



# THE HANS INDIA

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## WINDOWS



### NCB summons Deepika, Sara Ali, Rakul, Shraddha in drug probe

**Mumbai:** The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), who are probing the Bollywood drug nexus linked to the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, has issued summons to actresses Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Rakul Preet Singh and Shraddha Kapoor. They have also called in Deepika's manager Karishma, designer Simone Khambatta, and Sushant Singh Rajput's manager Shruti Modi for questioning. Shruti Modi, Simone Khambatta and Rakul Preet have been summoned for questioning by the NCB tomorrow (September 24). Deepika Padukone will be called for questioning on September 25. Sara Ali Khan and Shraddha Kapoor, on the other hand, have been summoned on September 26.

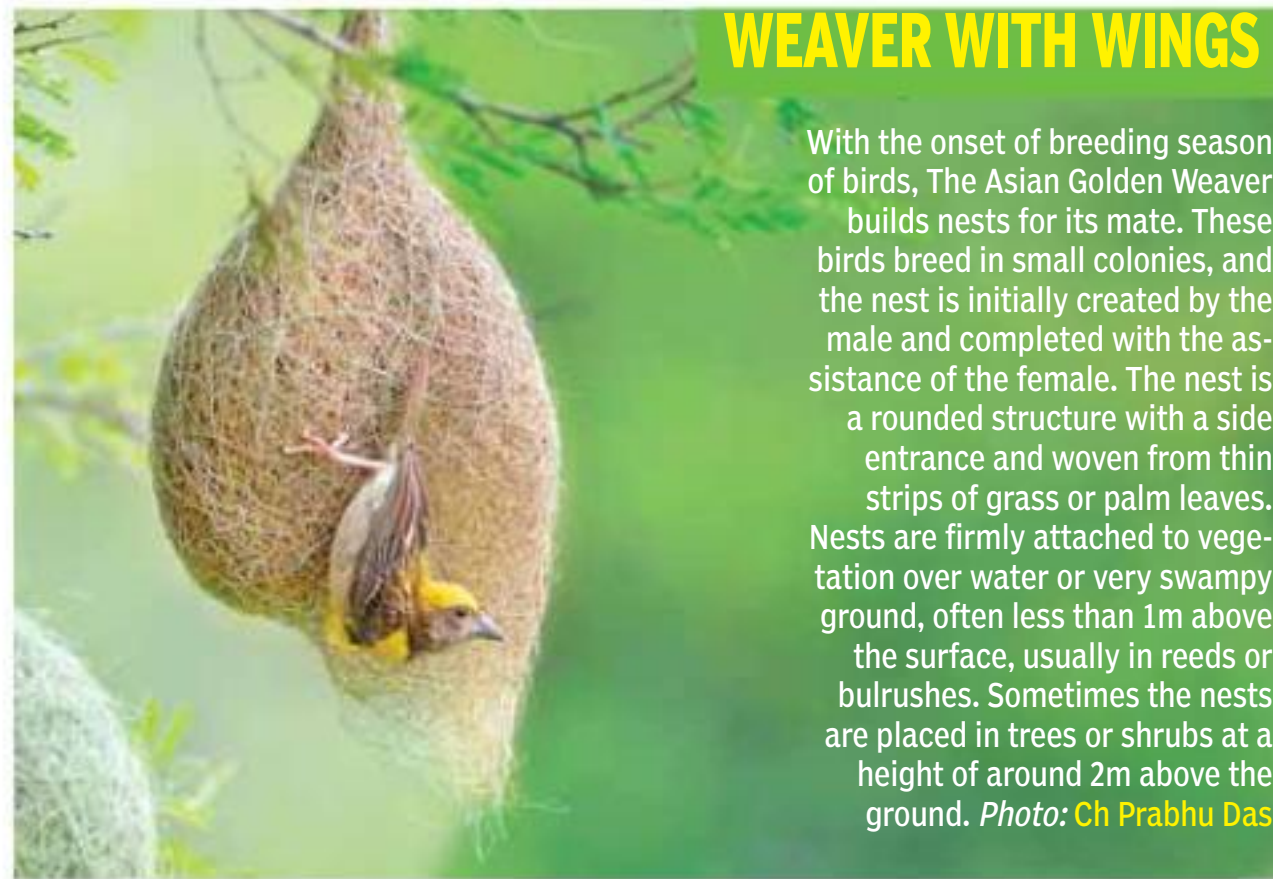
### Don't want any hot or cold war: Xi Jinping

**Beijing:** Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed the United Nations General Assembly amid escalating tensions with India at Ladakh. The Chinese President said China will never seek hegemony or pursue expansionist policies. He said that China has no intention of fighting a hot or a cold war against any country in the world. China is committed to peaceful, open and common development, he said.



### Sisodia admitted to hospital with corona

**New Delhi:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has been admitted to the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital on Wednesday after complaining of fever and low oxygen levels. Sisodia was confirmed infected with the coronavirus on September 14. Manish Sisodia has been undergoing treatment at home isolation ever since he was found to be corona positive.



## WEAVER WITH WINGS

With the onset of breeding season of birds, The Asian Golden Weaver builds nests for its mate. These birds breed in small colonies, and the nest is initially created by the male and completed with the assistance of the female. The nest is a rounded structure with a side entrance and woven from thin strips of grass or palm leaves. Nests are firmly attached to vegetation over water or very swampy ground, often less than 1m above the surface, usually in reeds or bulrushes. Sometimes the nests are placed in trees or shrubs at a height of around 2m above the ground. *Photo: Ch Prabhu Das*

## Parliament passes 3 labour reform Bills

Makes it easier for employers to hire and fire workers

**New Delhi:** Parliament on Wednesday approved three key labour reform Bills that will remove impediments to winding up of companies and allow firing of staff without government permission in firms with up to 300 workers from the existing 100, a move aimed at attracting more investments and job creation. The Rajya Sabha passed by voice vote the three labour codes on industrial relations, social security and occupational safety amid a boycott by Opposition parties, including the Congress and the Left, over the suspension of eight MPs. The first code on wages was approved by Parlia-

ment last year. With passage of these three Bills, 29 Central labour laws have been codified into four broad codes as contemplated by the government under labour reforms to improve ease of doing business and providing universal social security to workers as well.

The three codes were passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday and these will now be sent to the President for his assent. Replying to a debate on the three labour reforms Bills, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said, "The purpose of labour reforms is to provide a transparent system to suit the changed business environment."

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Opposition MPs march from Gandhi statue to Ambedkar statue in protest against the farm and labour Bills at the Parliament House in New Delhi on Wednesday

## Voices of protest rise across country

**New Delhi:** While the Centre says the farm Bills were introduced in a bid to improve the overall condition of the farmers, the proposed laws have been facing stiff opposition from several political parties and farmers' organisations across the country. The detractors of the Bills

say the government is opening the door for corporates, and the interests of farmers are no longer protected.

### West Bengal

"This is contract farming. There is no guarantee in this agreement. What will happen to those of us

who cultivate on small plots of land and sell their produce in the local market? The traders will benefit from this. We will have nothing left," says Shailen Chandir, a farmer from Shantipur.

Anirban Pradhan, deputy director of the state cooperatives and agriculture de-

partment, said, "Initially, the lack of mandi culture may not be the reason for the pressure. But overall, there is a possibility of foul play. In this case, if any big private company wants to buy a product and keep it in cold storage, the government will not stop it."

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## 31 FARMER BODIES CALL FOR LOCKDOWN TOMORROW

**New Delhi/Chandigarh:** In a first-of-its-kind show of solidarity, 31 farmer organisations, cutting across party lines on Wednesday, announced a joint statewide protest on September 25 against the farm Bills passed by both Houses of Parliament. The organisations have given a call for complete 'Punjab bandh' as a mark of protest.

A decision in this regard was taken at a meeting of 31 farmer organisations held at Moga in which it was decided to make the occasion historic by not taking the support of any political party, farmer leaders said.

The farmer organisations also chalked out a strategy for post-September 25 protests. It was decided that the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee member Jagmohan Singh Patalia will be leading the protest.

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## Saudi bans flights to and from India amid Covid surge

**New Delhi:** Saudi Arabia has banned flights to and from India from Tuesday amid a surge in coronavirus cases, according to an official document.

In a circular issued on Tuesday, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said it was "suspending travel to and from the following countries: (India, Brazil and Argentina) including any person who has been in any of the mentioned countries above in the last 14 days prior to their arrival to the Kingdom". However, it excluded "passengers who have official government invitations".

The GACA circular - titled: 'Suspension of travel to countries where the COVID-19 virus has outbreak' - was marked to all



File Photo

the airlines and chartered flight companies operating at the Saudi Arabia's airports.

Five days ago, Air India Express had said the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) suspended its flights for 24 hours for bringing two passengers with COVID-positive certificates on August 28 and September 4.

Scheduled international passenger flights have

been suspended in India since March 23 due to the outbreak. However, special international flights have been operating between India and Saudi Arabia since May 6 under the Vande Bharat mission.

After one-day suspension for bringing passengers with COVID-positive certificates, Air India Express resumed its Dubai flights on Saturday.

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## MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF 2020

### Shaheen Bagh Dadi shares TIME's list with PM

List also features 3 more Indians- Ayshmann Khurrana, Prof Ravindra Gupta and Google CEO Sundar Pichai

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an 82-year-old woman who became the face of the Shaheen Bagh protests in Delhi and actor Ayshmann Khurrana are among those on TIME magazine's list of 100 'Most Influential People of 2020'.

The annual list features pioneers, artists, titans, leaders and icons from around the world "who have had the



(Clock-wise) PM Modi, Bilkis, Sundar Pichai, Prof Ravindra Gupta and Ayushman Khurrana

most impact this year".

While Modi is listed in the "Leaders" category, Bilkis, aka "Dadi of Shaheen Bagh", has been featured under "Icons".

The Prime Minister, who turned 70 this year, was last featured on the annual TIME magazine list in 2017.

Actor Ayshmann Khurrana has made to the list. The 36-year-old star of films

such as AndhaDhun and Badhaai Ho is listed under "Artists", which also includes Korean filmmaker Bong Joon-ho, Selena Gomez, etc.

The other categories on the TIME list are "Pioneers" - under which is included Prof Ravindra Gupta, known for his work on HIV/AIDS treatment. - Leaders, Icons and Titans.

Continued on Page 5

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# Womenia

TWEET PATROL



**PRANITA SUBHASH**  
@PRANITASUBHASH

Looks like not only heavy rains but help from all directions have poured in too thanks to @AshwiniMS\_TNIE @smritiirani



## TIPS FOR WEIGHT LOSS IN A PANDEMIC

With the ongoing pandemic, we are still working longer hours whether from home or office. It is time to face the world with renewed zeal, leaving behind anxiety, fear and those piled-up pounds. Confused as to how to shed the excess weight in the midst of a pandemic? I have a few tips up my sleeve, read on..

### Practice mindfulness eating

In this time of a pandemic our work and home boundaries are blurred and a lot of us don't take time off to eat leading to increased portion sizes and waist circumferences. Concentrating on food and switching off distractions like mobile, computers, television allows us to recognize satiety thus preventing overeating. A diligent effort needs to be made to eat slowly. Ensure that 50 per cent of the plate at all meals is full of fresh seasonal vegetables automatically keeping you fuller for a longer time.

Eating like a king is true for breakfast as it is your energizing meal for the day. A proper breakfast is idli + sambhar with veggies + chutney / vegetable omelet + vegetable sandwich / roti + raita + chutney.

The Indian diet is an ideal diet. It combines vegetables with whole grains like wheat, millets, rice and a small portion of protein source whether daal, curd, whole pulse, sprouts, or fish, cooked in aromatic spices and good quality fat will keep satisfied for a longer time. Do not cut down on any food group including good fats or carbohydrates as a complete meal provides all the essential nutrients preventing binge eating. Remember, lunch is lighter than breakfast and dinner your lightest meal.

