be added into the small-cap stocks by the existing multi-cap funds and an additional 13,000 cr to the mid-cap stocks, while bringing down over 34,000 cr from their large cap exposures.

This has the potential to create rallies in the mid and small cap while a bit of rationalization in the large cap. The existing investors in the mid and small-cap funds could gain from this and also of those with focused funds (with higher mid/small-cap exposures). The fund inflows also benefit the low float companies with better prospects of growth with an existing low debt and quality business. The new rules could lead to a new churn while also forcing to compromise on the quality due to the mandatory percentage allocation leading to underperformance in the category. While the Sebi's diversification agenda is clear, the execution is riddled with quality, liquidity and fund sizes. There's also a potential of some of the funds merging or classifying to another category according to their overall portfolio. The move also could make the existing small cap funds more concentrated and lead to different issues if a rally persists. A lot could happen in the next six months and investors should resist trying to time the market. Existing investors have to relook at their risk profile to realign the multi-cap allocation to the desired levels.

*(The author is a co-founder of "Wealocity", a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealocity.com)*

# Build portfolios with fundamentally strong small, mid-cap stocks

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

The Indian stock markets ended on a flat note during the last week. The benchmark index gained 130.60 points or 1.15 per cent. Majority of the gains contributed by index heavyweight Reliance Industries (RIL). The BSE Sensex also gained by 1.3 per cent. The broader market underperformed as the Nifty Midcap-100 and Smallcap-100 indices fell by 0.9 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively. On the sectoral front, The Energy and IT indices gained by 3.3 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively. Pharma and FMCG indices gained by an average of 0.5 per cent. On the flip side, the Metal and Pvt Bank indices declined by 2.7 per cent and 2.4 per cent. The FIIs' selling spree receded during the last week. They sold a net Rs8.36 crore. The advance-decline ratio is little favourable towards declines.

The NSE Nifty formed a Hammer pattern on a weekly chart. Last week's Bearish Engulfing pattern did not get the confirmation as the price closed above the previous week's low. This is another instance of failing technical classic and candlestick pattern failures. After an island reversal on Thursday closed with big gain, but the follow-through day is missing. After a big bullish day, it traded in a range and formed a small body indecisive candle. It



failed close above the 50 per cent retracement of the prior downswing. At the same time, on the positive side, the Nifty failed to close below the 50-DMA and form a lower low. With this, the trend remains upwards as a lower low yet to be formed. It closed above the 20DMA and sustained for the second day. The cash volume was below the 50-day average volume. During the last week, two distribution days added and one expired. The Nifty currently has six distribution days. With the current trend is categorised as uptrend under pressure. In any case, the Nifty closes below 50DMA in coming days with 5-6 distribution days, will turn in to a downtrend.

Coming back to the technical structure of the Nifty, it is bullish structure. The bears are failing several times to get confirmations to the bearish patterns. There are concerns in an ongoing uptrend. The volumes are not picking up. The trend strength weakening as the ADX is falling after making a peak on 30 July. The MACD histogram is still below the zero line. Finally, the bar size on bullish

days is not giving any confidence in the trend. When there was fall, the bar size larger than the bullish day. A majority of the bullish days are opened with gaps and most of the days traded in first hour's range. Even on Friday, it traded only

first 15 minute's range. These concerns may be technically not effective in the recent past. Even the fundamental and geopolitical factors did not impact market structure. The RSI, leading indicator, once again reclaimed to above 55 zone. In any case, it sustains above the 60 zone, will strengthen the bulls further. It has given a buy signal on Wednesday by forming a swing. This leading indicator formed a lower low, but the price did not make any lower low. This structure is generally bullish as per the Andrew Cardwell's RSI Edge rules. As long as the Nifty trades above the 50DMA, there is a higher probability of reaching above the recent swing high of 11,794. With 11,222 as stop-loss be with cautiously optimistic about the trend.

Focus on building portfolios with fundamental strong, low float, lower debt small and mid-cap stocks. It is expected about Rs40,000 crore funds to be shifted to these stocks.

