

A lockdown was imposed by the government on April 19, however, in the last two weeks, several restrictions have been eased, like metro services with 50 per cent seating capacity from June 7, restaurants with 50 per cent capacity from June 14, besides the market and the malls resuming business.



# Womenia

## Being a good parent can offset negative experiences

Raising kids is never easy. In fact, it's often one of the most challenging and frustrating things you will ever do, especially because you are learning as you go. No one goes into parenting knowing exactly how to handle everything that is thrown at them. But the best parents are always looking for ways to improve.

If you find yourself in that situation, you've already made the first step in becoming the best parent you can be. Clearly, you care about how you interact with and raise your kids and that's likely the most important part of being a good parent.

Being a good parent can offset those negative experiences. If you want to be sure you are consistently improving your parenting skills, we have compiled a list of things you can do to make sure you are the best parent you can be. Here are things you can do right now to be a better parent to your kids.

### Listen to your kids

When you are spending time with your child, try to avoid too many distractions, including those intrusive thoughts about work or the laundry that seems to be calling your name. Make it a priority to know what your kids are hoping for, what they fear, and what they feel anxious about. Listen and ask questions, even if they ignore you or try to evade answering. When you demonstrate that you care, you are showing them that you love them. Active listening also means you focus on what is being said without thinking about how you're going to respond. It's about watching body language and picking up on cues.

Even reaching out and gently touching their arm or holding their hand when they're upset



communicates not only that they have your full attention, but that you empathize with what they're feeling.

### Stick to your rules

As a parent, it's your job to teach your kids the difference between right and wrong, which means you need to follow the rules, too. So when you do something wrong, make a mistake, or lose your cool, fess up.

### You also need to be sure your discipline is consistent, but flexible

However, when the punishment fits the crime, stick to your guns. Kids notice inconsistencies and will use them in their favor. Remember, rules must be enforced after they are made. And whatever rules are set in your house, you need to follow them as well, unless you have a really good reason why you're excluded.

### Be a good role model

Don't do anything in front of your children that you wouldn't want them to do. If you find your-

people react when times get tough. Instead, demonstrate how you can keep your cool and resolve problems in a calm manner. When you do, you're showing them what emotional intelligence looks like. If you do lose your cool, be sure to apologize and take responsibility for your anger. Doing so is another way to model healthy behaviour.

### Be flexible

Sometimes parents struggle with unrealistic expectations and goals for both their kids and for themselves. When this happens, parenting can suddenly feel burdensome and overwhelming. If you find that you regularly feel that way, you may need to be more flexible when it comes to yourself, your kids, and your parenting. Being a perfectionist parent is stressful. Not only do parents in this camp fear "messing their kids up for life," but they also put extreme pressure on their kids to perform in flawless ways. They also expect way too much of themselves.

### Show lots of love

There's no doubt that you love your kids, but how do you show them? Do you shower them with kisses and hugs as often as you can? Remember, embracing your child will make them feel safe and loved so will holding their hand, stroking their hair, and kissing their cheek.

Another way to show love is to spend time together. This is a great way to show kids that they are a priority to you. Just don't forget to actively engage with them. Also, initiate interactive activities, such as playing old-fashioned board games, enjoying outdoor activities, or simply talking with your children to make the most of the time you have together.

## FASHIONISTA

## Unlock the next level of styling



Between balancing career, family, and finding time for ourselves, stepping out the door with style every day can seem impossible but it's not. Here are a few secrets for unlocking the next level of style.

### Plan it out

You can't plan for everything, but don't let your mornings catch you off-guard. Just like you'd plan a week's worth of meals on a Sunday if

you're trying to save time, give outfit planning a shot to make way for stress-free mornings and outfit-regret-free days.

### Seek out inspiration

Find stylish women to follow whether it's your favorite Instagram style star or your sister's best friend's cousin.

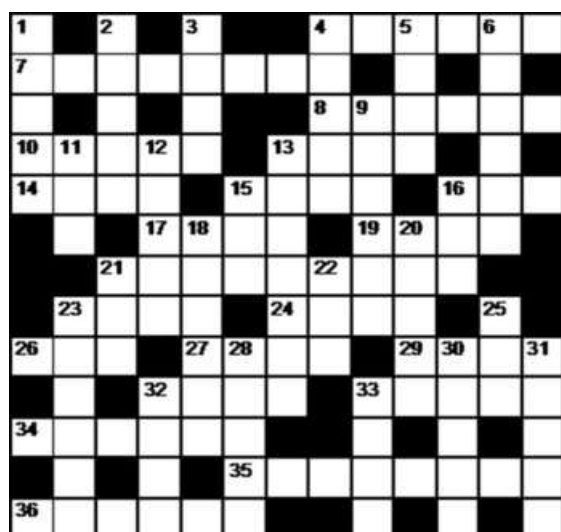
Discover fashionistas whose style inspires you, then use their photos as inspiration to help plan your outfits. Not sure where to start? Check out

our Instagram and Pinterest boards for endless inspiration from our most stylish ladies.

### When in doubt, (over) dress

If you're ever on the fence about what to wear, consider your destination and who you'll see.

When in doubt, err on the side of being more dressy. If you're worried about looking too done-up, bring along a casual layer like a jean or cargo jacket to give your look that effortless chic touch.



SOLUTION TO JUNE 14

## CROSSWORD

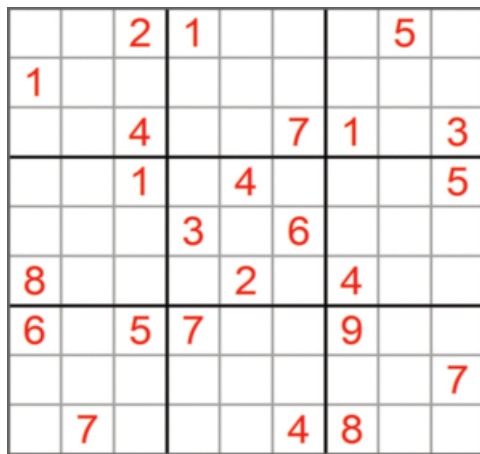
### Across

- 4 Competitions for cowboys (6)
- 7 Intermediate colour (8)
- 8 False or insincere, as a prefix (6)
- 10 Just a question of choice or selection ? (5)
- 13 Mythical monsters, as ogres (4)
- 14 Flying insect (4)
- 15 An ancient Greek portico (4)
- 16 Misfortune (3)
- 17 Wild ox of Celebes (4)
- 19 Spill the beans (4)
- 21 A type of bomb - "go bed loud" anagram ? (9)
- 23 Hop Kiln (4)
- 24 British actress Nell (4)
- 26 Pretty stone (3)
- 27 Migrant farm worker (4)
- 29 A very long time (4)
- 32 Mystical emanation (4)
- 33 Mischievous trick (5)
- 34 Zend \_\_\_\_ : the holy scriptures for the Parsis ? (6)
- 35 Impending (8)

### Down

- 1 Medieval oboe (5)
- 2 Twist two or more strands or strips into a long rope (5)
- 3 Hanking (4)
- 4 Copy (5)
- 5 Chemicals used to colour fabrics (4)
- 6 Small errand (3,3)
- 9 Mangy (6)
- 11 A large pig (3)
- 12 Disorder or disarray (5)
- 13 Earache (7)
- 15 Do lawn work (3)
- 16 Joker (3)
- 18 Still battling (3,3)
- 20 Of the moon (5)
- 21 Block up (3)
- 22 Fleecy female (3)
- 23 Artist's work (6)
- 25 Mahayana movement of Buddhism (3)
- 28 Venomous snake (5)
- 30 Dam controls (5)
- 31 A large flat fish (5)
- 32 Inquires (4)
- 33 Poker holding (4)

## SUDOKU



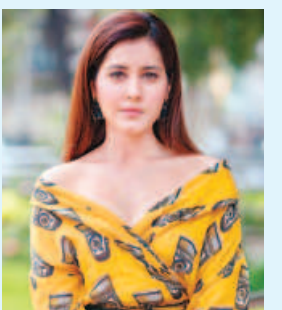
SOLUTION TO JUNE 14

TWEET PATROL



**RAASHII KHANNA**  
**@RAASHIIKHANNA\_**

"If not us, then who, if not now, then when?"  
J.Lewis A BIG Thankyou to everyone who donated to the cause. Every penny donated has helped Roti bank feed 1200+ people each day. Keep supporting!  
#bethemiracle  
rotibankhyderabad.org/index.html



## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Bhumi Pednekar: Have been itching to be back on sets

Actress Bhumi Pednekar has resumed shooting and says it feels surreal to be back on set.

"I have been itching to be back on the set and resume work. I find myself fortunate that I'm starting to work as soon as the unlock started in Maharashtra. The industry has gone through a lot over the last one year and it has been pushed to the brink by this pandemic," says Bhumi.

The actress lauds the industry bigwigs for having started the vaccination drive to inoculate the film fraternity members. "I'm sure that every producer will take all necessary measures to ensure that the industry restarts. It's amazing that the industry leaders have come forward to vaccinate the fraternity because that's the need of the hour. We work in a very intimate environment so safety is of prime importance to everyone," she said.

The actress recently revealed she would feature in the Akshay Kumar-starrer "Raksha Bandhan". This would mark their second collaboration after "Toilet: Ek Prem Katha". She also has "Badhaai Do" with Rajkumar Rao and "Mr Lele" with Vicky Kaushal lined up for release.



## Boost your well-being while in isolation



### N LOTHUNGBENI HUMTSOE

As social distancing and quarantine become part of our new reality, a lot of real-life action has now gone virtual. From unending Zoom calls to online workout sessions to even virtual dates all the while being stuck at home, the list only goes on.

In such trying times, it's important to not only care for those around you but also indulge in the right care for yourself. In fact, the need for self-care to ensure mental and physical well-being is being increasingly recognised as a potent tool to dealing with our demanding lifestyle today. Moving away from the conventional association of self-care with women, it's now well acknowledged that self-care knows no gender because it is the art and act of consciously putting yourself first.

Rachit Mehra, Senior Marketing Manager, Phy, PurePlay Skin Sciences Ltd, guides you how does one get started with self-care.

### Time for home workouts

Gyms across cities might be temporarily shut, but what's stopping you from setting up a makeshift gym in a corner of your room or balcony! If working out without a trainer feels unfamiliar, start off with one of those online training sessions on fitness apps. Workout releases endorphins that bring a natural glow to your skin while lowering your stress levels. And who doesn't enjoy a refreshing shower after a fun workout. A sulphate-free body wash infused with natural ingredients might just be what you're looking for to take on the day recharged.

Netflix and chill by yourself  
Work from home has blurred the lines between office and home schedules. However, it is important to follow a schedule to take time out for yourself. Make sure to follow a schedule, eat your meals on time and most importantly, sign off from work on time. Catch an episode of your favourite series on Netflix, watch reruns of

Friends if you need to blow off some steam laughing.

Take time out for skincare

Let's merge it in between our busy schedules we barely get time to wash our faces twice a day, let alone use a moisturizer. Why not use this isolation period as some downtime for your skin! Maintaining a basic skincare routine like washing your face in the morning and before going to bed, applying a moisturizer, using a good, fragrant body wash to calm your senses, a body mist to quickly hit refresh doesn't take a lot of effort and is definitely not time consuming.

