

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



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Lockdown 2021 ... best utilised reading ... my fav hobby ... how are you guys spending ur lockdown time ???



Besan (Gram Flour) for Glowing Skin

Besan or gram flour, an extremely cheap and easily available kitchen staple has been a part of age-old beauty remedies for gorgeous and flawless skin

Besan, an integral part of Indian cuisine is a popular beauty remedy something that's been passed down from generation to generation. Besan has been used in homes across India to lighten the skin and make it appear glowing. It is used for hair and skincare to remove tan and pigmentation. Besan has long been used as natural face cleanser in India to treat various skin problems while maintaining Skin PH balance. It helps removing tan, dead skin and zits and brighten the skin complexion. It provides remedy for acne, pimples and dark skin.

Besan has been traditionally used in beauty care, mainly to deep cleanse and exfoliate the skin. Ubtans, a homemade face pack is a great skincare secret of every Indian woman to get smooth and supple skin.

The ubtan consist of Besan, rice flour, ground almonds, yoghurt and turmeric. First, the body was massaged with sesame seed (til) oil. Then the ubtan was applied and washed off after half an hour, while bathing. The washing off and scrubbing away the

ingredients helped to clear the skin of dead cells, leaving the skin smooth and bright, with a translucent quality.

Want to get rid of acne?

Besan works wonder. Besan can also be added to face packs for removing tan, cleansing and tightening the skin. Mix besan with yogurt, lemon juice and a pinch of turmeric. Apply on the skin and wash it off after half an hour.

Skin tanning is common problem during summer. If you are regularly exposed to UV rays in day time then you can use Besan to soothen your skin. Mix one tsp each of besan powder, ground oats and sandalwood powder. Make a paste with an infusion of green tea and add 1tsp of honey. Mix it to make paste of good consistency. Apply it to your face and uncovered areas around neck and arms and let it dry naturally may be for next one hour. Wash it off with lukewarm water and use every day to help your skin relax.

Mix a tablespoon of besan with rose water so as to form a slurry. Now apply it evenly on your exposed areas such as the face, neck, hands, feet, etc., and leave for 30 minutes.

After then, wash with cold water. If your skin is regularly exposed to scorching summers. Grate the cucumber and squeeze it to drain out the juice from it. Add some besan to it and again keep the consistency on the liquid side. Apply on areas which remains exposed to heat and wait for 20 minutes, then remove using cold or fresh water.

Mix ground almonds with gram flour, milk and lemon juice. Apply it on the face and wash off after 20 to 30 minutes. It helps to remove tan and lighten skin colour. A besan pack helps to reduce oiliness. It can be mixed with milk or yogurt and applied, washing it off after 20 minutes. Moreover, it also controls the secretion of excess oil or sebum, making it an apt choice for oily and combination skin people.

For pimple prone skin, mix 1 tsp besan with 1 tsp sandalwood powder, 1/2 tsp turmeric and milk into a consistent paste.

You can also mix it with normal water, curd or rose water to make a paste in place of milk. Apply on the face and allow it to dry in natural environment on normal temperature and wash it off with clean and fresh water. For dark arms and neck. Apply til oil daily and massage it on the skin. Mix besan, curd, lemon juice and a little turmeric and apply at least three times a week. Wash it off after half an hour. Then apply til oil and massage it into the skin, as recommended.

Mix a cup of curd, two teaspoons of besan, an egg white and the juice of half a lemon. If you have very dry hair, substitute the egg white with a teaspoon of olive oil. For smooth and fairer skin, mix gram flour with dried and ground orange peels and cream of milk. Apply on the face and neck. After 15 minutes, rub gently on the skin with circular motions. Wash off with water. For skin brightening, mix two spoons of besan with a few drops of lemon juice and one spoon of milk cream. Keep the consistency smooth and keep the pack on your face for about 30 minutes and wash with fresh normal water.

Ritu Kumar launches Label Basics

PUJA GUPTA

Catering to an increasing trend of work-from-home, athleisure and an overall need for more relaxed casual wear, veteran designer Ritu Kumar has launched Label Basics under her fashion brand.

Amrith Kumar, Managing Director of Label Ritu Kumar, shares more about the new collection and how it aims to cater to the ever-changing consumer consumption patterns.

The brand has always been known for the heritage prints and rich colours. Label Basics seems a change in direction and aesthetics, tell us more

Over the past year and so, there has been a sharp shift in the way in which we dress. While comfort and function were attributes previously kept enshrined in our homes, they are now accepted in work and public, for often they occupy the same space. As a brand, we understood that business models need to be agile and willing to accommodate such transitions. Our introduction of Label Basics, explores the new way of dressing comfortable and easy with elements traditional to the Ritu Kumar label high-quality fabrics, fascinating prints, patterns and seamless dressing.

With a new more extensive product line, Basics will now enjoy greater visibility in our portfolio with dedicated sections in-stores. We're certain that the Label Ritu Kumar patron will resonate with this collection as well that brings together timeless style and comfort.

Elevated essentials and relaxed wear are the way in 2021. What does the new line have to offer?

Catering to an increasing trend

of work-from-home, athleisure and an overall need for more relaxed casual wear, Label Basics are a perfect addition to any wardrobe. It is focused on versatile pieces that are stylish yet comfortable, this is the new must-have for the homebound generation. Think of fuss-free dresses, relaxed bottoms and easy co-ord sets—all pointing to a sense of minimalism with well-cut, comfortable shapes and quality materials.

The apparel is crafted with premium-quality fabrics that are lightweight and perfect for the summer, such as cotton voile, poplin, modal, rayon moss, and chiffon. The placid and soft colour palette includes the summer classics ranging from bluish pinks, tropical greens and sky blues, to deep hues such as monochrome blacks and browns. The line also offers a sharp price, making it more accessible to the average consumer and the consumer wrought by the pandemic.

Fashion is consumed very differently now. In your opinion, what is the priority?

As our lives shifted in the pandemic, so did fashion. Given the spike in working from home and an affinity to dress in athleisure, we've witnessed an increasingly functional approach being adopted to fashion dressing down stylishly has now become central to our work-from-home philosophy. While consumers enjoy innovation and new styles, purchases are being made very differently. There is an increased focus on durability, longevity, and sustainability as opposed to one-time-wear pieces. It is key to focus on these sensibilities stylish comfort and durability while providing the consumer with a friendly price point.

The past year was difficult for all. What have been your takeaways as a brand?

High functionality will drive the future of fashion. Clothes that are easy to transition from work-wear and daywear to evening or travel wear. However, we can speculate what the future will look like but, at the end of the day, only time will tell how fashion will evolve in the next year.

WFH generation prefers comfortable yet chic clothing. What do you think is going to be some preferred looks?

Label Basics offer customers the best in quality and styles at sharp prices. Each product from this collection is fashioned from fabrics that are soft, lightweight and ideal for the summer, for working and lounging at home and dressed up for the evening with statement pieces and accessories. The summer-friendly maxi dresses synthesize this philosophy with their innate comfort and style.

How would you define Label Basics in one line?

Label Basics are fashion essentials for a seamless transition of work-from-home to out with elevated everyday essentials for day-to-day work and so much more, with an element of year-round style.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Vidya Balan: Don't believe in black and white world except for picture

Bollywood actress Vidya Balan shared a monochrome picture on Thursday on social media, saying she does not believe in a black and white world except for a picture.

Vidya posted the picture on Instagram, where she is seen sitting on a chair dressed in a black outfit. She completed her look by leaving her long hair open with a middle parting. "I don't believe in a black and white world, except for a picture maybe," she wrote as the caption. The actress had recently reminded her fans to wear masks amid the ongoing second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has badly affected Maharashtra.

Vidya will next be seen in "Sherni", for which she has been shooting in Madhya Pradesh. The film, directed by Amit Masurkar, casts her as a forest officer.



Risk of sulfates and parabens on your hair

Sulfates and parabens are chemicals used in soaps and shampoos. Sulfates are basically surfactants – they are the cleansing agent. In other words, they amplify the cleansing effect of the product and strip away oil and grime.

Parabens, on the other hand, are chemicals used to increase the shelf-life of the products and prevent the growth of bacteria and fungi. Basically, they are used as a preservative in water-based grooming products such as soaps and shampoos.

Sulfates can leave your skin and hair feeling really dry, as they take away all the natural oils. They can cause irritation to the eyes, skin, or scalp. They can cause hair fall. Long-term use can also cause problems in the lungs. It is also to be noted that sulfates are derived from petroleum, and hence, its use is harmful to the environment.

Parabens, on the other hand, can cause allergic reactions or can make dermatitis worse, especially in children. They can cause hormonal disruption in the body as an endocrine disruptor. As a result, they can even lead to breast cancer. In fact, paraben concentrations have been found in breast tumours, especially the malignant ones.

How to recognise them?

If your shampoo or soap lathers, then it

BEAUTY FUNDA



contains sulfates. If you want to be absolutely sure, the ingredients list should reveal if it contains any sulfate compound. The two main sulfates are sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS) and sodium laureth sulfate (SLES). Apart from these, any other ingredient with the word, "sulfate" in it is an obvious way to recognise it.

To recognise parabens, the only thing to depend on is the ingredients list on the label of your shampoo or soap. Parabens are marked as propylparaben, butylparaben, and methylparaben. But, be careful. It's not just words with "paraben" in them. They may also be present in your products as Alkyl parahydroxy benzoates.

Wear your pajamas to work Day

Relax the dress code and work in comfort on Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day. Don't worry about knotting a tie, don't confine your feet in high heels; this is the day to wear your softest, cosiest and silliest nightwear, and enjoy the luxurious freedom of lounging while earning your pay cheque.

It is a great way to have a bit of fun and feel comfortable in the workplace. After all, a lot of people don't like sitting in a suit or a fitted skirt all day long, and so wearing pajamas for the day is a fun way of letting everyone feel as comfortable as possible in the workplace.

There is no secret meaning behind this day; it was simply created for a bit of fun. That's why we love it so much. Wear Your Pajamas To Work Day creates a relaxed and laid-back atmosphere, which is especially beneficial for those in high pressure and serious jobs, such as tax preparers and accountants. Wearing pajamas can help to alleviate some of the stress that is typically experienced. It also means that you have a bit of extra time in the morning, as you don't need to worry about looking pristine.