*(The author is a financial journalist and technical analyst. He can be reached at tbchary@gmail.com)*

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

The week ahead (September 14-18) may witness a broader range of trading as the highest Open Interest concentration is at (OI) 11,500 CE and 10,500 PE. Further, the resistance level declined to 11,500 strike from 12,500 strike. Long build-up witnessed in stocks like Wipro, IndiGo, CanBank, TVS Motor, Kotak Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Life, Hindustan Lever, Bio-Con, PFC, etc. short build-up was recorded in SRF, AdaniEnt, Bata India, HDFC Bank, Coal India, Gail, Zee, Powergrid, ITC, etc.

On the options front, as per ICICI Direct.com, aggressive writing was seen in 11500, 11600 Call strike and may keep the index under pressure at higher levels. On the other side, the Nifty saw Put writing at 11,300 strike. This may act as support on downsides. This options structure is suggesting a broader range of 200 points for the coming week. A fresh up move due to short covering is likely to be seen above 11,500. Until then, it may consolidate above 11,300 points.

# F&O DATA SIGNALS DROP IN RESISTANCE LEVELS

## DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

The 11,500 strike, which recorded highest Call OI addition of 8.49 lakh contracts, has highest Call OI of 23.50 lakh contracts followed by 12,000 strike with 19.20 lakh contracts, 11800 strike, which recorded Call OI build-up of 7.71 lakh contracts, with 17.48 lakh contracts and 11,700 strike with 16.39 lakh contracts. Further, 11550/11600/11700/ strikes witnessed significant Call OI addition.

The 10,500 strike has highest Put OI of 20.44 lakh contracts followed by 11300 strike with 19.55 lakh contracts, 11400 strike, which has highest Put OI build-up of 7.69 lakh contracts, with 18.58 lakh contracts, 12000 strike with 17.37 lakh contracts and 11000 strike with



Put-Call Ratio of OI at 1.34 indicating Put writing in OTM; IV of Calls & Puts hovering at 15.52% & 19.73% respectively

16.35 lakh contracts. 11300/11200/11000 strikes witnessed reasonable Put OI addition.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "Some mixed moves were seen in Indian markets in the week gone by as tug of war among bulls and bears kept the market volatile. Although, Nifty had managed to end the week in green zone, Bank Nifty suffered losses of more than two per cent on week-on-week basis." For the week ended September

11, 2020, Sensex marginally gained 497.37 points or 1.29 per cent, a worst week since May, and closed at 38,854.55 points from the previous close of 38,357.18 points. Similarly, NSE Nifty moved up by 130.6 points or 1.15 per cent, to end the week at 11,464.45 points as against last week's 11,333.85 level.

"From derivatives front, Call writers at 11,500 strike are still holding with maximum Open Interest in Calls, which will act as major hurdle for Nifty in coming

week. The max option pain is at 11,400 for current week and monthly expiry for Nifty. The level plays an important role in upcoming session. However, any decisive move above 11,500 will bring bears on back foot once again and thereon Nifty could surge towards 11,650 levels. In coming week, we expect markets to remain choppy once again. However, stock-specific action would remain on radar," added Bisht.

Implied Volatility (IV) of 11,500CE 13.84 and 10,500PE is hovering at 34.13. "The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 15.52 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 19.73. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 20.71 per cent. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.34 slightly up from the previous week indicating Put writing in OTM," remarked Bisht.

FPIs turned net sellers in India as global markets turned weak. FPIs sold almost Rs2,917 crore in

Indian equities. However, DIIIs continued to exit at higher levels and sold another Rs1,234 crore in equities last week. For September, net FII investment in equities turned negative. They have sold around Rs4,430 crore, while they bought Rs1,612 in the debt markets.

The F&O space was sluggish on the FPI front. While they bought worth Rs51 crore in index futures, they also bought to the tune of Rs423 crore in the stock futures segment during the week. However, FIIs bought Rs6,877 crore in index options.

### Bank Nifty

Shedding 531.52 points or 2.30 per cent, Bank Nifty closed at 22,479.95 points as against the previous week's closing of 23,011.50 points. Bisht forecasts: "Technically Bank Nifty is struggling to take support at 22,000 level, which would act as major support for

the index. The max option pain is at 22,500 for current week and for the monthly expiry is at 22,900."