Isolation can be challenging and as individuals are separated from regular lives they are bound to go through a myriad of emotions; anxiety, loneliness, stress, or feeling overwhelmed. But with some basics one can make the best use of these times. Skipping meals is a no-no just how drinking water to stay hydrated is a big yes-yes. Listen to music, pursue a hobby and try to look at the brighter side of things, like not getting stuck in hours of work commute, being able to spend more time with friends, working out of your home in your pajamas; you get the drift!

Self-care need not be an elaborate process or a ritual that needs to be saved for the weekend or a special day. And if anxiety or stress seem to be getting the better of you, reach out to a friend, family or a mental health expert and talk. In the end as they say, this too shall pass.

## Fudge Day

Fudge Day is a day to enjoy the deliciousness of this decadent, sweet candy that is appreciated all over the world. It cannot be denied that celebrating this delicious, tasty treat is a great way to spend just about any day, especially on Fudge Day.

Fudge is a soft, smooth confectionary that is made by mixing and then heating milk, butter and sugar. A variety of other ingredients can then be added to create assorted varieties and flavours of fudge. Some of the most popular flavours include chocolate and peanut butter, but there's a whole world out there of fudge flavours that are waiting to be explored.

### On Fudge Day, why not try making a batch of delicious fudge?

While some fudge recipes can be complicated and require the use of a candy thermometer, other easier recipes only need access to a microwave. A simple way to get tasty fudge in a short time is to use this basic recipe, creating a delicious treat to make and enjoy right in the kitchen at home!



### Easy Chocolate Fudge Recipe

Melt three cups (700g) of chocolate chips along with fourteen ounces (400g) of sweetened condensed milk and ¼ cup (30g) of butter or margarine in a large bowl in the microwave.

Cook on medium heat for approximately four minutes, or until the chocolate chips have all melted, being sure to stir a couple of times during cooking.

Add in any extra ingredients (nuts, fruit, cookie crumbs, marshmallows, etc.) as desired and then stir well. Pour fudge mixture into a greased 8 x 8 glass dish and refrigerate until set. Simple, quick and tasty!





# Cong high command should not listen to Pilot camp: BSP defectors

JAIPUR

RAJASTHAN MLAs who had defected from the BSP to the ruling Congress objected to any move by the party high command to pacify dissident legislators led by Sachin Pilot, saying it was because of them that the government was in crisis last year.

The MLAs said they should be rewarded as the government

was saved by them and other Independents. Former state deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot and 18 MLAs supporting him had last year rebelled against CM Ashok Gehlot. They were accused of the bid to topple the state government. All BSP MLAs in the state--Lakhan Singh, Rajendra Gudha, Sandeep Yadav, Wajib Ali, Deepchand Kheria, Jogendra Awana--had defected to the ruling Congress in September 2019.



The statement by the four of the six BSP defectors have come at a time when the Pilot camp has again started pressing the

party leadership for the resolution of the issues raised by them last year. Reaffirming their confidence in the leadership of Gehlot, Tijara MLA Sandeep Kumar Yadav told reporters at a press conference here that the Pilot camp was not right in demanding anything as they had tried to topple the state government.

"They are repeatedly talking about workers and their share in

the government but it was because of them that the government was in crisis last year. The government was saved only because we six and other independents stood by it," he said.

"The Congress high command should not listen to them. Those who saved the government should get reward and honour," he said. MLAs Jogendra Awana, Rajendra Gudha and Lakhan Singh also said the Ashok Gehlot

government was about to fall because of Pilot and the MLAs loyal to him. They asserted that the Congress leadership should not ignore the fact that the government was saved by them and 10 Independents. When asked about the Cabinet expansion, Rajendra Gudha said it was the prerogative of the chief minister. "We merged with the Congress unconditionally but we did not know that 19 MLAs would

desert the government. We MLAs were standing by the government.

Now, it is the time to recognise who was with the government and against it," Gudha said. Jogendra Singh Awana said Gehlot was their leader and will continue to remain so. We merged with the Congress due to Ashok Gehlot and we have confidence in his leadership, he said.

# Suspended BSP MLAs meet Akhilesh, may join SP

LUCKNOW

AT least five MLAs suspended by the BSP last year met Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday, triggering speculation that they may join his party.

"The meeting with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, which lasted for 15-20 minutes, witnessed discussions on the upcoming UP Assembly elections, and it was a nice meeting," Sushma Patel, MLA from Mungra Badshahpur assembly constituency in Jaunpur district told PTI.

When asked about the future course of action, Patel said, "Personally, I have made up my mind to join the Samajwadi Party." At present, there are 18 Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLAs in the 403-member Uttar Pradesh Leg-



islative Assembly. When asked what prompted the suspended BSP MLAs to meet Akhilesh Yadav, Patel said, "We were suspended in October 2020 during the Rajya Sabha elections, and we were categorically told not to use the flag and banner of the BSP, and also to not attend any

party meeting."

"At the time of the Rajya Sabha elections, the BSP did not issue any whip, nor did we indulge in cross-voting. We were suspended without any basis. We were suspended as we had gone to meet Akhilesh Yadav," she added.

"Now, we have to look for alternatives. So, in this context, we had called upon Akhilesh Yadav," she said, and added that now she has nothing to do with the BSP. Others who met the SP chief are Mohd Aslam Raini, Hakimlail Bind, Mustafa Siddiqui and Hargovind Bhargav. In October 2020, seven BSP MLAs were suspended by party president Mayawati. They had opposed the nomination of party's official candidate Ramji Gautam for the elections to the Rajya Sabha. Apart from the five who met Yadav, Chaudhary Aslam Ali and Vandana Singh had also been suspended from the BSP. Earlier this month, Mayawati had expelled BSP's legislative party leader Lalji Verma and Akbarpur MLA Ram Achal Rajbhar.

# PCI seeks report from UP on death of TV journalist

NEW DELHI

THE Press Council of India (PCI) has sought a report from the Uttar Pradesh government and police on the death of a TV journalist who had recently reported on the liquor mafia.

According to Uttar Pradesh police, journalist Sulabh Srivastava died in a road accident in Pratapgarh after his bike rammed into a pole on Sunday. However, the opposition parties and the Editors Guild of India (EGI) have questioned the claim of the state police.

The TV journalist had recently run a story about the liquor mafia in the region. Later, he reportedly wrote to the police seeking protection, apprehending a threat to his life. "Taking serious note of the death of journalist Sulabh Srivastava in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Press Council of India chairman Justice Chandramouli Kumar



Prasad has taken suo motu cognisance in the matter," the Council said in a statement in Hindi on Tuesday.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh, the state Director General of Police and the Superintendent of Police, Pratapgarh have been asked to send a report "based on the facts in the matter," the council said.

The death of the TV journalist in Uttar Pradesh has sparked a row with the opposition parties demanding a free and fair probe.

While Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav has sought a high-level inquiry into the case, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati has called for a swift, impartial and credible probe. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has demanded a CBI probe into the case. The Editors Guild of India on Monday said that it was shocked by the "cavalier manner" in which the Uttar Pradesh Police was treating the mysterious death of the TV journalist.

## Rajasthan to set up Vedic education board

JAIPUR

THE Rajasthan government will soon set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive the knowledge of Sanskrit scriptures and Vedas, officials said on Tuesday.

The board is likely to be formed in next four to five months. A committee, formed to define aims, objectives and functioning of the board, has submitted its report to the state government, Minister of State (MoS) for Sanskrit Education Subhash Garg said, adding modules will be presented before the board based on the report.

He said the Vedic board would come into function after approval from Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. The Congress government, in its election manifesto for 2018 State Assembly elections, had promised to set up the board and to take measures in order to promote Sanskrit language.

In January this year, Gehlot announced to expedite the process to encourage students to carry out research on Vedas. By taking such initiatives, the Congress-led regime in the state was performing better than the previous BJP government, the MoS said.

## CUSTODIAL DEATH CASE IN HIMACHAL

# SC refuses to hear plea for restoration of bail of ex-IGP

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday refused to entertain a plea for restoration of bail to former Himachal Pradesh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zahur Haider Zaidi in a custodial death case, saying that attempting to influence a witness, who is a senior IPS officer, is a "very important" charge.

Zaidi, one of the accused in the case related to the custodial death of a man who was among those arrested on charge of gang-raping a minor school girl in Kotkhai in Shimla district in 2017, was granted bail on April 6, 2019 by the top court which later transferred the case from Shimla to Chandigarh.

The special trial court at Chandigarh, in January 2020, cancelled Zaidi's bail after a prosecution witness and IPS officer Soumya Sambasivan alleged that she was being pressured by him to influence the trial. The Punjab and Haryana High Court later refused to tin-

ker with the trial court's order of cancelling Zaidi's bail.

"You have been the highest IPS officer (of



the state). How can you give threat to another IPS officer... If you can attempt to influence an IPS officer then you can influence and tamper with other witnesses also," said a vacation bench of justices Indira Banerjee and M R Shah. Senior advocate V K Gupta, appearing for Zaidi, said all other accused are on bail and moreover, the former IGP has been in jail for over a year even

after the IPS officer made the statement of being pressurised by him. He said many witnesses are yet to be examined in the trial and moreover, the main charge against Zaidi was of destruction of evidence punishable with the maximum seven years of jail term.

Zaidi and seven others were arrested in the custodial death case of Suraj, who was found dead at the Kotkhai police station on July 18, 2017.

A 16-year-old girl had gone missing in Kotkhai on July 4, 2017 and her body was found from the Halaila forests two days later on July 6. The post-mortem report had confirmed rape and murder and a case was registered. Amid a huge public outcry in the state, a SIT headed by Zaidi was constituted by the then Virbhadra Singh-led Congress government. The SIT arrested six persons, and after the custodial death of one of the accused Suraj, the high court had handed over the investigations of both the cases to the CBI. The CBI had arrested Zaidi, DCP Joshi and other policemen in connection with the custodial death.

# Police use water cannons to disperse SAD-BSP workers

MOHALI

POLICE on Tuesday used water cannons to disperse Shiromani Akali Dal and BSP leaders and workers when they were forcing their way to 'gherao' the residence of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh here. Protesters led by SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal were shouting slogans against the Congress-led government over several issues including irregularities in the purchase of Fateh kits and alleged diversion of COVID-19 vaccine doses to private hospitals.

It was the first joint protest of the SAD and BSP, days after both the parties had stitched an alliance for the 2022 Punjab Assembly polls. BSP state president Jasbir Singh Garhi was also present at the protest.

Several Akali leaders, including Badal and Bikram Singh Majithia, were detained by police. Police personnel were deployed in strength and multi-layered barricades were put up on

the road leading to the Chief Minister's residence.

The SAD and BSP had planned to 'gherao' the CM's residence at Siswan in Mohali. Initially, scores of Akali and BSP protesters forced their way through the first layer of barricades. Police used water cannons when protesters tried to cross the second layer of barricades. In the melee, turbans of several protesters were tossed aside as police resorted to water cannons.

