

Womenia

Keep your skin in safe hands during pregnancy

“You’re pregnant” are a few beautiful words that can make a woman dance with joy. The nine months of pregnancy are referred to as the most beautiful in every woman’s life.



Shahnaz Husain

As soon as you find out you’re expecting pregnancy, your whole world changes. And that might include your skincare line-up, too.

Those nine months of waiting for your new baby are full of wonder and joy, but can also spring a few unpleasant surprises on your face and body. Pregnant women face many skin issues such as frequent breakouts of acne, itchy skin, and pigmentation that are caused by hormonal changes. Research suggests that some ingredients in your regular beauty products can be potentially harmful to your health and your baby’s health as well. Certain ingredients can be absorbed into your body, and therefore, your baby’s body, too.

Some ingredients are unsuitable to use while carrying a child; put simply, some ingredients and/or treatments can penetrate into your bloodstream, having a systemic effect on the body; which may pose a threat to a developing fetus, and others have to be avoided postpartum since they can pass into breastmilk.

While all women respond differently to skincare ingredients depending on individual factors like skin type and sensitivities, there are some

hard and fast rules about what to avoid during pregnancy.

Many ingredients can be absorbed by the skin and can cause an accumulation in our system. This is of particular danger when we consider certain stages in a woman’s life and one of the most important is pregnancy. The pregnant woman should be aware of the ingredients that can harm her and her unborn child. Chemicals in many cosmetics harm the skin and scalp. Chemicals disrupt the pH balance (acid-alkaline balance) of the skin and scalp, cause allergies, itching, rashes and eruptions. As already mentioned, they also cause a build-up of toxins in the system over a period of time



damage internal organs. Medical experts say that daily application of certain ingredients and even some perfumes in cosmetics can lead to skin sensitivity and allergic reactions, which may need heavy medication and even steroids that pregnant women cannot take. Fragrances are mostly made of harmful chemicals like aldehydes, benzene derivatives, parabens, and other chemicals that are linked to cancer and nervous system issues. They can cause irritation and redness to the skin. Hence, use a fragrance-free beauty product.

Mineral oil is a very common ingredient in skin care cosmetics. As we know, mineral oil is derived from petroleum. It may not cause any immediate reaction, but over a period of time, it can give rise to allergic reactions and irritation. Camphor, peppermint extract, and

oil should be avoided during pregnancy, especially for those late in pregnancy or those with an increased risk of miscarriage.

We must use natural oils and moisturisers, like aloe vera, honey, flowers, date etc on skin during pregnancy. Aloe Vera is a powerful natural moisturizer and seals off loss of moisture. It also softens dead skin cells and helps their removal, leaving the skin smoother and brighter. In fact, it helps the normal functions of the skin by improving its capacity to retain moisture. The Aloe Vera gel or juice can also be applied directly on the skin to moisturise it and relieve dryness, without any harmful effects.

Parabens are chemical preservatives used in the cosmetic

industry. Recently, there has been a great deal of research concerning parabens and their harmful effects. The controversy is that the chemical structure of parabens actually mimics the estrogen hormone and may increase the risk of cancer and reproductive problems in women. It is absorbed by the skin and repeated use of parabens can cause a build-up in the body lead to allergic reactions and health issues. They are toxic to a certain extent and are considered harmful to the environment too, as they can accumulate. The concern

is also with skin irritation and skin sensitivity. Many cosmetic companies are opting for Paraben-free cosmetic products now a days.

The pregnant woman should also see that there is no mercury in the products she is using.

Mercury is a fast bleaching agent. It can damage the skin and can damage internal organs. Now-a-days various herbal cosmetic companies use natural ingredients like saffron, turmeric, almonds, bearberry, carrot seed, powder of pearls and others in anti-blemish and creams to remove tan.

Hydrogen peroxide is also a skin bleaching agent. It can cause skin irritation on the area where it is used. In high concentrate, it can even cause burns. The pregnant woman should avoid using chemical skin bleaches. Many natural ingredients, like lemon, turmeric, ripe papaya, yogurt, cucumber and saffron can help to remove tan and lighten skin colour.

Although we are talking of skin care ingredients, we need to consider chemical hair dyes. The scalp is an extension of the skin and can also absorb harmful ingredients. Chemical hair dyes contain coal tar, ammonia and other ingredients that not cause an accumulation of toxins in the system, but can also lead to severe allergic reactions and even damage internal organs. Ammonia is chemical dyes can also cause damage to the scalp and even the hair.

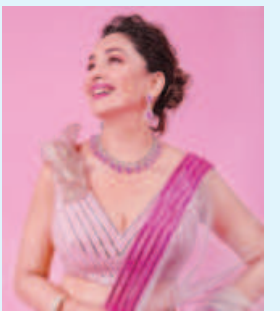
Therefore, the pregnant woman should stay away from chemical dyes. Natural colours that are 100% free from chemicals are available. We must prefer natural hair colour which contains blackish brown, brown and burgundy colours. If you wish to get your hair coloured, opt for a no-ammonia formula. Fortunately, there are plenty of options available.

Today we can look at nature with enlightened eyes, and make herbal and organic choices for skin and hair care, as well as make-up.

MADHURI DIXIT NENE

@MADHURIDIXIT

Wishing the real-life superheroes, our dear doctors a very #HappyDoctorsDay. Huge respect & gratitude to them for helping us all during these dire times & saving lives every single day. Dil se thank you



Skincare essentials everyone needs this season

The rains are here and have brought us some respite from the soaring temperatures of the summer. The cool breeze, pleasant weather and delightful fragrance uplifts our mood as we curl up in our corner and listen to the relaxing sound of the rain. However, even though the rainy season brings a sense of freshness in the air, our skin may not be immune to the charm of the weather. Acne, patchiness, breakouts and unexpected oiliness can prove to be a nightmare for your skin. Prepare your skin to stay clear and beautiful as you follow these important steps to be at the top of your beauty game.

Keep the protector by your side

A cloudy sky does not mean you should bid goodbye to your sunscreen. Think again! Whether it is summer, monsoon or winter, the harmful UV rays emitted from the sun can cause catastrophic damage to your skin. Never step out of your home without a sunscreen! Apply a light, non-sticky lotion that has an SPF 50 and offers maximum protection to your skin and reduces its susceptibility to skin damage.

Wash your face frequently

Use a revitalizing face wash to wash of the grime and dirt that can clog up the pores of your skin which cause breakouts. The excessive humidity can make us feel uncomfortable; washing your face 3 to 4 times a day can make your skin look healthy and squeaky clean.

Toner

Using a toner, post-cleanse, helps set the stage for the rest of your skincare routine. Toners can also calm your skin, visibly reduce pores, and



keep your skin refreshed and hydrated. The Lakmé 9 to 5 Moist Matte Mattifying Face Toner enriched with green extracts and witch hazel helps tighten pores for a refreshed matte look.

Keep a serum handy

A hydrating face serum in the rainy season can prevent acne and set the base for smooth skin before applying a moisturizer, as it locks the moisture in your skin and ensures supple skin. A few drops of a light - weight serum can accentuate the beauty of your skin and transform it from drab to fab!

Don't forget to moisturize

Moisturizing is vital in all seasons, as your skin needs to feel nourished and hydrated at all times. The weather can dry out your skin and make it look dull, to ensure your skin does not become a victim of dehydration, oil free moisturizer is the need of the hour. Don't avoid moisturizing because

of the monsoon!

The solution to pure skin – A Face Mask

The itching and oiliness in the skin caused by the extreme humidity can be controlled with a clay mask! Use a mask that caters to your skin type and gets rid of oily skin. The Lakmé 9 to 5 Matte Moist Clay Face Mask has pure green extracts that rejuvenates the skin and Kaolin & Bentonite clay that absorbs the impurities and excess oil. Let the mask work wonders on your skin as you lay down after a hectic day!

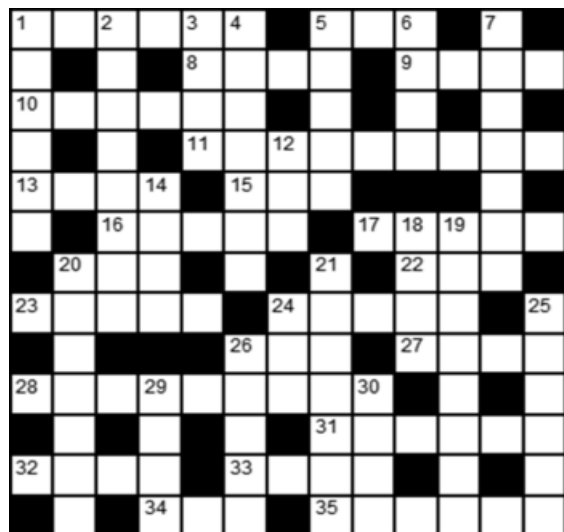
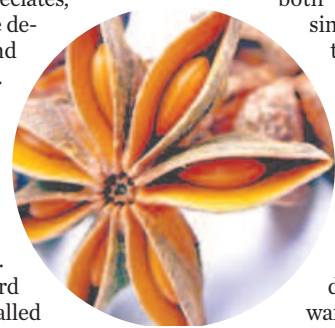
Use a lip balm

Dry and chapped lips require your much needed attention this monsoon! As we pamper our skin with moisturizer and serums, we should not neglect our lips. A lip balm forms a protective layer around the lips and keeps it moist and nourished. Pick the shade of your choice and pout away your worries!