Implied Volatility continued to contract after the sharp uptick last week. Despite the index falling from those levels, IVs contracted and moved below 21 per cent along with additions in Out of The Money (OTM) strike options, indicating possible consolidation in the coming days. The rupee remained volatile for the week with the USD/INR pair having the highest Call base at 74 levels, which is the hurdle zone. Analysts forecast that the rupee would continue to appreciate, which will be positive for BFSI.

The current price ratio of Bank Nifty-Nifty eased from its recent high. However, last month, the support for the spread was seen near 1.96 levels, which is very much near. The ratio would consolidate near this range.



# Wakf property data from Nizam's era under wraps

MD NIZAMUDDIN

**Hyderabad:** Even as Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in the Assembly reassured of protecting Wakf lands, the 'record room' pertaining to the Wakf lands (like Gazette copies) remained inaccessible to even officials of the department as it remained sealed for almost three years.

Strongly guarded by the security and with provision of access to only Revenue officials, the record room known to contain thousands of documents (most of which from Nizam's era) which could back the claims of the Wakf Board was sealed in November 2017.

"If the Chief Minister was serious enough to stand by his word of protecting Wakf properties, he should first ensure that record room's seal is removed, and department's officials be given access so that the evidence could be produced in courts. We welcome the Chief Minister's promise of protecting the Wakf lands. At least this time we hope he keeps



► 3 years on, Wakf land records still remain inaccessible to officials

► Toothless board's hands tied in fighting the encroachers

his word and walk the talk, unlike his empty promises like provision of judicial power to the board made during elections," emphasised, All India Sunni Ulama Board president Syed Hamed Hussain Shuttari.

While referring to the report of the House Committee, 1995, in which Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief and Hy-

derabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi was also a member, it is held that the committee had mentioned 1,33,209 acres of Wakf land within Telangana. But after formation of Telangana, the government was claiming that it was 77,000 acres of land of which only 41,538 acres is recorded till the new revelation was made by Chief Minister that 57,000 acres

from 77,000 was encroached upon, making everyone perplexed. "More than 1 lakh acres of land has vanished from the records during the past three decades and who is responsible this. We hope that at least Welfare Minister Koppula Eshwar who took some initiatives in the recent months would rescue the properties from encroachment. If the promise of claiming encroached land is to be fulfilled the government must immediately issue a GO in this endeavour," said Association of Save Waqf Properties general secretary Syed Iftqar Hussaini

It may be mentioned here that in 2019, the Central Wakf Council (CWC) also expressed concerns during their meeting with State's Wakf Board. They demanded that the government immediately 'unseal' the record room and sought details on extent of State's Wakf properties, as they found huge variation (77,000 acres prior to bifurcation and the beginning of 2nd term of TRS government).

## TS LIBERATION MOVEMENT

# Kishan Reddy seeks land for memorial, writes to CM

Union Minister of State Kishan Reddy informs the Chief Minister that the Centre is ready to provide funds for the construction of the memorial

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy has asked Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to allocate land for the construction of a memorial in remembrance of Telangana liberation movement.

In a letter written to the CM on Sunday, he said that the Union Tourism Ministry has positively responded to provide funds for the construction of the memorial.

In his letter, Kishan Reddy mentioned that the Indian freedom struggle has several historical events and the struggle for the liberation of Telangana has a special place in it.

"The country had breathed the winds of freedom on August 15, 1945. However, the tricolour did not fly high in the erstwhile Nizam-ruled



Hyderabad state," the Minister noted, adding that several personalities like Komaram Bheem, Swamy Ramananda Tirtha, PV Narasimha Rao, Marri Chenna Reddy, Vandematharam Ramachender Rao, Narayana Rao Pawar, Doddi Komaraiah, Chakali Ilamma were a few to name who had fought for Telangana's liberation.

Telangana had got its freedom in the police action launched by the first Union

Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on September 1948, he said, adding that Telangana freedom struggle needs to be a guiding inspiration to the future generations. Construction of a memorial has been the aspiration and dream of the people of the State.

"I had met the Union Tourism Minister and discussed the issue. He responded positively to provide funding for the construction of the memorial," Kishan Reddy said.