Mohali Senior Superintendent of Police Satinder Singh was also present at the spot. Earlier, addressing the workers, SAD chief Badal slammed the state government over the issue of alleged irregularities in the purchase of Fateh kits and alleged diversion of vaccine doses to private hospitals. A 'Fateh kit' contains a pulse oximeter, thermometer, face masks, a steamer, sanitiser, Vitamin-C and zinc tablets and some other medicines for COVID-19 patients.

## UP zila panchayat chairperson polls to be held on July 3

LUCKNOW

THE State Election Commission of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday announced that polling for the election of zila panchayat chairpersons will be held on July 3.

The counting of votes will be taken up on the same day, the SEC said in its notification.

Nominations will be filed on June 26 and the scrutiny of candidates' papers will be conducted the same day. The last date for the withdrawal of nominations is June 29, it said.

Zila panchayat chairpersons are elected from among the elected members of zila panchayats of various districts. Voting will be held from 11 am to 3 pm on July 3 and the counting of votes will be taken up on the same day, the notification stated.

There are 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh. Four-phase panchayat polls were held in the state last month. Of the over 8.69 lakh seats that were up for grabs in the panchayat polls, 3,050 seats were in zila panchayats.

# Har govt increases pension, assistance under social security schemes

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government on Tuesday gave nod to increase pension financial assistance under social security schemes with effect from April 1.

The Cabinet, which met here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, also extended one-time settlement scheme till September 30 for the recovery of long-time outstanding "external development charges" from colonisers, an official statement said.

Till date, around Rs 551 crore has been recovered from colonisers under this policy, it said. The Cabinet increased old-age pension and the assistance for widows, handicapped, girl child and eunuchs from Rs 2,250 to Rs 2,500 per month. Furthermore, the financial assistance given to destitute children has been increased from Rs 1,350 to Rs 1,600 per month and the assistance to disabled children not going schools has been hiked from Rs 1,650 to Rs 1,950 per month. In



another decision, the Haryana government decided to put in place the system of registration of new fully built-up transport vehicles through the dealers in the state.

The decision would facilitate the vehicle owners to get their new fully built-up transport vehicles registered through the dealer concerned. The process will be cashless. Footfall in the offices of Registering Authorities will come

down considerably, the statement said.

After a suitable amendment in the Haryana Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993, a firm, dealer or manufacturer of motor vehicles would be empowered by the state government to perform such functions with such conditions as it considers appropriate with regard to registration of vehicles on their first sale. The registration of fully built-up new transport vehicles

will now be possible online by the dealers as is being done at present in the case of new non-transport vehicles.

More than 48.80 lakh new personal vehicles have been registered through dealer point registration in the last seven years. Encouraged by its success, the system is now being extended to fully built-up transport vehicles with a view to improve ease of doing business, it said. The applicant will apply online along with the required taxes and fees. The registration certificate will be sent to the applicant by the Registering Authority concerned through the post. No direct interface of the buyer shall be needed with the registration authorities. In another decision, the number of members of the Haryana Public Service Commission has been reduced from existing eight to five. The Cabinet approved an amendment of the Haryana Public Service Commission (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 2018 in this regard.

# More trouble for Mukhtar Ansari

BARABANKI

A Barabanki court on Monday remanded mafia don-turned-BSP MLA Mukhtar Ansari to judicial custody in a case of alleged forgery and cheating in the registration of a bulletproof ambulance used to ferry him between courts and jail in Punjab. Barabanki Chief Judicial Magistrate Kamalapati remanded Ansari to 14-day judicial custody after the local police put the Mau MLA under arrest in the ambulance case and produced him in the court through video conference from Banda Jail.

After having been brought from the Ropar jail in Punjab recently, Ansari was lodged in the Banda jail as an undertrial in a slew of criminal cases.

While remanding him to his judicial custody, Barabanki CJM said the accused would continue to remain in the Banda jail.

Appearing for Ansari, his counsel Randhir Singh objected to his client's arrest in the Ambulance case, saying he had nothing to do with the registration of the ambulance with



the Barabanki Regional Transport Office.

Singh said the entire case was based on the statement of a co-accused, Dr Alka Rai of Mau's Shyam Sanjeevani Hospital, and there is no evidence against his client.

The court, however, remanded Ansari to judicial custody till June 28, relying upon

the FIR lodged by the Barabanki police on a complaint by the local RTO official.

The case against Ansari was registered after it was found that a bulletproof ambulance with a Barabanki number was used to ferry him from Ropar jail to a Mohali court near Chandigarh in an extortion case.



# How IT cos are revving up e-governance

LAST week Infosys' Chairman Nandan Nilekani and Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had an interesting conversation on Twitter. The Finance Minister was obviously upset with the glitches seen in the newly launched portal of income tax filing. Launched on June 7, the portal was aimed at making compliance more taxpayer-friendly. However, technical glitches ranging from longer than usual logging time, inability to respond to notices and not fully-functional features are making it difficult for the portal to seamlessly operate. Following the not-so-smooth start to the new Income-Tax portal, Sitharaman took to Twitter asking Infosys and its Chairman to fix the problem. Responding to FM's tweet, Infosys Chairman and co-founder Nandan Nilekani said his company 'regrets these initial glitches' and the system will stabilise in a few days.

The technical glitches are not new to any freshly-launched software application. We have seen such glitches during the initial days of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) portal. However, things have stabilised a lot since its launch days. Hopefully, the new income tax

portal will be no exception and start smooth operations in the coming days.

Indian technology giants such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys among others have powered many key government initiatives through their technological prowess. For example, income tax processing time has been reduced drastically after the central government handed over the processing operation to Indian IT services firms. Similarly, technological intervention has reduced the scope of official discretion on many tax matters. This has not only reduced red-tapism, but also corruption to some extent. Similarly, various applications of digital technologies now help tax officials catch hold of the tax evaders. GST evaders is a case in point. Now, each and every taxpayer is screened for high-value purchases without concurrent income disclosures. Such intervention has led to increase in compliance among the common public.

Similarly, TCS has transformed the passport issuance process under the 'Passport Seva Project'. Under this project, more than 1 lakh people are served through various passport offices each day. This was unthinkable

without technological interventions.

As India rolls out many more e-governance initiatives in coming years, Indian IT firms will play a crucial role in their implementation. As digital interfaces grow, service delivery will be faster and better with a reduction of red-tapism and corruption. The ongoing pandemic has shown the importance of digital applications to the world. From consulting doctors through video conferencing to getting necessary staples online, the Indian public has embraced etech channels on large scale. Applications like 'Aarogya Setu' and 'CoWin' have proved that the pandemic can be effectively tackled through digital interventions.

Therefore, the role of Indian technology firms in making the country technology savvy that can deliver government services faster is unquestionable. While care should be taken by IT services firms to avoid technical glitches in rolling out of new applications, the role of Indian IT industry shouldn't be questioned due to some initial glitches. As India recovers from the second wave of the pandemic, technology will play a critical role in embracing the new normal.



# English medium in AP degree colleges may not be the best move

DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO

THE government of Andhra Pradesh took the decision to revert to English medium at degree level from this academic year. As a student of the last batch of graduates who studied in English medium at degree level (1970-73) and as someone who taught the degree students for over three decades both in English and Telugu media I wish to present the good and bad of the sudden shift in the medium of instruction both for students and teachers.

What prompted this sudden shift in the medium of instruction is not known as the press release of AP State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) contains only instructions to the institutions on the mode of implementation of the new policy and no other details. This reminds me of the situation when the shift was made in instruction to degree students from English to Telugu.

There are many coincidences and similarities in the way decisions were taken then in 1971 and now after 50 years. It was exactly 50 years back in 1971 when the first batch of degree students started their destiny in Telugu medium. In a way they are lucky then as they were already accustomed to Telugu medium. They did their schooling up to then newly introduced SSC (10th Class) certificate and then moved to newly formed Junior Colleges to pursue their 2 year intermediate also in Telugu medium.

Till then students in the high schools were given instruction in Telugu medium up to SSLC (11th Class) and then join the one year Pre-University (PUC) where the medium of instruction was English only. Students coming from rural high schools used to suffer this sudden change in the medium of instruction to English and in the initial years the pass percentage at the PUC used to be low.

It was the anti-Hindi agitation lead by Dravidian parties in then Madras State and political victory of DMK in 1967 elections which shifted the medium of instruction to Tamil there. That was taken as a clue and then Education Minister in AP and a lover of Telugu language PV. Narasimha Rao went ahead with Telugu medium and creation of Telugu Academy for the production of text books and reference books in new medium.

The then order of the government is similar to the order of the present government. Then the order was "only Telugu medium in all colleges" and now APSCHE sternly says "degree colleges should offer only English medium from the academic year 2020-21". Similarity in those decisions taken in a gap of 50 years is neither the academicians nor the students have a say in decision making. What those in power thought as beneficial was implemented as that which was suited for the students. Students and parents were not given a choice. Despite the medium of instruction changed to Telugu in 1967 with the hope of bettering the students the pass percentage at the intermediate class was very low in the initial years. The same is the case with the degree level students when the first batch of Telugu medium degree students passed out in 1974.

Part of the reason was the difficulty felt by the teachers to teach in Telugu medium especially with the academy text books which attempted to create Sanskritised technical terms in all streams. Those were the days when teachers used to carry a paper, with the English word and equivalent Telugu academy created word to the class room. Now the scene will be reversed as the current day lecturers were all students of Telugu medium, proficient with the Telugu technical terms, may have to carry a paper with Telugu word and English word.

Under pressure from educated parents and some of the high demand institutions in late 70s the policy got changed from 'Telugu medium only' to the option of both English and Telugu mediums being offered to students. Even then the government orders instructed that first Telugu medium section have to be filled and then they should open the English medium sections.

With the encouragement of private engineering colleges since the early eighties the clamour for technical education grew and the normal degree courses lost its sheen. It is open secret, which no dares to openly concede, that the degree courses are now pursued by those non serious students for whom going to colleges is a 'time pass'. They are enrolling because of the social welfare scholarships and the fees-reimbursement schemes offered by the governments.

Before taking a decision on the compulsory English medium at degree level the APSCHE should have taken the current status of the degree colleges in the state. Most of the aided colleges which served the state for so many decades are now 'dead' colleges because of the apathy of the successive governments. The vacancies have not been filled since last 30 years barring occasional recruitment under backlog category. The colleges in AP suffer in the absence of quality teachers that applies even to the government-run institutions.

All the colleges run on part time/ contractual/ outsourced staff who are working for a paltry sum in the absence of any job openings elsewhere. Quality wise they are not the best to be there to teach the students more so in the proposed English medium. Without the quality human resource there is no way a mere change in the medium instruction from Telugu to English will attain higher level in college education in the state.

There is one advantage in change of the medium to English. The availability of books in English on any given subject are huge. Till now the students have access with only academy published Telugu books and no student of Telugu medium ever ventured to refer standard English text books. With Telugu medium the library visits of the students are very low.

It may be reversed but the question of teachers who can drive them to libraries with the interest in the subject in the class room remains unanswered. The APSCHE which took this bold decision should address the issue of quality of teachers first before thrusting English medium on the students and institutions.