Derived from the Persian word meaning "leg garment," pajamas have come a long, long way. Originating as drawstring pants traditionally worn in Southwest Asia, and introduced to the rest of the world by British colonialists, PJs started to gain acceptance in the Western world by the late 1800s. Since then, jammies have been transformed into the sleepwear garments that we know and love today. Whether you wear a snugly robe with cushy slippers, a superhero PJ set or onesie sleepers with attached fluffy bunny booties, dress for successful comfort on Wear Your Pajamas To Work Day.

The most obvious way to celebrate Wear Your Pajamas To

Work Day is by wearing your pajamas to work. Of course, you will want to check with management and HR to make sure that this is permitted. The last thing you want to do is turn up to work in your pajamas and then be sent home. If you take it up with management, they may decide that it is something fun for everyone to get involved in and, therefore, declare this as a day for all employees to wear their pajamas in the workplace.

If you run a business, we would definitely recommend that you consider getting involved in Wear Your Pajamas To Work Day. Not only is this a fun and silly idea, but it can even bring some benefits to your

workforce as well. For example, by getting everyone involved in an activity like this, you create a sense of unity and team spirit. This can work wonders in terms of productivity and the group dynamics at your business.

Furthermore, it can also be used as a good branding opportunity. You can take photos of your team and add them to your social media pages. This is a great way to ensure you are a part of what is trending online on this date, and so it can really help in terms of your online visibility and building a fun and fresh brand image.

You can turn it into a little bit of a competition, giving an award for the best dressed on the day. This is bound to make the day more fun, as your employees try to out-do each other in terms of the pajamas they wear. We are sure you will see some crazy slipper designs thrown into the mix as well.



Conditions imposed for entering Varanasi, visiting temples

VARANASI

THE Varanasi administration has made it mandatory for all visitors to carry a negative RT-PCR test report of past 72 hours, if they wish to seek accommodation in hotels and visit temples including Kashi Vishwanath, Annapurna and Sankat Mochan temples in the holy city.

The district administration has also advised pilgrims and tourists from across the country to avoid visiting the holy city for pilgrimage in view of the rising figures of new Covid-19 positive cases.

According to divisional commissioner Deepak Agrawal and district magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma, the decision was taken to discourage people from gathering at shrines, religious and tourist sites.



"Now, producing RT-PCR negative report has been made mandatory for people thronging prominent temples, including Kashi Vishwanath, Annapurna temple and Sankat Mochan. Similar provision has been mandated for hotels for ac-

commodating guests. The step has been taken in view of the continuous influx of pilgrims from southern, western and eastern states," the commissioner said.

He further said, "We are also appealing to the pilgrims to avoid visiting Kashi in view of the fresh wave of Covid-19 pandemic. People from other cities are also being advised to visit the city only in case of urgency. The district administration has already imposed a ban on visiting ghats along river Ganga between 4 p.m. and 6 a.m. apart from clamping night curfew."

Varanasi has been hit hard in the fresh Covid-19 wave, especially in the past 10 days, as over 1,000 cases are being recorded daily while the number of active cases is also nearing the 10,000-mark.

Meanwhile, timings for night curfew in ten

districts of Uttar Pradesh have been revised in view of the worsening Covid situation.

The curfew will now begin at 8 p.m. and end at 7 a.m.

Earlier the curfew was from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. The decision was taken during a virtual meeting of the 'Team 11' chaired by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday.

Night curfew is presently in force in Lucknow, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Kanpur City, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Gorakhpur, Shravasti and Moradabad.

Uttar Pradesh recorded 22,439 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Thursday.

Lucknow accounted for 5,183 of the cases followed by Prayagraj with 1,888, Varanasi with 1,859, Kanpur with 1,263 and Gorakhpur with 750 fresh cases of infection.

Kuldeep Sengar's daughter seeks justice in video message

LUCKNOW

THE daughter of jailed former BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar, has put out a video statement, questioning the 'injustice' done to her mother Sangeeta Sengar.

The daughter has not given out her name. "In any case, the name does not matter - what matters is that my surname is Sengar.

Her mother, Sangeeta Sengar was earlier given the ticket by the BJP for the panchayat elec-



tions in Unnao, but the same was later withdrawn after media raised questions on the same.

"My mother has been in active politics for the past 15 years. She has contested and won the panchayat elections and was chairman of the zila panchayat. She has been known for her honesty and integrity but now her competence has been set aside. Women may be given reservation but why is it that they are known for what their father or husband has done.

TEMPERATURE CROSSES 40 DEGREE IN NORTH INDIA

NEW DELHI

NO heat wave Conditions are likely over the country on Thursday but heavy rainfall is very likely at isolated places over Coastal & South interior Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal on April 16, said the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

However, heat wave conditions were observed in isolated pockets over Saurashtra and Kutch and Haryana on April 14. According to the National Weather Forecasting Centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), maximum temperatures more than 40 degree centigrade were recorded at most places over East Uttar Pradesh; at many places over Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Gangetic West Bengal and West Rajasthan; at a few places over Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and West Uttar Pradesh and at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, Odisha, Jharkhand and Marathwada.

As per the IMD, thunderstorm with lightning, hail &



gusty winds (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) is very likely at isolated places over Telangana; with lightning, hail & gusty winds (speed reaching 30-40 kmph) also likely at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Odisha and Chhattisgarh; with lightning & gusty winds (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) at isolated places over Rayalaseema, Marathwada; lightning & gusty winds (speed reaching 30-40 kmph) at isolated places over Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan & Muzaffarabad, Ra-

jasthan and Punjab.

"Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Odisha, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Heat Wave conditions very likely in isolated pockets over Haryana and Saurashtra & Kutch," the IMD said.

While on Friday thunderstorm with lightning, hail & gusty winds (speed reaching 30-40 kmph) is very likely at isolated places over Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan & Muzaffarabad; with lightning and gusty winds

(speed reaching 40-50 kmph) at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya; with lightning & gusty winds (speed reaching 30-40 kmph) at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal and Kerala & Mahe and with lightning at isolated places over East Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Rayalaseema, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

Heavy rainfall is very likely at isolated places over Coastal and South Interior Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal. Duststorm/Thunderstorm with gusty winds (speed reaching 30-40 kmph) very likely at isolated places over West Rajasthan.

Yogi orders sanitisation of warehouses, cold storages

LUCKNOW

THE Yogi Adityanath government has ordered sanitisation of all the mandi sites, cold storages and warehouses in order to check the Covid spread in the rural areas across Uttar Pradesh. According to the government spokesman, sanitisation of the villages along with cities, mandi sites and cold storages is among the top priorities of the state government.

The sanitisation drive in the revenue villages is already in the process, and now it is time to sanitise all the cold storages operating in the state.

The spokesman said that the platforms of the mandi will be sanitised twice a day to protect the farmers coming to sell wheat in the market, from getting infected.

Officials from the Department of Horticulture and Mandi Council have issued instructions in this regard to the district officials.

Director of Horticulture R.K. Tomar has instructed the departmental officers to sanitise all the 1925 cold storages in the state.

According to him, "More than 160 lakh tonnes of potatoes



have been produced in the state this time. Out of which about 120 lakh tonnes of potatoes have reached cold storage. We are sanitising the cold storages for safety purposes."

"Sanitising the cold storages will not cause any problems in the storage and extraction of potatoes", the official informed.

The state government is safeguarding the potato and wheat producing farmers from the coronavirus infection in every possible way.

Wheat is being procured in 220 mandis of the Mandi Council in the state.

In order to protect the farmers who are transporting wheat to these mandis, from getting infected, arrangements have

been made to sanitise the platform of the mandi twice a day. Apart from this, a Covid desk has been set up in every mandi. There is a ban on anyone coming without a mask.

Farmers not wearing a mask are being provided one from this desk. Strict Covid protocols are being followed in the mandis by traders coming to sell vegetables and fruits.

Wheat procurement has started in the state from April 1. Only 14 days have passed but a record purchase of about 1.80 lakh metric tonnes of wheat has been made.

The state government had made a record payment of Rs 29,017.45 crore to more than 33 lakh wheat farmers.



કપિલ ચિટ્સ થો
પ્રતિ બાંધો એથો શિલ્પનેશ

નમ્મુકમ મીડ શિલ્પનેશ બાંધો ચાલા બલમ્પેનેશ

“ કપિલ ચિટ્સ ” મી કલકુ સોકારો.

Making sense of bitcoin

Coinbase, whose users primarily deal in bitcoin and ethereum, reported last week that its revenue soared 847 per cent in the first quarter to \$1.8 billion, and that it now has 56 million verified users. The company was created just over a decade ago and is now in the midst of a moment that many in the industry have described as a watershed. Nasdaq has set a reference price of \$250 per share for Coinbase Global Inc.

The reference price is not an offering price for investors to purchase shares, but rather a benchmark for performance when the stock starts trading. The opening public price will be determined by buy and sell orders collected by the Nasdaq from broker-dealers. The listing gains more significance as

Coinbase, the talk of Wall Street, is making its debut through direct listing rather than taking the more common route of IPO (Initial Public Offering), a step that makes sense for the digital currency platform.

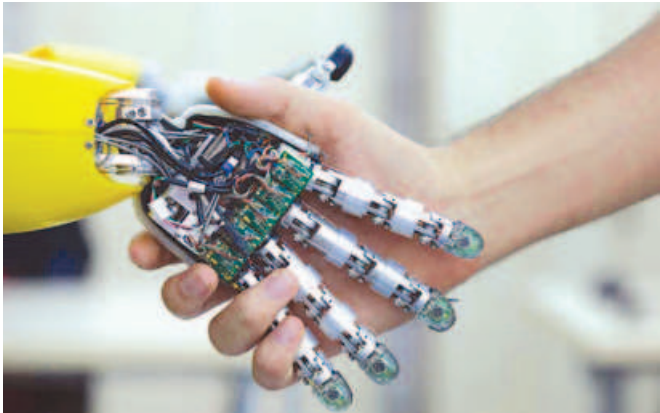
If one wants to buy a Bitcoin, one has two options: Deploy sophisticated, powerful computers to mine Bitcoin by solving complicated math problems or buy it on an exchange. The former is costly and requires a lot of expertise while the latter requires nothing more than opening an account with an exchange. Coinbase is that exchange. For many crypto enthusiasts, Coinbase operates as a straightforward online exchange, allowing retail buyers and sellers to meet in the middle and find a price. A day ahead of Coinbase listing,

Bitcoin hit a record of \$62,741, extending its 2021 rally to new heights. The world's biggest cryptocurrency, which has growing mainstream acceptance as an investment and a means of payment, rose as much as 5 per cent on April 13, a day before Coinbase's listing. Ethereum also reached a record high of \$2,205. Major firms including BNY Mellon, Mastercard Inc and Tesla Inc are among those to have embraced or invested in cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin topped \$60,000 early last month, fuelled by Tesla's move to buy \$1.5 billion of the digital currency for its balance sheet.