ANISETTE DAY



There's a delicious flavor that not quite everyone appreciates, but most people are decidedly familiar with, and that's the flavor of anise. Have you ever consumed black licorice? Do you despise black jelly beans? Are you a fan of absinthe? Then you know the flavor that is absinthe. But have you ever heard of a delicious drink called Anisette? Anisette Day celebrates this sweeter cousin of absinthe that finds its popularity in the Mediterranean, and it's definitely a must try for anyone who has ever drunk absinthe and enjoyed it. Celebrating Anisette Day is both delicious and simple, you just have to get yourself a bottle of this delicious drink and start sampling the different drinks it can be mixed in. For truly quality anisette you should look for brands that are produced in Spain or Italy, and then simply begin enjoying the drink. Remember you don't want to imbibe this straight, its anise and licorice flavor is simply unbearably strong straight from the bottle. Instead, start experimenting by mixing it with your favorite drinks, especially those that you think may be served by a delicious full-bodied sweet flavor.



SOLUTION TO JULY 1

CROSSWORD

Across

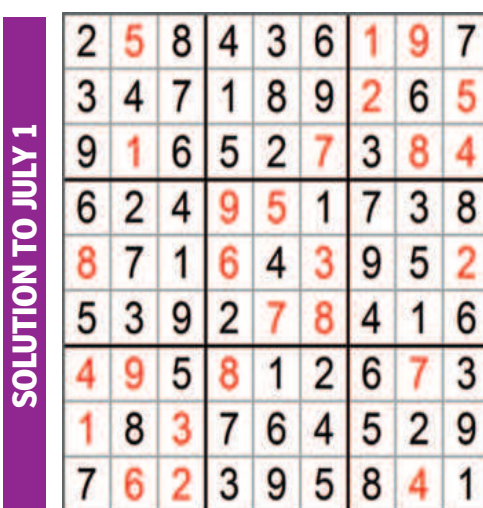
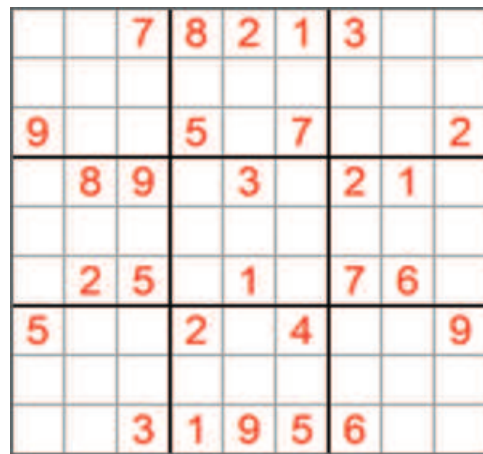
- Objects or refuses, in a way (6)
- TV World News Service (3)
- One of the USA (4)
- Milky gem (4)
- Immature insects (6)
- Language of Kerala (9)
- Allowance made for weight of box etc. during transport or packing (4)
- King (3)
- Sleeper's woe (5)
- Started or commenced (5)
- Bird: prefix (3)
- 1051 in Roman numerals (3)
- Small spot (5)
- Unusual item (5)
- Ultra High Frequency (3)
- Emperor of Russia (4)
- Person suing the defendant (9)
- Silky wool source (6)
- Young dogs (4)

- Girl's name (4)
- Crew member (3)
- Compiled (6)

Down

- Water down (6)
- Hereditary German title (8)
- Wander (4)
- Cut off (7)
- A white crystalline compound or mineral (5)
- End piece (4)
- Game resembling handball (3,4)
- Meadow (3)
- Heroic (4)
- Give off (4)
- Short dictionary (8)
- Commend audibly (7)
- Large wild oxen (7)
- Letter before psi (3)
- A trip to carry a message (6)
- Say or pronounce, complete (5)
- facto : by that very fact ? (4)
- Bodybuilder's bane (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JULY 1

Padma Lakshmi opens up on struggles behind stunning photo shoot

Indian American model, TV host, author and activist Padma Lakshmi has shared the true story of struggle behind an old stunning photo shoot that had turned heads when it was launched.

The 50-year-old star posted the throwback photograph on Instagram, of a jewellery campaign shoot, and quoted Oprah Winfrey in the caption. “You can have it all, just not all at once,” she captioned.

“This is me in our jewelry campaign for ‘The Padma Collection’. I’m exhausted here, not only from doing top chef, losing the weight and running a jewelry company on the side but from all of the stresses that come with being a sole business owner. A year from when this picture was taken I had to make the difficult decision as a new mom to close my company, my lover

was dying of cancer, and I just couldn’t handle it all,” she says. “I learned so much about my priorities during that time,” wrote Padma. In the photo, she is seen wearing a blazer with a plunging neckline and a few pieces of jewellery. She welcomed her daughter Krishna, whom she shares with her former-partner Adam Dell, in February 2010.



VIRTUALSOFT SYSTEMS LIMITED Regd. Off: S-101 Panchsheel Park, New Delhi - 110017 CIN-L72200DL1929PLC047931						
EXTRACT STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDLONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER / YEAR ENDED 31, MARCH-2021 (Figures Rs. in Lacs)						
Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
	Quarter Ended (Audited)	Year Ended (Audited)	Quarter Ended (Audited)	Quarter Ended (Audited)	Year Ended (Audited)	Quarter Ended (Audited)
	31.03.2021	31.03.2021	31.03.2020	31.03.2021	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
Total income from operations (net)	32.35	155.21	59.62	146.35	278.62	161.94
Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	(37.36)	(55.50)	6.15	(85.76)	(320.70)	(105.22)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	(37.36)	(55.50)	6.15	(85.76)	(320.70)	(105.22)
Equity Share Capital	1029.76	1029.76	1029.76	1029.76	1029.76	1029.76
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (of ₹ 10/- each) Basic : Diluted:						
Basic :	(0.36)	(0.54)	0.06	(0.83)	(3.11)	(1.02)
Diluted :	(0.36)	(0.54)	0.06	(0.83)	(3.11)	(1.02)
Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of ₹ 10/- each)						
Basic :	(0.36)	(0.54)	0.06	(0.83)	(3.11)	(1.02)
Diluted :	(0.36)	(0.54)	0.06	(0.83)	(3.11)	(1.02)

New threat perceptions confront India

DRONES have been sighted in the Union Territory of Jammu every day this week since the drone attack at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jammu in the early hours of June 27 forcing the authorities to rethink counter-terror strategies. Drones were spotted at three places on the outskirts of Jammu city on June 29 night and in the early hours of June 30, keeping the police and other security agencies on tenterhooks. On June 28, the Indian Army claimed to have spotted drones flying over Kaluchak and Ratnuchak military stations and opened fire at them, making them fly away. This is the first instance of deployment of drones to strike at vital installations of our country by terrorists guided by Pakistan.

The banned Lashkar-e-Taiba terror outfit is suspected to have been behind

the sensational drone attack, director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbagh Singh said. The drones were commercially available quadcopters. There were no casualties in the attack but everyone is aware of the potential. A drone monitoring and jammer system has now been installed at the IAF station in Jammu. Officials said that the anti-drone system, established by the National Security Guard, will soon be installed at all vital installations of security forces in Jammu.

The Prime Minister who reviewed the situation arising out of the new development directed the authorities to look into anti-drone systems deployment as a deterrent at the earliest. Indian authorities in recent years have raised the possibility of drone attacks by rebels in the region, especially after repeatedly accusing Pakistan of using

China-made drones along the frontier to drop weapons packages for militant groups since last year.

While the Jammu attack was the first such instance in India where a drone was weaponised. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been asked to develop an anti-drone system by the Prime Minister sometime back and it is evolving a comprehensive system to counter the enemies. In fact, one such system was deployed in Delhi for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's safety last year during the Republic Day Parade.

According to the DRDO, this technology can bring down micro-drones through either jamming of command and control links or by damaging electronics of drones through laser-based directed energy weapons. "The com-

prehensive solution is to tackle the problem that drones may pose to national security agencies," DRDO said in a statement.

In addition, this anti-drone technology can detect and jam micro-drones at a distance of up to 3 km and lase a target 1-1.25 km far depending on the wattage of the laser weapon. The DRDO said that this solution can be an effective counter to increased drone-based activity in India's western and northern sectors. Recently, the Armed Forces proposed arming its 100 Heron drones with missiles to carry out offence.

The Indian Navy has also been cleared to upgrade its existing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and buy 10 new surveillance drones to closely monitor Indian waters. New age warfare is a must to tackle new age terror tactics. India has to guard itself double against the two major external enemies China and Pakistan who work in tandem always.

Sri Lanka morphing into 'Xi-Lanka'?

NC BIPINDRA

AS the Communist Party of China (CPC) celebrates 100 years of its founding today, much has been said and written about Communist China's infrastructure and development activities in Sri Lanka. While commentaries have waxed eloquent on how Sri Lanka's landscape is being transformed, precious little has been done to critically examine whether the average Sri Lankan on the street has actually benefited.

CPC-funded projects in Sri Lanka are executed by Chinese entities and undertaken using equipment, machinery, and material from China. A significant proportion of labour and most of the top management is also from China. In effect, while Sri Lanka pays for the project, plough-back is into Chinese coffers.