## MOOT POINT



Dr Ramu Suravajjula

A physician drops by your home and enquires about your health from time to time. The doctor notes down blood pressure readings of all your family members and sugar levels of elderly to compare with the past and future data. Dietary guidelines or physical exercises or lifestyle adjustments are suggested to prevent a potential ailment. Medicines are supplied depending on your health condition. If need be, you are asked to visit a designated hospital in the locality for further investigations. If you require an emergency hospitalisation or operation, the system takes care of it. Lo and behold, you need not pay a penny for this.

Now, it is Covid-times. A medico pays a visit to your home every day to keep a tab on the health condition of each and every member of your family. He or she alleviates all your fears, teaches Covid-appropriate behaviour and makes you understand the dos and don'ts of the pandemic. Those who are inflicted with Coronavirus are shifted to a hospital to provide medical support. Oxygen cylinders and intensive care units are kept ready to meet any kind of emergency. Again, free of cost!

What a pleasant contrast to our horrible struggle for doctor appointments, hospital beds, oxygen cylinders and life-saving medicines besides hefty medical bills raised by private and corporate hospitals during the second wave of the dreaded virus!

This is the healthcare system of a small, poor country located at the confluence of the northern Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean, called the Republic of Cuba, for you. Built by an iconic revolutionary Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz, an eternal template of socialism and communism for his fans and symbol of dictatorship and repression for his haters, Cuba remains a medical model for the world. Braving the stringent economic sanctions and political coups staged by the arch-enemy, the USA, over decades, and the collapse of the gracious USSR, Castro developed a strong healthcare for his country as the Prime Minister and President for fifty years.

Castro, who dethroned a dictatorial government led by Fulgencio Batista on January 1, 1959, built up a socialist counterexample to the fiercely capitalist USA with limited resources and unlimited commitment. Despite the mass exodus of Cuba's physicians to the neighbouring USA leaving the country with a handful of doctors and medical professors, Cuba built a robust medical system by reducing military spending. Castro dispensed with private medical practice and took over foreign-funded pharmaceutical companies as part of a grand plan to make healthcare absolutely free. Since 1965, every Cuban doctor took an oath against private practice for profit.

Inspired by the revolutionary Argentine physician Che Guevara, who helped Castro's men in their fight against Batista, Cuba always strives to provide public health services for the greatest possible number of persons and to focus on preventive medicine. Castro throughout his life firmly believed that 'health is the basic

human right of every citizen' but not a purchasable commodity. All other leaders and health professionals strongly believed the benefits of preventive and community health measures over orthodox curative medicine. The Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978, a major milestone of the twentieth century in the field of public health that identified primary healthcare as the key to the attainment of the goal of Health for All, has been the guiding force for the country. The revised Cuban constitution guarantees universal healthcare through Article 50.

Dr. David Blumenthal, an academic physician and health care policy expert, who served as US National Coordinator for Health Information Technology from 2009-2011, observed: "When it comes to health care, Cuba is a success story with few parallels." After making a visit to Cuba, Dr Blumenthal, president of the Commonwealth Fund, said that since its 1959 revolution, Cuba's infant mortality rate has fallen from 37.3 to 4.3 per 1000 live births—a rate equivalent to Australia's and lower than the United States' (5.8). From 1970 to 2016 life expectancy increased from 70.04 to 78.7 years, approaching expectancy in the United States (79.8).

The beauty of the Cuban healthcare system, which operates at three levels, is the availability of a doctor and a nurse to the community round-the-clock. They live within the community and maintain the health map of each and every member. The second level of service is the island's community hospitals that dispense secondary services while the third level of service consists of a dozen institutes that offer advanced and specialised services besides taking care of medical teaching and research.

Making parallels between Cuba and India may not sound logical given the huge difference in geographical and population size, literacy rate and the nature of the government but the small socialist island nation's health set-up offer some lessons to the market-driven democracies.

Cuba's population is 11,320,046 and the total land area is 106,440 square kms with 78 percent living in urban areas. Cuba spends about 10 percent of its GDP on healthcare compared to India (1.5 percent) and China (3%).

Cuba leads the world with the lowest patient to doctor ratio (155:1) while the super power U.S. trails way behind at 396:1 and India is nowhere with 1456:1. This is because of the basic common-sense applied by the Communist regime: free, quality medical education. About dozen institutes offer medicine courses to cater to the health needs of Cubans. Besides, Cuba launched an international medical school, Latin American School of Medicine (LASM), in 1999 to contribute to the training of Primary Health Care physicians in diverse regions of the World. Hundreds of students, mostly from Latin America and the Caribbean, enrol in the residential school every year.

The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'One Earth-One Health' proposal at the G-7 summit a couple of days ago was indeed the global health philosophy of the late Castro (international solidarity and brotherhood) for more than 50 years.

Cuba sends surplus physicians and health professionals abroad annually to provide medicare in developing countries. Since 1963, Cuban doctors, called as "Army of white coats" or "Cuban Medical



Cuba remains a medical model for the world. Braving the stringent economic sanctions and political coups staged by the arch-enemy, the USA, over decades, and the collapse of the gracious USSR, Castro developed a strong healthcare for his country as the Prime Minister and President for fifty years

Brigade", have been on international missions. It is estimated that more than 30,000 selfless Cuban doctors are serving patients in more than 50 countries. Ban Ki-moon, the then Secretary General of the United Nations, reported as saying, "Cuban doctors are always the first to arrive and the last to leave. They remain in place after the crises. Cuba can be proud of its healthcare system, a model for many countries."

Established in 2005, Henry Reeve Brigade's health-care professionals are dispatched all over the world to combat disasters and epidemics. Cuban doctors served Haiti (during the cholera outbreak that followed the 2010 earthquake), West Africa (during the 2013-16 Ebola crisis) and South Africa (During the Covid crisis) to name a few. Impressed by the Cuban medical team's assistance in fighting the virus in his country, the South African president Cyril Ramaphosa announced that his country would nominate the Henry Reeve International Contingent of Doctors specialised in disaster situations and serious epidemics for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

Cuba invested substantially in biomedical research to be self-reliant in the face of US sanctions. It focussed on research centres specializing in biotechnology, genetics, and cancer immunology. Cuba's biotechnology industry consists of more than 30 research institutions and manufacturers, under the aegis of the state-owned conglomerate BioCubaFarma. In the late 1980s, Cuba developed the world's first meningococcal B vaccine. It produces eight of the ten routinely used vaccines in the country, and supplies millions of doses abroad.

Cuba had handled the first wave of Covid-19 well and pressed the entire medical and health staff, including all medicos, into service to deal with the deadly blow served by the virus during the second wave. The country recorded 1.59 lakh Covid positive cases and 1,098 deaths so far though the country is a cut above the other Latin American nations in terms of the recovery rate.

The Lancet report states that Cuba is in the process of manufacturing five can-

didates of vaccines for Covid-19. A second phase 3 trial of Soberana-2 is planned for Iran, as part of a partnership between the Finlay Institute and the Pasteur Institute of Iran. A phase 2/3 trial has been scheduled for Soberana-1, which was also developed by the Finlay Institute. Abdala and Mambisa, a nasal spray, both entered phase 1/2 trials late last year.

Cuba's 'spirit of sovereignty' can be noticed in the names given to these vaccines. Soberana (sovereign in Spanish), Abdala (the title of a poem by a Cuban revolutionary), and Mambisa (name of the guerrillas who fought against the Spanish colonialists) suggest that the inoculation drive is a matter of national pride. China and Cuba are working on a vaccine, called Pan-Corona, which will be effective against different strains of the SARS-COV-2 and prevent Covid-19, in a facility in the central city of Yongzhou, Hunan province. Cuba is planning to complete the vaccination drive by the end of 2021.

No healthcare system in the world is fool-proof and Cuba is no exception. The ground realities may not be as rosy as we imagine. The Communist regime is criticised for the worst human rights record, abysmal medical infrastructure, poor pay for doctors and so on. As our free market-based health care system, buoyed by the foreign investment flows, proved to be a disaster for majority of Indians during the Covid crisis, there is an urgent need to overhaul our healthcare system by taking a leaf from others' book.

The abnormally high cost of the medical education should be brought down considerably without further delay. The clinical and pathological investigations should be done free of cost. Being the pharmaceutical and biotechnology major, India can lessen the burden on its citizens by offering medicines and vaccines for reasonable rates. It may be impossible for our governments to dispense with the private and corporate hospital system at this juncture but at least the spirit of 'people-over-profit' may be inculcated among these non-government operators while giving a facelift to the government-run medical set up. Healthcare is more important than health insurance.

Dr. Martin Luther King once remarked, "Of the forms of injustice, inequality in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." To give human face to the healthcare in India, the pill of the hour is: political will.

(The author, a PhD in Communication and Journalism, is a senior journalist, journalism educator and communication consultant)

an appropriate counsellor or a counselling body.  
P Satyalakshmi, Secunderabad

## Stop these stunts

THE reports that Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrabab Naidu warns errant officials, conducts surprise visits/ checks and adopts a district are all gimmicks to counter the anti-incumbency against his governance (CM's fiat to babus: perform or perish, June 14). People are well aware these days about the performance of governments due to availability of 24X7 news channels and social media. KCR should realise that sincere "actions" are rewarded and empty "publicity" stunts and "sentiments" do not fetch votes always.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

## Rescue vulnerable children

THIS has reference to the article 'Challenges galore in ensuring child welfare' by Sree Nagesh Malladi. Children of marginal sections of the society in pandemic times

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## LETTERS

### Critical cartoons

THE Hans India as I see always carries positive and useful regional, national and relevant International news. But the cartoonist Manjul seems to be always biased, with just hate towards PM Modi and the party he represents. Manjul has never made a cartoon on CM KCR or KTR to propagate his sarcasm. Why?

Balaji Dayal, over e-mail

### Need for helpline numbers

WHEN compared to other media, print garners the maximum credibility. The news stories are respected and admired like in your newspaper. Very few papers publish helpline contact numbers when they present suicide stories. It would be great if your esteemed paper also joins the club. Helpline numbers convince the readers in turn to help distressed people to approach



# TS CM IN FOREFRONT TO FIGHT COVID-19, SAYS CS

- Tenders floated for setting up liquid medical oxygen plants in all govt hospitals
- Govt fully geared up to tackle third wave

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Secretary Somesh Kumar said on Tuesday that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has been in the forefront in leading the administration in its fight against Covid 19.

Participating in a webinar organised by the Telangana State Medical Council from the BRKR Bhavan, he recalled that the CM has visited Gandhi and MGM hospitals and interacted with patients “which is a morale booster for patients as well as the medical fraternity”.

He observed that the government, under the dynamic leadership of the CM, has taken some innovative steps which resulted in not only less active



positive cases, but also less fatalities, compared to many other States.