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced governments to spend heavily on support measures and central banks creating lots of extra money to stimulate their economies, many investors worry about the inflation that this could cause, which would devalue "fiat" currencies like the dollar and pound. Since

bitcoin is designed to never have more than a maximum of 21 million in circulation, it is seen by these investors as a store of value to protect their wealth from this problem. But experts are divided on whether the listing will have positive or negative effect on the cryptocurrency.

Some bulls see Coinbase as validation for the nascent crypto industry. Alex Mashinsky, head of crypto-lending and trading platform Celsius Network, believes that because Coinbase has more users and more revenues than many of the largest Wall Street players and is more profitable than any major exchange, its validation puts most skeptics at a crossroads as they have to re-evaluate their denial about the crypto. Others suggest that it may put crypto prices under pressure after a precipitous rally in recent days and a fresh record for bitcoin. New world order...eh?



People trust computers more than humans: Study

Despite increasing concern over the intrusion of algorithms in daily life, a new research shows that people are more likely to rely on algorithms than humans, especially if a task becomes too challenging. From choosing the next song on your playlist to choosing the right size pants, people are relying more on the advice of algorithms to help make everyday decisions and streamline their lives.

"Algorithms are able to do a huge number of tasks and the number of tasks that they are able to do is expanding practically every day," said researcher Eric Bogert from the University of Georgia. "It seems like there's a bias towards leaning more heavily on algorithms as a task gets harder and that effect is stronger than the bias towards relying on advice from other people," Bogert added.

For the study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, the team involved 1,500 individuals evaluating photographs. The team asked volunteers to count the number of people in a photograph of a crowd and supplied suggestions that were generated by a group of other people and suggestions generated by an algorithm.

As the number of people in the photograph expanded, counting became more difficult and people were more likely to follow the suggestion generated by an algorithm rather than count themselves or follow the "wisdom of the crowd", the researcher said.

According to the researcher, the choice of counting as the trial task was an important one because the number of people in the photo makes the task objectively harder as it increases. It also is the type of task that laypeople expect computers to be good at.

Facial recognition and hiring algorithms have come under scrutiny in recent years as well because their use has revealed cultural biases in the way they were built, which can cause inaccuracies when matching faces to identities or screening for qualified job candidates, the team said.

Those biases may not be present in a simple task like counting, but their presence in other trusted algorithms is a reason why it's important to understand how people rely on algorithms when making decisions, they added. (ANS)

'Indian businesses uniquely positioned to leverage new digital media'

VISHNU MAKHIANI

Without legacy systems of the past, Indian businesses are uniquely positioned to leverage the new digital media, says Will Page, former Chief Economist of music streaming app Spotify, in his new book "Tarzan Economics" (Simon & Schuster), extrapolating the global music industry's journey in coping with the threat of online piracy to present eight principles for pivoting through today's ubiquitous disruption in almost all industries -- much in the manner in which the 'ape man' swings from vine to vine to attain his goals.

"Two words: 'leap frogging'. India is in a fascinating position to put this book to work. As it moves head first into new digital media, it doesn't have the legacy systems of the past. Look at how fast Indians adopted YouTube as data costs on telecom networks fell -- they hit 240m users within a year of it becoming affordable, that was more than the global tally of music subscribers at the time -- and we're talking about one country and one video service.

"India is a country where a quarter of a billion people are one thumb press on a piece of glass away from engaging in the next new thing ... tomorrow," Page told IANS in interview, hoping to visit the country someday "to pass on as much as I can to the executives of tomorrow".

"May I also add, I really admire the way that education is so valued in India. It's prized across society and will prove the secret sauce to the next ten years of economic progress. I was once told India has between 100m and 200m students - think about that for a second. Getting Indian millennials to pay for media content is hard, getting them to pay for education is easy - one solution might be to bundle the cost of media into education. Make that work and we're off to the races," he explained.

Page has had a front-row seat

as for years, the music industry fought against the tide of piracy but when the business finally embraced digital streaming, it opened up new avenues for growth and recovery. These hard-earned experiences have never been more relevant for us all as we come to terms with the massive disruption of recent events, and Page brilliantly reveals how we can apply the lessons to our own lives and careers.

Examining how companies like Tupperware, Starbucks and Tower Records are coping with a "jungle of challenges". Page assesses the new dynamics of the "long tail" (a period in time when sales for less common products can return a profit due to reduced marketing and distribution costs), highlights the fundamental flaws in our focus on GDP, and provides a practical tool for discovering the right role for each of us to succeed in the modern world.

What then, are his eight principles?

- Tarzan Economics: Let go of what you know is dying and reach out to an unknown that is thriving
- Pay attention: Help consumers make more effective use of their scarce attention. Identify whether activities complement or substitute your product
- Draw a crowd: The gatekeepers are gone. The consumer is the new broadcaster and their reach holds no boundaries
- Make or buy: Sometimes it pays to ditch the intermediaries. Don't cede control to others. Go it alone
- Self-interest versus the common good: Sometimes it pays to throw your hat in the collective ring to pivot through disruption together
- Pivotal thinking: Some "loony" logic can go a long way -- when the opposite of a good idea can also be a good idea
- Judge the state we're in: Challenge date that's measured



One glaring fallout of the disruption caused by the pandemic is that on the one hand, businesses and economies have collapsed and tens of thousands of people have lost their jobs or have had to contend with drastically slashed wages, but on the other, there has been a sudden rise in wealth of some of the world's richest individuals, including those in India. How can this be explained?

ured by outdated tools and methods -- lessons for governments worldwide, as what matters most is often what's measured least

- Big data, big mistakes: Beware of the dangers of quantification bias, which favours the measurable over the immeasurable

Page admits that writing the book wasn't easy but was a deeply satisfying experience.

"This is my first book and I have to admit that I was completely out of my depth. I was playing 'tennis with myself' during much of the writing process. Playing tennis with yourself captures the loneliness of the book writing process - you can sit... mulling over an idea or concept for hours, days, weeks ...but you have no one to 'return your serve'. That was a big lesson for me in writing a book -- just how lonely you are during the early stages of the

process. But that loneliness can really inspire ideas that wouldn't have happened otherwise.

"The old adage of "if it ain't hurting, it ain't working" applies here -- you need to stare into the darkness to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and I'm pleased that I got out of that tunnel," Page elaborated.

One glaring fallout of the disruption caused by the pandemic is that on the one hand, businesses and economies have collapsed and tens of thousands of people have lost their jobs or have had to contend with drastically slashed wages, but on the other, there has been a sudden rise in wealth of some of the world's richest individuals, including those in India. How can this be explained?

"I can't comment on individual wealth, but tech stocks have rallied beyond anyone's expectations since the pandemic and I put this down to 'TINA' which stands for There Is No Alternative - 1½ investors have decided to gun it for equities (and nothing else) and a herd like mentality has kicked in. We're in bubble trouble territory but the problem with TINA is where else do investors go? This rally could run for another year yet," Page maintained.

What next? What's his next project? "The book has a staggered launch; in April in the UK then from 17 May in the US so I'll be busy throughout the second quarter. I also want to do more teaching and I'm thrilled to be made a fellow of London School of Economics for 2021. Outside of the book duties I want to work on live streaming services like Twitch as I'm convinced that the advancements in live streaming won't go away when live music returns - so the 'Tarzan Economics' question to ask is how will these two forms of media co-exist?"

"Then there's India - I need to visit the country as soon as it's safe to do so. Not just to promote the book but to do some lectures at schools and universities in the country - to pass on as much as I can to the executives of tomorrow," Page concluded. It certainly is a visit that will be eagerly anticipated.

LETTERS

Deplorable language of netas

THIS refers to the THI Editorial, 'Standard of public speaking in free fall'. There used to be times when the general public gathered to listen to speeches of political contestants for their sheer oratory and wisdom with great admiration and respect, irrespective of party affiliation and loyalty. Can we be able to say the same thing about our present day politicians, who can stoop to any level to berate the political opponent with choicest indecent and undemocratic words? In a way this trend has become fashionable among leaders of all political groups, and the laymen have come to believe this to be true fashion and present trend among politicians in the country.

The political parties that are in the opposition do not seem to regard themselves as a legitimate entity facing the party in power as the country's democratic tradition dictates, but view the ruling party as an enemy, peril and risk for the survival that has been usurped at their cost. These mentalities emerge perhaps due to lack of inclusiveness in the overall context of the nation, and see one's role as an essential component in the whole exercise as part of the vibrant democratic process that Indians have succeeded in achieving.

Whether one looks at the recently held elec-

tion in the US, or the present elections in the country, be it in West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu -- uncouth and dirty words are being freely used to berate and intimidate the opponent -- without saying anything about how the situation be improved, if he or she is elected to power. This free for all language usage by politicians will give a poor and dismal picture to the next generation on the sanctity, prudence and caution with which words have to be uttered in an election rally or at a public gathering.

The other wicked and despicable habit that is prevailing among the present cunning politicians is to disown their own statements made earlier, saying that a particular comment they had made was quoted 'out of context'. Such cheap and silly justification will not help shore up the reputation of the political class, but reveal the rowdy mindset and mentality in facing adversity with muscle power and gangs of followers, who stoop to any level to create havoc. This steady decline in the political class, in terms of quality of language used, and the need to improve their own character, is already too late for it to be meaningfully corrected.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

Mamata may still make it

The situation developing in West Bengal reminds me of the days of 1977 when Emergency was in force and election declared. In West Bengal the revolt of Suwendu Adhikari has created a hawa in favour of BJP. TMC is tottering with a spate of resignations and crossing over. Mamata has become helpless for the first time



in her life. Otherwise, the haughty lady full of arrogance, is surprised at the events unfolding. Also have become too nervous and jittery.