Addressing the CM, he said, "You being the Chief Minister has full understanding about the struggles of people of Telangana and for its liberation from the clutches of the dictatorial rule of Nizam. I request you to take a personal interest and allocate land for taking up the memorial project."

## Juvenile among 3 held for raping a 19-yr-girl

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Rachakonda police on Saturday arrested three persons, including a juvenile, for raping a 19-year-old girl one week ago in Adibatla. The accused are labourers, migrated to the city from Bihar. While the two accused, who are major, were staying in Balapur, the third accused, a minor, was staying at Meerpet.

According to police, on September 7, the victim girl went to Nadergul to meet her friends. While returning, she took an auto-rickshaw from Balapur, where the two accused persons stopped the auto-rickshaw midway and joined the victim and started misbehaving with her. As she was afraid of them, she got down from the auto and started walking.

As she started walking, the accused then followed her on a bike and kidnapped her. They took her to an isolated place and raped her. Later, they also informed the juvenile to join them, who also committed the offence.

However, she escaped from the place and reached home and narrated her ordeal to her parents, who then filed a police complaint. Based on the complaint, a case was booked and the investigation was started. Finally, all the accused were arrested under charges of kidnap and rape and were remanded to judicial custody, said the police.

## Seven held for murdering businessman

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Rajendranagar police on Saturday night arrested seven persons for murdering a businessman named Md Javed at Shivrampally on Tuesday night. The accused were identified as Syed Irfan (36), Mohammed Attaullah (23), Shaik Khaled (23), Mohd Ziauddin (24), Mohd Waseem (24), Ashraf Ali (21), and Kishan Rao (24).

According to the police, the main accused Syed Irfan owned a footwear shop and also used to do chit business. He had to pay an amount of Rs 5 lakh to a woman who was a relative of the deceased Javed. As the accused was not paying the money to the woman on time, she informed it to the victim Javed, who in turn approached Irfan and demanded the money. But he kept on delaying it by stating that he suffered losses as his shop was burnt in a fire accident. How-

ever, after a lot of pressure from Javed, the accused Irfan paid Rs 3 lakh to the woman and did not pay the remaining amount, for which he was being pestered by Javed, said ACP of Rajendranagar, Ashok Chakravarthy.

He said, "As the accused was continuously being pestered by Javed, he decided to eliminate him and hatched a conspiracy along with the other accused. On Tuesday night when the victim went to Aramgarh to get his vehicle repaired, the accused and his gang who were ready with their plan attacked Javed with sharp objects such as knives and daggers and fled the scene. The victim died on the spot."

"Later on, a special team was formed to nab the culprits and after a lot of investigation the accused gang was arrested under Section 302 of IPC and will be remanded to judicial custody," stated the officer.

## Nine inter-state cyber fraudsters arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Cyber Crime Department (CCD) of Rachakonda police on September 9 arrested nine inter-state cyber fraudsters from Madhya Pradesh and brought them to Hyderabad on Saturday on prisoner transit warrant.

The accused were identified as Shivshankar, Abhishek, Abhilash, Rohit, Bhavesh, Vinek Pateriya, Athar Hayat, Atul Pateriya and Rahul.

According to police, the accused persons were involved in luring gullible people over call and siphoning off money from their accounts after the gullible provided them with their user id and password.

CCD in the month of March received a complaint from Koti Siva Kakani, who alleged that he got a call from the accused persons who informed him that they were executives of Top Global Research Company and will help him in getting huge profits within 4-6 months of investments.

The victim believed the words of the accused persons and opened a Demat account and provided the details of the account while sharing his user ID and password as he was lured by the fraudsters. This way, the victim lost an amount of Rs 9, 60,000 from his account. He then realised that he was cheated and filed a complaint, informed the police.

Based on the complaint, the investigation began and by using the advanced tools and techniques of cyber security it was known that the accused gang members worked for Shyam Sharma, a native of Gwalior, MP who started a fake firm named Money Seizer in 2017 and later changed the name to Top Global Research and hired these nine persons to call the gullible and cheat them, said the Inspector of cybercrime, KV Vijay Kumar.