Chinese infrastructure projects have also been associated with a steep rise in Chinese imports into Sri Lanka and reduction of exports to China. This has resulted in a growing trade deficit with China, putting tremendous pressure on the Sri Lankan Rupee.

The only way to offset this trade deficit is by substantial export-oriented Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flowing into Sri Lanka from China, which is unfortunately not in the Chinese scheme of things.

Chinese projects have also not provided any significant benefit to the average Sri Lankan. More often than not, these are vanity projects, which have been used by powers-that-be for enrichment of self, kith, and kin.

The Lotus Tower, cricket stadium and port at Hambantota and Mattala airport have had no impact on the citizens, who are left struggling with rising prices and dropping income.

The \$104 million Lotus Tower was inaugurated in September 2019 with much fanfare. Yet, as with other Chinese projects, it was mired in controversy, with then President Maithripala Sirisena claiming that Chinese contractors were absconding with US\$11 million.

The \$20-million airport built at Mattala is now infamous as the 'World's Emptiest Airport'. Sri Lanka's Strategic Enterprise Management Agency had op-

posed construction of this airport and recommended that Colombo airport be expanded instead.

The Mattala airport, located in then President Mahinda Rajapaksa's home constituency, was built anyway, while Colombo airport continues to burst at its seams. Was it a coincidence that Mattala airport was financed by a loan from EXIM Bank of China while expansion of the Colombo airport was to be financed by Japan?

Similar issues have dogged Hambantota Port, which was built at a cost of \$1.4 billion. Sri Lanka was forced to lease out the port for the long-term to the Chinese since the revenue generated by the port was not even enough for repayment of the interest component of the project's Chinese loans.

In 2017, the port earned only \$2 million, whereas the annual loan repayment was in excess of US\$70 million. Even at an annual growth rate of 20 per cent, the port would not have been able to cover its interest payments for the next 30 years. Clearly, this port was never intended to be viable in Sri Lankan hands!

Notwithstanding pronouncements to the contrary, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority has an extremely limited role in running and controlling operations at Hambantota. The Sri Lankan Navy also has to plead with the Chinese to berth their own ships at the port.

The Chinese authorities are now pushing for acquisition of 15,000 acres of land around the port to set up an export zone, claiming that the port does not make economic sense without this zone, for now.

Pushed by Communist China, government officials are forcing families to part with fertile agricultural land. This is a standard Chinese tactic seen all over the world and particularly evident in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. However, violent protests by locals have stalled creation of this zone, for now.

The much-publicised US\$1.5-billion Colombo Port City being built by CHEC (China Harbour Engineering Company) has also seen its share of controversies. One of the members for the Environmental Impact Assessment of the project was also a consult-



CPC-funded projects in Sri Lanka are executed by Chinese entities and undertaken using equipment, machinery, and material from China. A significant proportion of labour and most of the top management is also from China. In effect, while Sri Lanka pays for the project, plough-back is into Chinese coffers

ant for the parent company of CHEC.

When the project was initiated, it was decided that dredging would be done at least five km away from the coast to prevent erosion and damage to local fishing activity. Due to sustained protests by local fishermen who stood to lose their livelihood, dredging was shifted to 10 km away from the coast.

This was subsequently quietly re-established to 8 km, under pressure from CHEC. Dredgers were, thereafter, observed to be operating as close as 3 km from the coast, due to connivance of local authorities and CHEC.

CHEC has also subverted the political and bureaucratic apparatus to ensure that the project is executed in accordance with Chinese requirements. It is being claimed that 83,000 jobs would be created for locals and investment of up to \$15 billion would flow into the country.

These claims by the Chinese seem unrealistic and it is likely that the project would only bring gains to a select few. Contrary to assertions being made of the overall benefit of the Colombo Port City project, the livelihood of fishermen along the coast to the North and South of Colombo has already been affected by the project.

Large-scale sand mining and quarrying for granite being undertaken for the project will also impact Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara, the three most populous districts in the country and

home to a quarter of the country's population.

The malignancy of Chinese infrastructure projects is not restricted to economic and environmental domains but is beginning to have a societal impact as well since Chinese projects have not resulted in any job opportunities.

The Port City Project is estimated to have 22 per cent Chinese workers. An average Chinese construction worker is paid 1,000 LKR a day compared to 1,500 LKR that has to be paid to a Sri Lankan. In addition, the Chinese worker is also expected to work longer.

This has obviously made Chinese labour more desirable. Whilst official estimates state that there are 15,000 Chinese workers in Sri Lanka, the unofficial figure is closer to 100,000.

There is also no transfer of skill and knowledge to the local labour force. In a telling indication of the Chinese stranglehold on the local labour market, most major projects came to a standstill when Chinese workers, who had gone home for the Chinese

New Year, could not return due to Covid-19 crisis.

Sri Lankan fishermen also face the brunt of poaching by Chinese IUU fishing vessels. IUU stands for Illegal Unreported and Unregulated. Recently, Chinese fishing vessels were found to be operating just outside the territorial waters of Colombo, but government authorities, unable to confront the Chinese, let these vessels off on a technicality.

The tourism sector has also not been spared. A controversy erupted when it emerged that Chinese nationals were moonlighting as unauthorised guides for visiting Chinese tourists.

It is also commonplace to see Chinese symbols and signage on business establishments. The mushrooming of Chinese shops throughout Sri Lanka had reached such alarming proportions that former president Sirisena had raised this issue in one of his Cabinet Meetings.

There is indeed a strong case to examine whether Sri Lanka has actually benefitted from Chinese projects. While some projects have proven to be beneficial, such as the China International Container Terminal and expressways, a vast majority have only benefited the Chinese at the expense of the common Sri Lankan citizen. Word on the street is - Sri Lanka will soon be called Xi-Lanka.

(NC Bipindra is Chairman, Law and Society Alliance, and Editor, Defence. Capital magazine)

Build consensus soon

KRISHNA water dispute between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh is unfortunate but pitifully Modi government maintains studied silence over the issue and try to fish in the troubled waters to gain politically (KCR to take water war to Delhi, July 1). When Indus water treaty could end periods of conflict between arch rivals countries-India and Pakistan, can't Telugu states, which were together for five decades, arrive at a consensus and resolve the issue amicably?

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

Apt editorial

THE editorial 'Will our children lose the ability to learn?' (June 30) aptly stressed many brownie points that is shaping our children to be indolent on class work and active on browsing the mobiles for games and other unusual and unnecessary activities. Attending physical classes makes the students busy from dawn to dusk and very less time or no time is left to handle the mobiles. The skills - Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (LSRW) have been reduced on account of online learning and spectacles have become an added attraction since corona pandemic made its entry.

Dr NSR Murthy, Secunderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

Fertile Crescent



The dawn of ancient civilisation

TEJ SINGH KARDAM

THE word civilisation is etymologically connected to city - it presupposes urban transition. The ancient civilisation is the earliest segment of ancient history. The span of earliest history began with the invention of writing about 3000 BC. In addition to written records, the knowledge about ancient people is derived from the work of archaeologists. The significant archaeological findings have been made in the last two centuries. After development of agriculture in Middle East about 6500 BCE, the human settlements became sedentary in the fertile river valley and people started to domesticate animals. It is believed that the first ancient civilisation emerged in the Middle East in an area called 'Fertile Crescent' (JH Breasted in 1916) fed by waterways of Euphrates, Tigris and Nile Rivers. Mesopotamian (meso - middle, potamos - river) civilisation is the most ancient civilisation recorded in the human history. The Fertile Crescent region of Mesopotamia is referred as "Cradle of Civilisation" - location where civilisation has developed independently. This civilisation was formed on the banks of Tigris and Euphrates rivers, today's Iraq and Kuwait, began to form around the time of the Neolithic Revolution - Agricultural Revolution, beginning of the present geological epoch, the Holocene.

The history of Mesopotamia can be looked in; Neolithic Age - the Stone Age (10,000-7000 BCE): There is archaeological confirmation of crude settlements during this time with a shift from hunter-gatherer culture to an agrarian one. As per scholar Stephen Bertman, during this era, stone tools and weapons became more sophisticated. The economy was primarily based on food production through farming and animal rearing. Chalcolithic Period - Copper Age (5900-3200 BCE) - Owing to the transition from stone tools and weapons to that of Copper. This era includes the Ubaid period, named for Tell al Ubaid, the location in Iraq where large number of artefacts are found, first temples and unwall villages were developed. These villages then gave rise to urbanisation during Uruk period (4100-2900 BCE).

This period saw the invention of Wheel (3500 BCE) and writing (3000 BCE) by Sumerians, first war of the world recorded between Sumer and Elam (2700 BCE), use of personal seals, cylindrical-seals to denote ownership of property. Bronze Age (3000-1100 BCE) - the rise of city-state laid the foundation of economic and political stability. The Akkadian Empire of Sargon the Great was the first multi-national realm in the world. The expansion of Assyrian Kingdoms and rise of Babylonian dynasty - created an atmosphere conducive to trade. Hammurabi King of Babylon ruled for four decades, later sacked and looted by Hittites and rise of Kassite Dynasty. Most Mesopotamian States were either destroyed or weakened following the Bronze Age Collapse 1250-1150 BCE. Mesopotamia was a collection of various cultures whose real bonds were their script, their gods and their attitude towards women. Sumerian civilisation first took form in Southern Mesopotamia around 4000 BCE - the first urban civilisation in the region. Mesopotamians are noted for first written scripts around 3000 BCE; wedge-shaped marks pressed into clay tablets - the Cuneiform Script - deciphered by scholar George Smith in 1872 CE. Cuneiform is also the script that one of the world's first great works of literature, "The Epic Of Gilgamesh," was written in.