The rank file who used to shiver at the sight of Mamata, are now taking her easy. The fear has gone from them. Now Mamata is forced eat the insults. Already the countdown has started for Mamata, with Adhikari's resignation and joining BJP. The resignation of Adhikari is only acting like a catalyst. The ground work for the defeat

of TMC has already been laid much earlier by Amit Shah. Dynasty democracy of TMC is the root cause of erosion of vote bank. This has provided elbow room to BJP to grow as CPM was too weak to win back their cadre. TMC is down but still a factor. They will not get majority, may still emerge as largest party. The lust of power will force them to form alliance; which will make them dependent on Independents or AIMIM support. WB is already going through bad phase; the fracture mandate will only make it worse.

Krishnan Subramaniam, Tiruchirappalli

Shocking apathy

It is a pity to note that the government has failed in stopping the rapid spread of second wave of corona virus. The number of surging cases daily to the tune of 150000 is an evidence of this. This is clearly the result of irrational exuberance early in the New Year. After suffering for almost a year the government had prematurely assumed that Covid-19 was virtually over and made rash decisions to allow large religious gatherings with political campaigns with no regard to decrease control.

This lapse threatens the nascent economic recovery. The latest pandemic resurfaced in a fully open society. There was unrestricted movement, markets were crowded, domestic and international travel was brisk, election campaigns were boisterously run for local bodies and assemblies, religious gatherings received state support.

Though masks were mandated notionally, the public decided to follow the leaders and celebrities who disdained to wear them in public. It would have been better that an amendment be

made in parliament to postpone all types of elections so as to avoid huge gatherings. This reveals how the government has given importance to elections at the cost of public health.

Lastly the Uttarakhand government failed completely in restricting the crowd at the Kumbhmela. Masks were not worn by a large proportion and physical distancing appeared impossible as more than 17 lakh people were allowed. Strict measures must be undertaken and at least further spread of virus is restricted

TSN Rao, Bhimavaram

II

Globally India is one of the worst affected due to COVID, and only 1 per cent of its population are fully vaccinated. With a steep spike of fresh COVID infections due to the second wave, the Health infrastructure in various states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, etc has come into huge stress. the COVID infected patients are finding it extremely difficult to get a hospital bed and oxygen ventilators.

In these dire circumstances, it's utterly shameful on the part of our political leaders, to irresponsibly organise huge political rallies, throwing away all safety measures of wearing masks, social distancing norms, into the dustbin. It's absolutely criminal on the part of the government to allow lakhs and lakhs of people to gather for Kumb Mela. We as a country cannot afford a second lockdown. I humbly appeal to the government to fast-track the vaccination drives; enforce strict social distancing norms in all places.

Sriharsha Gajjarapu, Mandapeta

GHMC model markets have no occupants

- Of the proposed 200 model markets, the municipal corporation has so far constructed only 40 of them; at a total cost of Rs. 20.33 crore. It is reliably learnt that the construction of new markets has been stopped due to land disputes and delay by the contractors. One of the major reasons is traders finding rents higher than market value. The corporation was expecting around Rs. 1.5 crore rent from the 40 markets
- Each market has a total of 15 shops, each measuring 70 to 140 sqft, seven shops on the ground floor and eight shops are on the first floor, along with parking, toilets, and other facilities
- Some traders, who visited the model market with intent to take shops, cited some reasons for non-occupancy. They say that markets have been constructed in isolated locations and far away from residential areas



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE newly constructed Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) model markets are gathering dust, as there are no takers. As many as 40 such markets constructed in different parts of the City are yet to be occupied by shopkeepers even after inviting tenders three times to lease them out.

Of the proposed 200 model markets, the municipal corporation has so far constructed only 40 of them; at a total cost of Rs. 20.33 crore. It is reliably learnt that the construction of new markets has been stopped due to land disputes and delay by the contractors. One of the major reasons is traders finding rents higher than market value. The corporation was expecting

around Rs. 1.5 crore rent from the 40 markets.

Each model market has a total of 15 shops, each measuring 70 to 140 sqft, seven shops on the ground floor. The remaining eight shops are on the first floor, along with parking, toilets, and other facilities.

There were guidelines, which reserved a few shops to various communities, including SCs, STs, BCs, and others. Recently, tenders were invited for model markets in Gayathirnagar and Jagadgirigutta (Jeedimetla division). Since they were built in 2018, authorities every year invite tenders. This year as well tenders were invited, but barely had any response.

Some traders, who visited the model market with intent to take shops, cited some reasons for



non-occupancy. They say that markets have been constructed in isolated locations and far away from residential areas.

Furthermore, it was also proposed to construct at least 10 model markets in each GHMC circle, in the first phase, 40 have been built which are still looking for takers.

Sources alleged that in Jeedimetla a group of traders came together and decided to take the entire ground floor of the market. Later, after observing that there will be no cus-

tomers or buyers and they would face huge losses, they refused to take the ground floor.

A trader said the reason he is not willing to take a shop is he cannot pay the mandatory six-month advance. Besides, the rent has also been increased. However, GHMC officials said earlier the rent for each shop was Rs. 3,500. Now it has been increased to Rs. 3,800 for 30 days, for each shop. An official said GHMC has received advance money from some traders. Soon another tender will be called.

Jana's victory is imminent, says Tagore

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AICC State in-charge Manickam Tagore on Thursday expressed confidence that victory of the party candidate, K Jana Reddy, in the Nagarjunasagar by-election was 'imminent'.

Speaking to the media, he alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao was 'using the police, money and liquor power' in the by-election, adding that the 'police were acting as agents of KCR', while condemning the arrest of party leader Manavata Rai.

Tagore also alleged that the Election Commission had completely failed in preventing 'irregularities' of the ruling party leaders. He asserted that Reddy would stand by people of the constituency and the State and become their voice in the Assembly.

He urged voters to send Reddy to the Assembly as their representative by voting in his favour. Tagore stated that distribution of money and liquor by allegedly by the ruling party leaders would not prevent his victory. He made it clear Reddy would get a massive majority if the elections were held in a democratic manner.

- Alleges Election Commission failed in preventing 'irregularities' of the ruling party
- Asserted Reddy would stand by people & become their voice in Assembly
- Says BJP's victory in Dubbaka was 'just a bubble'

Taking a jibe at the BJP, he said it had been proved that its victory in the Dubbaka was 'just a bubble'. He maintained that the saffron party had lost deposits in 105 assembly constituencies of the state in the 2018 elections. "A similar result would be repeated in the upcoming by-election."

Jana Reddy said the party was going to create history in the by-elections, while urging people to vote for Congress 'for a new trend in State politics' He alleged that some people of the constituency were suffering due to the excesses of the TRS leaders.

GHMC staff removes 20% plastic from nalas

Official warns of collecting penalty from violators

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AS part of the Comprehensive Drainage Network Plan (CDNP), the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has started re-designing the nalas in the City at an estimated cost of Rs 45 crore. Presently 356 nala desilting works were progressing, according to instructions of Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Minister KT Rama Rao.

During the work, the staff removed 20 per cent plastic, which they consider as the major reason for nalas overflowing. A GHMC official said tonnes of plastic material was fished out so far in different parts of the City.

Issuing a strict warning

against dumping of plastic, he said penalty would be collected from violators, while urging people to ensure free flow of sewage in nalas.

"Plastic bottles, covers and glass materials formed more than 20 per cent of material found during the de-silting work."

To accelerate the work, the GHMC has appointed a chief engineer rank officer for each zone and finish it before the monsoon.

Heavy machines were being used for large nalas and jetting machines, recyclers for small drains.

Meanwhile, manual works are going on over a stretch of 951 km in the City to avert inundation during monsoon. The official expressed confidence of completing them by June-end.

2 charred to death as truck catches fire

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a tragic incident, two persons---a driver and cleaner---of a prawn-laden container were charred to death when the vehicle rammed a lorry from behind on the Nehru Outer Ring Road, near Himayatsagar, and caught fire in the wee hours of Thursday.

The victims were identified as Mrutunjaya Yadav of Thane (Maharashtra) and Surya Kumar from UP. They were proceeding towards Mumbai from Narsapur (West Godavari district) via ORR to reach their destination.

According to the Rajendranagar police, the duo started on Wednesday evening to deliver the consignment. The incident occurred when they reached ORR at around 4 am. Yadav who was driving lost control and rammed a lorry moving in the same direction, while Kumar was asleep in the cabin. The impact of the mishap



was such that the front portion got mangled and the vehicle caught fire. As a result both the drivers were burnt alive. Upon receiving information, the police and fire-fighting tender

reached the spot and doused the flames. By the time the blaze was doused the duo died in the vehicle.

The bodies were burnt beyond recognition. They were

shifted to Osmania Hospital morgue for post-mortem. A case was registered, said the police. Truck owner Rayi Uma Maheshwar of Palakol was informed about the accident.

2 arrested for carrying ganja

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NAMPALLY

THE Nampally police on Wednesday arrested two persons for carrying ganja in two bags, while they were trying to board a train at Nampally railway station. They were identified as Rajaram Swamy and Pradeep Mandal, natives of Mumbai.

According to the police, staff in a patrol vehicle noticed the duo entering the station in a suspicious manner. They were stopped and their luggage was checked. A total of 38 kg of ganja worth Rs 19 lakh was seized from their bags.

Questioning of the duo revealed that they came to Vizag from Mumbai for purchasing the banned substance. After purchasing they planned to leave by train to avoid suspicion. However, their attempts were foiled. The duo was arrested and sent to judicial custody, the police said.

TIRUPATI LS BYPOLL

VOTERS TOLD TO EXERCISE THEIR FRANCHISE FEARLESSLY

- Over 17.11 lakh people are expected to utilise their right to vote
- In all, 2,470 polling stations have been set up
- Postal ballot facility provided to those above 80 years
- 23 companies of central forces to be deployed on poll duty

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Electoral officer K Vijayanand said arrangements have been made for the by-election to Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency. He said postal ballot facility was provided to those voters who crossed 80 years of age.