### Throw-out the junk

the witching hour between 4 pm – 6 pm is when you reach out to sweet or savoury junk. I say throw-out the white sugar and fried. Instead, satisfy your salt cravings with salted nuts and seeds and your sweet cravings with a seasonal fruit.

Exercise- I truly believe sitting is the new smoking. Don't be dependent on any fancy work out, just get up do spot jogging, stretches, take a walk around the house or what I enjoy – putting on some music and dance away. Deep breathing is another way to feel rejuvenated.

### Hydrate

I strongly say the true elixir of life is water. This beverage will not only quench your thirst but is an instant pick me up.

### Sleep well

I want you to honor your body and its natural clock.



Naini Setalvad



Finish your last meal 3 hours before you sleep and lights off by 10.30 pm to get a sufficient 8 hours sleep. Early to rise and early to bed balances your hormones and keeps your weight in check optimizing health parameters.

Follow my simple tips and you'll be back in shape in no time!

## Falguni Shane Peacock's collection focuses on the new age bride



PUJA GUPTA

Designer duo Falguni and Shane Peacock forayed into a full-fledged bridal segment with the launch of their latest couture collection at the digital India Couture Week, being held digitally for the very first time.

The duo presented a fashion film titled

'Spectacle Prive' which featured Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor as the showstopper. Directed by the designers, the fashion film recreates all the hustle-bustle happening behind the scenes of real-time fashion shows.

The collection is inspired by the rich heritage, culture, architectural marvels, and the abundant flora fauna of Jaipur 'The Pink City'. The city fuels the collections

**The virtual experience is a great format; it is definitely a more disruptive and a democratic format believe the designer duo – Falguni**

creative ingenuity and its element percolates in the designs.

Falguni shares, "We have forayed full-fledged into the bridal segment the very first time and the showcase includes bespoke bridal lehengas in classic red - a colour that is immensely significant to the Indian bride. The experience was exciting. Planning things for this year's India Couture Week was similar to a certain extent to our previous physical shows. The rush of showcasing something different, the designing and creative processes is just the same. The virtual experience is a great format as we will be able to reach out to a wider audience across the world as compared to a physical fashion show. It is definitely a more disruptive and a democratic format. People who may not have had access to fashion weeks will now be able to see the collections through a lens of curiosity and excitement."

The most important thing to keep in mind is the storytelling should be clean and crisp and of course the purpose of the film is to show the concept thus engaging

the audience. "If you plan things properly, then you can overcome any challenge. Since we had enough time on hand to prepare for our collection as well as for our shoot, these challenges don't seem insurmountable. The challenge of social distancing, reduced staff, remote working can be taken care of with the right mindset and planning.

We have planned for these new ways of working and we had enough time to prepare a breathtaking new collection," concludes Falguni.



## Shantanu & Nikhil's latest collection is for 'neo-luxe brides'

The designer duo launched the collection at the digital edition of the India Couture Week (ICW) on Monday

PUJA GUPTA

Clients will now be far more emotional about each and everything in their lives and design will be paramount, say designer duo Shantanu and Nikhil as they virtually launch their ceremonial couture '20 collection titled 'The Resurgence'.

Their creations, the duo say are an "ode to hope. It is the spirit to resurface and recommence our duties to the universe. It celebrates a renewed strength and power to adapt and rise again."

"When we look at the storytelling that the brand Shantanu & Nikhil has always been speaking about, this time it is about hope. We are not sure where we are going but hoping that it will be amazing," say the designers known for their drapes and ability to put the mark of India on contemporary fashion.

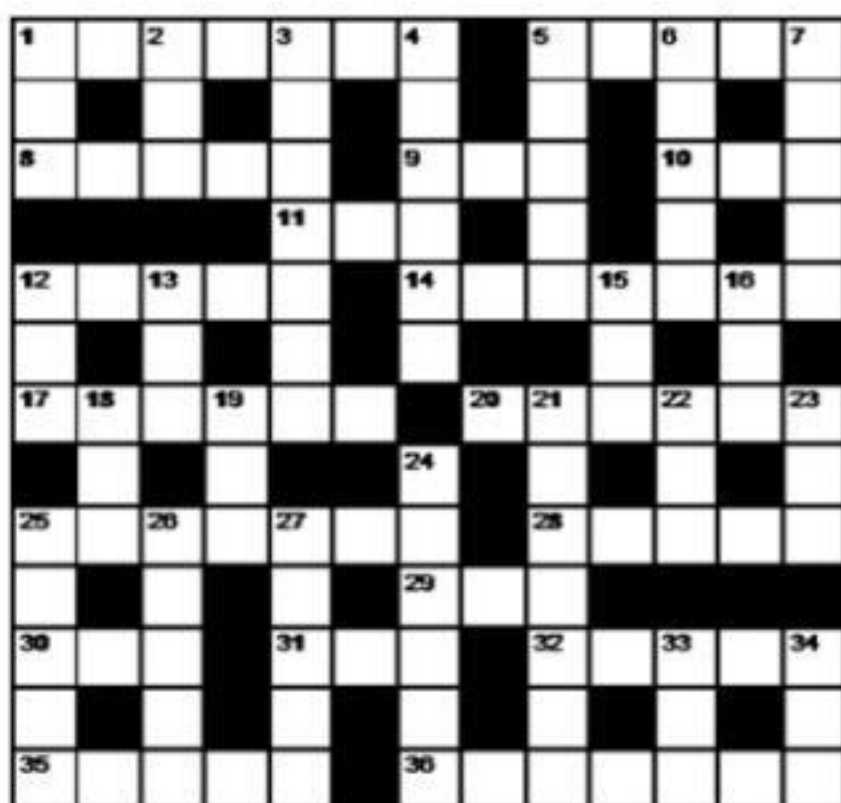
The collection was launched at the digital edition of the India Couture Week (ICW) on Monday through a fashion film, shot in five

episodes at The Roseate in the Capital.

Commenting on the experience of holding a virtual fashion show, they say "it was an exciting and unusual experience and felt great to be a part of an ecosystem that is constantly innovating and connecting with larger audiences."

The line-up was their interpretation of "neo-luxe brides", they reveal.

It comprised off-shoulder gowns, anarkali gowns, lehengas and fluidic western drapes for women and bandhgalas in layers, asymmetrical pattern for women in colours like gold, silver, blue, black, white red and maroon. Most of the outfits had metallic gold and sheen influences, got applique and classic zardozi work.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 23

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- 1 Severe (7)
- 5 A body embalmed for burial (5)
- 8 Fire remnant (5)
- 9 Limb (3)
- 10 Dandy (3)
- 11 Boxing great (3)
- 12 Circumvent (5)
- 14 Correct (7)
- 17 Finally (2,4)
- 20 Look up to (6)
- 25 Ribbon round head (7)
- 28 Teutonic goddess (5)
- 29 Bemoan, deplore or lament (3)
- 30 Colourful Japanese carp (3)
- 31 Impair (3)
- 32 A thick cluster (5)
- 35 A bed covering or a seaman's rope (5)
- 36 Married man (7)

#### Down

- 1 Colouring agent (3)
- 2 A white robe worn by the clergy (3)
- 3 Diatribes or jeremiads (7)
- 4 We sit on them (6)
- 5 Copy (5)
- 6 Civilian dress (5)
- 7 Young urban professional (5)
- 12 Arabian garment (3)
- 13 Night bird (3)
- 15 Scotch cap (3)
- 16 A long way (3)
- 18 Beverage (3)
- 19 Besides (3)
- 21 Flaws (7)
- 22 Anger (3)
- 23 An eon or an age (3)
- 24 Cheer (6)
- 25 Cooks in an oven (5)
- 26 Ingenuous (5)
- 27 Ant (5)
- 33 America (3)
- 34 It holds the pea (3)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 23

### NEWS ROUNDUP

#### Kajol writes of her 'warrior' mother as Tanuja turns 77

Veteran actress Tanuja turned 77 on Wednesday. To mark her birthday her daughter, actress Kajol, posted a special note on social media.

"When I'm with you I'm standing with an army.. Happy birthday to the one person who showed me all the avatars of a woman. Warrior, wife, mother, sister, woman, human and spirit! Happy birthday momma. Love you so much. Am eternally grateful that you chose me for a daughter.... always and forever," Kajol wrote on Instagram. She tagged her post with #foreveryourbaby. Along with the post, she shared a picture where the mother-daughter duo is seen in ethnic sarees.

Tanuja's younger daughter Tanishaa Mukerji, too, wished her mother.

"Happy birthday my earth mother. You are mischief. You are grace. You are love. You are nature. You are soul. You are my universe.

Love me you mommy," Tanishaa posted on Instagram.





# 'Fake news, rumours used to label 2008 Batla House encounter staged'

**New Delhi (PTI):** Fake news and "street rumours" were picked up by a section of politicians, activists and media to paint the 2008 Batla House encounter of IM terrorists as staged, retired IPS officer and the then chief of the Delhi Police special cell Karnal Singh has said.

The 1984-batch officer of the Union Territories cadre has come out with a book -- Batla House: An Encounter that Shook the Nation -- on the police operation on September 19, 2008 at house number L-18 in the Batla House locality of Jamia Nagar in south Delhi.

The book has been published by Rupa Publications.

The officer was spearheading a probe into the 2008 Delhi blasts as

the head or joint commissioner of police of the elite special cell that was raised specifically to undertake counter-terrorist operations.

Leads from the blast probe led the special cell to Batla House where Indian Mujahideen terrorists were holed-up.

A gun battle broke between the policemen, who went for a reconnaissance, and the terrorists in which special cell Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma lost his life, while two terrorists were eliminated.

Singh, who retired in 2018 as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate, spoke to PTI on the operation, seen as one of the most politicised police encounters of the country.



"There was a perception built around the Batla House encounter by disseminating fake news,"

Singh said. "Many politicians, activists and media houses picked up street rumours without any fact-

checking." "For example, some alleged that Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma died due to three bullets fired at his back by his teammates and they also alleged that the terrorist did not fire at all. The post-mortem report clearly stated that Mohan had got two bullet injuries from front and not back," he said.

Doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences conducted the post-mortem of the two terrorists also and collected their hand wash and sent it to the forensic science laboratory for dermal nitrate test to conclude if they had fired or not, Singh said.

"The test for the terrorists came out to be positive indicating clearly that both the terrorists had fired on the police team," he said.

"This case has been through multiple scrutiny from diverse and independent agencies and the truth has stood strong through the test of time, patience and adverse perceptions. Our turning point was when a few people who had earlier believed in fake news were open to factual accounts," the officer said, replying to a question on the upheavals they faced after the encounter.

Singh, who also headed the Financial Intelligence Unit of the country for a brief period, said media reportage of sensitive investigations is a very responsible job.

"The communication between the investigating agencies and the media about the ongoing investigation is a very delicate

issue...transparent communication has to be followed with responsibility and accountability towards the nation and its citizens," he said.

Asked about the motivation of the IM terrorists to perpetrate multiple blasts in the country, Singh said their probe found the terrorists were inspired by Osama bin Laden and that they would talk about religion at length.

"There were photographs of bombs placed in the shape of IM. We learnt that most of them were introduced to IM through their friends or acquaintances," he said.

He added that "a few IM terrorists escaped to Pakistan and Dubai after the Batla House encounter."

# FIR against Kashyap after actress alleges rape

**Mumbai (PTI):** Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against filmmaker Anurag Kashyap after actress Payal Ghosh accused him of sexual misconduct in 2013, an official said on Wednesday.

Kashyap has dismissed the allegations as "baseless".