The CS said that, as per the CM's directions, the government equipped the Health department with human resources, infrastructure and other systems. “All hospital beds in government hospitals are being provided with oxygen facilities. Sufficient tankers have also

been procured. Tenders have also been floated for setting up liquid medical oxygen plants in all government hospitals. The government is also fully geared up to tackle the third wave”

Referring to the vaccination programme, Kumar said, in order to ensure optimal utilisation of the vaccines provided by the Centre, the State government has initiated the pro-

gramme of vaccinating high exposure group persons on a priority basis. The webinar, on lessons learnt and future strategies on Covid, was attended by eminent doctors, including Dr Guleria of AIIMS, Health Secretary Rizvi, VC Karunakar Reddy, Dr Ramesh Reddy, Dr Nageswar Reddy and TSMC chairman Dr Ravinder Reddy, among others.

## Around 14,000 private teachers yet to receive govt financial assistance

SABYA SINGH  
HYDERABAD

MORE than two lakh private teachers have received financial aid from the State government. However, as per figures available with the Telangana Private Teachers' Forum (TPTF), around 30,000 are yet to receive the assistance and rice.

Reason being, the managements, mainly corporate schools, have entered the details of non-person, of their relatives and family members into Unified-District Information System for Education (UDISE). Due to lack of knowledge teachers applied in offline mode. This has led to thousands of private teachers not availing help from the government.

A senior official of the Education department explained that 2.743 lakh teachers have been given the aid. Over 91 per cent of beneficiaries have taken rice. As per the offline data available with the department only 14,000 teachers are yet to receive the aid.

The official said as per norm, the department has provided

- 10,970 private schools applied
- According to Private Teachers' Forum, nearly 30-35,000 teachers still wait for aid and rice
- 2.4 lakh private teachers get aid

them more than the number. According to U-DISE data, children studying in private schools are 32 lakh. The amount is distributed to 2.4 lakh, which is 1/60. However, as per the RTE Act, children in private schools are 1/30 and upper primary 1/35. The benefit is extended to a greater number of private teachers. He reasoned: “Correspondents of the schools have frozen the data on the website. Hence, they couldn't receive the aid.

Their lack of knowledge or information might have led to people applying offline. Now that the website is closed, the government has to make a decision. The department is unaware of any further information on the issue. Also, a few teachers in Medchal, Ranga Reddy and other districts

opted out from receiving aid.”

Said Gajula Subba Laxmi, Medchal district TPTF women's wing president: “The government has given priority which was submitted through UDISE. The managements entered details of their relatives, holding a long record of it so that they can avail benefits. The rest were sent through offline mode. Even more experienced teachers have not received the aid. We appreciate the help from the government, but the financial aid is meagre. Teachers have many other major bills to pay.” She said over 10,970 schools have applied for the aid.

Shabbir Ali, TPTF president, along with other teachers, has requested the State to give assistance to the remaining 30,000-35,000 teachers, who have submitted their details in offline mode. He stated that “they are in dire need because they have not received any salary for more than a year. If given a day or two by the State government, teachers can apply again in online mode and can receive the aid. Due to the managements' fault, the teachers should not be held responsible.”

## VHP refutes allegations of misappropriation of Ram temple funds

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE State unit of Viswa Hindu Parishad lashed out at the forces trying to spread lies to malign Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust (SRJTKT).

In a statement here on Tuesday, VHP Telangana leader Ravinuthala Sashidhar said the forces who have been opposing the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya were now trying to spread lies about the Trust.

He said that the Trust would initiate defamation cases against those making false allegations against it.

- Says none can stop construction of Ayodhya Ram temple
- Adds political parties opposing temple construction are trying to create hurdles

He said that the land transactions meant for providing facilities to the devotees were done transparently by the Trust.

However, the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Samajwadi Party (SP) were not able to digest the smoothing progression of the construction of the temple and making baseless al-

legations, he added.

He added that the people in the country have reposed their faith in the VHP and the Mandir Trust and contributed in a big way to the construction of the temple. He reiterated that the Trust will act responsibly to every rupee contributed to the construction of the temple.

The temple of Lord Ram at Ayodhya will be an inspirational and powerful centre for the entire country, he said, adding that some forces and parties were still continuing their strategies to create hurdles in the construction of the temple, which would prove unfruitful for them.

## CJI NV Ramana plants sapling at Raj Bhavan

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Justice of India, N V Ramana planted a sapling at Raj Bhavan complex in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Participating in The Green India programme initiated by Santosh Kumar, MP, Justice NV Ramana called upon legal fraternity to encourage and take part in programmes that enhance the green cover which is essential to maintain the balance in the ecosystem.

“It is important to protect the Mother Nature by promoting greenery in a big way. We must ensure re-

quired green cover so as to protect the nature and ensure sustainable development for the benefit of future generations,” said CJI.

Moreover, CJI termed the Green India programme as a good and timely initiative to promote awareness and greenery in our country. He also emphasised on the need to take up these green initiatives on a massive scale to ensure ecological balance and protect our eco-systems to sustain life on Planet Earth. J. Santosh Kumar, who pioneered the green drive and some senior Judicial officials were present on the occasion.



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

STATE CPI secretary Chada Venkat Reddy on Tuesday made it clear that Telangana was not a ‘jagir’ of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to sell government lands. He made the remark while addressing the CPI activists at a dharna held in front of TSIIIC office on the premises of Parishrama Bhavan here. The dharna was held demanding the State government to stop the e-

## Telangana is not ‘jagir’ of KCR to sell govt lands: Chada

auction of lands. The CPI activists carried placards and shouted slogans to stop the sale of government lands and demanded to distribute them to landless poor.

Reddy described the sale of government lands in the rich

State as ‘worst act’ of government. He said the State was taking lakhs of crores of loans from the open market and earning crores from the sale of government lands. The CPI leader claimed that the government treasury was empty despite mobilising so

much money. He criticised the CM for turning the State “into a pile of debt and selling government lands worth billions to cover up his financial sins in an attempt to attract national attention to Telangana”. He asserted that government lands were public lands.

“They should be used for public purposes only. KCR had no right to sell government lands. It is shameful for the CM to continue to rule by selling the government lands”.

Reddy demanded the government to stop sale of its lands and protected them. State CPI secretariat member V S Bose questioned motive of the government to sell lands and raise funds to get out of financial crisis. He asked whether the State has gone bankrupt.

## State Haj applications ‘cancelled’

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA State Haj Committee Executive Officer B Shafiullah on Tuesday said that the Haj Committee of India has announced that Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has cancelled international conduct of Haj 2021 due to Covid-19.

In a statement here, he said all the Haj application forms for 2021 are “cancelled”. The Telangana State Haj Committee has received 3,757 applications. Since, no quota is allotted and the Saudi authorities are not allowing any country from outside the KSA for Haj 2021.

For more information, the intending Haj pilgrims are requested to visit official website [www.hajcommittee.gov.in](http://www.hajcommittee.gov.in).

## Teachers oppose schools’ rejig

- UTF argues that shifting Classes 3 to 5 to secondary schools may lead to more dropouts as children need to go far from their homes
- The union leaders welcome the move to club pre-primary schools with primary set up
- Submit a memorandum to Tirupati MLA seeking his intervention in withdrawing the new proposals

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

GOVERNMENT school teachers have been opposing the decision of the state government to restructure schools to be in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. In particular, they are against the move to shift Classes 3 to 5 from the primary schools to the nearby secondary schools saying that rural students will have to go far away from their home which may lead to dropouts.

It may be recalled that the state government has recently announced the physical restructuring of schools in its bid to take forward the NEP-2020 and move towards the new set up. Accordingly, it has issued guidelines which indicate major changes. One of the key changes would be shifting students of Classes 3 to 5 to the nearby upper primary schools from the primary schools.

This became inevitable under



UTF leaders submit a memorandum to MLA B Karunakar Reddy seeking withdrawal of decision to shift Classes 3 to 5 to secondary schools, in Tirupati on Tuesday

the new set up advocated by the NEP-2020 suggesting replacement of the 10+2 system with 5+3+3+4 structure. The AP government has proposed three kinds of schools called pre-primary schools, foundational schools and secondary schools. While the existing Anganwadi centres will be made YSR pre-primary schools, the current primary schools will become foundational schools with preparatory classes and Classes 1 and 2.

However, students of Class 3 to 5 are to be shifted to the nearby secondary school under the new structure which was being opposed by teachers and their unions who are supporting the move to club pre-primary schools with primary schools.

They argue that shifting Classes 3 to 5 to secondary schools will make them distant from small children as they are not as accessible as the primary schools.

This may lead to more dropouts and particularly parents may think twice to send girl students to schools which

are far away. The AP United Teachers Federation (UTF) Chittoor district president K Muthyala Reddy, vice-president D Nirmala and other leaders have presented a memorandum to Tirupati MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy on Tuesday seeking his intervention in withdrawing the new move by the government.

They said that it will be difficult for parents to send small children studying Classes 3 to 5 to schools located 3 to 10 km away from their homes. Hence, this proposal should be withdrawn immediately and the government should discuss with educationists, teachers unions and parents before arriving at any decision as part of implementing NEP 2020.

Moreover, it would be difficult for the small children to mingle with high school students. At a time when schools get a modern look under Nadu-Nedu and attract students and parents, the decision to shift some classes from primary schools may become detrimental to the interests of primary schools.

## AP CM TRANSFERS ₹248.47 CR INTO ACCOUNTS OF AUTO, TAXI DRIVERS

- Says the assistance of Rs 10,000 is to help them meet recurring expenses such as insurance, maintenance of vehicles
- Points out almost 84% of beneficiaries are from SC, ST, BC and Minorities
- Accuses the previous TDP govt of ‘looting’ auto, taxi drivers through taxes and penalties

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

FOR the third year in a row and a month in advance, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday credited Rs 248.47 crore in to the accounts of 2,48,468 beneficiaries under YSR Vahana Mitra scheme by providing a financial assistance of Rs 10,000 each for the eligible auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the amount of Rs 10,000 is for the recurring expenses like insurance and maintenance of the vehicle to procure fitness certificate, which is being done as promised during his 3,648 km padayatra. After witnessing the difficulties of auto drivers, who hardly earn Rs 500 a day and



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy transfers Vahana Mitra amounts into the accounts of beneficiaries from his camp office in Tadepalli on Tuesday

have to pay a huge sum of Rs 10,000 towards insurance and other expenses required for getting a fitness certificate, the government has come up with this welfare initiative. Almost 84 per cent of the beneficiaries are from SC, ST, BC and Minorities, said the Chief Minister, adding that the scheme not only benefits the drivers but also for passengers who can experience a safe journey.

So far, under YSR Vahana Mitra, Rs 759 crore has been credited directly into the accounts of beneficiaries and such a scheme is available only in Andhra Pradesh and nowhere in the country, he said. As many as 42,932 beneficiaries have newly applied for the scheme this year,

where a total of 2,48,468 will be receiving the aid and those who are left out can still apply at village/ward secretariats and their applications would be considered if they are eligible. People can contact on 9154294326 or call 1902 to find out about the scheme or lodge a complaint. He said that the government also put a task force in the transport section for the smooth conduct.

Hitting out at the opposition leaders over the false propaganda, Jagan Mohan Reddy said that auto and taxi drivers have been looted under the previous government with taxes and penalties. Going into the details, he said that Rs 7.39 crore had been collected towards compounded fees, tax and penalties

from the auto drivers between 2015-16. In 2016-17, Rs 9.68 crore, in 2017-18 Rs 10.19 crore and in 2018-19 almost Rs 7.09 crore has been collected. Whereas, in the current government, only Rs 68.44 lakh has been collected through penalties and taxes in 2019-20 and in 2020-21 the amount decreased to just Rs 35 lakh.