Speaking to media persons at the Secretariat here on Thursday, the Chief Electoral officer said 2,470 polling stations were set up for 17,11,195 voters spread in

Chittoor and Nellore districts. Appealing to voters to exercise their franchise fearlessly, the CEO said that 28 candidates remained in the fray. He said the Election Commission barred the village and ward volunteers from attending the election duties. He said the volunteers should not act as agents of candidates. The polling will be conducted from 7 am to 7 pm on April 17.

The CEO said of the total 17,11,195 voters, 24,698 are physically challenged voters, 22743 voters are above 80 years of age, service voters 497 and third gender voters stand at 216. He said the Election Commission will deploy 23 companies of central forces to ensure free and fair election. He said arrangements have been made for webcasting at 1,241 centres.

The CEO said Dinesh Patil was appointed as general observer, Rajeev Kumar police observer



Chief Electoral Officer K Vijayanand addressing the media in Amaravati on Thursday. Additional DGP Ravi Shankar Ayyannar is also seen

and Anand Kumar as election expenses observer. Besides, 816 persons were appointed as micro-observers to supervise the election process.

Additional Director General of Police Ravi Shankar Ayyannar said that they were using the

services of 23 companies of central forces. Bandobust was intensified at problematic polling stations. He said 52 check-posts were set up in the limits of the Lok Sabha constituency. He said the police seized Rs 4.73 cr worth cash and liquor so far.

TDP concedes defeat in Tirupati LS bypoll, says AP Minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

MINISTER for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy said the TDP has conceded its defeat while BJP is striving its best only to get more votes than NOTA in Tirupati by-poll.

Speaking to the media here on Thursday, the Minister said he had challenged TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu stating that the YSRCP MPs will resign in case the party loses in Tirupati and wanted Naidu to declare that the TDP MPs would quit their posts if his party is defeated in the by-election, taking the result as a referendum on the performance of YSRCP government but there is no response from Naidu and his son Nara Lokesh and they lacked guts to accept the challenge.

The alleged stone pelting at Naidu's public meeting in Tirupati, Lokesh swearing at Alipiri on Viveka murder case and the alleged power disruption at TDP



Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy speaking to reporters in Tirupati on Thursday

meetings were all dramas being played by TDP to get at least some sympathy votes from the public, Peddireddi said adding that sadly Naidu failed to realise that people have no sympathy left to show on him and no more ready to believe him.

He said Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been working with welfare and development as his main agenda in the State and seeking the votes in the by-election explaining the YS-

RCP government's achievements with regard to successful implementation of slew of welfare measures.

Demanding Naidu to give an explanation on the video that went viral where TDP State president K Atchannaidu spoke against the party leadership and made comments on Nara Lokesh, the Minister said it amply reveals the skeptic mood of the party cadre which lost confidence on Naidu and his son.

Fielding a converted candidate from SC seat is against law: Naidu



TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu addressing a media conference in Tirupati on Thursday. Party State president K Atchannaidu and candidate contesting the by-poll to Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency Panabaka Lakshmi are also seen.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

A Christian contesting in a reserved seat is against law and also it is a serious issue, opined TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu.

Speaking to the media here on Thursday after completing the campaign for the Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency by-election, Naidu quoted the BJP which has been alleging that the YSRCP candidate for Tirupati by-election Dr

M Gurumoorthy is a converted Christian and questioned that if it was the case how can that party field him in a reserved seat.

After conversion, one will become BC-C and not SC, he pointed out. It may be recalled that the BJP State co-in charge Sunil Deodhar has been saying continuously that the YSRCP candidate is a converted Christian and they are going to complain to the Election Commission on the genuineness of the candidate's scheduled caste

status.

Referring to the sanctity of Tirumala, Naidu mentioned various issues from the pink diamond controversy to the distribution of TTD laddus to every household during panchayat elections. He criticised the nominal representation for the weaker sections in the 36 member jumbo TTD Trust Board which is administering the world famous temple.

He said that the government has done a lot of injustice to the back-

ward communities in the State. Though it has been claiming the setting up of 56 corporations for them, no corporation was provided even chairs nor do they have any sub-plan. They did not get their due share in the appointments to the nominated posts.

He lambasted the State government for its anarchic and vindictive governance. If the murder mystery of the Chief Minister's own uncle could not be unearthed by completing a free and fair in-

vestigation, CBI credibility will be at stake. Naidu also criticised that the government has been giving something to the people in the name of Navarathnalu from one hand and taking even more than that from the other in the name of 'Nava Mosalu'. "During the electioneering for the past one week, I found a silent wave against the government's undemocratic rule, sand and liquor policies, huge rise in the prices of essential commodities among other things.

Madras HC stays reburial of mortal remains of Dr Hercules

Dr Hercules was a neurosurgeon and MD of New Hope Medical Centre, who died last year due to Covid

CHENNAI

A division bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday stayed its order directing the Chennai Corporation to exhume the body of Dr Simon Hercules, who had succumbed to Covid-19 last year, from a burial ground at Velangudu and rebury it at a cemetery in Kilpauk, as requested by the family.

The bench comprising Justices M.M. Sundresh and R.N. Manjula passed the interim order on an appeal moved by the corporation against the single bench order of the court dated March 31.

The division bench said in its order, "The authorities are required to deal with much more

serious issues than this during the second wave of the pandemic."

It may be recalled that a single bench of Justice Abdul Quaddhose had on March 31 ordered to exhume the body of Simon Hercules following a petition filed by his widow, Anandhi Simon.

Justice Quaddhose had made it clear in the order that the dignity of the deceased should be maintained throughout the process.

The order stated, "The Covid-19 guidelines issued by the Central government and the WHO had made it clear that the infection would not be contracted from a dead body."

With India not having a proper legislation on exhumation of bodies, Justice Quaddhose



Dr Simon Hercules

had after some research decided to rely on a statute of Ireland - the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act.

Quaddhose had said, "This court, after perusing and examining the safeguards adopted in Ireland for the purpose of exhumation, is of the considered view that till such time a legislation on exhumation comes in place in India, the same safeguards shall be followed while exhuming Dr Simon's body."

Simon Hercules was a neurosurgeon and MD of New Hope Medical Centre in Kilpauk who died of Covid-19 on April 19 last year. The locals had opposed the burial of the doctor's body at the Kilpauk cemetery as they feared that it would spread the disease in the area.

The body was taken to a burial ground at Velangadu where a mob had turned violent, resulting in damaging the ambulance in which the body was carried, and injuring the doctor who had driven the ambulance. Later, with the help of the police, the body was interred at Velangadu.

His widow, Anandhi Simon, had requested the Chennai Corporation on April 25, 2020 to exhume his body and to bury it at the Kilpauk cemetery as per his last wish.

However, her plea was rejected by the corporation which had said that a committee of public health experts which it had constituted had advised it to not to permit reburial of the body to minimise risk to the public.

WINDOWS



A woman worker engaged in manufacturing face masks at a factory in Noida on Thursday

Umar Khalid gets bail

New Delhi: Activist and former student leader Umar Khalid was granted bail by a Delhi court in a case linked to the riots in parts of the capital last year. But he will remain in jail due to charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in another case related to the Delhi violence. Umar Khalid, 33, "cannot be permitted to remain behind bars on the basis of such a sketchy material against him", the court said. The court asked him to install the Aarogya Setu on his phone before leaving prison, at a time Covid cases are spiraling. The former JNU student was arrested in October in connection with the violence in northeast Delhi's Khajuri Khas area over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests.

ASI monuments closed till May 15

NEW DELHI: All centrally protected monuments, museums and sites under the Archaeological Survey of India have been closed with immediate effect till May 15 due to the surge in coronavirus cases in the country, the Union culture ministry said. An order to this effect was issued by the ASI and it was tweeted by Culture Minister Prahlad Patel this evening. "Due to the prevailing COVID situation, it has been decided to close all centrally protected monuments, sites and museums under the ASI."

India will not get pushed under any pressure: CDS Gen Rawat

NEW DELHI

INDIA stood firm in preventing a change of status quo on the northern borders and the country proved it will not get pushed under any pressure, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat said on Thursday, referring to the border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

Gen Rawat said China felt that it will be able to compel nations to give in to its demands by doing a little bit of "shove and push" as it has superior armed forces because of technological advantage. "But, I think India stood firm on the northern borders and we have proven that we will not get pushed," he said at the virtual conference. The Chief of Defence Staff(CDS) said India was able to get support of the international

community by standing firm in preventing the attempt of changing the status quo in the region. "They tried to ensure that they can change the status quo by the use of disruptive technologies without using force...They thought that India, as a nation, will succumb to the pressures that they have been putting on us because of the technological advantage that they have," he said, adding that did not happen. Gen Rawat said the international community came to India's support to say that "yes there is an international base-rule order which every nation must follow. That is what we have been able to achieve." India and China are locked in a military standoff in multiple friction points in eastern Ladakh since early May last year that has significantly strained bilateral ties.

Covid second wave hits Indian kids with severe symptoms: Doctors

RACHEL V THOMAS

NEW DELHI

In what should worry Indian parents the most, an increasing number of children are now being infected with Covid-19 along with serious symptoms in the ongoing lethal second wave. The city-based doctors on Thursday urged parents not to take their kids out and expose them to the virus.

Earlier, the novel coronavirus showed very mild or no effect in children. However, in its second run, the virus is turning out to be much severe for both children as well as adults under 45.

"Lots of new cases of Covid-19 infections in children are coming in this second wave and the numbers are much, much higher than they were earlier," Dr Krishan Chugh, Director and head of the department of paediatrics at Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gur-

gaon, told IANS. In most children who are affected by Covid-19, the symptoms present are mild fever, cough, cold and abdominal issues. Some are even complaining of body pain, headache, diarrhoea and vomiting.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), in an October 2020 document, reported that Covid-19 is much less frequent in children than in adults. Children and adolescents represented about 8 per cent of reported cases (and 29 per cent of the global population).

But in the second wave, "all age group of children, even below 1 year, are getting affected", Dr Sarita Sharma, Senior Consultant Pediatrician at PSRI Hospital Saket, told IANS.