The First Information Report (FIR) was registered at Versova police station late Tuesday night after the actress along with her lawyer Nitin Satpute approached the police, the official said.

The FIR was registered under Indian Penal Code Sections 376 (I) (rape), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 341



(wrongful restraint) and 342 (wrongful confinement), the official said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Kashyap will be called for

questioning in connection with the alleged seven-year-old incident, he said.

In her police complaint, the actress alleged that Kashyap

raped her at a place on Yari Road in Versova in 2013.

The actress and her lawyer earlier approached Oshiwara police station here on Monday, but they were asked to go to the Versova police station as the alleged incident took place under its area of jurisdiction, the official said.

They had approached the Oshiwara police as Kashyap's office is located in that area.

Satpute in a tweet late Tuesday night said, "Finally FIR has been lodged against Accused for the offence Rape, Wrongful Restrain, Wrongful Confinement and outraging modesty of woman."

# Deepika, Shraddha, Sara summoned

**Mumbai:** Actors Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh have been summoned by the Narcotics Control Bureau in a stunning twist to the drugs probe linked to the Sushant Singh Rajput investigation. They have been asked to appear in the next three days.

These are the most high-profile names to come up in a widening probe into the link

between drugs and the film industry, which emerged during the investigations into the death of Sushant Singh Rajput on June 14.

Deepika Padukone has been summoned on Friday and Rakul Preet Singh tomorrow. Sara Ali Khan and Shraddha Kapoor will be questioned on Saturday. Fashion designer Simone Khambatta will also be questioned tomorrow, say officials.



# India's Covid tally crosses 56 lakh

**New Delhi (IANS):** India's tally on Wednesday crossed 56 lakh cases following a spike of 83,347 fresh coronavirus infections reported in 24 hours, according to data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. There were 1,085 new deaths as the toll in past more than eight months reached 90,020 and the total cases mounted to 56,46,010.

India is the second worst hit country by the pandemic just behind the US, where they have recorded 2 lakh deaths. Out of the total cases in India, 9,68,377 are currently active, and 45,87,613 have been discharged, making the rate of recoveries best in the world.

While the recovery rate stands at 81.25 per cent, the fatality rate has come down to 1.59 per cent.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 12,42,770 cases, including 33,407 deaths, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical



## Kerala Agriculture Min infected

**Thiruvananthapuram(IANS):** Kerala State Agriculture Minister V. S Sunil Kumar on Wednesday became the third Minister to test positive for Covid-19. Kumar has been a very proactive minister leading the Covid activities in Ernakulam district and has been shuttling between the state capital and Ernakulam, since April. Kumar thus became the third Minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan cabinet to test Covid positive. State Finance Minister Thomas Issac was the first one, and was followed by state Industries Minister E. P.Jayarajan. Both have by now recovered and returned to their jobs.

## Woman Covid patient commits suicide in Shimla

**Shimla (IANS)** A 54-year-old woman Covid-19 patient allegedly committed suicide in the state-run hospital in the Himachal Pradesh capital on Wednesday, the police said.

She had tested positive on September 18 and was undergoing treatment in the Dayal Upadhyay Hospital. She belonged to Chopal in Shimla district.

Deputy Commissioner Amit Kashyap said the woman committed suicide by hanging herself in the balcony outside the Covid ward.

"A magisterial probe has been ordered into the circumstances that led her to commit suicide in the hospital," he told the media.

Research (ICMR), India conducted 9,53,683 sample tests in a single day on Tuesday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 6,62,79,462.

## Maoist camp busted in Bijapur district

**Raipur (PTD):** A jawan from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was injured while defusing an IED recovered at a Maoist camp busted by the security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday, police said.

A joint patrolling team of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and DRG busted a naxal camp in a forest of Mariwada-Gongla villages under Gangaloor police station area, inspector general of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraaj P told PTI.

On sensing the presence of the patrolling team, ultras managed to escape into the dense forest abandoning their camp, he said.

Maoist uniforms, an improvised explosive device (IED), IED switches, torch, iron pellets, Maoist literature, tents, bags, medicines and materials of daily use were recovered from the camp, the official said.

A DRG jawan sustained minor stone pellets injury, when the IED recovered from the camp exploded while being defused, the IG said, adding that his condition is stable.

The search operation was still underway in the area, he said.

## 'UPSC JIHAD' PROGRAMME BLOCKED

# Sudarshan TV served notice; Centre tells SC

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that it had served a show-cause notice to Sudarshan TV over its "UPSC Jihad" programme that claims to expose a "conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service". The Centre said the show prima facie violated program code and Sudarshan TV has been asked to submit a reply by September 28, according to Indian Express report.

"The notice is a detailed one, giving facts which are against the program code," the Centre told the top court. Next hearing on the matter is scheduled on October 5.

The bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and K M Joseph, had on September 15 stayed the telecast of remaining episodes of Sudarshan TV's show "UPSC Jihad", saying "prima facie, it appears... the object, intent and purpose of the programme is to vilify the Muslim community". The channel's editor-in-chief Suresh Chavhanke has urged the court to lift the stay.

The court had said that some images in the show were "hurtful" and "offensive" and sought



to know what changes he would make to assuage concerns. Replying to this, Chavhanke filed an additional affidavit stating that he would "strictly comply with all laws while airing the remaining episodes", and will "abide and comply by the programming code and directions" of the I&B Ministry.

On Monday, the Centre had filed an affidavit in the top court, urging it to not widen the scope of the matter by laying down any further guidelines for print and electronic media as they are already regulated. The Centre's response

had come after the top court took strong objection to the content of the Sudarshan TV programme 'Bindas Bol', observing that "a particular community cannot be targeted" in the name of investigative journalism and that the "country cannot survive with such an agenda".

Referring to contentions in the petition, Justice Chandrachud had said the program shows flames in the background of a clip showing speeches and characters in skull cap, beards and green T-shirts.

# Shortage of Remdesivir in Maha: Govt

**Mumbai:** A batch of Remdesivir for treatment of Covid-19 patients has been withdrawn in view of "sub-standard quality" of the medicine, Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said on Wednesday. He told reporters that the move caused a short-term shortage of the drug in the

state. "I spoke to collectors of various districts in the state and asked them to place orders of the medicine (Remdesivir) as per their respective requirement. Its supply will soon increase and patients will get their routine dosages," the minister said.

# No guarantee any Covid vaccine in development will work: WHO chief

**Geneva (IANS):** World Health Organisation (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said that the top health organisation has no guarantee whether any single Covid-19 vaccine now in development will work.

While addressing a virtual press conference, the WHO chief said: "We have no guarantee that any single vaccine now in devel-

opment will work."

"The more candidates we test, the higher the chance we will have of a safe and efficacious vaccine," he added.

According to the WHO, almost 200 vaccines for Covid-19 are currently in clinical and pre-clinical testing.

"The history of vaccine development tells us that some will fail, and some will succeed,"

Ghebreyesus said.

Also, the WHO, in collaboration with global vaccine alliance group Gavi and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), has launched a scheme COVAX.

The aim of the collaboration is to accelerate the development of Covid-19 vaccines and enable equitable access for every country in the world.

The COVAX Facility enables governments to spread the risk of vaccine development and ensure their populations can have early access to effective vaccines.

Even more importantly, the COVAX Facility is the mechanism that will enable a globally-coordinated rollout for the greatest possible impact.

The facility will help to bring the pandemic under control,

save lives, accelerate economic recovery and ensure that the race for vaccines is a collaboration, not a contest, according to the WHO chief.

"The fastest route to ending the pandemic and accelerating the global economic recovery is to ensure some people are vaccinated in all countries, not all people in some countries," he noted.





# Needless controversy

The ongoing Brahmotsavam celebrations at Tirumala is intended to teach us the way to divine self-realisation. But unfortunately, this time it is getting embroiled in avoidable controversies.

Normally when some controversy arises on sensitive issues, the political executive is expected to take instant measures to douse the fire but in Andhra Pradesh, that is not happening. Ministers who should try and mollify the feelings of the people have been stoking fire.

Any government should first try to see that the law makers take up the responsibility to play a balancing act. But in AP no such thing is happening. Instead it is assuming political overtones.

Declaration by non-Hindus before entering Tirumala temple is not a new practice. It was introduced by the Britishers in 1821. It is known as Bruce's Code. The details available in Google say, Bruce Code is a set of rules for the management

and administration of temples of Tirumala and Tirupati was enacted by East India company in 1821.

These are well-defined rules formulated as a code having 42 provisions to ease the administration of temples of Tirumala and Tirupati on the basis of customs and previous usages without interfering in the day-to-day affairs.

After the fall of Hindu empires by 18th century AD, the temples of Tirumala and Tirupati came under the Muslim rulers during the 18th century. With the arrival of British, management of temples were transferred from Nawabs of Arcot to East India Company in 1801 AD.

Following the death of Nawab Chand Sahib the then Nawab of Arcot, British installed Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah as Nawab of Arcot. Chand Sahib ran into debts to British and assigned revenues of the temples to the East India Company. By 1801, the Nawab was dispossessed and Arcot was annexed into their

domain and British assumed direct administration of the Tirupati temples for the sake of income of the temple.

In 1803, the then Collector of Chittoor sent a report to the board of revenues showing the full account of the institution, together with schedules, pujas, expenses, and extent of lands etc., known as "Statton's Report" on the Tirupati.

Between 1805-16, due to many instances and complaints about misappropriation and mismanagement of temple funds, the East India Company passed the Regulation VII of 1817 to check the abuses. Through the regulation provided, the duty of the board was only "general superintendence and not detailed management," the Board interfered in almost all aspects of the administration of the Tirumala and Tirupati temple.

It was then that Bruce, the then Commissioner of the Chittoor district formulated a Code containing 42 provisions, known as "Bruce's Code" for the guidance of the Tirumala temple administration. The "Court of Directors" in England strongly resented the participation of the

Company's officers and men in the idolatry conducted in Hindu temples and ordered its relinquishment of their administration of religious endowments. It came into effect in 1842-43.

One of the 42 provisions one was that any non-Hindu should sign a declaration before entering the temple. One might argue that how can anyone identify any non-Hindu entering the temple since most of them would have Hindu names though they belong to other religion.

Agreed, in that case the Government should repeal that rule and put an end to the controversy. God has no religion and hence any one can pray to anyone. Similarly, it can even (in consultation with all religious heads and Jeeyar Swamis) do away with the practice of Chief Minister offering silk robes to the Lord.

This was a recent practice was started by N T Rama Rao in 1983. Prior to that Endowment Commissioner used to offer the robes. Instead of finding solutions, all parties ruling and opposition are indulging in the game of one upmanship and using it for political purposes.



## POLICING A PANDEMIC Valour beyond crimson splendour

R K PACHNANDA

In his address to the nation, the Prime Minister saluted the corona warriors -- the health workers, who passionately treated the patients and saw to medical care, and the police personnel, who not only, at the risk to their lives, worked round the clock to enforce lockdowns and ensure public safety but also did yeoman's service by cooking and distributing food and medicines among the poor and needy.

The entire nation, at the clarion call of the Prime Minister, resonated, in unison, by clapping and, later, lighting of lamps, to applaud these warriors. The defence forces, too, placed wreaths at the National Police Memorial to honour the gallant police personnel.

Such was the nation's resounding gratitude to the police personnel for braving the journey to protect and care for citizens. Our police leaders led ably with unflinching resolve and determination, adapted deftly to different situations, performed with dependable precision and well avoided any "analysis paralysis". Not only did they protect the public, but also took measures to preserve their own force by staggering deployment, utilising a percentage of the workforce at a time and improvising other measures.