The incredibly important invention of the wheel is also credited to the Sumerians, the earliest wheel dates to 3500 BCE. Sumerians built ship, their religion was polytheistic - worshipped multiple gods - many of which were anthropomorphic. Temples of gods were constructed atop massive Ziggurats - raised area, broad at bottom, pyramid shaped buildings, had two to seven tiers and each ascending tier smaller than the one under it. In the Akkadian Empire, around 3000 BCE, the Sumerians had significant cultural interchange with a group in Northern Mesopotamians known as Akkadians. The Akkadian language is related to modern languages of Hebrew and Arabic. Around 2334 BCE, Sargon of Akkad came to power and established the world's first dynastic empire and ruled over both Akkadian and Sumerian.

Babylon was a minor city-state in central Mesopotamia. Hammurabi was an efficient ruler of Babylon's, established centralized bureaucracy with taxation. Hammurabi conquered the whole Southern Mesopotamia and gave the name Babylon to the region. One of the most important works of Babylon was compilation of a code of laws, around 1754 BCE, called the code of Hammurabi, was improved upon earlier written laws of Sumer, Akkad and Assyria. Hammurabi's code is one of the oldest deciphered writings of significant length in the world.. The Code was written on stone tablet-slabs and clay tablets, consisting of 282 laws. The developments/inventions credited to the Mesopotamians include, but are no means limited to, agriculture, irrigation, domestication of animals, common tools, sophisticated weaponry and warfare, the chariot, religious rites, the sailboats and legal codes. Orientalist Samuel Noah Kramer in [fact has listed 39 firsts, from Mesopotamia in his book "History begins at Sumer", in human civilisation that originated in Sumer. To cite few

Mesopotamian (meso - middle, potamos - river) civilisation is the most ancient civilisation recorded in the human history. The Fertile Crescent region of Mesopotamia is referred as "Cradle of Civilisation" - location where civilisation has developed independently. This civilisation was formed on the banks of Tigris and Euphrates rivers, today's Iraq and Kuwait, began to form around the time of the Neolithic Revolution - Agricultural Revolution, beginning of the present geological epoch, the Holocene examples - (all prefix first) - the historian, the farmer's almanac, the moral ideals, the proverbs and sayings, the library catalogue, man's golden age, the literary portrait, the aquarium etc. With the development of wheel and sail, Mesopotamian trade became easier for transportation of goods. Heavy bulk goods could travel by Ox-Cart or be loaded on to riverboats. Most long-distance trade was carried by caravans using donkeys as animals. Trade goods comprising textiles, pottery, leather goods, jewellery, ivory carvings, grains, dates etc were exported. They established trade all up and down the Tigris and Euphrates into Anatolia - Turkey, over Zagros mountains - Iran and Afghanistan. Sea routes went through Persian Gulf across the Arabian Sea to Indus Valley - Northern India and Pakistan. Mesopotamians were polytheistic as they worshipped several gods. In Sumerian religion, the most powerful and important deities were, the seven gods - An (heaven), Enlil (air), Enki (sea), Ki (earth), Nanna (moon), Utu (sun) and Enanna (goddess of love and war). Religion was central to Mesopotamians as they believed divine affected every aspect of human life.

Looking at Vedic-Ancient Mesopotamian Interconnections - synchronization has been done by Stephen Hillery Levitt et al. To cite an example: in general, in both the Vedic and 3rd millennium BCE, Sumerian traditions, aspect of nature are deified. In both, the deification proceeded from deification of natural forces significant in the culture to the anthropomorphic deification of these. In both, the chief god - Indra in the Vedic and Enlil in Sumerian traditions, is god of air and storm, which has been attributed in both traditions by western scholars to the importance of rain and storm. Mesopotamia was important to Europeans because of the references to it in the Old Testament, the first part of Bible. For instance the Book Of Genesis refers to 'Shimar' - meaning Sumer, as land of brick-built cities. The Legacy of Mesopotamia endures today through many of the most basic aspects of modern life, such as, urbanisation, the wheel, wind power, sixty-second minute and sixty-minute hour. Helen Chapin Metz writes, the Sumerian believed that each of gods was represented by a number. The number sixty sacred to the god An. Mesopotamia generally, and Sumer specifically, gave the world some of the most enduring cultural aspects, even though the cities and great palaces have long gone, that legacy continued in the modern era.

(The author is a retired IFS officer)

LETTERS

Compensate kin of Covid victims

I am not sure that the Supreme Court has taken into consideration the various aspects surrounding Covid deaths while directing NDMA to come out with a policy for compensating these deaths.

- The pandemic affected the entire nation, though in different proportion, the states and UTs.
- Many sought treatments at private hospitals resulting in huge medical bills.
- Autopsy/ post-mortem was not included in the protocol which could have defined these deaths. Almost all deaths have been routinely classified as Covid deaths.
- The number of regular deaths due to health issues, accidents and others like suicides and murders were not revealed.
- The states and UTs also had their own ways of classifying and identifying the deaths. There was a huge mess up in reporting deaths in the state level.
- Many Covid infected were disowned by their kith and kin either during the hospitalisation or after death. Invariably the valiant frontline workers took upon the task of performing the final rites.

- The question of identifying the legal heirs is going to be a gargantuan problem for the governments and a racket may come up in the offering.
- We should not forget the fact that in spite of governments repeated appeals through every kind of medium to adhere to strict Covid protocol, a good number of people went around violating all kinds of norms ensuring swift spread of Covid infections. Are they not answerable for their contribution to Covid deaths? We have seen massive crowd in markets with no concern for Covid.

Let us formulate a sensible policy involving all the stake holders and a suitable set of guidelines for such situations be formed. Even the Parliament can discuss and enact a suitable law in consultation with the Supreme court.

J Kannan, Hyderabad

II

AS of now, we know nearly four lakh people died (official figures)/for no fault of theirs with the spread of first and second-wave pandemic quite unexpected and these innocent people are victims of the Covid-19.

The government should understand as they are saying it will not come under natural disaster but in reality, the biological pandemic also comes under natural disaster as it has devastated life and no

one ever visualised its intensity.

The Supreme Court on June 30 further directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to issue fresh guidelines for providing a minimum standard of financial help to families of those who lost their lives due to Covid-19.

The State and central governments should realise the loss of the individuals in their families and it's the duty of the governments, to safeguard their families if not paid the lump sum and it can be paid by both and central governments in four instalments. Let's hope due justification will be done as per the court directions.

Kanagiri SN Prasad, Hyderabad

III

THIS refers to 'SC orders govt to frame fresh norms' (THI July 1). The Central government must ponder over the plight of the families of Covid victims to extend fiscal relief and succour to the bereaved families. They have been suffering excruciating fiscal crisis since they lost their bread winners. The bereaved and penury stricken families have been finding it difficult and cumbersome to survive. The Centre must decide and speed up to initiate to provide pecuniary aid to the Covid victims at the earliest. It will be great and noble initiative and rare gesture at the hands of the Central government.

Zubair Khan, Hyderabad

Farmers caught in water war

Water released from Pulichintala by TS goes waste as kharif operations yet to begin

Krishna delta farmers have not even started sowing of seeds. But, Telangana started to release water from Pulichintala which goes waste into the sea now. As per the original schedule, water from Pattiseema was to be released on July 5 followed by the release from Pulichintala

P KRISHNA RAO
AMARAVATI

THE ongoing water between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh has become a bane for the farmers in the State.

Hydel-power generation by Telangana from Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar and Pulichintala power projects has created new problems for the Irrigation department.

Telangana has released water from Pulichintala without informing the State officials which is the normal protocol and practice. As a result this water which would be reaching Prakasam barrage ahead of schedule will go waste as kharif operations in Krishna district are yet to begin.

Farmers of the Krishna delta have not even started sowing of seeds and plantation of nurseries. As per



Guntur Rural SP Vishal Gunni addressing the media at Nagarjuna Sagar dam in Guntur district on Thursday

CM want PM to rein in TS over water sharing

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

IRKED by the refusal of Telangana Government to stop hydel-power generation from Srisailem, Pulichintala and Nagarjuna Sagar, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy wrote a letter to Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat and Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking their immediate intervention. The CM urged them to direct the Telangana government to stop illegal drawal of water for power generation. He said the TS government had not taken any permission from the Krishna River Management Board before resorting to power generation. The CM

asked the Centre to notify the jurisdiction of KRMB and take over all offtakes of common reservoirs with the CISF protection and safeguard the interests of Andhra Pradesh.