He said, "Special teams were formed and with the help of local police we arrested the accused gang under sections 417, 419, 420 of IPC and section 66A & 66D of IT Act and were produced before the court."

# Hefty fees for original degree certificates irk Kaloji medicos

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Kaloji University's recent notification to issue permanent original degree certificate for PG Degree/Diploma and MDS after collecting a hefty fee has drawn flak from medicos, who completed studies in 2018, 2019, and 2020. The university has fixed Rs 6,600 as the charge for issuing original degree certificate much to the shock of junior doctors.

Neighbouring southern States are collecting fee much lesser compared to Telangana, according to doctors. In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the fee fixed is Rs 3,000 while in Karnataka it is Rs 2,000 and Kerala Rs 1,050.

A junior doctors' delegation met Health Secretary SAM Rizvi and brought this issue to his notice. Two weeks passed since medicos met officials, but no decision has been taken as yet. PG completed medicos say Kaloji University was just exploiting the



students with high charges.

Nearly 900 doctors from 2018 and 2019 batches can avail for the original degree certificate now while other 1,100-odd doctors

from the 2020 passed out batch have to wait for two more months to apply for their certificates. However, they have been told to wait for some more time until the

exorbitant fee is reduced like in neighbouring States.

Dr Mohammed Jahangir, ex vice-president of T JUDA urged the authorities to roll back the fees.

He said that Kaloji University, which was formed in 2016, delayed issuing of degree certificate for 2016-2018 batch PG Diploma holders and 2016-2019 PG MD degree holders. After this wait, now they are being asked to pay fees that is two to three times higher than fee being collected in neighbouring States.

"Even for the 2017-20 PG batch which wrote exams in June, the fee was enhanced by Rs 2,000 for each student. Now again we are being made to shell out more money," he said.

The reason for increased charges, as told to doctors, was that Kaloji was facing a shortage of funds and hence the reason to increase fees for various categories.

# Girl's ordeal for Covid-19 negative certificate

The authorities stop Sai Vaishnavi of Hanamkonda from appearing from the NEET at an examination centre (a private engineering college) in Warangal for failing to produce the latest Covid-19 negative certificate

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Warangal:** Whether she could make it to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) or not, but B Sai Vaishnavi would never forget the Sunday's turn of events filled with emotion, despair and hope which finally ended on a happy note.

It all happened when the authorities stopped Sai Vaishnavi of Hanamkonda from appearing from the NEET at an examination centre (a private engineering college) in Warangal for failing to produce the latest Covid-19 negative certificate. It's learnt that Sai Vaishnavi who recovered from the Covid-19 some 20 days ago had mentioned it in the declaration form submitted to the authorities, besides producing a coronavirus negative certificate along with it. However, the authorities refused to allow her to write the exam citing that they needed a latest certificate.

Shell-shocked over this, Sai Vaishnavi and her parents appealed to the officials but in vain. Unfazed by this, the girl and her parents started a search for a hospital where they could get the certificate.

With the Mills Colony Police, who played the role of Good Samaritans, took Sai Vaishnavi to Urban Primary Health Center (UPHC) at SRR Thota in their patrolling vehicle and got the Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) done.

The medical officers, who



B Sai Vaishnavi showing Covid-19 negative certificate

performed the test, declared Sai Vaishnavi negative for coronavirus and issued a certificate in this regard. The student got back to the test centre and produced the certificate and wrote the exam.

"Even though I told the authorities that had already recovered from the Covid-19 and had completed the quarantine period they didn't heed to my request," Sai Vaishnavi said. Further, she questioned, "What if I am tested positive again. Why should I be denied writing the test? I have been preparing hard for the last two years to crack the test. The authorities should have come up with special arrangements

for those suffering from Covid-19, Sai Vaishnavi pointed out.

In another related development, N Fathima of Hyderabad, who turned to Warangal to attend the NEET, was dumbstruck after she found there was no test centre at AVV College in the city. The authorities reportedly mentioned AVV College as her test centre. She lodged a complaint with the Subedari Police.

Meanwhile, 5,808 candidates of the total 6,171 had appeared for the NEET in 11 test centres across Warangal city, according to the NEET City Coordinator G Mathyas Reddy.