Despite this there were many cases of infections in the police, due to exposure while enforcing social distancing, protecting frontline workers and hospitals, dealing with the migrant crisis and policing in congested localities, market places, slums and containment zones. Hence police leaders, in their own way, ensured awareness, in their respective forces, about the virus, took measures to build immunity, enforced standard operating procedures on internal health management and on preventive steps like adopting physical distancing in barracks, enforcing cleanliness and hygiene practices, executed quarantine protocols and protocols for police station visitors, arrest and seizure, handling of dead bodies (for road traffic accidents or unnatural deaths), inquest, post-mortem and duty deployment, be it while enforcing law

and order, crowd control, 'naka' checking, patrolling or performing VIP or traffic duties.

**Preparedness training was also extended to the families of police personnel who were also educated about safety norms. Essential items were being supplied at their doorstep. Wellness centres were set up in police colonies. Procedures were formulated for sanitization of offices, Police Stations, armouries and vehicles. Those above a certain age were asked to work from or remain at home. The 14-day quarantine rule, after returning from leave, was strictly followed. Covid helplines were set up. There was regular communication with affected personnel to reduce occupational stress and improve motivation. Some leaders took more innovative steps to keep their personnel safe and infuse confidence and a high morale**

and order, crowd control, 'naka' checking, patrolling or performing VIP or traffic duties.

In the Central Armed Police Forces, all the Composite Hospitals were admitting and treating Covid patients. The ITBP started the first quarantine facility, near Chawala in Delhi, where all passengers arriving by international flights, were sent for quarantine, and also set up a 10,000 bedded Covid hospital in Delhi. Telemedicine services were being provided, information was being disseminated through different online platforms and protocols were instituted for regular health checkups by all the forces. Organizations also carried out training without disruption by insulating trainees and instructors from external exposure.

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Police personnel have braved the frontline without reserve, compromising their own safety to care for others. They have exemplified true courage; one that is not made solely of brutal force, but one that is born of and sustained by, the synergy of head, heart and hand and the firm resolve of virtue and reason. They have been executing their duties with aplomb and serving the public with exemplary grit, fortitude and composure during this pandemic.

It is these indomitable police efforts for the society which has, today, brought the police and public together in the enduring effort for safety in this most trying, challenging and unprecedented catastrophe -- the Covid-19 pandemic. Perhaps, the congruence of people and their caretakers is one silver lining of this dark menacing cloud. It was community policing at its best, and also in tune with Prime Minister Modi's vision of a peoples' police -- a police of the people and for the people.

**(The writer is a former Director General ITBP. His views are personal)**



TALKING OF MANY THINGS  
Dr Mohan Kanda

I have always been a great admirer of Karl Marx and his ideas. The political parties in India that profess to follow Marx's philosophy are the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB). And, of course, several revolutionary groups which also claim to be working realise the Utopia dreamt of by Karl Marx.

My own view is that the reason for their failure, lies in the inability to contemporise the philosophy in the social, political and economic areas. I have, however, never subscribed to Marx's conviction that 'religion is the opiate of the masses'. I am not only a true believer in God but also remain firm in my conviction that all religions are equally valid, as paths to realising oneness with the Supreme Being. And thanks to my bringing up in the harmonious and secular ambience of Hyderabad, I believe I have inculcated a truly secular attitude.

I have always believed that a fit body on alert mind and a balanced emotional apparatus are essential for a human being to lead a productive and useful life. As a consequence of that conviction, I have made it a point, especially over the last four decades, to include a session in the gym, periods of prayer and practices that are designed to calm the mind and reduce emotional stress, in my daily routine.

Having started out as an atheist, I became a firm believer in God in my late teens. Since then I have been to Tirupati many a time, sometimes more than once in a year. For a long time I only had my hair cut (a tonsure, a matter of fact) at Tirupati, no matter what period had elapsed since my

last pilgrimage. On many occasions I also did what is known as Anga Pradakshinam, a rolling over along the circumference of the temple. In nearly all my visits my friend Dr. Y. Bhujanga Rao invariably accompanied me.

On one occasion, when the gap between one visit and the next became very long, and on account of my decision not to have a haircut until next visit to Tirupati, a photograph of Sharda Mukherjee (the then Governor of Andhra Pradesh state) and I (I was Secretary to the Governor at that time) (taken from behind), left doubts in people's minds as to who was who!

I also made frequent pilgrimages to the shrines at Yadagirigutta, Annaram and the Kanaka Durga Temple at Vijayawada. And, whenever possible, I made it a point to climb the steps to the top of the hill where the temple was situated. Although not on every visit I also had my head tonsured whenever possible.

A few years ago, when I realised I had become old enough, I decided that I may not be able to climb steps or tonsure my head anymore. It was my habit to visit a temple on every Tuesday in the morning. I observed that ritual for over 25 years, even when I travelled to places such as Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta or Gangtok, including during my visits to places such as Singapore or Hong Kong.

A special experience was having Darshan of Lord Kasi Vishweswara at Banaras, where the striking feature is that, as you enter the temple, there is a mosque in front of you! In the recital by the priest of the Kala Bhairava Temple, at the entrance the main Temple, of the Ashtakam was a rousing and exhilarating experience!

I have finally settled down to the acceptance that my pooja room at home as the ultimate temple, and have, more or less, freed myself of the feeling that visiting places of worship is the only way to seek divine blessings to attain inner peace.

My first audience with Bhagwan Saibaba of Puttaparthi was when he had dinner with Governor Sharda Mukherjee at Raj Bhavan shortly before I left for Delhi for my daughter Aparna's operation. Swamy (as he was popularly called by his devotees), asked



me whether I would accept some "Vibhuti" and locket. Upon my agreeing (only too readily!), he gave me both - the locket to be worn, and the Vibhuti to be applied on her back for a few days. When I attempted to touch his feet, Swamy said in Hindi, "Man mein, man mein".

My next opportunity to have a 'Darshan' was when I went to Puttaparthi with my mother and Aparna. We were waiting for an audience in a corridor just outside his main house. Just when we were about to give up, thinking that the period for private audience was over, Swamy walked into his room, turned back and beckoned to us into come in. Overjoyed, the three of us went in and had a long chat with him.

The next time I received Swamy's blessings was when Aparna and I had Darshan at White Field, Bangalore, shortly before Aparna's marriage. I made one more trip to Puttaparthi for Swamy's darshan, and blessings, with my son Arvind, just before he was blessed with a son. Sometime later, I became a Member of the Governing Body of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSIHL) and attended several

meetings in that capacity.

As Joint Secretary in charge of International Cooperation in the Department of Agriculture Co-operation (of the Ministry of Agriculture in the Government of India) I traveled frequently to Rome, which was the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

On one occasion I accompanied Kamal Pandey, the then Secretary Agriculture. Our wives were also with us. Somehow, it struck us that we should seek an audience with His Holiness the Pope. Our request was granted, thanks to the efforts of the Indian Ambassador to Italy, Fabian. It was a unique and deeply satisfying experience. We were part of a gathering of several hundreds of people, who were given an exclusive audience in a hall in the Vatican. After receiving benediction, we went individually to the dais and received his Holiness's blessings.

I visited Jain temples twice. Once when, while on a pilgrimage to Yadagirigutta, we took a detour and went to a nearby village called Kolanupaka. Another time when we visited ancient Jain

temples while on a visit to Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.

While under training, and during Bharat Darshan, the team of which I was a member, spent a month in Gaya district of Bihar. Our team, visited Bodhi Gaya (the place where Buddha attained 'Nirvana'). Subsequently I also went to Gaya to perform the obsequies of my father and mother.

A truly glorifying experience was the visit to Jerusalem the home of the religions of Christianity, Islam and Judaism I also had the privilege of visiting Bethlehem where Jesus is said to have been born. I feel confident that, very soon, my desire to visit a Gurudwara and a Synagogue will be fulfilled.

I derive satisfaction, and solace, from the fact that, in all the religious places which I have been to, I was able to experience a similar sense of calm, peace and tranquility. There clearly is something, after all, in favour of the philosophy that, in the ultimate analysis, all religions lead to the same realisation, of oneness with a single Supreme Being.

*(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)*

## Unlock politics from religion

The recent debates in the country in general and in AP in particular on politics in religion and vice versa reminds me of two quotes, viz., Lord Hailsham, a good old Conservative Party leader from UK and Seneca the Younger, a Hispanic Romano Philosopher. The former quoted "The introduction of religious passions into politics and the introduction of politics into religion is the prostitution of true religion". The latter quoted "Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false and by the rulers as useful". It is high time the deadly cocktail of religion and politics is permanently banned.

D Nagarjuna, Hyderabad

## Make UN more representative

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of World's most esteemed, renowned and trusted body of global affairs. The inception of United Nation and progressive years thereafter in entire planet have ushered in the development to the people of all hues. We have achieved innumerable milestones in these 75 years and paved the way for the sustainable development in the world. In 1945, there were in the neighbourhood of 50 nations and 5 permanent members with Veto power, now the UN has 193 state members but the members have not expanded in the security council.

When it comes to security, the whole world can't depend entirely upon five nations, we have broader voice. The 15-member Security Council should incorporate more members. 5 permanent members with Veto power and 5 non-permanent members' seats should be increased. These 5 members have called the shots in the exceedingly significant UNSC for the last 75

## LETTERS

years. From Asia, we have only one representative, China, which is an enigma to the world.

At least, we need to have three nations with Veto power from Asia and one from Latin America as well as one from Oceania as they have no representatives. The whole process of selecting the nations must be transparent and election should take place in fair and square manner, so everyone can respect it. Let's hear more voices.

Rahul Chouhan, Ujjain

## CSK should move on

Getting into real action after a long hiatus, Rajasthan Royals (RR) outscored Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in a high scoring game to open their IPL campaign with a 16-run win on Tuesday in Sharjah. Against a strong CSK team, Sanju Samson of RR enthralled with the innings of 74 from just 32 balls to reach a commanding 216 for 7 from 20 overs. It was an innings of such ferocity and Sanju smashed nine sixes and just one four. Despite CSK bowlers Ravindra Jadeja and Piyush Chawla brought into the bowling attack, there was no stopping the Kerala batsman. He was unstoppable at the crease. Sanju also brought up his half-century from just 19 balls which is fastest in the IPL.

What has been surprising is the abject failure of Dhoni's CSK team. CSK's Captain M.S. Dhoni would be hurting no end after his team's poor display against RR mainly due the poor application by the batsmen. Only Faf du Plessis scored his best for CSK with 72 runs from 47 balls. Captain Dhoni at No 7 finished with an unbeaten 29 from 27 balls and hit marvellous three

sixes, but it was too late.

Chasing 200 plus targets may not impossible but it's never easy. CSK team needs sustained hitting and a big partnership, if not more. Experienced batsman like Shane Watson and Sam Curran couldn't make a big score. But at the end, neither of them lasted long enough to make big dent in the daunting target for CSK and the game was beyond to build the big chase. Now Dhoni's CSK team will have to get back to his winning ways after heart-breaking loss to Rajasthan Royals.

Kodihalli S Rao, Thane

## Learning lessons from Covid-19

Though corona pandemic shattered the world, it also taught us invaluable lessons in particular to our country. Our lack of preparedness with an alternative healthcare system. Our poor response in the face of returning migratory workers whose death count is not yet known. Added to this Chinese aggression, which was of course given a fitting response notwithstanding the arrival of Rafale. The resilience of our economy is exposed when lakhs of workers thrown out of employment overnight. So we need to be well prepared to face any eventuality in future without throwing public life into disarray. So, in place of knee-jerk reactions, we should have a foolproof alternative mechanism in place to face onslaughts.

D S P Rao, Kakinada

## JEE jitters

The woes of students appearing for JEE advanced on September 27, particularly from northern region of AP are unlimited this time. The allotment of centres for examination is

very illogical, random and irrational. The South Zone is overseen by IIT Madras where Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram are not included in the list of examination centres. The above said centres are in IIT Kharagpur list.