In his 5-page letter, Jagan said the Telangana Government has issued a GO RT No 34 energy (Power II) dept Dt June 28, to generate hydro power to hundred percent of its installed capacities. This means that Telangana can utilise 4 tmc feet, 3 tmc ft and 1.8 tmc ft per day from Srisailem, Nagarjuna Sagar and Pulichintala respectively. This would be in utter disregard to the orders issued by KRMB to stop power generation, he said. The CM said though there are instructions from

KRMB not to draw water for power generation, the state of Telangana was unilaterally drawing water for power generation violating standard operating protocol and agreements. Such actions of Telangana are not in the interest of good inter-state relations and are adversely affecting the interests of lower riparian state of Andhra Pradesh. It will put the drinking and irrigation needs of four Rayalaseema districts, Nellore and Prakasam districts and drinking water requirement of Chennai city in serious trouble, the letter said. The Chief Minister also enclosed the copy of GO and other relevant documents with his letter.

Both the States have deployed armed police personnel at dams and power plants across the Krishna river. Guntur rural SP Vishal Gunni visited the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam site and reviewed the situation. He said the TS government had deployed heavy police forces on their side.

Meanwhile, on Thursday the Telangana police sent back a team of AP officials who had gone to give a memorandum to the Chief Engineer of Nagarjuna Sagar, Telangana. They wanted to urge him to stop power generation immediately.

Gurazala Revenue Divisional officer J Pardhasaradhi said that AP officials were not allowed to submit memorandum to Telangana state officials. He said AP officers were stopped at the bridge on the borders of T-state. He said the water levels at Nagarjuna Sagar were low and power generation would lead to wastage of water.

According to officials, the water level at Srisailem was 823 feet. Power generation can be taken up only when the water level reaches 834 feet. Hence, they urged the TS to stop hydel power generation immediately. The move of TS would result in 28,000 cusecs of water going waste.

the original schedule, water from Pattiseema was to be released on July 5 fol-

lowed by the release from Pulichintala. Meanwhile, security has

been tightened by both the States at Nagarjuna Sagar and Pulichintala projects.

AP CM launches revamped YSR Bima

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday launched the YSR Bima scheme with new guidelines, where the government itself will directly pay the insurance amount to the family of deceased to make the insurance claims easier.

In order to support 1.32 lakh families through YSR Bima scheme, the state government allocated Rs 750 crores for the year 2021-22. In the last two years, the state government had spent Rs 1,307 crore for YSR Bima.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the government has prioritised public health care, thus soon after forming the government, the annual ceiling for Aarogyasri has been raised to Rs 5 lakh and increased the number of treatments to 2,450. Similarly, as promised during elections, the government had brought YSR Bima, an insurance scheme to support those families who lost their breadwinner. About 1.30 lakh families have been brought under the insurance coverage. Under the scheme, an insurance amount of Rs1 lakh will be paid if the beneficiary aged between 18 to 50 years, who is a breadwinner of the family, dies of natural causes. A sum of Rs 5 lakh will be paid if the beneficiary in the age group of 18 to 70 years dies in an accident.

The Chief Minister explained that the Union government had withdrawn from the insurance



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, along with officials, launches YSR Bima with new guidelines, at his camp office in Tadepalli on Thursday

- ▶ As per new guidelines, the State govt directly pays claim amount to the family of deceased person
- ▶ An amount of Rs 750 cr is allocated for for 2021-22 for the implementation of the welfare measure
- ▶ Task of screening insurance applications has been entrusted to village/ward secretariats, to be monitored by joint collectors

scheme from April 2020, which was earlier paying 50 per cent of premium. After the Centre's withdrawal, the entire premium was paid by the state on humanitarian grounds to provide security for those families in need.

However, the Centre has put more clauses, closing the existing group insurance system and making a mandatory bank account for every person in the family. The Centre had put another clause of a 45-day lien period from the day of account opening, where if someone dies within 45 days, the insurance will not be paid.

He said that the state government had brought 1.2 crore families under the insurance cover-

age and paid premium to the banks. However, only 62.5 lakh accounts were opened and the remaining accounts were not opened by the banks though the state government has credited the insurance premium.

Banks are required to follow up with individual insurance claims with insurance companies to process the registration and banks are unable to perform these follow-up activities. With this there was a severe delay in the receipt of claims, where also after enrolment, with the 45 day lien period, no claim amounts were given to those 12,039 families who died in the meantime. In that scenario, on humanitarian grounds, the state government

came forward and paid for all those 12,039 claims at a cost of Rs 254 crore.

The Chief Minister said that after witnessing all the chaos, the government took the entire responsibility of the scheme and shall clear the claims within one month of receiving the application. In regard to this, he said that the responsibility for screening of insurance applications has been given to village/ward secretariats monitored by the joint collectors.

Further, the Chief Minister said that any eligible person who was left out from YSR Bima can call tollfree number 155214 for getting registered or to resolve their issues related.

DOCTORS UP IN ARMS AGAINST GO64

■ They are against decision of empowering Joint Collectors with service and other matters

■ They boycotted Doctor's Day celebrations and wore black badges in protest against the GO

■ By forming state and district-level JACs they chalked out an action plan to bring pressure on the government



HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

THE State Government's decision to delegate certain powers in the Department of Health, Medical and Family Welfare to Joint Collectors has not gone well with the doctors' fraternity.

Various unions of doctors like the Government Doctors' Association (GDA), AP Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (APNA) and Indian Medical Association (IMA) are strongly opposing the GO MS No 64, dated June 21, 2021 and protested against it by wearing black badges by boycotting Doctor's day celebrations on Thursday.

The doctors say that empowering the Joint Collectors (village, ward secretariats and development) with service matters and empowering the Joint Collector to monitor and review the daily activities of Superintendents who are of additional director cadres will affect the day-to-day functions of technically qualified DM&Hs and DCHS in the districts. Also, entrusting the service matters

and day-to-day technically monitored functions of DM&HO and DCHS to JCs is being objected to by the doctors.

Making JCs as reporting authorities for all annual confidential reports of sub-district level officers of health will make the role of district medical officers redundant. They argue that DM&Hs and DCHS will know the problems of doctors and technical issues better and can take decisions accordingly. Some senior doctors have commented that in several districts revenue officials have been involved in decisions on patients' oxygen requirements, Remdesivir injections and instructing the doctors to follow their orders.

The doctors are questioning the very intention of GO No.64 which does not exist anywhere in the country.

They suggest that an advisory committee with senior doctors be appointed to take decisions on various matters.

Chairman of Chittoor District JAC Dr Paul Ravi Kumar told The Hans India that their

united fight will continue till the controversial GO is withdrawn. At a time when the doctors have been extending Covid services putting their own lives at risk, such GOs are creating additional mental agony for them.

Various associations have come together and formed state and district-wise JACs to fight against the GO. After deliberating in detail through a virtual meeting they have chalked out an action plan to bring pressure on the government. Accordingly, the doctors are wearing black badges on July 1 and 2 which will be followed by lunch hour demonstrations during the next two days.

On July 5 and 6 they will stop sending any reports to the government and from July 7 onwards the doctors want to stop all work until their demand is heard by the government. Convenor of APGDA Dr D Jayadheer wrote a letter to CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy stating that the GO has created a lot of uproar among the doctors' community and mentioned various objections.

Pilot project on energy-efficient street lighting in 12 ULBs

K CHANDRASHEKAR
HYDERABAD

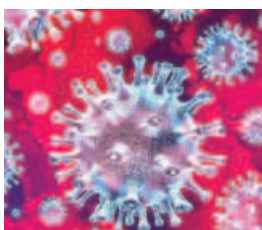
State government has decided to implement the Energy Efficient Street Lighting systems in urban local bodies in the State and selected 12 Municipalities and Corporations as a pilot project. According to the officials, the government wanted the municipalities to achieve greater energy efficiency and go for replacement of the existing street lights with energy efficient LEDs on pilot basis.

The official said that 12 urban local bodies including five Municipal Corporations and seven municipalities were selected under the pilot project. The ULBs include Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Khammam, Ramagundam and Warangal Corporation. The municipalities include Gajwel Nagara Panchayat, Siddipet Municipality, Siricilla Municipality, Mahabubnagar Municipality, Mancherial Municipality, Nalgonda Municipality and Tandur Municipality.

The municipal commissioners of 12 selected ULBs have been asked to discuss in the standing committee/council meeting on the pilot project of re-

placement of existing conventional street lights with energy efficient street lights (LED) in the already furnished selected stretches and pass a resolution. Meanwhile the commissioners have been given instructions on the pilot project. They have been asked to hand over selected stretches to the EESL for the entire agreement period, ensure 100 per cent Electrical Meters in working condition in selected stretches to measure the accurate energy consumption, and replacement damaged cables and junctions boxes if any with immediate effect, ensure 100 per cent glowing of lights in the selected stretches, so as to arrive at accurate energy consumption in that area before replacement with LEDs, extend cooperation with EESL in planning, operation and maintenance during the project period.

As per the agreement, the concerned ULB should pay the monthly electricity bill to the escrow accounts to be opened separately during the agreement period for selected stretches only, ULB should nominate the Electrical Engineer/DE/AE concerned as liaison officer for the pilot project.



AP SEES 3,841 NEW CASES, 38 FATALITIES

AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh reported 3,841 fresh cases of coronavirus, 3,963 recoveries and 38 deaths in 24 hours ending 9 am on Thursday. The cumulative positives climbed to 18,93,354, recoveries to 18,42,432 and deaths 12,744, according to the latest bulletin. The number of active cases slid to 38,178, it said.