"With the new wave of Covid, children are more symptomatic," Sharma added. The situation is far different from last year for the



Children wearing masks

children. "More kids are now being affected with high fever up to 103-104 degrees Celsius, which is persistent for 5-6 days," Dr Dhiren Gupta, senior consultant paediatrician at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi told IANS.

"There are few cases that have escalated to pneumonia, and required oxygen and other respiratory support," Chugh said.

According to Dr Gupta, the saving grace is that compared to adults, the rate of pneumonia in kids is less.

Some kids are also reporting more severe complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) -- a rare inflammatory condition with persistent fever. It generally occurs 2-4 weeks after the onset of Covid.

The experts said that mild symptoms in children should not be ignored, and parents must look out for

symptoms such as diarrhoea, breathing problems and lethargy, particularly after fever, said Chugh.

Parents must be careful in recognising such problems in kids, as early intervention would help in better outcome. "If the fever persists for 5-6 days, parents must monitor the blood pressure of their kids. However, there is no need for checking their oxygen levels with pulse oximeters, as they are highly unlikely to face oxygen saturation. The devices are unfit for kids," Gupta informed.

While vaccines for kids are still under trial and may take months before it can be tested and proved beneficial for kids, the only remedy is to wear masks, maintain hand hygiene and social distancing.

"Do not take your kids out and expose them to the virus. Avoid every possible reason for infections, even via you," Chugh advised.

Modi's 'vaccine festival' a sham: Rahul Anti-rabies shots given: Pharmacist sacked



Family members, wearing PPE kits, wait during cremation of a Covid-19 victim, at the Nigambodhi Ghat in New Delhi, on Thursday

Markaz: HC allows 50 to offer namaz

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court allowed 50 people to offer namaz five times a day at the Nizamuddin Markaz mosque during Ramzan. Justice Mukta Gupta directed the Station House Officer of Nizamuddin police station to permit entry of 50 people five times a day to offer namaz only on the first floor of the Masjid Bangley Wali. The court declined to increase the number of people or allow use of other floors of the mosque for offering prayers as sought by senior advocate Ramesh Gupta on behalf of the Delhi Waqf Board, but allowed them to move an application before the SHO for the same. The court said the SHO may decide any such application moved by the Board in accordance with the law.

All staffers of SC judge test positive

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court judge Justice M R Shah said that all staff members at his official residence have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and "things are getting scary". Justice Shah, who was sitting on the bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud, rose before the scheduled lunch break after telling the participants about the infection of his staff members. When the bench re-assembled around 2 PM, Justice Shah, on being inquired about the well being of those at the residence, said, "with the God's grace I am ok. I am perfectly ok. Yes, things are getting scary". Justice Chandrachud adjourned hearing in other matters, except in the case in which proceedings were undergoing.

Families of patients sit-in for Remdesivir

PUNE: Relatives and families of Covid-19 patients in Pune sit on protest outside the Collector's office demanding Remdesivir. A woman says "My father is hospitalised for last 6 days, his medications haven't begun completely. He's in ICU. I've looked for Remdesivir in all cities." Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray asked officials to closely monitor Covid-19-appropriate behaviour among shop owners, who have been allowed to operate during the new restrictions, as well as customers, and penalise the violators. The state's COVID-19 task force members stressed on avoiding indiscriminate use of Remdesivir medicine which is causing its shortage.

Clashes over cartoons of Prophet France advises citizens to leave Pak

PARIS

FRANCE has advised French citizens to temporarily leave Pakistan and warned of serious threats to French interests in the country, two diplomatic sources said on Thursday, after violent clashes there this week. Thousands of Pakistani Islamists had clashed with police earlier this week in protest against the arrest of their leader ahead of rallies denouncing French cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammad.

For Muslims, depictions of the Prophet are blasphemous. The diplomatic sources said that a message had been sent overnight to French citizens and com-



a French history teacher who was beheaded by an 18-year-old man of Chechen origin for showing cartoons of the Prophet in a class on freedom of speech.

panies following threats by hard-line Islamist group Tehrik-i-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) to target French interests. The sources said the embassy sent a message to French residents in Pakistan recommending that French nationals leave the country and French companies shut down activities temporarily "due to the serious threats to French interests in Pakistan".

Relations between Paris and Islamabad have worsened since the end of last year after President Emmanuel Macron paid tribute to

TODAY'S QUOTE

Good opportunity for Tesla to start mfg in India

I will suggest Tesla that it will be golden opportunity for them to start manufacturing facility in India because as the automobile components are concerned, already Tesla is taking a lot of components from the Indian manufacturers. The government has a special thrust on e-vehicles


— Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister



TRADE

Exports up 60% in March; Imports by 53%

THE country's exports jumped by 60.29 per cent to \$34.45 billion in March even as the outbound shipments contracted by 7.26 per cent during the full 2020-21 fiscal to \$290.63 billion. Imports too grew by 53.74 per cent to \$48.38 billion in March, but dipped by 18 per cent to \$389.18 billion during April-March FY21

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	75.78	South		
Euro	90.77	African Rand		6.01
UAE Dirham	21.04	Hong Kong Dollar		11.11
Thai Baht	2.65	Japanese Yen		0.79
British Pound	104.5	New Zealand Dollar		54.36
Australian Dollar	58.72	Saudi Riyal		22
Canadian Dollar	60.66	Swedish Krona		10.2
Swiss Franc	82.09	Singapore Dollar		57.32

DELHI FRIDAY 16 APRIL 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Oppo unveils F series

Oppo has announced the launch of another sleek device under F series - the new Oppo F19, in India. The product equipped with features such as 33W flash charge to charge the massive 5,000 mAh, AMOLED FHD+ display, in-screen fingerprint and the latest ColorOS 11.1 based on Android 11. With the recent launch of Oppo F19 Pro Series, the company achieved a momentous landmark of selling a staggering 10 million units of F series products. Damyant Singh Khanoria, Chief Marketing Officer, Oppo, said: "In line with Oppo's commitment to bring in the trendiest technology to more customers, the F Series truly offers something for all types of smartphone users, be it in terms of technology, perfectly suited for your life day-to-day, or the stylish sleek design."

FIA, Steelbird sign pact

Steelbird and the FIA are collaborating for its global road safety programme. The objective of this programme is to provide, with the support of the FIA member clubs' worldwide network, high quality helmets meeting United Nations Regulation 22.05 in those territories which have faced problems with low quality helmets. The research shows that helmet wearing is one of the most effective road safety interventions. The company's production capacity for this programme is 240,000 helmets per year. Jean Todt, FIA President, said: "Wearing a helmet is a key issue in road safety. I am happy to welcome Steelbird as a new partner of our safe and affordable helmet initiative. I am convinced that this collaboration will contribute to the success of our international initiative."

Reliance Jewels' festive range

Reliance Jewels has introduced a mix of elegant designs to its gold traditional jewellery line across India for every region of different culture that celebrates the New Year's day at the time of harvesting crops such as Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra, Ugadi in South, Bihu in Assam etc. The traditional laxmi haars, thushis, goths from Maharashtra to gold kadhars from Punjab, antique necklaces and gold filigree pieces with intricate design of Hindu deities from South and Assam are available in the collection. Sunil Nayak, CEO, Reliance Jewels, said: "Indian New Year symbolizes new beginnings and is considered as one of the most auspicious day to buy gold. Keeping the occasion in mind, we offer an extensive array of gold traditional jewellery for every region in India."

Star India unveils campaign

Star India has launched a new network-wide television campaign (TVC) sif dikhaane ke liye nahi dekhnne mein bhi real HD experience to build awareness among television lovers who, despite owning an HD TV and an HD Set-Top Box (STB), continue to view their favourite Star channels in Standard Definition (SD). Based on the findings from a study conducted by Star India, only 25 per cent of consumers are aware of the fact that apart from having an HD TV and an HD Set-Top box they also need to subscribe to HD channels to get the complete HD viewing experience. Gurjeev Singh Kapoor, President, TV Distribution, India and International, Star And Disney India, said: "We want consumers to experience the sheer delight and stadium-like feeling that our HD channels can provide."

DINESH MACHARLA
HYDERABAD

WITH restrictions on imports and rise in petrol prices, the cost of edible oils skyrocketed by 30-70 per cent in last few months, derailing the household budgets of commoners.

Compounding the woes of consumers, the retail stores which used to sell branded oil at 35-40 per cent discounted prices on MRP are now selling at either at MRP or giving merely five to ten per cent discount.

Being one of the most essential grocery items in every house, the consumption of edible oil is substantially high in India. Industry insiders say about 60 per cent of edible oils are imported from other countries. Among edible oils, palm oil is imported in huge quantities as it is widely used by low-income groups, along with hotels and other eateries.

Prices have gone up by 30-70% in last few months due to import curbs



It is said that due to Covid-19 pandemic, there is a drastic decrease in imports from the supplying countries resulting in shortage of edible oils in

the domestic market. This has led to steep increase in the prices. Branded sunflower edible oil which was sold for around Rs 100 per one litre now costs

Rs 150-180 in the market. Prices of other edible oil varieties have also gone up, leading to 30-70 per cent jump in overall prices.

"Below middle-class families are frustrated with the rise in edible oil prices. During festival times, women prepare different dishes at home. With the increased prices, they are now making recipes without or less usage of oil," said P Laxmi Reddy, a housewife in Hyderabad.

So far, nothing has been done by the Central and State governments to bring down the prices of edible oils, she lamented. Generally, there will be protests from Opposition parties or voluntary organisations against the price rise of essential com-

Industry insiders say nearly 60 per cent of edible oils consumed in India are imported

modities. However, no such activities happened in the recent past, she pointed out.

"I don't know why the edible oil prices are increasing, but from the Covid lockdown onwards, rates of edible oils have been increased steeply. It's very difficult for us to buy. As the rates are high, we reduced the usage of edible oils in our home. We used to consume 5 litre oil every month, but now using only 3 litre a month," said B Raju, a customer.

With rise in prices, kirana stores are also witnessing fall in edible oil sales. "There is a huge fall in demand of edible oils due to increase in prices. We used to sell 10 cartons of oil packets a week, but now we are selling only 3 to 4 cartons in a week," said Nagarajna Rao, a general store owner.