Whatever the list may be, the students of this region are being allotted faraway places irrespective of their choices. They have to travel hundreds of kilometres to reach the centre in this period of pandemic despite the fact that they have exam centres but cannot attend in their own towns right under their nose.

The lack of adequate public transport, hotels and the enhanced risk of virus contact coupled with monetary burden have been giving the wards and their parents sleepless nights. The sad part of the story is many students are going to miss the exam as they feel helpless despite their good performance in Mains exam.

The unabated pandemic and need to strict adherence to preventive measures could have been taken into consideration by the authorities and more centres could have been allotted, had they acted sensitively. Instead of that the things were being made difficult for the aspirants, which is highly condemnable.

The government should look into the matter and rescue the students from avoidable hardships. Irrespective of zones, the students could have been given centres of their choice that is nearer to their native places. The convenience of student should take priority over other technical or administrative issues as all the students of all the zones are writing one and same examination.

Dr D V G Sankararao, Nellimarla

thehansreader@gmail.com



# CM seeks Centre's help to tide over fund crunch

- Meets Union Home Minister for the second time in as many days
- Tells that the AP is reeling under financial problems caused by bifurcation and further aggravated by pandemic
- He also discusses Disha Act brought by the State govt for protection of women and abolition of Legislative Council

**Amaravati/New Delhi:** Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday met Union Union home minister Amit Shah for the second time during his Delhi tour and discussed issues related to the state's development, official sources said.

The second meeting lasted 45 minutes. The two earlier met for around an hour on Tuesday evening after the Chief Minister arrived in Delhi, during which the issue of Central funds was also discussed.

As per the laws enacted vis-a-vis bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the state is eligible for Central funds.

Jagan told Shah that Andhra Pradesh had suffered immensely after its bifurcation, whereas the coronavirus pandemic had proved to be a double whammy.

He told the home minister that the state was suffering due to lack of funds and



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy meeting Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat in New Delhi on Wednesday

## ...Invites Jal Shakti Minister to visit Polavaram

**New Delhi:** Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy met Union minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekawat, and invited him to visit the Polavaram project on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister requested Shekawat to release Rs 4,000 crore worth reim-

bursements due to the state as part of the Polavaram project.

He also requested the Central minister to speed up the rehabilitation support in the Polavaram project.

Jagan met Shekawat prior to meeting home minister Amit Shah and discussed the

irrigation projects in the southern state.

Incidentally, Shekawat promised cooperation to Jagan to complete the Polavaram project by 2021.

Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy and others accompanied Jagan when he met the Jal Shakti minister.

sought Central assistance to tide over the crisis. The Chief Minister also discussed the is-

ues of women's protection initiative Disha, and abolition of the Legislative Council. Be-

fore leaving Delhi for Tirupati, the Chief Minister held a meeting with party MPs.

## Mohini Avataram mesmerises devotees

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirumala:** The bright sunny day on Wednesday witnessed Sri Malayappa Swamy appearing in a bewitching Mohini Avataram, on the colourfully decked palanquin accompanied by silver idol of Sri Krishna Swamy on another palanquin on the fifth day of ongoing annual Brahmotsavams at Tirumala.

The grand and richly decorated deities on palanquins were paraded from Ranganayakula mandapam to Kalyanotsava mandapam in Srivari temple.

The objective of the Mohini Avatara also indicates that the entire universe is spell bound under the mystic Moha and



Lord Malayappa Swamy in Mohini Avataram on the fifth day of Brahmotsavams on Wednesday

through this Avatara, the Lord enlightens his devotees not to fall prey to worldly desires and come out of that 'Maya'.

TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy, TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal and others were present.

## State records 7,228 new cases

**Amaravati:** The aggregate number of coronavirus positive cases increased to 6,46,530 in the state as 7,228 were added afresh on Wednesday.

In the 24 hours ending 9 am on Wednesday, 8,291 patients had recovered and been discharged from hospitals while 45 more succumbed, the latest bulletin said.

The total number of recoveries has now risen to 5,70,667 and the gross toll to 5,506, it said.

The state now has 70,357 active cases. East Godavari was the only district that continued to report more than a thousand new cases daily. On Wednesday, it crossed the 90,000 total cases mark even as district collector Muralidhar Reddy said the caseload decreased by one per cent in the last few days.

## Second phase of Manam-Mana Parisubhrata from Oct 2

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** The state government would launch the second phase of Manam-Mana Parisubhrata to achieve better hygiene conditions in the rural areas from October 2, said minister for panchayat raj and rural development Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy.

In a letter to the people's representatives, the minister said on Wednesday that the first phase of fortnight-long celebrations of the cleanliness drive programme yielded good results in maintaining clean atmosphere and hygienic conditions in the villages.

The first phase was launched on June 1 last year and the ministers, MLAs, MLCs and other people's representatives widely participated in it on July 24 which was a stupendous success. He complimented the employees of panchayat raj who worked hard to take the programme to the people.

The fortnight-long programme brought

awareness among people in villages the importance of the services like drinking water, sanitation, side drain system, garbage dumping, health centres and others. The minister said that it also helped in making selected villages as open defecation-free villages on pilot basis.

Following the implementation of the celebrations, the spread of seasonal diseases was contained. Moreover, people came forward and donated Rs 1.72 crore to various village panchayats.

The minister said that panchayat raj principal secretary Gopal Krishna Dwivedi and commissioner Girija Sankar personally took initiative in the implementation of the programme.

Ramachandra Reddy exhorted people to participate in the second phase in large numbers to make our villages clean and green.

He also appealed in his letter to the people's representatives to participate in the second phase of the hygiene programme to make the programme a grand success.

## Saudi bans flights to and fro India amid Covid surge

Continued from P1

According to rules of the UAE government, every passenger travelling from India is required to bring an original COVID-negative certificate of an RT-PCR test done within 96 hours prior to the journey.

Hong Kong has banned Air India flights from Sunday to October 3 after a few passengers on its flight on Friday tested positive for COVID-19 post arrival, a senior government official said on Sunday.

Air India passenger flights were barred from landing in Hong Kong between August 18 and August 31 after 14 passengers on its Delhi-Hong Kong flight of August 14 tested positive for COVID-19 post arrival. Passengers from India can arrive in Hong Kong only if they have a COVID-19 negative certificate from a test done within 72 hours prior to the journey, according to rules issued by the Hong Kong government in July.

Continued from P1

Due to the Essential Commodities Act, the government had the right to stop storage of excess goods earlier. Now that is no more the case." Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has declared that she and other members of the Trinamool Congress will protest against the two farm Bills until they are withdrawn.

**Karnataka**

The Karnataka Congress has termed the Bills "anti-farmer". Many farmers' unions have called for a nationwide bandh on September 25. Former Prime Minister and Rajya Sabha member HD Deve Gowda has asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explain the short-term and long-term benefits as well as consequences of the Bills.

**Kerala**

"I do not trust the Bills and agreements on

agriculture as all of them have failed to protect the farmers' interests in the past because none of them were prepared by the farmers, but by the market forces. When the agricultural business is turning market-centric, naturally the role of the government will dwindle and, in reality, it will be against the interest of the farmers. This will be the big impact on the farmers by the Bills," says Dijo Kappen, state vice-chairman, Kisan Maha Sangh.

**Maharashtra**

"Maharashtra doesn't have corrupt crop-procurement systems like Punjab and Haryana. Sugarcane and cotton are both important crops in the state. Both have good procurement systems led by the state government. The Maharashtra government already had open markets for farmers when Devendra Fadnis's government was in office. Here, farmers are used to

free trade. They don't feel any discomfort. So, Maharashtra farmers are fine with the Bills," says Pasha Patel, former president of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices.

**Tamil Nadu**

The ruling AIADMK supports the Bills, while the Opposition DMK has called for a protest on September 28. "The Bills would ultimately drive farmers out of their landholdings and force them to quit agriculture. In spite of unfavourable conditions, nature's fury and an unpredictable monsoon, agriculture and farmers, in general, had thus far been given protection to some extent by way of the minimum support price. With the new laws, the Centre was planning to do away with MSP for paddy, wheat and other produce," said Maniarsan, farmers' association leader.

**Telangana**

Telangana CM KCR says the Centre's move is an injustice to the farmers. "For public consumption, it was stated in the Bills that farmers could sell their products anywhere in the country, but in reality, the Bills would enable the traders to go anywhere in the country to buy the produce. The Bills would also help the corporate lobby spread to all corners of the country and pave the way for private traders," the CM said.

**Andhra Pradesh**

Farmers' organisations and Left parties in AP held a demonstration in Vijayawada on the day of passage of the Bills. Terming the two Bills "anti-farmer" and "pro-corporate", the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), an association of 250 farmers' organisations, called for Bharat Bandh on September 25.

## APSRTC to run buses at full capacity

- No standees will be allowed and wearing masks is mandatory
- If the number of passengers increases in a bus, all of them will be permitted to occupy all the seats

HANS NEWS SERVICE



**Amaravati:** The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC), which is operating about 4,000 bus services in the state, took an important decision on Wednesday easing restrictions on the passengers for travelling in the buses. So far, one person was allowed to sit in the two-seat frames and two in the three-seat frame.

As per the revised guidelines issued on Wednesday, two passengers can sit in the two seats

frame from Thursday onwards. Similarly, in the buses like Pallevelugu and other passenger buses, only two persons were allowed to sit in the three seat frame till now. From Thursday, three persons can sit in the three seats frame.

In a release on Wednesday, the RTC announced that initially only one person will be allowed to sit in one seat. If all seats are filled then two persons will be allowed to sit in the three seats frame. Middle seat will be left va-

cant. If the number of passengers increases in the bus, all passengers will be permitted to sit in all seats. So far, only 50 per cent seats were used for seating. Henceforth, all seats can be used for seating in the buses.

Wearing masks is must as per the Covid guidelines. The revised guidelines are applicable to city services in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam also.

Of the total fleet of 12,000 RTC buses, the corporation is operating only 4000 buses in the state.

The APSRTC partially resumed bus services on May 21, initially operating with only 50 per cent passengers.

Its online portal also offered only 50 per cent seats on buses for reservations, which will now be available for all seats.

In normal time, the corporation's buses carry around 72 lakh passengers daily.

## Time to debate practice of declaration, says Kodali Nani

- Accuses TDP and BJP of using Tirumala declaration issue to derive political mileage
- Says there is no clarity on since when declaration norm has been in vogue at the shrine
- Declares that as CM, Jagan need not sign a declaration



Civil Supplies Minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao alias Nani speaking to media in Tirupati on Wednesday

**Tirumala:** Describing the long time tradition of non-Hindus signing a declaration before having a darshan of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala as "meaningless", civil supplies minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao alias Nani called for a debate on the issue.

He said there was no need for any person to sign the form as no one comes to Tirumala if they don't have faith in the deity. Speaking to media after having a darshan of the Lord in the temple on Wednesday, Nani said there was no need to give declaration by Chief Minister YS Jagan during his visit as he was invited by the TTD itself to present silk vastrams to the deity.

The minister said that there was no clarity on since when the practice of declaration was being implemented at Tirumala temple. Somebody claims it was introduced by Britishers and

others argue it was introduced by TTD board many years ago.

He came down heavily on TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu and BJP state president Somu Veerraju over protests by their parties in the name of declaration in Tirumala. He criticised Naidu for using the God for his selfish politics. "There is no need to give declaration by Jagan because he, as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, will go to any place of worship, as he had taken oath for protecting all faiths in the state," he argued.

He claimed that there have been an increase in attacks on Hindu temples in the state after Veeraju took charge as BJP's state president. Both TDP and BJP are enacting dramas for political mileage in the name of Tirumala temple declaration targeting Jagan, he alleged.