East Godavari district reported 760, Chittoor 616 and West Godavari 504 fresh cases. The remaining 10 districts added less than 400 new cases each, with Kurnool logging the lowest 45.

Krishna district saw eight fresh Covid-19 fatalities, Chittoor, East Godavari and Guntur five each, Srikakulam and West Godavari three each, Anantapur, Kadapa and Vizianagaram two each, Kurnool, Nellore and Visakhapatnam one each in a day. (ANI)

Ration cards from July 5, pensions to eligible: KTR

HANS NEW SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MUNICIPAL Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Thursday claimed that only Telangana is doing its best to expand greenery.

He participated in seventh phase of "Haritha Haram" and "Palle and Pattana Pragathi" at Pedda Amberpet Kalan with Ministers Indrakaran Reddy, Sabitha Indra Reddy, and officials and local leaders. Planting a sapling on the occasion, he called upon people to grow greenery. He said the government will give ration cards and pensions to all eligible persons. "Now 41 lakh of people get pension. We will give ration cards from July 5 and pensions to other eligible people."

"Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima

- Participates in seventh phase of "Haritha Haram" and "Palle and Pattana Pragathi" at Pedda Amberpet Kalan along with Ministers Indrakaran Reddy, Sabitha Indra Reddy
- Govt spending Rs 5,900 crore for planting 220 crore saplings in State. It achieved its goal by expanding greenery to 28 per cent from 23.6 per cent



given by the KCR government pushed the Modi government to launch the Kisan help program, he claimed. "Our State is making big efforts to expand greenery," KTR said. The government is spending

a whopping Rs 5,900 crore for planting as many as 220 crore plants in the State." The government achieved its goal by expanding greenery to 28 per cent from 23.6 per cent and is still working,

he asserted.

"During Corona pandemic we faced a lot of problems and suffered financial losses", he said. Plants give us oxygen we need to grow more. Time is for expansion of greenery", he stressed. Though many people lost lives to Coronavirus due to lack of oxygen in other States, Telangana did not face such problems, KTR pointed out. "This can be attributed to the foresight and steps by the State government. No other State in the country is able to take up such a pious programme of green drive and expansion", he said.

"Our government aims to provide a pollution-free and conducive environment for our children. For this people's involvement is key at all levels in towns, villages and cities as well."

THREE former members of Legislative Council on Thursday petitioned the Legislature Secretary seeking that they be continued in their posts till August 11 in accordance with the notice of the Election Commission of India.

The three belonging to the opposition TDP had originally retired, along with five others, on June 18 upon expiry of their six-year tenure.

What prompted their petition to the Legislature Secretary was a communication the ECI sent to the State Chief Electoral Officer on June 7 indicating that eight members, including one of the ruling YSRC, elected from the Local Authorities Constituencies, were due for retirement on August 11, 2021. The ECI sought relevant information from the CEO for conducting the Council elections from the LACs in seats that fall vacant on August 11. Based on this, the TDP members Reddy Subrahmanyam (who was the Council Deputy Chairman), Y V B Rajendra Prasad and D Jagadeeswara Rao petitioned the Legislature Secretary that their retirement on June 18 was contrary to the ECIs declaration.

AMARAVATI

▶ Reddy Subrahmanyam, Rajendra Prasad and Jagadeeswara Rao want to be allowed to be members till Aug 11, citing the letter by ECI on June 7 which mentioned their date of retirement as Aug 11



Reddy Subrahmanyam Y V B Rajendra Prasad

▶ They were retired on June 17 along with five others, including one YSRC member

"The orders of retirement are in contravention to the Election Commission's declaration and it is nothing but illegal, arbitrary and unconstitutional. Therefore, the appointment of pro-tem Chairman is also invalid," the three contended. They, hence, requested that they be allowed to continue in office till August 11. Subrahmanyam wanted him to be continued as Deputy Chairman of the Council.

"In any case it is not possible (to continue), you are further requested to give a letter with valid reasons regarding the retirement on June 18," the TDP members requested the Legislature Secretary.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Telecom industry under tremendous stress

“THE telecom industry is under tremendous stress. I hope the government will ensure that India's digital dream remains intact through the provision of at least three operators. Telecom tariffs need to go up

— Sunil Mittal, Chairman, Bharti Airtel



AUTO SALES

Honda Cars reports 4-fold increase in sales

HONDA Cars India Ltd (HCL) on Thursday reported a four-fold increase in its domestic wholesales last month at 4,767 units as compared with 2,032 units in May this year. The company exported 1,241 units last month as compared with 385 units in May. The automaker expects that this positive momentum will continue.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	75.37	South	
Euro	89.27	African Rand	5.51
UAE Dirham	20.67	Hong Kong Dollar	10.07
Thai Baht	2.44	Japanese Yen	0.77
British Pound	103.96	New Zealand Dollar	52.64
Australian Dollar	56.43	Saudi Riyal	21.82
Canadian Dollar	60.75	Swedish Krona	9.2
Swiss Franc	81.29	Singapore Dollar	56.27

DELHI FRIDAY 2 JULY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Big Bazaar's new offer

Big Bazaar announced monthly discounts offer - Sabse Badi Savings. Under this, customers get a chance to save big on monthly groceries and daily essentials by shopping from their nearest Big Bazaar store or shopping online at shop.bigbazaar.com, the Big Bazaar App, and even through WhatsApp. With discounts across food and other important categories, the offer will continue till July 11, allowing the customers to get groceries, juices, fruits, and vegetables at low and affordable prices. “We have perfected the promise of giving the best value to our customers. Our offer is a value promise created for every Indian household, understanding their requirement, and giving them biggest saving on their monthly budget, said Pawan Sarda, CMO – Digital, Marketing, E-commerce, Future Group.

Udaan sells Covid essentials

Udaan has sold 15 million Covid safety essentials on its platform, catering to over 23,000 orders from over 400 sellers across 5,000 pin codes. The platform witnessed a 5X surge in the demand for items like protective masks, face shields and PPE suits. It has supported retailers with regular and uninterrupted supply of Covid safety essentials across the country. The retailers on the platform benefitted from door-step delivery by placing orders on the udaan app. Uday Bhaskar, Head, Lifestyle, Electronics, General Merchandise (Non-food business), Udaan said: “As a result of restrictions imposed during the second wave of Covid-19, the supply-chain and distribution ecosystem of retailers were disrupted. We ensured regular, uninterrupted, and timely delivery of Covid safety essentials.”

Kotak Mahindra's new initiative

Kotak Mahindra has announced an offer for its customers in a tie-up with Metropolis Healthcare Limited. Kotak debit and credit cardholders can avail the Coviprotect Spike antibody blood test at a 30 per cent discount at all Metropolis diagnostics centres in Mumbai and in over 90 cities across India. The test which costs Rs 1200 will be available at a reduced price of Rs 850 for all Kotak customers. Puneet Kapoor, President, Products, Alternate Channels, Customer Experience Delivery, Kotak Mahindra Bank said: “As India slowly starts to unlock and we begin to resume our everyday lives, it is extremely important that we take the necessary precautions. Through our tie-up with Metropolis, we are pleased to offer this essential test at a 30 per cent discount to our Kotak customers.”

Vivo records 1 lakh sales

Vivo has announced that it has successfully delivered one lakh smartphones between 10th May and 10th June 2021 through its unique Vivo Smart Retail Initiative (VSR). The first of its kind click-to-mortar model allows the customer to experience and buy Vivo products and services from the safety and convenience of their homes. Reiterating its continued commitment towards mainline retail and enabling business continuity through an agile solution which helped bridge the gap between retailers and consumers in the post-pandemic world, has benefited retail partners with an average increase of 10 per cent in business (in value terms). Nipun Marya, Director- Brand strategy, said: “Vivo Smart Retail has been a successful customer-centric innovation, and we are delighted to witness such an overwhelming response.”

Uncertainty pulls mfg PMI below 50 mark

NEW DELHI

INDIA's manufacturing sector activities contracted for the first time in 11 months in June as rise in coronavirus cases and strict containment measures adversely impacted demand as well as resulted in job losses, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

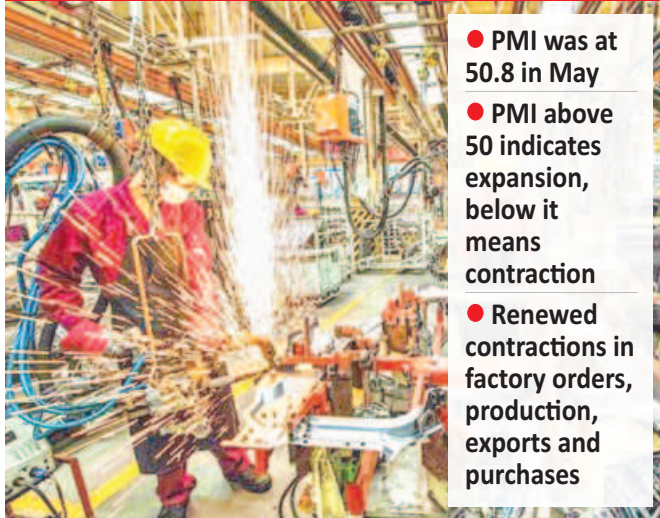
The seasonally-adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) declined to 48.1 in June from 50.8 in May. The index fell below the critical 50 mark for the first time since July 2020. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The latest reading highlighted renewed contractions in factory orders, production, exports and quantities of purchases. Moreover, with business optimism fading over the month, job shedding continued, the survey said. Covid-19 restrictions also curtailed international demand for Indian goods and new export orders decreased for the first time in ten months.