Some of the States are implementing semi-lockdowns or complete lockdown owing to second wave of Covid-19. This may halt the logistics and as result, the prices of edible oils may further go up in the near future.

When contacted, P Chandra Shekhara Reddy, Vice President- Sales and Marketing, Freedom Oils, said that prices would go up further due to supply constraints. "India mostly imports sunflower oil from Ukraine and Argentina. Due to a shortage of supply, the cost for sunflower oil has increased 50 per cent, as a result, all standard brands are now selling one-litre packets at Rs 150 and above. This is likely to go up to Rs 170 very soon," he told Bizz Buzz. Even the governments have not taken any step to reduce the oil prices. There is no change in the duty structure to support farmers and to encourage cultivation of edible oil crops, he added.

Wholesale inflation zooms to 8-year high

Shoots up to 7.39% in March against 0.42% a year ago; higher crude oil, metal prices push up inflation

NEW DELHI

THE wholesale price-based inflation shot up to over 8-year high of 7.39 per cent in March on rising crude oil and metal prices. Also, the low base of March last year, when the data was computed with a low response rate due to the nationwide lockdown, contributed to the spike in inflation in March 2021.

The WPI inflation was 4.17 per cent in February 2021 and 0.42 per cent in March 2020. This is the third straight month of up-tick seen in the wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation.

"The annual rate of inflation stood at 7.39 per cent (provisional) for the month of March 2021 over March 2020," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said. Such a high level of WPI was last recorded in October 2012, when inflation was 7.4 per cent. Inflation in food articles in March was 3.24 per cent as prices of pulses, fruits and paddy hardened. In pulses, it was 13.14 per cent in March, while in fruits and paddy, inflation was 16.33 per cent



and 1.38 per cent, respectively.

In vegetables, the rate of price rise softened to (-) 5.19 per cent, against (-) 2.90 per cent in the previous month. Inflation in the fuel and power basket was 10.25 per cent in March, against 0.58 per cent in February on higher fuel prices. In manufactured products, inflation was 7.34 per cent. "The prices of crude oil, petroleum products and basic metal substantially increased in March 2021 as

compared to the corresponding month of last year.

Also, due to nationwide lockdown, the WPI index for the month of March 2020 was computed with a relatively low response rate," the ministry said while releasing the WPI data. Icrs Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the steep month-on-month jump in WPI-inflation was driven by metals, textiles, chemicals, rubber etc, as many of them recorded large price increases

globally in recent months on the back of the optimism generated by the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine. "While crude oil prices have retreated from the peaks seen in March 2021, a falling base is expected to push up the inflation for this segment as well as mineral oils further in April 2021."

Moreover, the depreciation in the INR will push up the landed cost of imports, adding to the inflationary pressures for the WPI going forward," she said. Icrs expects the headline and core WPI inflation to rise further over the next two months, peaking at around 11.0-11.5 per cent and 8-8.5 per cent, respectively in May 2021.

"The expected trajectory of the WPI inflation, and its partial transmission into the CPI inflation going ahead, supports our view that there is negligible space for rate cuts to support growth, in spite of the growing uncertainty related to the surge in Covid-19 cases, localised restrictions and emerging concerns regarding migrants returning to the hinterland," Nayar added.

Stocks up for 2nd day in a row

MUMBAI

Sensex adds 260 points, Nifty zooms 77 points

THE Sensex and Nifty closed in the green after a volatile session on Thursday as investors accumulated banking, finance and select IT counters despite an unabated rise in Covid-19 cases. A recovering rupee and positive global cues also propped up the bourses, traders said. After gyrating 877 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 259.62 points or 0.53 per cent higher at 48,803.68. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 76.65 points or 0.53 per cent to 14,581.45.

TCS topped the Sensex gainers' chart, climbing 3.67 per cent, followed by ONGC, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Dr Reddy's, HDFC, Axis Bank

and HCL Tech. On the other hand, Infosys was the biggest loser, dropping 2.65 per cent after its March 2021 quarter earnings missed market expectations. The IT services major had on Wednesday posted a 17.5 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 5,076 crore for the March quarter and announced up to Rs 9,200 crore buyback offer at a maximum price of Rs 1,750 per share. IndusInd Bank, Maruti, Nestle India, Bajaj Finance and UltraTech Cement were among the other laggards, shedding up to 2.54 per cent. "Domestic equities looked to be resilient amid high volatility. Benchmark indices recovered sharply from today's low

mainly led by rebound in financials and pharma indices," said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities. Auto stocks were worst hit mainly due to wider economic restrictions imposed in Maharashtra, which contributes over 20 per cent of automobiles production of the country, he said, adding Infosys witnessed heavy profit booking after missing the street's estimates in 4Q FY21 earnings. However, strong buying was seen in other IT majors due to sustained growth prospects, he noted. "A continued surge in second wave of Covid-19 cases in the country has certainly dented investors' sentiments.

RICH shortlists 10 startups under AID programme

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

RESEARCH and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH), an initiative of GoI and Telangana State government, announced the list of its first cohort of ten startups selected under the Acceleration Initiative for Diagnostics (AID) programme, designed as a multi-stakeholder alliance to identify and nurture the best startups in the diagnostics space. The initiative aims to create a knowledge base and drive innovation for addressing critical State-level problems. It involves solving complex challenges by creating collaborative networks by and between national research and academic institutions, industry, associations, startups, civil society entities, State government, and central ministries. The shortlisted startups are Aida Health, Aikenist Technologies, Briota Technologies, Enrich Bioscience Inc, Healthkon, Medtra Innovative Technologies, Medzak Healthcare, Onward Assist, Primary Healthtech, Sparcolife Digital Healthcare Technologies.

The startups will receive benefits over the coming six months, including incubation at Atal Incubation Centre of (CCMB) Centre for Cellular

and Molecular Biology, access to test beds under the Project Tej scheme at partner hospitals, access to test samples, and validation support. They will also, based on their specific requirements, receive one-on-one mentorship from the top technical and business experts in the industry and vital connects with potential investors and industry organisations. RICH has on-boarded over 20 mentors encompassing various expertise areas such as, venture capitalists, doctors and healthcare professionals, leaders in business, technology, operations, manufacturing, sales and communications, and regulatory experts among others. The shortlisted startups will also receive an acceleration grant of Rs 2 lakh each.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has underlined the need for accelerated research in diagnostics followed by a rapid go-to-market for such innovations which can help us deal with such medical emergencies. In Hyderabad we already have a fertile ecosystem of industry, hospitals, clinicians and mentors. With the AID programme, we hope to bring all of these together in a manner which can best help young innovators convert their ideas into viable business propositions," said Ajit Rangnekar, Director General, RICH.

JC Flowers H1 bidder for Satavahana Ispat

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

JC Flowers ARC, has been declared the highest bidder for Hyderabad-based Satavahana Ispat Ltd debt Lenders Consortium. Satavahana Ispat Limited, listed on both BSE and NSE, owes more than Rs 1,000 crore debt to a consortium of four lending banks - led by Canara Bank. The debt is classified as NPA in the books of the lenders for more than 3 years. The company is engaged primarily in manufacturing Ductile Iron Pipes and Pig Iron. The company also has a metallurgical coke plant, a media release said.

PE inflows into real estate up 19%

Structured debt was largely towards portfolio deals instead of project-level assets

MUMBAI

BUCKING the pandemic private equity (PE) investments into the India real estate sector rose around 19 per cent in FY 2020-21 to over \$6.27 billion, according to an Anarock report. During the previous financial year, PE investments into the realty sector stood at \$5.8 billion.

Indian real estate recorded its highest-ever private equity investments since in the last fiscal, since FY16, noted the Anarock Capital's 'Flux - FY20-21 Market Monitor for Capital Flows'. Unlike earlier, FY21 saw private equity investors focus majorly on portfolio deals across



multiple cities and assets, rather on specific projects or cities. Such portfolio deals constituted 73 per cent of the overall investments, with around \$4.58 billion invested through portfolio deals in multiple cities.

The average ticket size of PE deals rose by 62 per cent from \$110 million in FY20 to \$178 million in FY21.

Both structured debt and equity witnessed strong growth during the year at 84 per cent and 15 per cent respectively, said the report.

Structured debt was largely towards portfolio deals instead of project-level assets, it said. Though FY21 was an unprecedented year due to the pandemic, foreign PE funds showed much optimism for India. As much as 93 per cent of the total PE investments pumped into Indian real estate were by foreign investors. Investments by foreign PE funds almost doubled from \$3 billion to \$5.8 billion in FY21. In contrast, domestic PE funds invested merely \$300 million compared to \$420 million in

FY20. Shobhit Agarwal, MD & CEO of Anarock Capital said: "Foreign funds are evidently very upbeat about India. High-grade rental-generating assets have attracted foreign investors in a big way during the year."

Moreover, India has a strong underlying demand for office space with quality workforce and average rentals available at less than a dollar per square foot per month, he said. "Alongside, the successful REIT listings have provided a good monetising option for PE investors, leading to a stronger demand for good quality rental earning office and retail assets," Agarwal said.

Hard courts, no crowd give India better chance at BJK Cup

New Delhi

INDIA face an uphill battle in their Billie Jean King Cup tennis tournament World Group Play-offs against the much higher-ranked Latvia but their chances have been given a slight boost due to the absence of crowd and the fact that the tie will be played on hard courts, said captain Vishal Uppal.

The tie will be played from April 16 National Tennis Centre Lielupe in Jurmala, Latvia, and Latvia will be fielding a strong team consisting of world number 47 Anastasija Sevastova, 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko (ranked 53), Diana Marcinkevica (ranked 274) and Daniela Vismanec (492). The hosts chose to play the match on indoor hard courts instead of on clay courts, which is the surface that their players are more suited to play on.

"Initially when I saw that we were playing on indoor hards I was surprised. I thought that we will be playing on indoor or outdoor clay. But then again, the Latvian team have some very highly ranked players. It does kind of give us a better chance and so, thank you Latvia!" said Uppal in a virtual press conference from Jurmala on the eve of the tie.

The match will be played behind closed doors because of the Covid-19 pandemic, which Uppal feels will be a bigger factor in their favour than the surface.