## 31 FARMER BODIES CALL FOR LOCKDOWN TOMORROW

Continued from P1

He said farmers were against the government's 'kala kanon' or black law that the government was aiming to bring by any means and in any form. "If the government wants to respect farmers' wishes, withdraw them," he said.

Interestingly, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), an NDA ally, on Tuesday announced to stage a 'chakka jam' for three hours across Punjab on September 25 to lodge its protest. Senior leaders will lead the protests in their constituencies and district headquarters from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., SAD spokesperson and former minister Daljeet Cheema said.

## Facebook India VC gets relief in SC

Continued from P1

Arguing for the Delhi Assembly's Peace and Harmony Committee, which had summoned Ajit Mohan, senior Supreme Court lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the panel needs suggestions how misuse of Facebook can be stopped. "Facebook has not been summoned as an accused but Facebook has been misused," he said.

In its latest notice (on September 20), the Peace and Harmony Committee sent its second notice to Facebook India vice-president and managing director Ajit Mohan to ensure his presence for depositing before the panel on September 23.

The panel in a statement warned that any defiance to the notice for appearance would be deemed to be an act of "breach of the constitutionally-guaranteed privileges" of the committee.

This was the final warning issued to Facebook India by the committee chaired by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Raghav

Chadha as Ajit Mohan did not appear for his deposition during the last meeting of the panel.

Terming his non-appearance before the panel as a "contempt of the Delhi Legislative Assembly", Raghav Chadha had insisted that Facebook must honour the proceedings taking place under Delhi's state legislature in the same manner as they did for a parliamentary standing committee.

"Any rebuttal or disregard to this subsequent notice shall be deemed as a wilful act of breach of privilege and thus, shall entail various proceedings initiated against Facebook India," the statement said.

The committee had taken cognizance of the accusations against Facebook for its alleged "complicity" in the northeast Delhi riots of February on the premise of the "incriminatory material" produced on record by the witnesses as well as their depositions in its previous meetings.

## Shaheen Bagh Dadi shares TIME's list with PM

Continued from P1

Sundar Pichai, the Indian-born chief of Google, makes it to the category of "Titans".

Delhi's Shaheen Bagh became the heart of protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA as hundreds of people - mostly women - braved Delhi's winter for over 100 days and sat on the road in protest. Bilkis is among those better known as the 'Dadis (Grandmothers) of Shaheen Bagh' and had led the protests from the front. The others featured on the magazine's list include US President Donald Trump, Democratic vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris and Chinese President Xi Jinping.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Tech intensity key to biz resilience

“Tech intensity will play a key role in enhancing business resilience as well as transformation of organisations amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The case for digital transformation has never been more urgent to succeed in a world of unprecedented constraints”


- Microsoft CEO **Satya Nadella**



## MORE COAL

### CIL finalises ₹5,900 cr contracts

Coal India Ltd, the world's largest miner, has finalised contracts for heavy earth moving equipment worth over Rs 5,900 crore to ramp up production and improve age profile of equipment. The miner is also planning a capex of Rs 10,000 crore during the current fiscal.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	77.98	South		
Euro	90.51	African Rand		5.01
UAE Dirham	22.03	Hong Kong Dollar		10.92
Thai Baht	2.69	Japanese Yen		0.81
British Pound	97.4	New Zealand Dollar		50.97
Australian Dollar	55.07	Saudi Riyal		21.57
Canadian Dollar	57.99	Swedish Krona		9.49
Swiss Franc	83.24	Singapore Dollar		56.59

DELHI THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Changes sought to Pesticides Bill

**Hyderabad:** National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) urged the central government to include views experts in the Pesticides Management Bill 2020 (PMB) that was tabled in the Rajya Sabha during Budget session. The Bill is a long-overdue law in the making since 2008. It will replace the old Insecticides Act, 1968. Prof R.B. Singh, former president, NAAS, said, "The PMB in the present form is not based on scientific facts and does not adequately address the concerns of the farmers. The internalization of the NAAS and TAAS recommendations into the PMB will not only enhance the credibility of the Bill, but would also greatly augment the agro-ecological and socio-economic impact of pesticides as plant health chemicals towards Greening Agricultural Transformation in the country".

### TSIA unveils new report

**Hyderabad:** IndiaTech.Org (TSIA), a non-profit organization focused on building internet commerce ecosystem, unveiled the findings of its white paper - 'Online fantasy sports (OFS): adding value to the Indian sporting ecosystem'. The paper brought to light the playing pattern of OFS users, the current regulatory landscape, misplaced perceptions plaguing the industry and the positive impact of the industry on Indian sports and the overall economy. The study found that 80 per cent of the online fantasy sports users prefer participating in the 'free-to-play' format and 98 per cent of the 20 per cent who 'pay-to-play', have either won or lost less than Rs 10,000 net in past three to four years. "This reinforces the fact that fantasy sports are a competitive digital sports engagement platform and clearly not in the nature of addiction," the organisation said.

### SWC donates 1 lakh masks

**Hyderabad:** Social Welfare Corporation (SWC), Anguk Zen Centre, in South Korea, donated one lakh health masks for free distribution to aid India's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The donation was coordinated by K-Art International Exchange Association in Korea and InKo Centre in India. The consignment was handed over to Venu Srinivasan, Chairman, TVS Motor Company, and Managing Trustee, Srinivasan Services Trust, for free distribution through the Srinivasan Services Trust, the social service arm of TVS Motor Company. Venu Srinivasan: "I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and deepest appreciation to the Venerable Abbot, my revered teacher, Subul Sunim for this compassionate gesture of donating 1 lakh masks to InKo Centre. We welcome what is indeed a most timely and valuable donation in these challenging times".

### Nuvoco unveils new collection

**Hyderabad:** Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., a building materials company, unveiled the 'Artist Signature Collection', its first-ever collaboration for concrete designs with Gauri Khan Designs and International Designs through a virtual launch programme. The new collection is a 'Proprietary Signature Collection' that is specially crafted and available exclusively for Nuvoco's customers, in a limited edition only. It comprises unique patterns, splendid textures and preeminent designs. Prashant Jha, Chief Ready-mix Business, Nuvoco, added: "The collection in association with Gauri Khan Designs and International Designs is a first-of-its-kind collection where a celebrity designer has collaborated with Nuvoco to create such modern, yet timeless, and versatile designs for landscape floorings".

# UN body sees 5.9% fall in India's GDP

Contraction in 2020 likely to translate into a permanent income loss: UNCTAD

**United Nations:** Impacted by disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, India's economy is forecast to contract by 5.9 per cent in 2020, the UN has said in a report, warning that while growth will rebound next year, the contraction is likely to translate into a permanent income loss. The Trade and Development Report 2020 by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said on Tuesday that the world economy is experiencing a deep recession amid a still-unchecked pandemic.

It said the global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3 per cent this year, leaving global output by year's end over \$6 trillion short (in current US dollars) of what economists had expected it to be before the coronavirus began to spread. "In short, the world is grappling with the equivalent of a complete wipeout of the Brazilian, Indian and Mexican economies. And as domestic activity contracts, so goes the international economy; trade will shrink by around one-fifth this year, foreign direct investment flows by up to 40 per cent and remittances will drop by over \$100 billion," the UNCTAD report said, painting a grim picture of the global economic scenario. UNCTAD expects South Asia to contract 4.8 per cent in 2020 and recover to 3.9 per cent in 2021.



Global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3% this year, leaving global output by year's end over \$6 trillion short

India's GDP is forecast to contract 5.9 per cent in 2020 and recover to 3.9 per cent next year, the report said. "In the case of India, the baseline scenario is a sharp recession in 2020 as strict lockdown measures to stem the virus' spread brought many productive activities to a halt across the country," it said.

The report said that while UNCTAD expects a rebound in India's GDP growth in 2021 in line with the growth rates of the Indian economy in recent years, "the contraction registered in 2020 is likely to translate into a permanent income loss".

In the US, UNCTAD expects GDP to fall 5.4 per cent in 2020 and recover 2.8 per cent in 2021. China is expected to register an economic growth of 1.3 per cent this year and a whopping 8.1 per cent in 2021, the report said, recording the highest economic growth rate in the world. "This year is shaping up to be a very difficult year for the global economy.

With many countries unprepared to respond to a health pandemic, lockdown seemed to be the only plausible way to protect lives and preserve health systems. Doing so triggered an economic crisis that spread as quickly as the virus itself," the UN trade agency added. Data for the first two quarters of this year show output contracted more sharply than in 2008-2009, and in some cases registering the steepest drop on record.

Estimates for the year point to a generalised global recession matching the Great Depression of the 1930s, it said.

While 2021 will likely see a rebound, it will be uneven within and across countries and uncertainty will persist, the report said, warning that unemployment will be on an upward trend, more and more companies will be facing the threat of bankruptcy; supply chains will be fragile; confidence will be shaken and demand will be weak.

### 'Reforms principal challenge for India'

**Mumbai:** India has tailwinds like the demographic advantage to make it a high-growth economy, but the same cannot be considered foreordained and requires continued action, global private equity major Warburg Pincus' CEO Charles Kaye said on Wednesday.

Implementing the reforms vision is the principal challenge for India, Kaye said, specifying that both the challenges and opportunities for the country are domestic in nature. Warburg Pincus has invested \$5 billion in India since 1995. Its bets include HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bharti Airtel, where it made handsome returns, setting a milestone for risk capital investing. The remarks came at a time when India has implemented reforms on the farm and labour fronts.

"India has all the powerful tailwinds of demography and so much else, but that's not destiny, it's not foreordained and requires continued vigilance and significant action to continue to take advantage of that opportunity," Kaye emphasised. Speaking at The Economic Times Global Business Summit through a video link, Kaye said India has improved remarkably since 1995 when the firm first invested in HDFC but added that the main challenge for the country is to complete the reforms vision.

"The challenges still remain and I think those are the big open questions for India," he said. "I think what still remains India's principle challenge is sort of completing the reform vision."

## PNB partners Rotary for Covid plasma bank



HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** Punjab National Bank, the country's second largest public sector bank, on Wednesday partnered with Rotary to set up an exclusive plasma bank, PNB Rotary Plasma Bank. It is a virtual set-up administered by a PNB Nodal Officer and physically managed and controlled by Rotary Plasma Bank under the aegis of Rotary Challa Blood Bank, Hyderabad for free plasma to PNB Parivar and to the general public in case of a need. Speaking on the occasion of the launch, Ashutosh Choudhury, GM & Zonal Head (TS, AP & Kar-

nataka), PNB, said: "We will be taking up the project on pan India level along with Rotary Club, as this initiative is an ongoing process till a suitable vaccine is made available". More than 150 Covid-19 warriors from the PNB Parivar volunteered to undergo free antibody test responding to an appeal by Ashutosh Choudhury.

Those found suitable by the doctors gave consent voluntarily to donate two units of plasma which will be conserved by the plasma bank for Covid patients. Access to the plasma bank is made available on the website, plasmaforyou.org.

## Markets end in red zone amid volatility

**Mumbai:** The Indian stock market settled on a flat-to-negative note after a largely volatile trading session, with the BSE Sensex closing 65 points lower.

The indices gradually traversed into negative territory after a gap-up opening, before paring losses and ending marginally lower. The Indian equity indices ended in the red for the fifth consecutive session on Wednesday.

The BSE Sensex closed at 37,668.42, lower by 65.66 points, or 0.17 per cent, from the previous close of 37,734.08. It had opened at 38,124.94 and touched an intra-day high of 38,140.07 and a low of 37,313.09 points. The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange settled at 11,131.85, lower by 21.80 points, or 0.2 per cent, from its previous close.