“The intensification of the Covid-19 crisis in India had a detrimental impact on the manufacturing economy. Growth of new orders, production, exports and input purchasing was interrupted in June as containment measures aimed at bringing the pandemic under control restrained demand,” Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit, said.

India's manufacturing sector contracts to 48.1 in June, first time in 11 months: Survey

Sluggish Demand Dents Factory Output



tor at IHS Markit, said.

Lima, however, noted that in all cases, rates of contraction were softer than during the first lockdown. Business confidence was dampened in June by uncertainty over when the pandemic can be brought under control. Companies were at their least optimistic for almost a year.

“As a result of subdued optimism, jobs were shed again in June,” Lima said. On the price front, input costs increased further in June, with firms reporting higher prices for chemicals, elec-

tronic components, energy, metals and plastics.

Additional cost burdens were again transferred on to clients, with goods producers hiking their fees for the tenth straight month, the survey said. Out of the three broad areas of the manufacturing sector monitored by the survey, capital goods was the worst affected area in June. Output here declined at a steep rate due to a sharp fall in sales. “The sector also saw the fastest contraction in buying levels and was the only to post job shedding,” Lima said.

Automakers back on recovery track

NEW DELHI

MAJOR automakers, including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors, M&M, Kia, Toyota and Honda, on Thursday reported healthy growth in passenger vehicles (PV) sales in June, recovering from the disruptions induced by the second wave of Covid-19.

India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) posted total sales of 1,47,368 units in June, up from 46,555 units in May. Its domestic dispatches to dealers last month stood at 1,30,348 units, up from 35,293 units in May, as easing of Covid-related restrictions helped the auto major dispatch more units to dealerships. The company's sales of mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, rose to 17,439 units in June from 4,760 units in May this year. Similarly, compact segment vehicles, including Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire, increased to 68,849 units last month from 20,343 cars in May.



BHEL supplies medical oxygen plant to SLG

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

BHARAT Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has ventured into the manufacturing of medical oxygen plants and the first indigenously built oxygen plant was handed over to SLG Hospitals. The plant was delivered in a flagging off ceremony in presence of BHEL CMD, senior officials and as well as SLG Hospitals at BHEL's Hyderabad unit.

The plant was delivered in a record time of less than 35 days from receipt of order. The 500 litres per minute medical-grade oxygen generating system has been designed, developed and manufactured by BHEL in association with the CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun. Notably, the entire process from signing of transfer of technology agreement to manufacture of prototype was accomplished by BHEL's Hyderabad unit on war footing in 40 days.

Hesa raises \$2mn in seed funding

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

HESA, a Hyderabad-based tech startup, has secured \$2 million as part of its seed funding round led by Venture Catalysts and also from nine unicorns. The investment is to scale up its operations in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka States and also to scale up the technology.

The startup is a commerce platform that provides physical, digital and social connect to rural India. It unifies value chains in rural India by enabling local brands and businesses to come together as a community. Hesa is one-stop-solution for corporates, agritech and fintech startups, SMEs, banks and financial institutions, government and NGOs who want to access 850 million people in rural India, for their go-to-market and buy-sell propositions including brand promotions and social responsibilities.

4 YEARS OF GST REGIME

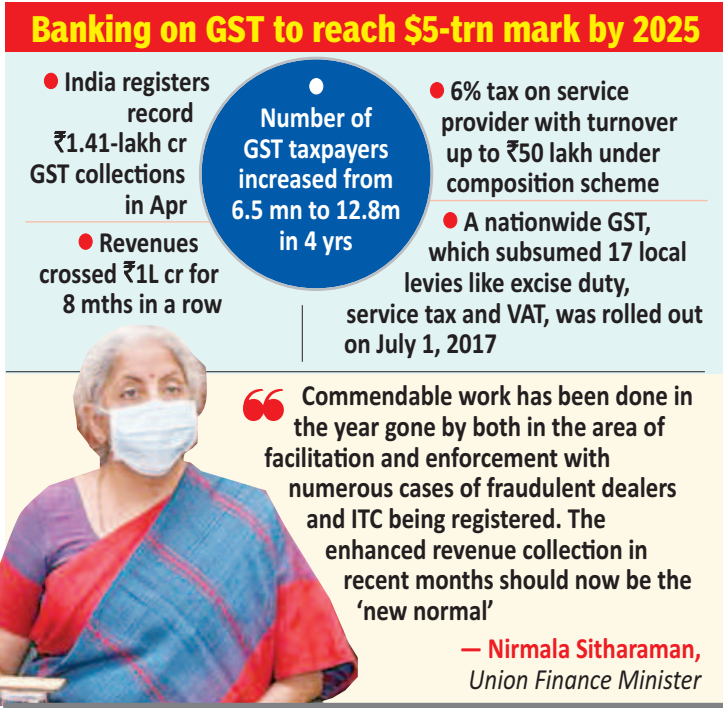
Enhanced GST mop-up now a 'new normal': FM

NEW DELHI

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said taxpayer base has almost doubled to 1.28 crore in four years of rollout of the historic tax reform and the enhanced GST mop up in the recent months should now be the 'new normal'.

In a written message to tax officers on the fourth anniversary of GST rollout, she said implementing any reform of this scale in a large and diverse country like India can be highly challenging, but GST has brought about ease in taxpayer compliance and reduced common man's tax burden.

For eight months in a row, Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues have crossed Rs 1 lakh crore mark and touched a record Rs 1.41 lakh crore in April 2021. “Commendable work has been done in the year gone by both in the area of facilitation and enforcement with numerous cases of fraudulent dealers and ITC being registered. The enhanced revenue collection in recent months should now be the 'new normal',” Sitharaman said. In the last four years, the GST taxpayer base has almost dou-



bled to 1.28 crore from 66.25 lakh. Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur, in his message on GST Day,

said in the past year a balance has been struck between trade facilitation and enforcement.

GST turns colonial taxation system in 4 years: CAIT

NEW DELHI

ON completion of four years of GST implementation in India on Thursday, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said much against the declared spirit of GST as Good and Simple Tax, the GST has become a 'colonial taxation system' not compatible with the ground realities of business conducted in India and available resources with the traders. Various amendments and introduction of rules under GST in the recent past have made the taxation system much complicated and put more compliance burden on the traders. It is not alone the Central government but largely the State governments are more responsible for distorting GST taxation system and bringing disparities and anomalies in GST making it a more complex system and a big headache for the traders, said CAIT. CAIT said that even after four years of GST implementation in India, the GST portal is still struggling with many chal-

lenges. The rules are amended but the portal fails to update with said amendments timely. So far, no national appellate tribunal has been constituted. No central advance ruling authority has been constituted giving a free hand to States to interpret the law in their own way distorting the fundamentals of 'One Nation-One Tax'.

GST Authorities are more interested in GST compliance but never thought that a large chunk of traders in the country are yet to adopt computerization in their existing business format and no step has been taken to equip the traders with computers, etc.

CAIT said that in the recent past, the GST Council has thrown all canons of natural justice by empowering the authorities to cancel GST Registration of any trader without giving him any notice or an opportunity of hearing. Unfettered and arbitrary powers are given to officers without realizing the misuse of such powers which may lead to corruption.

Sania-Bethanie stun sixth seed in doubles opener

LONDON

SANIA Mirza and her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands knocked out sixth seeds Desirae Krawczyk and Alexa Guarachi to move to the second round of the women's doubles event at the Wimbledon Championships, here on Thursday.

Sania and Mattek-Sands were a bit rusty at the start but once they got their rhythm they dominated the match and won 7-5 6-3 against the American-Chilean combination in one hour and 27 minutes.

Pressure was put on the Indo-American pair early in the match when Mattek-Sands served the third game that featured seven deuce points. The American served three double faults in a slow start but eventually held the game after saving three break points.

Sania and Mattek-Sands too had two opportunities to break their rivals but the American fluffed a volley from the net before left-handed Desirae served extremely well to eventually hold.

Guarachi hit a forehand wide at 15-30 to hand two set points to their rivals in the 12th game. It was the chance that Indo-American pair did not squander with Sania finishing off the set with an overhead smash. In the second set, Sania and Mattek-Sands opened up a 3-1 lead when they broke Guarachi again.

Matte-Sands' low backhand return was hit back uppishly and Sania latched on to that with an unreturnable smash. With a 3-1 cushion at hand, Sania and her partner never looked back.

With Ankita Raina taking the court later in the day with American partner Lauren Davis, there will be a bit of history for Indian tennis at the Championships as for the first time, two women players from the country are competing in the main draw of a Grand Slam.

For Ankita, it will be her third successive appearance at a tennis major, having made her debut at the Australian Open this year. Sania has been the lone Indian competing at the biggest stage of the game since 2005.



Before that, Indian-American Shikha Uberoi had qualified for the US Open women's singles in 2004 and also won her first round against Japan's Saori Obata before losing to Venus Williams.