# Osaka bags second US Open title

## 22-year-old Japanese star fights back to down Azarenka

**New York (IANS):** Fourth seed Naomi Osaka outlasted an inspired Victoria Azarenka 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final to win the women's singles title of the US Open on Saturday.

It's Osaka's second US Open title and third Grand Slam title after her victories at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open.

"In the end all I focus on is what I can control on the tennis court. That's what I did in 2018 final. I feel like that's what I did this time," said the 22-year-old Japanese according to Xinhua news agency. Osaka had previously beaten defeated Serena Williams to win the 2018 title.

Belarus's Azarenka, 31, stormed to win the first set 6-1 in just 26 minutes while Osaka was uncharacteristically sloppy hitting a whopping 13 unforced errors.

At the start of the second set, Azarenka broke again for a 2-0 lead, but from there Osaka fought back to break her opponent's serve twice and took a 4-3 lead.

Osaka then gained the momentum and broke a third time to take the match to a deciding set.

"I think in the first set I was so nervous, I

wasn't moving my feet. I felt like I was not playing to my best. There are too many things in my head. It would be very embarrassing to lose this in under an hour so I just have to try my best," Osaka said of the turnaround.

Osaka broke in the fourth game of the third set to take a comfortable 3-1 lead. In the next game, Azarenka blew a golden opportunity to get back into the match, wasting all three break points as Osaka recovered from 0-40 down to hold for a 4-1 lead.

After that, Osaka dominated and claimed the set 6-3.

With the runner-up finish, Azarenka said she's proud of herself.

"I haven't had such results in quite a long time, so I'm very excited for it. Today, it's a loss, but it doesn't change for me much. Of course I would have loved to win today. It is what it is," Azarenka said.

"I gave everything that I could today on the court. I felt that I progressed a lot. I've played a lot of great matches. I felt that I've tested myself physically, mentally on very difficult stages. It's been great. I want to continue to keep going the same way, enjoy myself," she added.



# Chennai Super Kings will look to win fourth IPL title

**Dubai (IANS):** Chennai Super Kings have been one of the most consistent teams since the inception of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2008. They have won the title three times and made it to the final a total of eight times. And, under the brilliant leadership of M.S. Dhoni, they have always been a tough nut to crack for their rivals.

This season, too, much of the focus would be on Dhoni, especially after he announced his retirement from international cricket last month. He would be making a return to the cricket field after a hiatus of more than a year, with his last appearance being during the 2019 World Cup in England. His fans would be eager to see him smash sixes, especially using the "helicopter" shot.

West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo recently said that Dhoni would lead the transition of the CSK, just as he did for the Indian team. According to the all-rounder, Dhoni will be under less pressure than what he must have faced while being the captain of the Indian team, but that won't change the approach of the veteran wicket-keeper.

"I know it's been at the back of his mind for some time. I mean all of us have to step aside at some point of time. It's just a matter of when to step aside and hand it over to whether it's (Suresh) Raina or someone younger," Bravo had said recently when asked about Dhoni's plans for his successor in CSK.

The Yellow Brigade will begin their 2020 campaign against defending champions Mumbai Indians, chasing their bid for the record-equalling fourth title in the tournament opener in Dubai on September 19. MI are also the only team to have won four titles thus far.

**Strengths:**

Dhoni will be considered as the biggest strength of the Chennai-based franchise as long as he is a part of the team. He has been credited by many for getting the best out of his players and that quality can once again see the CSK lifting the trophy on November 10. Considering the spin-friendly conditions that would be on offer in the UAE, Dhoni will unleash his extensive spin line-up consisting of world class bowlers in the form of Imran Tahir, Ravindra Jadeja, Mitchell Santner, and Piyush Chawla. When it comes to batting, they have the experience of Faf du Plessis, Ambati Rayudu, Shane Watson and Dwayne Bravo who are capable of winning matches on their own.

**Weaknesses:**

Traditionally, CSK have relied on a solid start followed by a consistent performance from Suresh Raina at No.3. However, this year, Raina's absence can be something that other teams would look to

take advantage of. Not only has Raina been CSK's most consistent batsman but his agility on the field, added with a couple of overs that he could chip in with, provided Dhoni with the much-needed support. Similarly, veteran spinner Harbhajan Singh would also be not there for this season, thus affecting the team balance slightly. Not only is he a wicket-taking bowler but can also hit some lusty blows down the order with the bat. The other thing that the CSK would be worried about is the lack of match practice of their senior batsmen like Dhoni, Shane Watson, and Ambati Rayudu.