He said that the TDP leaders have published a book of 94 mistakes while the government had fulfilled over 94 per cent of the promises made in the last two years. The opposition had cited YSR Vahana Mitra as one of the 94 mistakes, but in reality, taxes and penalty fees have come down significantly in the current government, he claimed.



WINDOWS  
Indigo flight's tyre bursts while landing

Kolkata: A Hubballi-bound Indigo plane suffered a tyre burst while landing here, airport authorities said on Tuesday. However, all the passengers and crew members were safe. In an official statement, the Indigo Airlines said, "IndiGo ATR operating 6e-7979 from Kan-nur to Hubballi reported Tyre Burst at Hubli upon arrival yesterday (Monday) evening. All passengers and crew are safe. Aircraft is currently under maintenance checks at Hubballi." According to an official at the airport, the plane had touched down first 8.03 pm on Monday but due to cross wind, it took off immediately and went around. It landed again at about 8.35 pm. "Probably due to hard landing and cross wind, the tyre burst," the official said.

Antilia case: NIA nabs two residents

MUMBAI: The National Investigation Agency has arrested two more persons in connection with the probe into the sensational cause of a SUV planted with gelatin sticks near Antilia building and the murder of its owner, officials said here on Tuesday. The duo has been identified as Santosh Atmaram Shelar and Anand Pandurang Jadhav, both residents of the Kurar village, a slum pocket in Malad east suburb. Arrested four days ago, they were produced before a Special NIA Court and remanded to the agency's custody till June 21. Though the extent of their involvement and their exact role is being ascertained in the two cases, both Jadhav and Shelar are suspected to be part of the overall conspiracy of the cases which sparked off a massive row in Feb this year. Earlier, the NIA has arrested a total of five persons including ex-police personnel like Sachin Vaze, Riyazuddin Kazi, Sunil Mane, a convicted former cop Vinayak Shinde besides a cricket bookie Naresh Gor, and with two more nabbed, the total number of arrested accused has gone up to 7 now.

85 per cent decline in new Covid cases  
75% Indian manufactured vaccines to Centre, 25% to private healthcare, says Dr Paul

NEW DELHI

The Central government will procure 75 per cent vaccines produced in India directly from the manufacturers, who will be allowed to sell the remaining 25 per cent to the private healthcare sector, officials said on Tuesday. NITI Aayog's Member (Health) Dr V.K. Paul said that the state governments will not procure vaccines directly from the manufacturing units. He informed that the government has decided to centralise the vaccination drive and therefore, the states and UTs will not have to struggle to procure vaccines. Earlier, the Centre had allowed the state governments to procure vaccines on their own, and float global tenders. Paul said the decision to shift back to centralised vaccination was taken after observing the difficulties which the state governments faced and "their failure to procure vaccines started resulting some other narratives in the country". Falsification of Covid-19 tests have emerged in Bihar with 1,131 such persons found having irregularity in their registered mobile numbers entered by the data operators. A maximum of 595 such distorted Covid reports have appeared in Patna. Patna Civil Surgeon, Vibha Kumari, has terminated three data operators for their negligence. Such an irregularity was found during the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic as well when large numbers of test reports were found having '0000000000' entered as mobile numbers. India has witnessed a decline in daily Covid cases by up to 85 per cent since the highest daily tally was registered on May 7. India saw a single-day rise of 60,471 new coronavirus infections, the lowest after 75 days. The death toll climbed to 3,77,031 with 2,726 fresh deaths. Categorically rejecting the Opposition's allegations on supply of vaccines to some private hospitals and procurement of 'Fateh Kits' as "politically motivated", Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said that there was no question of the government making profits amid the pandemic. Hitting out at the Akalis and the Aam Aadmi Party "for spreading misinformation to further their political ambitions", he charged both the parties with making a motivated hue and cry to push their electoral agendas with an eye on the 2022 Assembly elections.



A staffer sanitises a restaurant on the eve of its re-opening in Kolkata on Tuesday

Daily Covid-19 count in India lowest after 75 days  
Bihar clocks anomalies in Covid test reports

**EU administers 300mn vaccines**

Brussels: The European Union (EU) has administered more than 300 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced on Tuesday. "We have passed 300 million vaccinations in the EU. Every day, we get closer to our goal: to have enough doses delivered to vaccinate 70 per cent of adults in the EU next month," she tweeted. As of Monday, 53.3 per cent of the EU adults had received at least one dose, and 353 million doses had been delivered to the 27-state bloc, reports Xinhua news agency. "By now, almost a third of all adults in the EU are fully vaccinated," European Commission deputy chief spokesperson Dana Spinant said.

**UK delays Covid lockdown end**

London: UK PM Boris Johnson confirmed a four-week delay to an end to all legal lockdown restrictions, which was previously set for June 21, as he said the link between corona infections and hospitalisations remains at concerning levels due to the Delta variant. The last and fourth stage of the lockdown roadmap, dubbed "Freedom Day", will now move to July 19 instead amid a worrying spike in cases of the Delta variant, first identified in India, which experts fear will result in greater hospitalisations in coming weeks. "It is sensible to wait a little longer," Johnson said, as he confirmed that July 19 is now expected to be the date for a full unlocking and that he was "confident" that a further delay beyond that should not be required.

**Fungal infection detected in Oman**

Dubai: Oman announced on Tuesday that its doctors have detected a potentially fatal fungal infection afflicting some coronavirus patients, the first such known cases on the Arabian Peninsula as the sultanate faces a surge in COVID-19 infections that has swamped its hospitals. The country's Health Ministry reported that three COVID-19 patients in Oman have become infected with mucormycosis, a life-threatening condition commonly known as "black fungus," which has spread quickly among virus patients in hard-hit India. Although relatively rare, the disease has raised alarm among authorities that its sudden increase could complicate efforts to combat COVID-19.

Thousands of fake anti-Covid tablets in circulation

Bhopal: Authorities seized a consignment of allegedly spurious Favimax tablets used in the Covid-19 treatment from a wholesaler here in Madhya Pradesh following an input given by the Odisha government, an official said on Tuesday. Authorities also seized the stock of some other medicines night and sent their samples for testing, he said. A Madhya Pradesh Food and Drug Administration (FDA) official said 35,000 of the 40,000 Favimax (Favipiravir) tablets received from a firm in Odisha had already been sold by the wholesaler in Gwalior after receiving the stock in April this year. About 500 tablets of Favipiravir were seized from a wholesale medical shop located at MK Plaza in Gwalior. The stock was seized and we have sent the samples to a laboratory to ascertain whether they are fake, Drug Inspector Dilip Agrawal told reporters. He said Odisha's Drug Controller had informed the Bhopal office that a consignment of fake Favimax tablet had been supplied to a medical firm in Gwalior. Meanwhile, a housing society in Mumbai's Kandivali area has complained to police that it was apparently cheated by some persons who organized a COVID-19 vaccination camp for its members by claiming to represent a private hospital, and the vaccine that was administered could be spurious. The society, Hiranandani Heritage Residents Welfare Association (HHRWA), has sought investigation into the matter. A vaccination camp was arranged by the residential complex on May 30. But later it found that the Co-WIN portal did not have any record of the people who participated and they received certificates in the name of different hospitals, it said. "If the vaccine is found to be spurious, the people who got vaccinated will have a medical emergency to deal with. Therefore, there is an urgent need to investigate the whole episode so that such fraudulent activities are not repeated at other places," the complaint said.

Ayodhya land deal row : UP dy CM pledges probe  
Congress leader lodges a complaint with the Indore police seeking registration of an FIR

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said on Monday that the state government would conduct an inquiry into the allegation that the trust set up to monitor the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya had bought land at a highly inflated rate. An Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha member and a former Samajwadi Party minister had alleged that Champat Rai, general secretary of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, with the help of trust member Anil Kumar Mishra, had bought a plot for Rs 18.50 crore, a rate over nine times higher than the Rs 2 crore for which it had been purchased from its original owner the same day. Rai and Mishra have denied the charges of money laundering levelled against them. Maurya said : "An inquiry will be conducted into the allegations and those found guilty must be brought to book." Maurya, however, added



that those who were "against the devotees of Lord Ram have raised this issue". AAP MP Sanjay Singh claimed his house here was "attacked" by BJP supporters for highlighting the alleged corruption in the purchase of a piece of land in Ayodhya by the Ram temple trust. According to AAP sources, the nameplate of Singh's house in North Avenue locality, a high-security area, was blackened by two persons and they tried to forcibly enter the premises. A senior police officer said the two have been detained and no one was injured in the incident. Taking to Twitter, Singh said, "My house has been attacked. Listen carefully BJP supporters, no matter how much hooliganism you indulge in, I will not allow the funds collected for constructing the Ram temple to be stolen even if I am killed." A Congress leader from Madhya Pradesh has lodged a complaint

with the Indore Police seeking registration of an FIR on the charge of "fraud" against officials of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust alleging they "misappropriated" Rs 16 crore in buying a piece of land for the Ram temple project in Ayodhya. MP Congress Committee general secretary and media in-charge KK Mishra on Tuesday said he had lodged the complaint on Monday night at Chhatrapur police station in Indore. Referring to media reports, Mishra said, "Officials of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust had misappropriated around Rs 16 crore while purchasing the land for the Ram temple construction project. For this act, an FIR should be registered against the officials of the Trust on charges of breach of trust and fraud under the Indian Penal Code." "I am proud to be a Sanatani Hindu and had donated Rs 1,000 this year for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya," he told reporters.

SC closes case against Italian marines

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday brought the curtain down on 9-year old criminal proceedings that were initiated in India against two Italian marines accused of killing of two fishermen off the Kerala coast in February 2012, after Rs 10 crore in compensation was paid by Italy to the heirs of the deceased and the boat owner. The apex court also said that as per the international arbitral award accepted by India, Italy shall resume further investigation in the case against the marines -- Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone. "We are of the view that this is a fit case to close all the proceedings in India including criminal proceedings in exercise of powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India," a vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and M R Shah said, while quashing the



FIR registered at Coastal Police Station of Neendakara, Kollam in Kerala and re-registered by NIA in 2013 and all the proceedings emanating from the case. It closed the case considering the fact that the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under Annex VII of UNCLOS has delivered its award dated May 21, 2020 under which the Republic of Italy has agreed to pay the compensation of Rs 10 crore, over and above the amount of ex-gratia amount already paid.

LJP chief Chirag expels 5 rebel MPs

NEW DELHI

HOURS after Chirag Paswan, son of late Union Minister and party founder LJP Vilas Paswan, was removed as LJP President in an emergency meeting on Tuesday by the five rebel MPs, he held a parallel executive committee meeting virtually where it was decided to expel the five MPs for anti-party activities. Earlier in the day, Chirag Paswan was removed from the post of LJP President in an emergency meeting, party sources said. The principle of "One Man, One Post" was invoked by the rebels, led by his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras, to remove him from the post, the sources said. The removal of Chirag Paswan from the top party post came a day after five of six party MPs -- Paras, Chandan Singh, Chaudhury Mehboob Ali Kaiser, Beena Devi, and Prince Raj -- undertook a coup and removed him as the LJP leader in the Lok Sabha. Sources said that Suraj Bhan will function as working President until a new President is elected in a national executive meeting, which is expected soon in the coming days.