Among the sectoral indices, heavy selling was witnessed in the BSE Telecom index which was down 7.36 per cent. Telecom major Bharti Airtel's shares declined the most on the Sensex on Wednesday. Its shares plunged nearly 8



per cent to close at Rs 433.90 per share on the BSE. Shares of both telcos Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) were under pressure on Wednesday after Reliance Jio announced a range of postpaid plans with several benefits, to take on both Airtel and Vodafone Idea in the postpaid segment. On the outlook for the market, Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said: "Going forward, the market would continue to consolidate in the near term as investors keep a close watch on the rising Covid cases and delay in US stimulus".

### Centre sweetens discom privatisation plans

**New Delhi:** The central government has sweetened the deal to privatise state-owned power distributions operations in Union Territories as 100 per cent equity holding will be sold only in financially viable utilities while it will retain 26 per cent stake in weaker discoms expected to have continued need for subsidised retail tariffs.

Also, the power purchase agreement (PPAs) of only better performing discoms having retail tariffs that cover the cost of power purchase will be assigned to the purchaser. Discoms making losses on sale on power will continue to be supported by the state-owned entity for a specified period even after equity transfer to a private entity.

"The draft standard bidding document finalised for privatisation of discoms in UTs has laid emphasis on giving a commercially attractive deal to investors. This is expected to attract better valuations for discoms," said a government official asking not to be named. The provisions in the draft bidding document means that privatisation of discoms in say, the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, will continue to have a role of state agencies to meet the subsidy needs of the consumers.



## COVID BLUES

# Burnout feeling goes up in workforce

Microsoft study reveals that longer workdays contributing to feelings of burnout

**San Francisco:** If you've been feeling overwhelmed at work lately, you are not alone as a new Microsoft study has shown that the pandemic has increased the feeling of burnout at work among about 30 per cent of workers. Longer workdays have contributed significantly to these feelings of burnout amid the pandemic, said the "Work Trend Index" report.

Workers in Australia saw the highest increase in workday span in Microsoft Teams, with a medium increase in burnout. While workers in Germany saw very little change to workday span or feelings of burnout, said the report.

"The top stressor shared globally was worry about getting Covid-19, followed by lack of separation between work and life, feeling disconnected from co-workers, and unmanageable workload or hours," Jared Spataro, Corporate Vice Presi-



The top stressor shared globally was worry about getting Covid-19, followed by lack of separation between work and life, feeling disconnected from co-workers, and unmanageable workload or hours

- Jared Spataro, Microsoft 365



dent for Microsoft 365, wrote in a blog post. The report looked at how the pandemic has impacted wellbeing at work globally.

The study examined how productivity patterns in Microsoft Teams have shifted since early this year and surveyed over 6,000 information and 'Firstline' workers in eight countries including Australia, Brazil, Germany, Japan, India, Singapore, the UK, and the US.

Microsoft defines first-line workers as people whose pri-

mary role function is to work directly with customers or the general public. The report also includes studies from the Microsoft Research group that shed light on the surprising productivity benefits of our once-dreaded commute. The study also found that nearly 30 per cent of workers have not been provided the tech or protective equipment they need to effectively socially distance by their company.

The data showed that even six

months past the first work-from-home orders, people are in significantly more meetings, taking more ad hoc calls and managing more incoming chats than they did before the pandemic.

After-hours chats, or chats between 5pm and midnight, have also increased. Perhaps more interestingly, the share of Microsoft Teams users sending those chats after hours has more than doubled.

In other words, there is a whole group of people who never

touched a keyboard after 5pm before the pandemic - now, they do. In the study, one third of remote workers said the lack of separation between work and life is negatively impacting their wellbeing.

"Commutes provide blocks of uninterrupted time for mentally transitioning to and from work, an important aspect of wellbeing and productivity," Shamsi Iqbal, Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research said in a statement.

"People will say, 'I'm happy I don't have to commute anymore. I'm saving time.' But without a routine for ramping up for work and then winding down, we're emotionally exhausted at the end of the day." Of those surveyed, 70 per cent said meditation could help decrease their work-related stress. This number increased to 83 per cent for those managing childcare or homeschooling.



# BJP pooh-poohs KTR's claim on development of Hyd city

- Party MLC Ramchander Rao seeks white paper on the funds spent on developing the capital city
- Accuses the TRS leaders of making false promises just before the GHMC elections and win the confidence of gullible voters

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Bharatiya Janata Party MLC N Ramchander Rao demanded the Telangana Rashtra Samithi government to release a white paper on the total amount spent for the development of Hyderabad city in the last four years.

Addressing the media on Wednesday, he said, recently the Municipal Administration Minister, KT Ramarao, has claimed that the government has spent Rs 65,000 crore for development of the Greater Hyderabad limits, particularly for the de-



velopment of infrastructure and other facilities in the Hyderabad city.

However, the citizens of Hyderabad have been experiencing innumerable problems, including bad roads and open drains, he said.

Pooh-poohing the claims of KTR, he said, "The recent rains have claimed two lives just a day after the Minister's claim of

spending Rs 65,000 crore. It exposed the hollow claims with regard to beautification of the capital city as promised by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and his Minister son KTR to make Hyderabad as a world-class city."

The BJP leader accused the TRS leaders of making false promises just before the GHMC elections and win the confi-

dence of gullible voters. He said the voters have realised their mistake and this time, they would not fall into the trap and teach a lesson to the pink party.

He further alleged that KCR and KTR were once again talking about two-bedroom houses just ahead of GHMC elections. He said the TRS government had promised to allot two-bedroom houses to all the homeless poor, but it has constructed not more than 10,000 houses in the last four years in the city against the lakhs of people who have no roofs on their heads. How the government is going to provide houses to all those lakhs of poor and homeless in the city? he asked.

Stating that the TRS leaders were again trying to play tricks, showing 3D pictures and making false promises to woo the voters, Rao expressed confidence that saffron party would win majority of seats in the coming elections to GHMC. He appealed people to support BJP and free the state capital from the clutches of TRS and MIM.

## LRS applicants fleeced at internet centres

CDMA official says Mee Seva personnel cannot charge more than prescribed user charges and property owners can call at 18004258838 for clarification of their doubts

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The applicants of Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) are at the mercy of internet centres as they are charging additional Rs 500 taking advantage of digital illiteracy of many, especially in districts.

The State government provided one last opportunity to the plot owners in unauthorised layouts to regularise their properties by paying the regularisation fee. The government also provided relief to the property owners by allowing the same rate as was provided for decreasing the LRS fee. Government had fixed the application fee of Rs 1,000 and the last date as October 15.

However, the applicants are shelling out Rs 200 to Rs 500 per application at the internet centres and planners as the applicants are at the mercy of these net centres because of the digital



Photo for representational purpose only

illiteracy. They are approaching the Mee Sevas and planners even after availability of an online facility. The Mee Sevas should collect Rs 1,000 as fee and Rs 45 as user charge but the applicants are made to pay more than the prescribed fee.

The private net centres have been approaching the property owners through social media network for making applications for LRS. As some aged property owners cannot fill the forms online, the private net centres are charging from Rs 200 to Rs 500 per application.

However, a CDMA official said that the Mee Seva personnel cannot charge more than the prescribed user charges. The prop-

erty owners can contact on support-lrs@telangana.gov.in or call at 18004258838 for clarification of their doubts.

Meanwhile, the process of filing online applications was in full swing in towns and villages. As on Tuesday, the total applications received in the State was 3,32,635 and the amount collected was Rs 33.79 crore.

The total applications received in gram panchayats was 1,21,347 and money collected was Rs 12.45 crore in municipalities. The total applications include 1,35,705 and money collected amounted to Rs 13.70 crore and in corporations it was 75,583 applications and money collected came up to Rs 7.35 crore.

## Cops foil Bajrang Dal protest at Jagan's residence

Activists demand action against AP cabinet minister Kodali Nani for his alleged remarks on Tirumala temple

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Banjara Hills police on Wednesday detained the activists of Bajrang Dal for protesting in front of Lotus Pond residence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. According to police, the Bajrang Dal activists started gathering near the residence of AP CM since morning. Upon noticing their activities, extra force was deployed to prevent any untoward incident. However, within a few hours they gathered in huge numbers and started raising slogans against the Chief Minister. However, their plans were foiled and the activists were detained and taken to different police stations in the city.

Meanwhile, the Bajrang Dal had released a press note stating that they were unhappy with the comments made by Jagan's cabinet Minister Kodali Nani, who had hurt the sentiments of Hindus with his remarks on Tirumala temple. The organisation called for Nani's termination from the cabinet and also demanded a CBI probe into the alleged atrocities on Hindus in Andhra Pradesh.

## NRI in race for TRS party ticket

**Hyderabad:** Telangana NRI and social activist J Sudheer Kumar has requested TRS working President KT Rama Rao to provide him an opportunity for contesting as a TRS candidate in the election for the MLC post from Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduate constituency to be held in March 2021. Sudheer said that he has given an application to KTR and explained his plan of action to empower the poor.



Korukanti Chandar, MLA from Ramagundam, on Wednesday planted a sapling on his birthday, accepting the green challenge from Joginapally Santosh Kumar

## GREEN CHALLENGE

**Swami Paripoornananda demands the AP Chief Minister to respond to the issue and make Kodali Nani tender an apology for his remarks**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Lashing out at Minister Kodali Nani for his remarks on Tirumala temple, Swami Paripoornananda on Wednesday said that all, including Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, should sign a declaration when visiting Tirumala Venkateshwara Swamy temple.

Addressing a press conference here at the Somajiguda Press Club, Paripoornananda said that the declaration rule was not



Swami Paripoornananda

brought by Hindus, but by the British. He said that the Chief Minister should respond to this issue, otherwise it would be assumed that he was behind this. Stating that the entire episode could be a conspiracy to dethrone Jagan Mohan Reddy from power, he said Nani should come

## MAKE STATE NO 1 IN EODB

# KTR prods officials on reforms

Says the new reforms would be useful for the industry in multiple ways

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Aiming to achieve first place in ease of doing business (EODB), the State government to set new standards in the execution of the industrial policies. State Industry minister KT Rama Rao on Wednesday held a high-level meeting with various departments/HoDs to discuss the new reforms required to improve the EODB standards in Telangana.

KTR said that the new reforms would be useful for the industry in multiple ways. A citizen services management portal will also be created to provide government services to the citizens on a single website, the Minister said and gave a set of directions to the secretaries while drafting



File pic

the new reforms.

These new reforms will bring a positive change in the implementation of works by various departments, the Minister opined. KTR instructed the officials to create a dashboard to check the status of programmes taken up by various departments. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Secretaries and senior officials from various departments participated in the meeting.

Holding a review meeting on

the TS-bPASS policy, he said that the Government is providing building and layout permissions to the citizens in a hassle-free manner. He also stated that no other government has ever introduced such a policy. He wanted the departments should work in coordination for its successful implementation. He asked the concerned departments to appoint one nodal officer from each department for better coordination. -eom

## Additional DME postings yet to be taken up in TS

Government doctors point out that undue delay is affecting promotions at different levels

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Telangana State is six and half years old already but the health department is yet to take up additional DME promotions that would facilitate few eligible seniors take up the posts of Additional DME/Superintendents of teaching hospitals/principals of medical colleges.

Sixteen Additional DME posts have to be filled and this process is pending for a while now and the issue has been brought to the notice of higher officials in the department.

The promotions have been kept pending for want of approval of the Department Promotional Committee or Screening Committee. According to government doctors, no steps have been taken to constitute DPC to effect promotions.

Pointing out the similar exercise already done to give additional DME postings in neigh-

bouring Andhra Pradesh, Telangana Medical JAC has urged Health Minister Eatala Rajender to intervene and ensure permanent postings in the department as well as in medical colleges and teaching hospitals.