**Squad:** MSDhoni (captain/wicket-keeper), Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Shane Watson, Ravindra Jadeja, Ambati Rayudu, Piyush Chawla, Kedar Jadhav, Karn Sharma, Imran Tahir, Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Sam Curran, Murali Vijay, Josh Hazlewood, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Jagdeesan N (wicket-keeper), KM Asif, Monu Kumar, R Sai Kishore

**Support Staff:** Stephen Fleming (head coach), Michael Hussey (batting coach), Lakshmi Pathy-Balaji (bowling coach), Eric Simmons (bowling consultant), Rajiv Kumar (fielding coach), Tommy Simsek (physiotherapist), Gregory King (trainer), R Russell (team manager), Lakshmi Narayan (performance analyst), Sanjay Natarajan (logistics manager).

# No Indo-Pak bilateral cricket until political relations normalise: Mani

**New Delhi (IANS):** Discussions on resuming bilateral cricket exchanges between India and Pakistan cannot start between the boards unless political relations between the two countries become normal and stable, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ehsan Mani has said. He also made it clear that he wouldn't request Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Sourav Ganguly to let Pakistani players compete in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"Over the years, the PCB has had a number of discussions with the BCCI regarding bilateral cricket. Whether it is T20 cricket or bilateral, all things are in the hands of the BCCI. At this moment I don't have any intention of playing any T20 league with India. First, they have to sort out the bilateral (political) relations with us, and then we will talk," Mani, 75, told IANS in an exclusive interview.

# AIFF's Golden Baby Leagues see participation of 600 village kids

**New Delhi (IANS):** As part of the Golden Baby Leagues initiative nearly 600 children took part in the 2019-20 season, with half of them being girls, in Rurka Kalan village, 30 km from Jalandhar district headquarters.

The village's Youth Football Club, formed in 2001, conducted separate leagues for boys and girls in the U-6, U-8, U-10, and U-12 categories, with the girls' edition receiving "tremendous response" in particular.

The initiative was launched by AIFF in 2018 to engage children in the age group 6-12 in football and give them exposure to the sport from a very young age. In communities across the country, it is also helping break societal stereotypes and drive social change in the right direction.

"Our network covers 20-25 schools in local areas with a lot



of them being girls' schools. This time, we had separate leagues for boys and girls in four age categories which allowed us to involve more children. The response we have got for the girls' league has been tremendous," league operator Rubby Ali told www.the-aiff.com.

With playing opportunities limited for girls and many children spending excessive time

# Two UAE players charged with violating ICC anti-corruption code

**Dubai (IANS):** United Arab Emirates (UAE) cricketers Amir Hayat and Ashfaq Ahmed have been charged with five counts of breaching anti-corruption rules and provisionally suspended with immediate effect. Both players have been charged with accepting bribes to influence a match and failing to disclose any such approaches made towards them to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU). The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) had suspended Ashfaq during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier in October last year but no formal charges had been laid so far. The ICC, in its statement, listed the charges that have been levelled at Amir and Ashfaq following breaches of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code. The players have 14 days from September 13 to respond to the charges, it added.

# Atletico boss Simeone tests positive for Covid-19

**Madrid (IANS):** Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone has tested positive for coronavirus, the Spanish club said. The 2013/14 La Liga champions said that Simeone is asymptomatic and isolating at home. "This Friday new PCR tests were carried out on the whole group and the manager has given a positive result," said Atletico in their statement. "Fortunately, our manager is not showing any symptoms and is at his home isolating and fulfilling the required quarantine." The Madrid-based club is not playing this weekend in the new season of La Liga, having given a late start to the season due to their involvement in the Champions League in the previous season. They are, however, scheduled to play a friendly match against newly promoted Cadiz FC on Tuesday. Atletico had reached the Champions League quarter-final last term, losing to the German side RB Leipzig. Their first match of the new season in the league will be at home to Granada and is scheduled for September 27. Earlier this month, striker Diego Costa had tested positive prior to the pre-season tests that were conducted on players who were not on international duty. The latest round of testing was necessitated after a member of the club staff tested positive.