"We are more comfortable on



hard courts but more than that the fact that there will be no home support gives us a slightly better chance. This is the first time we have got to this stage and just the pressure that a home crowd can put on us won't be there. We can be a bit more at piece knowing that there won't be a crowd of 5000 7000 people screaming at you but then it also takes the fun out of a cup tie," said Uppal.

However, the fact remains that the tie remains a mismatch on paper. While Latvia's singles players Sevastova and Ostapenko are ranked 47th and 53 respectively, their Indian opponents Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi are ranked 174 and 621 respectively. Ankita said that she would prefer having a crowd

when she is playing at home but it doesn't make a difference to her otherwise.

"When you are playing at home you would like to have a crowd otherwise doesn't make a difference. For them probably they are used to playing with the crowd so it could be good for us," she said.

Ankita faces Ostapenko in the first match of the tie on April 16 after which Karman faces Sevastova on the same day. On the second day, Sevastova plays Ankita after which Ostapenko faces Karman. The tie then ends with a doubles match between veteran Sania Mirza and Ankita against Diana Marcinkevica and Daniela Vismanec. Matches to be telecast live on Eurosport. (ANS)

Indian Premier League

CSK eye enhanced bowling against formidable Punjab

MUMBAI

CHENNAI Super Kings would look for inspiration from skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and a much-improved bowling effort when they take on a power-packed Punjab Kings in the IPL here on Friday.

The two sides experienced contrasting fortunes in their respective tournament opener. While CSK lost by seven wickets against Delhi Capitals, Punjab Kings eked out a four-run win over Rajasthan Royals in a high-scoring thriller. With the dew playing a crucial role at Wankhede, the side winning the toss would want to bowl first. In their first match here, CSK posted a competitive 188 for seven, riding on fine contributions from Suresh Raina (54), Moeen Ali (36), Sam Curran (34), Ravindra Jadeja (26) and Ambati Rayudu (23).

Despite failures from the opening duo of Rituraj Gaikwad and Faf du Plessis besides skipper Dhoni, CSK managed to put up a decent total on the board. But the Chennai outfit's bowling unit looked completely out of sorts and clueless against the DC opening duo of Shikhar Dhawan and Prithvi Shaw, who were ominous from the word go and stitched a 138-run stand to take the game away from CSK.

The likes of Deepak Chahar, Sam Curran, Shardul Thakur, Jadeja and Moeen Ali all went for big runs and looked rusty. And come Friday, the onus would be on master tactician Dhoni to inspire his teammates to lift their performance and give Punjab a run for their money.

But for that to happen, the CSK skipper himself needs to lead from the front after failing to score against DC. Punjab Kings, on the other hand, had a narrow escape against RR the other despite posting a mammoth 221 for 6 on the board. Opening the batting, KL Rahul played a captain's knock of 91 off just 50 balls. He was ably supported by big-hitting Chris Gayle (40 off 28) and Deepak Hooda (64 off 28). For Punjab Kings and Rahul, batting is not at all area of concern as they showed with their performance in the opener, but just like CSK, the bowling unit remains a major worry despite spending big money at the auction.

R R

skipper Sanju Samson almost single-handedly took the game away from Punjab Kings with his whirlwind 63-ball 119-run knock in their opener, but fell short just by four runs in the end.

And Rahul definitely won't be a happy man with the performances of his bowlers. Young Arshdeep Singh (3/35) eventually emerged as Punjab's saviour. Needing 13 runs off the last over, the left-arm pacer gave away just eight runs to pull off a fine win for his team.

Besides Arshdeep, veteran Mohammad Shami (2/33) too had a decent outing with the ball but the performance of Australian pace duo of Jhye Richardson (1/55) and Riley Meredith (1/49) should be a concern for Punjab, having shelled out Rs 22 crore for their services. (PTI)

Match starts at 7.30pm



SQUADS

Chennai Super Kings

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (c & wk), Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, KM Asif, Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, N Jagadeesan, Karn Sharma, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shardul Thakur, Sam Curran, R Sai Kishore, Moeen Ali, K Gowtham, Cheteshwar Pujara, Harishankar Reddy, Bhagath Varma, C Hari Nishanth.

Punjab Kings

KL Rahul (c & wk), Mayank Agarwal, Chris Gayle, Mandeep Singh, Prabhsimran Singh, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Sarfaraz Khan, Deepak Hooda, Murugan Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, Harpreet Brar, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ishan Porel, Darshan Nalkande, Chris Jordan, David Malan, Jhye Richardson, Shahruckh Khan, Riley Meredith, Moises Henriques, Jalaj Saxena, Utkarsh Singh, Fabian Allen, Saurabh Kumar.

Umpires decision to allow Patel to continue bowling was right: Bayliss

CHENNAI

SUNRISERS Hyderabad (SRH) captain David Warner seemed to be miffed by the umpires allowing Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) fast bowler Harshal Patel to continue bowling despite him bowling two waist-high full tosses. However, SRH coach Trevor Bayliss reckoned that the umpires were right in making the decisions and Warner's frustration came from the fact that the team was not performing too well.

"He was a little animated because we weren't playing very good cricket and we lost. I think the umpires got it right. There was a

bit of conjecture over obviously the second high no-ball, but the first one was not directed at the batter's body, so that wasn't a warning. So I think the umpires got that one right," Bayliss said during the virtual post-match press conference.

Defending a low target of 150, RCB managed to beat SRH by six runs largely thanks to Shahbaz Ahmed dismissing Jonny Bairstow, Manish Pandey and Abdul Samad in the 17th over. While Rashid Khan gave SRH some hope with his nine-ball 17, RCB held on to pull off a second consecutive win. Patel himself took the wickets of Vijay Shankar and Shahbaz Nadeem, ending the match with figures of 2/25. (ANS)



Vikas ousts European Champ in youth boxing world c'ships



NEW DELHI

VIKAS (52kg) pulled off a stunning upset win against the reigning European Youth Champion Yassen Radev as five Indian boxers registered remarkable victories on the second day of the AIBA Youth Men's and Women's World C'ships, in Kielce, Poland.

Vikas started the bout cautiously but soon took the charge of the game with an aggressive intent. The Indian made Radev, a gold medallist from recent Adriatic Pearl, work hard with his swift moment and precise punches before he outpunched Bulgarian 5-0 comfortably.

Vikas will now square off against Mongolia's Sukhbat Enkhzorigt in the second round on Day 3. Reigning Asian Youth

Champion Vinka (60kg) and Poonam (57kg) also extended their winning momentum as the duo asserted supremacy over their opponents Tara Bohatjuk of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Hungary's Beata Varga respectively in their pre-quarterfinals.

Other Indians in action, Ankit Narwal and Vishal Gupta also made impressive starts to their campaign and eked out comfortable triumphs to maintain India's winning run in the on-going event. Asian Youth Championships silver medallist Ankit (64kg) and Vishal (91kg) advanced with easy 5-0 opening round victories against Slovakia's Miroslav Herceg and Georgi Stoev of Bulgaria respectively.

Alongside Vikas, five more Indians will be seen in action on the third day of the tourney which has been witnessing a highly competitive action in the presence of 414 boxers from 52 countries. In the men's category, Ramesh Gorkha (60kg) and Sumit (69kg) will appear in the preliminary round bouts while in women's category, Arundhati Choudhary (69kg), Arshi Khanam (54kg) and Gitika (48kg) will begin their campaign in the World Championships.

Asian Wrestling C'ship

Sarita retains title; Seema, Pooja settle for bronze

ALMATY

SCRIPTING a sensational comeback, an aggressive Sarita Mor reeled off nine straight points in the summit clash to retain her Asian Championship title in 59kg while Seema Bisla (50kg) and Pooja (76kg) settled for bronze medals here on Thursday.

Sarita, who won gold at the 2020 championship in New Delhi, trailed 1-7 after a botched-up challenge but turned it around with a tremendous fight back against Mongolia's Shoovdor Baatarjav. Attempting a move at 1-3 on the edge of the mat, Sarita lost her balance, allowing her rival to get one point.

However, the Mongolian's coach challenged the call to get her ward four points. From there on, there was no stopping Sarita. She effected a take-down, following it up with an expose and then one more take down on the edge of the circle to make it 7-7. At that juncture, time running out fast, the Mongolian camp challenged the call and lost that to give an extra point to Sarita, who won 10-7.

In the 50kg competition, Seema had a terrible start as she lost her opening bout by fall against Kazakhstan's Valentina Ivanovna but made a strong comeback in the next round against Mongolian Anudari Nandintsetseg. Trailing 0-2, Seema got on board with a passivity point and a take-down. She never looked back after that, winning more points by employing gut-wrench and eventually won 7-3. She faced a stiff challenge from Uzbekistan's Jasmina Immaeva in the semifinal which she lost 2-3. The Indian then beat Taipei's Yung Hsun Lin by technical superiority to win the bronze medal. (PTI)

Kohli named Wisden Cricketers' Almanack's ODI player of the decade

NEW DELHI

INDIA captain Virat Kohli has been named the One Day International cricketer of the decade for the 2010s in the 2021 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

Kohli is one of five cricketers who have been named for each decade from 1971 to 2021. He was part of the team that won the 2011 World Cup at the start of the decade and went on to establish himself as one of the leading batsmen in all formats of the game, particularly in ODIs. He scored more than 11,000 runs in the ten-year stretch, averaging over 60 and scoring 42 centuries.



Sri Lanka spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan was named the ODI Cricketer of the 2000s. He helped Sri Lanka make the World Cup final in 2011 and claimed 335 wickets in the decade, more than any other bowler has in a single decade. Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar and legendary former all-rounder Kapil Dev have been named for the 1990s and 1980s. Tendulkar scored nine ODI hundreds in 1998 alone, more than any other batsman in a single calendar year ever has.

Kapil, meanwhile, claimed more wickets than any other in the 1980's, and scored at the highest strike-rate of any batsman with more than 1000 runs. He



also famously led India to a stunning win in the 1983 World Cup against the all-conquering West Indies.

West Indies batting great Viv Richards was named the ODI cricketer of the year for the 1970's, which was the first decade of the format. Richards fuelled West Indies' dominance in the first decade of the format, scoring a century in the final of the 1970 World Cup to help them win the trophy. (ANS)





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