Shikha never could make the Grand Slam main draw again and after that it was Sania who kept India represented on the WTA tour. Way back, Nirupama Vaidyanathan was the first to

crack a singles Grand Slam main draw in 1998 at the Australian Open, while Nirupama Mankad played the 1971 Wimbledon mixed doubles with Anand Amritraj. (PTI)

Murray enters third round after a five-setter

LONDON

HOME favourite Andy Murray, who had been practicing with Roger Federer ahead of the Wimbledon Championships, won a marathon five-setter 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 against German Oscar Otte to reach the third round here. Murray, 34, was granted a wild card for this year's Wimbledon as the three-time Grand Slam champion had been suffering setbacks while trying to return to the tour after hip surgeries.

The former world No. 1 spent three-and-a-half hours to see off 24th seed Nikoloz Basilashvili in the first round on Monday and needed to fight 20 minutes longer on Wednesday against Otte, who played at the grass-court Grand Slam for the first time, Xinhua reports.

Murray will lock horns with Canadian 10th seed Denis Shapovalov as the 22-year-old advanced to the third round at Wimbledon for the first time following a walkover from Spanish veteran Pablo Andujar.

Earlier, men's singles reigning champion Novak Djokovic cruised into the third round by beat-

ing Kevin Anderson from South Africa 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Women's singles second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus came from one set down to defeat home player Katie Boulter 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

The 41-year-old Venus Williams was ousted by Tunisian Ons Jabeur 5-7, 0-6 in straight sets in the second round. Her 39-year-old sister Serena Williams had to retire midway after injuring her leg in Tuesday's first-round match.



Sophia powers England women to series win over India

TAUNTON

ALL-ROUNDER Sophia Dunkley, who earlier this month became the first Black woman to play Test cricket for England, hammered unbeaten 73 off 81 deliveries and shared an undefeated 92-run partnership for the sixth wicket with Katherine Brunt (33 not out) to help England women's team beat India by five wickets in the second ODI here. The win helped the host take an unsailable 2-0 lead.

England women had won the first ODI by eight wickets. India, who were all out for 221 in 50 overs after being put into bat, began well by reducing England to 92 for four. They managed to remove the stars of the first match Tammy Beaumont (10) and Natalie Sciver (19) early.

However, Sophia powered them to the target, hitting five fours and a six as the Indian bowlers struggled to get rid of her.

Earlier, England pace bowler Kate Cross took five wickets for 34 runs to help bowl Indian women out for 221.

Indian skipper Mithali Raj scored a half-century

before developing neck pain.

The visitors had got off to a flying start with openers Smriti Mandhana (22) and Shafali Verma (44) adding 56 before a loss of three quick wickets, including the close stumping of Shafali, put them on the back-foot at 77 for three.

Harmanpreet Kaur (19) and Mithali (59 off 92 balls) then added 68 runs for the fourth wicket before Harmanpreet fell. As wickets kept tumbling around her, Mithali remained the lone batter standing.

Towards the end, Jhulan Goswami (19) and Poonam Yadav (10) added 28 for the last wicket to take India past 200.

Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone took three wickets for 33.

Brief scores:

India Women 221 all out in 50 overs (Mithali Raj 59, Shafali Verma 44, Kate Cross 5/34, S Ecclestone 3/33) lost to England Women 225/5 in 47.3 overs (Sophia Dunkley 73 not out, Katherine Brunt 33 not out, Lauren Winfield Hill 42, Poonam Yadav 2/63)



Hyderabad FC signs kit deal with hummel

HYDERABAD

INDIAN Super League side Hyderabad FC have entered into a partnership with Danish sportswear brand hummel who joined as the club's Official Team Kit Partner for the upcoming 2021-22 season. HFC, who impressed everyone with their entertaining brand of football during the seventh season of the ISL, have now come together with hummel who share a century-long history in football. The global sports brand is looking at this partnership as an avenue to invest in Indian football and further explore new paths to develop the sport in India. The legendary Danish brand has a proud sports history and is one of the most recognised team sports brands in the world with roots in football and handball, and has previously been worn by iconic football teams such as Real Madrid, Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa, Benfica and the Denmark national team. Today, hummel continues to sponsor clubs and players within handball and football, along with English Premier League teams Everton and Southampton to name a few.

Lord's to host full capacity crowd for July 10 ODI

LONDON

ENGLAND will see a return of full capacity crowd in an international game for the first time since September 2019 on July 10 when the hosts play Pakistan in the second One-day International at Lords. Lord's, which has a capacity of 30,000, was included in the Event Research Programme (ERP) of the UK government which is looking to open up sports venues to crowds after Covid-19.

The government had allowed limited capacity in grounds. As many as 17,000 fans attended the first three days of the second Test against New Zealand at Edgbaston last month.

Earlier this week, it was decided that the third and final ODI between England and Pakistan on July 13 in Birmingham will be played in front of 80 per cent crowd capacity.

"Birmingham's Edgbaston Stadium has again been confirmed as part of the Government's Events Research Programme (ERP) and will operate at 80 per cent capacity for the Royal London International (ODI) between England and Pakistan," a statement from Warwickshire County Cricket Club had said.

"Taking place on Tuesday 13 July, Edgbaston will be able to accommodate around 19,000 fans, including under 16s, in the stadium bowl and hospitality lounges without social distancing as part of the research study," it had added. (IANS)

Praneeth, Srikanth nominated for Khel Ratna

NEW DELHI: Olympic-bound shuttler B Sai Praneeth and Kidambi Srikanth have been nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the Badminton Association of India, which has also recommended three players for the Arjuna award. Praneeth, who won a bronze medal at the 2019 World Championship, is the only men's singles shuttler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games. Srikanth has been struggling of late but won four titles in 2017. The Badminton Association of India (BAI) nominated HS Prannoy, Pranav Jerry Chopra and Sameer Verma for the Arjuna honour. The federation also sent applications of S Muralidharan and PU Bhaskar Babu for the Dronacharya award. Muralidharan is already a recipient of Dronacharya Life Time achievement award. Leroy D'sa and PVV Lakshmi have been nominated for the Dhyanchand award. PTI

AICF nominates Humpy for Khel Ratna award

CHENNAI: Reigning women's world rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy has been nominated for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the All India Chess Federation (AICF). The 34-year old Humpy, currently ranked number three in the world, has qualified for the FIDE Women's Candidates event next year and was also part of the Indian squad which won the Online Chess Olympiad in 2020. Humpy is already a recipient of the Arjuna award and Padma Shri. Also, seven other players -- Vidit S Gujrathi, B Adhian, S P Sethuraman, M R Lalith Babu, Bhakti Kulkarni and Padmini Rout have been nominated for the Arjuna award, AICF honorary secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan said. (PTI)

BELGIUM TAKES ON ITALY FOR SPOT IN EURO 2020 SEMIS

MUNICH

BELGIUM'S leading scorer at the European Championship is no stranger to Italy's veteran defenders. They all play in Serie A. Romelu Lukaku will likely be the main attacking threat when Belgium takes on Italy in Munich on Friday in the Euro 2020 quarterfinals.

The Inter Milan forward has scored three goals in his team's four victories so far. And with Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard both doubtful for the game, Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini and teammate Leonardo Bonucci — both defenders at Juventus — will know just who to focus on. "It's a quarterfinal. It will be decided on small details," Belgium midfielder Youri Tielemans said.

"I think one phase can turn the game in our favour, or against us. We have to be concentrated from the first minute and finish strongly. It's going to be very, very tough, very, very physical."

Belgium, which is trying to win its first major soccer tournament three years after a third-place finish at the World Cup, hasn't lost in 13 games and is the top-ranked team in the world.

The Italians haven't been beaten in a national team record 31 matches, though they were taken to extra time by Austria in the round of 16.

"It's a nice challenge to beat them after a run of 31 unbeaten games. I estimate the odds 50-50," said Belgium midfielder Thorgan Hazard, Eden's younger brother and the scorer of the

only goal in the team's 1-0 victory over Portugal in the last round.

"It's an advantage that we didn't have to play extra time." Both teams won all three of their group matches, and with France, Portugal, the Netherlands and Germany all eliminated from Euro 2020, the winner in Munich will certainly be among the favourites for the title.

"We must continue to believe in ourselves," Italy midfielder Jorginho said. "The most serious mistake would be to think that we've already done something great." Neither De Bruyne nor Eden Hazard's injury worries are new. De Bruyne fractured his nose and eye socket in a collision with Chelsea defender Antonio Rudiger while playing for Manchester City in the Champions League final, but

the latest problem is a bruised left ankle sustained after a tackle from Portugal midfielder Joao Palhinha in the round of 16.

"I don't know if De Bruyne will play in the game, but he's definitely a player who makes the difference, with a higher-than-average football intelligence," said Jorginho, a Chelsea midfielder who plays against De Bruyne in the Premier League.

The injury-prone Hazard was also taken off early against Portugal with a hamstring issue. Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said Monday that both Hazard and De Bruyne were "50-50" for Friday's game. Belgium has only beaten Italy once before in a competitive game — in the 1972 European Championship quarterfinals. (AP)



PROPERTY MULTIPLIER
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

KT Residency approved by Approved No. PO2400001598

SAFE Earn extra sft*

AFFORDABLE 9% to 11% Returns

NO MAINTENANCE Assured rental income for 20years

+91 95337 76694

www.ktresidency.com | sales@kapilproperties.com