# Indonesia cancel bid to host Asia Open Super 1000 tournaments

**Jakarta (IANS):** Indonesia decided to cancel its application to host the Asia serial badminton tournaments following its decision to withdraw its teams from the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic has yet to subside. As the pandemic is ongoing and many countries have disallowed their citizens to visit Indonesia, the Indonesian Badminton Association decided to cancel its bid to host the Asia serial tournament, the association's Secretary General Achmad Budiharto said in a statement on Sunday, Xinhua news reports. Earlier, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) considered Indonesia to host three tournaments, namely Asia Open I and Asia Open II both of which are BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournaments, and the BWF World Tour Finals 2020, he noted. He said the association has written an official letter to Youth and Sports Minister Zainudin Amali about the cancellation of the plan to host the badminton tournaments. The BWF has previously announced tournaments to be held by the end of 2020, namely Thomas Cup and Uber Cup scheduled for October 3 to 11, Denmark Open I (October 13-18), and Denmark Open II (October 20-25).

# Shocked, devastated: IOC, UWW react to Afkari's execution

**Lausanne (IANS):** The International Olympic Committee and amateur wrestling's governing body United World Wrestling (UWW) on Saturday reacted to the execution of Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari. While IOC said that it was "shocked" by the development, the UWW said that the news has left the "entire wrestling community" mourning.

Provincial prosecutor general Kazem Mousavi was quoted as saying by Iran's state television's website that 27-year-old Afkari was executed in a prison in the southern city of Shiraz on Saturday. Afkari had been found guilty of "voluntary homicide" for murdering a man during the anti-government protests in 2018.

"United World Wrestling has learned that the scheduled execution of Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari took place this morning in Iran," said UWW in its statement.

"It is deeply upsetting that the pleas of athletes from around the world and all the behind the scene work of United World Wrestling and the National Iranian Wrestling Federation, the IOC together with the NOC of Iran did not achieve our goal. The news is devastating and the entire wrestling community mourns his death," it added.

Earlier, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said that it is "shocked" by the development.

"In letters, Thomas Bach, the IOC President, had made direct personal appeals to the Supreme Leader and to the President of Iran this week and asked for mercy for Navid Afkari, while respecting the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran," it said in its statement.

# IPL good preparation for Indians, Australians for Test series: Chappell

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Indian Premier League (IPL) is a good way for Indian and Australian players to warm-up for their upcoming Test series at the end of the year, commentator and former Australia captain Ian Chappell said on Sunday. The IPL is set to start on September 19 and while the Indian players will be playing in it from the beginning, Australia and England players are expected to join slightly later in the season following the conclusion of the ongoing ODI series between the two sides.

"In the case of the Indian players, and some of the Australians, they will at least have some challenging IPL cricket in the lead-up to the December series," Chappell wrote in his column for ESPNcricinfo.

"While this may not seem like ideal preparation for a tough Test series in Australia, it's worth recalling the thoughts of former England batsman Ravi Bopara in 2009.

"After a stint in the IPL, Bopara was asked on return to England if this was appropriate preparation for a Test match. He responded by saying that "looking to score at every opportunity gets your feet moving positively". He proved his point emphatically by scoring back-to-back centuries against West Indies."

Bopara scored 138 runs in the five matches he played for the Kings XI Punjab in the 2009 season before withdrawing from the team to join England for their series against the

**West Indies. The hosts enjoyed** innings victories in the two Test matches with Bopara scoring a centuries (143 in first Test and 108 in second Test) in both the innings that he batted in.

"The Indian players could well adopt this attitude for a series in Australia that will impact the Border-Gavaskar trophy, the World Test Championship, and their personal pride," said Chappell.

"It's unlikely India will have the luxury of lead-up matches against tough opposition. More likely it will be intra-squad games, which can be helpful if selection is judicious and pits good bowlers against equally talented batsmen. The downside is the fast bowlers are often wary of injuring their own players."