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## TODAY's QUOTE

### Knowledge sharing will boost investments

“KNOWLEDGE among investors of both Australia and India regarding the commercial interests and regulatory framework in both the country would help improve the trade and investment relations between the two countries. Recently launched Australia India Business Exchange would help business communities in both the countries.


— Catherine Gallagher, Australian High Commissioner, New Delhi



## IPO

### Shyam Metals subscribed 3.65 times

THE initial public offer of Shyam Metals and Energy was subscribed 3.65 times on the second day of subscription on Tuesday. The company's IPO received bids for 7,69,49,910 shares against 2,10,90,890 shares on offer, as per data available with BSE. It has set a price band of Rs 303-306 a share for its Rs 909 crore-IPO

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	74.05	South		
Euro	89.76	African Rand		6.11
UAE Dirham	20.56	Hong Kong Dollar		10.86
Thai Baht	2.59	Japanese Yen		0.77
British Pound	104.23	New Zealand Dollar		52.8
Australian Dollar	56.92	Saudi Riyal		21.49
Canadian Dollar	60.79	Swedish Krona		10.14
Swiss Franc	82.37	Singapore Dollar		56.36

DELHI WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Vi launches SIP service

Vi Business has introduced Vi Managed SIP service for businesses for whom voice calls are a key business resource. Most Indian BPOs/KPOs, the BFSI and IT/ITES, telemarketers, VAS providers are currently relying on legacy TDM based PRI connections from multiple vendors. These organizations will now have the security as well as a window to monitor measure and optimise their voice infrastructure with Vi service. These services also help user clients get a complete view of their fixed telephony network, with best-in-class SLAs. Abhijit Kishore, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vodafone Idea Limited, said: "With the introduction of Vi Managed SIP service, Vi Business is now in a position to be a single point facilitator of comprehensive fixed telephony solutions that enable businesses to gain better control of their overall voice infrastructure."

### Itel unveils new range

Itel has announced the launch of its first 4G feature phone Magic 2 4G under its magic series. The phone is equipped with power-packed features like 4G connectivity, premium glossy design, long-lasting battery and offers Wi-Fi and Hotspot Tethering through which we can connect up to eight devices. The product is priced at just Rs 2,349. Arijit Talapatra, CEO, Transsion India said: "As a market leader in feature phones in India, itel has always strived to enhance the consumer experience by adding unique value proposition to its offerings. Our latest addition it9210 under the name 'Magic 2 4G' is a complete package for feature phone users who are looking for 4G connectivity coupled with highly beneficial and cost-effective Wi-Fi and Hotspot Tethering option."

### Pitti invests in Maha

Pitti Engineering Ltd has invested Rs 160 crore in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, for setting up fully-automated facility, under Package Scheme of Incentives (PSI), 2013 by Government of Maharashtra for industrial incentives and benefits. Consequent to setting up of the facility at Aurangabad, Government of Maharashtra had declared the project as mega project. Company has received an approval for Rs 21.66 crore incentives, out of which Rs 16.25 crore has been sanctioned for the period from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020. Akshay Pitti, company's Vice Chairman, MD, said: "We are very delighted to receive an approval for Rs 21.66 crore incentives, out of which Rs 16.25 crore is sanctioned from Government of Maharashtra for our investment at Aurangabad. This would boost our overall cash flows."

### FTCCI holds meet

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) has organized an open house meet with Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Secretary, Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Telangana along with P Ravinder, Deputy Commissioner, P Rama Rao, Deputy Commissioner, P.J. Wesley, Deputy Commissioner and District Panchayat Officers from Mahabubnagar, Sangareddy, Rangareddy, Medak, Medchal-Malkajigiri, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri. Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Secretary, Panchayat Raj Department, Telangana, said that in India almost 60 per cent of area comes under rural area and hence rural development department i.e Panchayat Raj plays key role. It is striving to streamline the system and started online portal panchayat.

## NO PANDEMIC EFFECT

# Financial wealth zooms 11% to \$3.4 trn in 2020

MUMBAI

FINANCIAL wealth in India grew 11 per cent to \$3.4 trillion in 2020 despite the coronavirus pandemic, a global consultancy estimated on Tuesday. The 11 per cent growth in financial wealth was at par with the compounded annual growth rate for the five years to 2020, the report by BCG said. Financial wealth is defined as the total wealth excluding real assets and liabilities held by adult individuals. It can be noted that after a sharp correction in the early days of the pandemic, there has been a continuing rally in stocks since April last year, which has led to concerns being expressed across quarters. Concerns are also being expressed about a greater disparity in incomes and the pandemic widening the divide.

The report noted that the next few years will also see a faster expansion in financial wealth, but the rate of expansion will slow down marginally to 10 per cent per annum to take the number to \$5.5 trillion by 2025. "... The report reveals growth in prosperity and wealth significantly through the crisis and is likely to expand in the next five years," an official statement from the consultancy firm said.

India is expected to lead the percentage growth of individuals

The real assets are expected to grow by 8.2% per annum to \$18.5 trillion by 2025



with fortunes of over \$100 million till 2025, it said, adding that the number will almost double to 1,400 in the next five years. Indians' cross-border wealth, which is defined as financial wealth booked in a jurisdiction that is different from the jurisdiction of domicile, grew to \$194 billion in 2020, which is 5.7 per cent of the financial wealth. The proportion is set to increase to 6.3 per cent by 2025 as per its estimates.

On the asset allocation side, nearly half of the onshore deployment of the financial wealth is in currency and deposits, followed by equities and life insurance. From a

real assets perspective, which includes real estate, consumer durables and valuables like non-monetary gold and other metals valued at current prices, there was an over 14 per cent increase to \$12.4 trillion in 2020, as compared to the year-ago period. The real assets are expected to grow by 8.2 per cent per annum to \$18.5 trillion by 2025, the report estimated.

# Sensex, Nifty scale new peaks

MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmarks Sensex and Nifty rose for the fourth straight session to settle at fresh life-time highs on Tuesday as investors shrugged off concerns over rising inflation to focus on positive cues coming from global markets. At the closing bell, the BSE Sensex quoted higher by 221.52 points or 0.42 per cent at a new peak of 52,773.05. The index also hit its all-time intraday high of 52,869.51 during the session. Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty rose 57.40 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at a fresh high of 15,869.25. The NSE gauge too marked its life-time intraday high of 15,901.60.

"Indian bourses continued its gaining streak tracking optimism from global peers, which is despite the rising inflation concerns. The



global market is eagerly awaiting the two-day Fed policy meeting's decision to see if the central bank would signal any change in policy. Domestic retail inflation jumped to 6.3 per cent in May breaching the RBI's comfort zone on account of higher food and energy prices, which is expected to ease due to the opening of the economy," said Vinod Nair, head (research) at Geojit Financial Services.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.32 per cent higher at \$73.09 per barrel. Meanwhile, the rupee slipped 2 paise to close at 73.31 against the US dollar. Bourses in Tokyo and Seoul ended on a positive note, while Shanghai and Hong Kong were in the red. Equities in Europe were trading with gains in mid-session deals.

# UST plans to double headcount in Hyderabad

Focus on software developers and engineers with key digital and technology skills

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

UST, a leading digital transformation solutions company, has announced the expansion of its workforce in Hyderabad unit to over 1,000 employees. The company plans to double the headcount and add 1,000 more associates by the end of 2023.

UST's Hyderabad centre was opened in 2018 with a team of 250 employees, spread across 35,000 sq. ft and 400 seats. Ever since global pandemic induced restrictions in 2020, the company has onboarded more than 500 employees through virtual mode with all employees working remotely.

The company will continue to hire rapidly and also expand the facility once the Covid-19 situation eases and associates can return to the office. This year, UST



plans to hire professionals that include full-stack developers, automation engineers, and more.

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, IT for Government of Telangana, congratulating the company, said, "Congratulations to the entire team of UST on its growth and expansion. We are thankful for UST's contributions to the local communities, generating employment in and around Hyderabad and its commitment to the wider State economy. UST expanding their talent base is great news and is a testament to

the dedicated, skilled and extensive workforce in Telangana."

"We are thrilled and humbled to celebrate this milestone. UST's passionate and dedicated team is vital to our efforts as we commemorate this growth journey. As we continue to expand our footprint in India, we want to attract the most talented minds to join our vibrant team of professionals at our centre, said, Harilal Neelakanthan, operations and Centre Head for UST, Hyderabad.

"Our Hyderabad centre is a key factor in our global delivery model and we are looking forward to some rapid growth in the centre. UST continues to establish itself as a leading and growing player in the global market for digital transformation and technology," Sunil Balakrishnan, Global Head of Delivery Centre Operations, UST said.

### Glenmark launches dry powder inhaler Tiogiva in UK

HYDERABAD

PHARMA major Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd has launched a bioequivalent version of Tiotropium Bromide dry powder inhaler (DPI) under the brand name - Tiogiva, in UK for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

According to Glenmark, COPD is a long-term condition that causes inflammation in the lungs, damaged lung tissue and a narrowing of the airways, making breathing difficult.

There are many different types of the condition, although little is known about what causes this variation and the best way to manage the different versions of the disease. According to data from IQVIA, Tiotropium DPI had a market size of US\$ 450 million in the European Union in the 12 month a period ended September 2020.

Glenmark's subsidiary, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Europe Limited had entered into a strategic, exclusive in-licensing arrangement for marketing generic Tiotropium Bromide DPI in Western Europe and UK in August 2018.

# JioFiber postpaid plan launched

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

TELECOM major Reliance Jio on Tuesday launched JioFiber Postpaid, a broadband connection with zero upfront cost to the customers. The subscription for this connection will start from June 17. Under this, the company offers in 6- or 12-months plan options with a tariff plan starting at Rs 399 per month. All the plan options are symmetric wherein download speed will be equal to upload speed.

With broadband connection, the company also offers 4K set-top box at no extra cost (Rs 1,000 refundable security deposit) for OTT apps. The set-top box will provide 15 paid OTT apps for Rs 999 and above plans.

Jio will not disconnect the



service even if customer fails to recharge after due date. The connection will have a highest quality service with 99.9 per cent uptime. Autopay payment option is also available.

Customers can get the service by giving the details on jio.com/fiber website. The company's executives will visit the customers' homes and set up the connection.

# No pre-payment penalty on MF loans

KUMUD DAS MUMBAI

Industry welcomes RBI's move to regulate microfinance sector



regulated entities and capping the outflow on account of repayment of loan obligations of a household to a percentage of the household income. Also, it talks of a Board approved policy for household income assessment. It stresses no pre-payment penalty and no requirement of collateral and greater flexibility of repayment frequency for all microfinance loans.

Moreover, it is for alignment of pricing guidelines for NBFC-MFIs with guidelines for NBFCs. Introduction of a standard simplified fact sheet on pricing of microfinance loans for better transparency has been emphasised in the document.

Besides, there is a provision for display of minimum, maximum and average interest rates charged on microfinance loans on the websites of regulated entities in the document.

Manoj Kumar Nambiar, MFIN chairman and MD of an MFI, Arohan Financial Services, says, "it's really a forward-looking discussion paper, primarily because it realises the fact that only 30 per cent of the banking sector was tightly regulated and needs the entire sector to be sustainable and help achieve the financial inclusion goal which we have been focusing on." The RBI has invited comments/observations/suggestions on the Consultative Document, especially on the discussion points mentioned therein, are invited from banks, NBFCs including NBFC-MFIs, industry associations and other stakeholders latest by July 31.

Commenting on it, a Kotak Institutional Equities report says, "we



World Test Championship final

# India pick 15-member squad

Umesh pips Shardul for a place in team; Mayank, Rahul, Axar excluded



SOUTHAMPTON

VETERAN speedster Umesh Yadav pipped Brisbane Test hero Shardul Thakur as the 15th member of the Indian squad that will take on New Zealand in the World Test Championship final starting here on June 18.

Umesh, along with Mohammed Shami, and Hanuma Vihari all of whom got injured during the Australia tour, were back in the 15 that needed to be announced as per ICC squad protocol.

Apart from Shardul, the notable names to miss out were Mayank Agarwal, and Washington Sundar, who were in the playing XI for the Test match against Australia. England series hero Axar Patel also missed out.

The other big player to have missed out in the final squad is senior batsman KL Rahul, who was in fact Virat Kohli's opposition captain in the team's intra-squad practice game. Rahul seemed in good touch during the game but a look at the squad will

## TEAMS

**India:** India: Virat Kohli (captain), Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Md Shami Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Umesh Yadav, Hanuma Vihari

**New Zealand:** Kane Williamson (captain), Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Devon Conway, Colin de Grandhomme, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, Ijaz Patel, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, BJ Watling (wicketkeeper), Will Young.

indicate that all those who were first choice during the start of the Australia tour are back in the mix.

The Indian team management's policy since Kohli took over has been to honour the first

## NZ include Conway, Patel in team

SOUTHAMPTON

OPENER Devon Conway, who scored a double century on debut this month, left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel as well as injured duo Kane Williamson and BJ Watling, have been included in 15-member New Zealand squad for the World Test Championship final against India to be played at Hampshire Bowl from Friday.

Doug Bracewell, Jacob Duffy, Daryl Mitchell, Rachin Ravindra and Mitchell Santner have been left out after the squad that played the two-Test series against England was whittled down.

"There has had to be some tough calls with Mitchell [Santner] and Daryl [Mitchell] victims of the fierce competition we currently have for places in the Test side," said New Zealand head coach Gary Stead.

"We have gone with Ajaz as our specialist spinner after an impressive outing at Edgbaston [where he took four wickets] and we believe he could be a factor at the Ageas Bowl (Hampshire Bowl)."

Skipper Williamson had missed the second Test at Edgbaston due to a niggle in his left elbow while wicketkeeper-batsman Watling sat out of it due to back injury.

"Kane [Williamson] and BJ [Watling] have certainly benefited from their week of rest and rehabilitation and we expect them to be fit and available for the final," added Stead.

"Playing in a World Cup Final is a really special occasion and I know the guys are looking forward to getting into their work here in Southampton. India are a world-class outfit who possess match winners all through their line-up, so we're under no illusion about how tough they will be to beat," said Stead further. (GANS)

choice players in the squad and even if the reserves do well, it is understood that they get a chance only when a senior player gets injured. Hence Umesh got preferred over Shardul, who had a half-century and seven wickets in the series winning Brisbane Test against Australia.

Ravichandran Ashwin is the lone off-spinner and Ravindra Jadeja's return means that there

was no place for Axar Patel. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal are also currently not in the mix and would be considered only once the team management has given enough chances to both Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill.

In case of Wriddhiman Saha, the ICC rule of being able to replace a wicketkeeper with a substitute keeper was reason for a look-in. (PTI)

BRISTOL

A favourable record in England and "positive mindset" despite inadequate preparation time will spur the Indian women's cricket team when it takes on the seasoned hosts in its first Test engagement in nearly seven years here from Wednesday.

After multiple quarantines in India and UK, the Mithali Raj-led squad got little over a week to prepare for its first red ball game since November 2014. Mithali was among the seven current players, who were a part of that victorious eleven against South Africa in Mysuru.

While experienced players like the skipper, her deputy Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Jhulan Goswami have not played red ball cricket at all in recent times, it will be an even tougher test for the younger lot who don't get to play first-class matches in domestic cricket.

Unlike the men's squad, which played intra-squad games in Southampton ahead of the WTC final, the women prepared only in the nets which might hurt them in the four-day game.

"The players are in good shape and have been training well but there is no substitute to match practice. Whether it is a one day game or a four-day game, you bat or bowl for the same time in the nets," a BCCI source told PTI.

"Since it is a four day game, only time will tell if they are ready to stand in the field for longer periods or bowl multiple long spells. If you play a practice match, there is pressure. That same pressure is not there in the nets," he added.

Harmanpreet has already conceded they got limited time to get ready for the one-off Test but said India go into the game "mentally prepared", having got some valuable advice from men's team vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane.

There is a good chance that 17-year-old batting sensation Shafali Verma opens in the game alongside Mandhana. She goes into the game with no baggage and could well make a big impact at the top of the order.

There is a good chance that 17-year-old batting sensation Shafali Verma opens in the game alongside Mandhana

The experienced trio of Mithali, Harmanpreet and Punam Raut will be expected to do the job in what will be challenging conditions for them also. There could be some respite in store for the

batters with England choosing Kookaburra over Dukes



## Indian women to end 7-year Test drought with England faceoff

### SQUADS

**India:** Mithali Raj (captain), Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Kaur (vice-captain), Punam Raut, Priya Punia, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Sneha Rana, Taniya Bhatia (wicket-keeper), Indrani Roy, Jhulan Goswami, Shikha Pandey, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Radha Yadav.  
**England:** Heather Knight (captain), Emily Arlott, Tammy Beaumont, Katherine Brunt, Kate Cross, Freya Davies, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Georgia Elwiss, Tash Farrant, Sarah Glenn, Amy Jones, Nat Sciver (vice-captain), Anya Shrubsole, Mady Villiers, Fran Wilson, Lauren Winfield-Hill.

and Shikha Pandey would be able to bowl long spells, having not done so for a long time. The spinners, who had a forgettable time at home in the limited overs series against South Africa, would be itching to make amends.

The visitors can surely take heart from their past record in England where they have not lost in eight games, having won two out of them.

England's star all-rounder and newly-appointed vice captain Nat Sciver is among the six squad members who played in their last Test match against India back in August 2014.

The tourists had won that game in Wormsley by six wickets. England remain the favourites to win the upcoming contest but Sciver expects India to play fearlessly.

"They're an ever-growing side. There's always a new, young talent on the team who isn't afraid to go out there and show what they've got. They seem to be more fearless than I've seen before," Sciver said. (PTI)

ball, which does more, for the game as the home team builds up to the Ashes Test against Australia later in the year.

It also remains to be seen if veteran pacers Jhulan Goswami

## Former AIFF V-P Viswanathan passes away



NEW DELHI

FORMER All India Football Federation (AIFF) vice-president CR Viswanathan passed away in Chennai on Tuesday. He was 85.

Apart from being the AIFF vice-president (2004-08), Viswanathan was also a member of the AIFF executive committee from 2008 to 2012, and chairman of the AIFF technical committee (2009-2012).

Viswanathan was also the president of the Tamil Nadu Football Association and the Coimbatore District Football Association and played a role in the hosting of the 1993 Nehru Cup at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai. "CR Viswanathan will be remembered for his contribution to Indian football, and sports," AIFF president Praful Patel said in his condolence message.

AIFF general secretary Kushal Das, said: "On behalf of the Indian football fraternity, we offer our condolences to the bereaved family. Viswanathan was a versatile administrator who served not just Indian football in different capacities, but also worked towards the overall development of Indian sports." (GANS)

## Athletes may be kicked out of Oly for violating Covid rules

TOKYO

ATHLETES and officials who violate the Covid-19 rules could be kicked out of the Olympics, according to revised rules outlined in the third and final editions of the Tokyo 2020 playbook revealed on Tuesday.

The third version of the playbook,

published by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, added more than 10 pages compared to the second edition. Most of the contents are regulations about testing, consequences and sanctions.

Athletes may be exposed to the following non-exhaustive range of potential consequences of warnings, temporary or permanent withdrawal of accreditation, temporary or permanent ineligibility, or exclusion from the Games, disqualification or financial sanctions, the playbook said.

## Anand to feature in Croatia leg of Grand Chess Tour

CHENNAI

FORMER world champion Viswanathan Anand will participate in the Croatia Grand Chess Tour Rapid and Blitz tournament to be held in Zagreb from July 5 to 12.

The tournament will be the third leg of the 2021 Grand Chess Tour. Apart from the Indian Grandmaster Anand, the event will also see former world champion Garry Kasparov, who will feature in the blitz section.

It will be the first across-the-board event for Anand (ELO rating 2753) in over a year as sporting schedules across the world have been hit owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions. He had in 2020 helped India win the gold medal in the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad.

Russian Grandmaster Alex Grischuk, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan) and Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave are also in the fray. Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia), who will challenge Magnus Carlsen for the 2021 World Chess champion title, has entered the event as wild card, like Anand.

Dutch GM Anish Giri, Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland), Ivan Saric (Croatia), Anton Korobov (Ukraine) and Jorden Van Foreest (the Netherlands) are also in the fray.

Grand Chess Tour Executive Director Michael Khodarkovsky said, "Fans can expect five days of exhilarating chess



demonstrated by the famed world champions, like Garry Kasparov and Vishy Anand, as well as a new wave of top players."

The tournament will see 10 elite Grandmasters competing over nine rounds of rapid chess and 18 rounds of blitz for a total prize fund of USD 150,000. The Grand Chess Tour is a circuit of international events, each demonstrating the highest level of organisation for the world's best players. (PTI)

## ICC to stick with percentage of points system for 2021-23

DUBAI

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) will stick to percentage-of-points-won method for ranking teams in the 2021-2023 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle, said Geoff Alldridge, the apex body's chief executive officer (CEO).

"We are going to stick with the percentage-of-points-won method to rank teams," Alldridge said.

"When we looked at the first 12 months of the competition you had

teams on a number of points, but it was all relative to how many series they had played. So one of the ways to compare teams on an ongoing basis is what proportion of the points that have been available in the matches they played have been actually won. And that percentage served us well in the second half of the Championship," he added.

Allardice added that the issue of discrepancy between series due to difference in number of Tests has also been sorted with the percentage-of-points-won method.

"The other thing is if we are using the percentage of points won we can put a standardised number of points per Test match. So it doesn't matter if it is a two-Test series or a five-Test series, the same number of points will be available for each match that's played, but every team would be judged on the percentage of those points it wins, not on total," he said further.

"The aim of creating the competition four years ago was to try and bring about more interest in Test cricket globally. (GANS)





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