Dr Bongu Ramesh, Medical JAC chairman stated that 16 Additional DME posts are waiting to be filled. He said that many eligible seniors in DME are waiting for long to be elevated to these posts with some of them already being 57-year-old. He said that if senior professors are elevated to Additional DME cadre, it would pave way for promotions in the teaching side. 16 Associate Professors who have completed the requisite term can be promoted as professors and in turn Assistant Professors to Associate Professors cadre.

Government doctors pointed out that undue delay is affecting promotions at different levels. Also, juniors who are just a few years into government service are being given responsibilities as in-charge principals or superintendents of new government medical colleges and teaching hospitals.

## Welfare of mother, children priority of TS govt: MLA

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** Nutrition Month has been celebrated as a part of Poshan Abhyaan in Chegur on Wednesday. This programme was organised under the supervision of Shadnagar ICDS Project and MPP Priyanka Goud. The awareness programme is for general public to help understand the nutritional requirements from infants to geriatrics. The programme included demonstration of healthier recipes, nutrition charts and pep talks on healthy eating. The main aim behind this programme was to help people to choose

wisely for better health. On the occasion, the MLA Anjaiah Yadav said that the welfare of mothers and children is the objective of the government and he suggested that pregnant women, nursing mothers and adolescent girls should take nutritious food to maintain good health. KCR kits and Rs 12,000 are being given to the mothers, he added.

ZP Vice-chairman Ganesh, ICDS CDPO Nagamani, Supervisor Jyothi, Damodhar Reddy, Sarpanches Santhosh Veeral, Ranjini Virendhar Goud, Sandhya, MPDO Bal Reddy and others participated in this program.

## Govt to give thrust to food processing units: Sabitha

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy held a meeting at her camp office on Wednesday. DCCB Chairman B Manohar Reddy, DCMS Chairman P Krishna Reddy, Vice-Chairmen K Sathiah, R Madhukaran, CEO P Prabhakar attended the meeting.

On the occasion, the minister said officials that the government has decided to give priority to food processing, agricultural mechanisation and construction of godowns. She also said that Agriculture Automation increases the productivity of agricultural



machinery by increasing efficiency, reliability, and precision, and reducing the need of human intervention. Godowns should be constructed across the district for the storage of agricultural products. She also said that

the NABARD is ready to provide loans for the construction of godowns, the minister instructed the officials to prepare a report regarding this.

## Congress urges EC to call all-party meet on GHMC polls

Party demands the Commission to announce changes with respect to reserved wards at least 15 days prior to the release of notification, so that parties have the scope for raising objections if any

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Congress party on Wednesday urged the Election Commission to organise an all-party meeting for ensuring a smoother election process for the upcoming GHMC polls.

The meeting of TPCC Election Coordination Committee, held under the chairmanship of Marri Shashidhar Reddy at the Gandhi Bhavan, pondered on overcoming the loopholes and technical issues which could prove detrimental to the prospects of the Congress party in the elections.

While referring to the previous elections in 2016, where details of reserved



Marri Shashidhar Reddy

wards were announced just prior to a few hours, the Committee demanded that the Election Commission come up with such changes at least 15 days prior to the notification, so that parties have scope for raising objections, if any.

The Committee also demanded the government to make it clear if the number of wards to be increased and to follow the norms (2011 census) if there was any chance of delimitation. "The reserved wards for SC and ST should be announced in advance as in the earlier elections, irrespective of the demographic changes made in

the existing wards," said Shashidhar Reddy.

The Committee members, who will be meeting State Election Commissioner C Parthasarathi and other officials, wondered over the reports that the authorities were gearing up for conducting elections through ballot and reasoned if it was true, then why the Election Commission has invited suggestions from different political parties? "There is a need for informing the officials about the hindrances which could be affecting the entire election process in view of the pre-vailing covid crisis," the Committee's chairman added.

The Committee also demanded that each polling booth should be restructured in view of the prevailing situation and ensure that not more than 500 voters were enlisted. Shashidhar Reddy emphasised on employing technology so that all discrepancies can be removed and no political party gets an unfair advantage with bogus votes.



# IPL rules: A ban plays havoc with player's career, says Neeraj Kumar

**New Delhi (IANS):** Any player, support staff or match official will be banned for up to three IPL matches and will be fined Rs 5 lakh if that person thrice breaches rules that bar carrying any mobile device, laptop computer, static/landline, or similar telephone capable of making calls in the Players and Match Officials Areas (PMOA) during IPL matches.

This, and other lesser penalties for these types of breaches, will be "immediately binding and non-appealable", say rules enshrined in the BCCI's minimum standards for PMOA during IPL matches.

The PMOA are broadly earmarked in and around the players' dressing



rooms and those occupied by match officials - umpires and match referee - at a stadium that is hosting a match. Accreditation cards, carrying the

bearer's photos, are issued to all players, match officials, and even waiters who serve in the PMOA.

For the first time breach of the relevant clauses relating to carrying of mobile/laptop devices, the fine is Rs 1 lakh while for a second breach by the same person the fine will be Rs 3 lakh. The BCCI's Head of the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) will impose these fines. The present ACU Head is Ajit Singh, a former Rajasthan Director General of Police, who was appointed in March 2018.

"Any decision made by the ACU Head in relation to any of the above, shall be the full, final and complete disposition of the matter, immediately

binding and non-appealable," say the PMOA rules.

Some people point out that since players earn lakhs and crores of rupees while playing in the IPL, so these fines would make little dent on their pockets. But former BCCI ACU head Neeraj Kumar says more than the monetary fine, the stigma of being banned for breach of rules sticks to players for the rest of their careers.

"These fines were always there but there was never any requirement to enforce these earlier because the breach didn't happen. But the stain that even a temporary three-match ban leaves on you plays havoc with your career," Kumar, a former Delhi

Commissioner of Police, told IANS.

Kumar also pointed out that for a non-established cricketer staging a comeback to team after a ban could be more difficult than a seasoned player who is punished for the same offence. He cited the example of three Australian players -- Steve Smith, David Warner, and Cameron Bancroft -- who were banned for being involved in a ball tampering episode during the third Test against South Africa at Newlands, Cape Town, in March 2018.

While Cricket Australia, the governing body, banned Smith and Warner for 12 months each from international and domestic cricket, Bancroft, playing only his eighth Test, was handed a

nine-month ban. Smith and Warner staged successful comebacks to international cricket and are presently captaining Rajasthan Royals and SunRisers Hyderabad respectively. However, Bancroft has so far not been able to become a permanent fixture in the Australian Test XI after the ban, though he played two Tests against England in August last year.

"If you are a Steve Smith, you may come back after the ban is over. But if you are a lesser player, you will probably never be able to return. The third player [Cameron Bancroft] along with Smith and Warner, suffered the most," said Kumar, referring to the ban of three IPL matches.

# Gambhir slams Dhoni's decision to bat at No. 7

**Sharjah (IANS):** Former Indian opener Gautam Gambhir believes MS Dhoni should have batted at the top of the order during Chennai Super Kings' 16-run loss to Rajasthan Royals in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 clash.

Chasing 217 for the highest total chased in IPL history, Dhoni on Tuesday came to the middle in the 14th over when CSK needed 103 off 38 balls. Faf du Plessis at the other end was struggling at that point. Sam Curran, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Kedar Jadhav were sent ahead of Dhoni, who himself came in at number seven.

"I was a bit surprised, to be honest. MS Dhoni batting at number seven? And sending Gaikwad before him, Sam Curran before him. (It) makes no sense to me. In fact, you should be leading from the front. And this is not what you call leading from the front. Batting at number seven when you're chasing what 217? The game was over. Faf was probably the lone warrior," ESPN-

crinfo quoted Gambhir as saying. Dhoni and du Plessis did try to break the shackles towards the end, but it came a little too late as Rajasthan beat Chennai for the first time since 2010 after batting first. Dhoni did hit three sixes in the final over, ending his innings on unbeaten 29 from 17 balls.

**Today's fixture**  
**Kings XI Punjab vs**  
**RCB at 7.30 pm**

## Long gap: 14-day quarantine doesn't help, says Dhoni

**Sharjah(IANS):** Mahendra Singh Dhoni said that he decided to stay at number seven, as Chennai Super Kings fell short by 16 runs while chasing Rajasthan Royal's total of 216 runs, due to the long gap the 39-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman had before the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), and also to give Sam Curran more chance higher up the order. Dhoni hit three consecutive sixes in the last over but it was not enough as CSK fell 16 runs behind in a high scoring fixture at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. "I haven't batted for a long time. Fourteen-day quarantine doesn't help," said Dhoni.

"Yes, you can talk about MS Dhoni's last over when he hit three sixes, but it was of no use to be honest. It was just all personal runs. See, if someone else would have done this, some other captain had batted number seven, he would have got a lot of flak," said Gambhir. "It is MS Dhoni - probably (that's) why people don't talk about it. When you don't have Suresh Raina, you're making people believe that Sam Curran is better than you.

## Record 33 sixes hit in CSK vs RR clash

**Sharjah(IANS):** A total of 33 sixes were hit during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 clash between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals which the Steve Smith-led side won at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

This was the same number of sixes hit during an IPL match between Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2018. On Tuesday, Sanju Samson led the sixes chart with nine maximums, followed by Steve Smith (4), Jofra Archer (4), Shane Watson (4), Faf du Plessis (7), Sam Curran (2) and MS Dhoni (3).

Coming to the match, Samson's blistering 32-ball 74 at No.3, fast bowler Jofra Archer's fireworks with the bat -- he carted four consecutive sixes in the last over -- and leggie Rahul Tewatia's three-wicket burst helped Rajasthan Royals to a comfortable 16-run win over Chennai Super Kings.



## 'Have worked hard on fitness, power hitting'

**Sharjah (IANS):** Sanju Samson said that he has worked hard on his power-hitting in recent months. Samson played a starring role in Rajasthan Royals' 16-run win over Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday, smashing 74 off 32 balls as RR scored a mammoth 216/7. "My game plan is stand and deliver. If it's in the arc I go for it, and it's very important to keep the intent to hit the ball if it's there to be hit," said 25-year-old Samson.

"I've been working hard on my fitness, diet and training, and on my strength, because my game relies a lot on power hitting. I think range-hitting is what the game demands in this generation. I had time to work out in these 5 months, and I think I've increased that ability."

Additionally, Samson took two catches and stumped two batsmen in CSK's chase. RR already have another wicketkeeping options in Robin Uthappa and Jos Buttler, the latter of whom is yet to join the team.

# Sponsors, growing brand valuation boost Delhi Capitals' revenue

**New Delhi (IANS):** Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Capitals have announced that the team has already matched its 2019 revenues, owing to numerous new and existing sponsorship deals.

Delhi Capitals began their IPL 2020 campaign in emphatic style, clinching a thrilling win over Kings XI Punjab in their opening encounter on Sunday.

According to brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance, the JSW and GMR co-owned franchise witnessed the highest growth in brand valuation in 2019, DC said in a media release.

"Despite initial commercial uncertainties surrounding this edition of the IPL, early signs indicate an even more successful 2020 as the team's jersey

branding assets have acquired equal or higher value than in 2019."

The Delhi-based franchise currently has 16 partners, including title sponsor JSW Group. In the lead-up to the tournament, Delhi Capitals announced deals with multiple brands across different categories including Ebix Cash, APL Apollo, Acko General Insurance, Colgate, Livinguard, Nissin and OK Credit.

The franchise has also signed licensing associations with industry leading brands like Kotak for credit and debit cards, Boat for music accessories and Fancode for merchandise and deeper fan engagement.

Given the unique circumstances and challenges posed by the Covid-19 pan-



demic, the franchise launched a 'Vocal for Local Campaign' campaign in association with Ok Credit, the team's Official digital credit ledger.

In another first, the team also announced Livinguard as its hygiene partner and associated with Indian innerwear brand Bodycare.

# Andreescu pulls out of French Open

**New Delh (IANS):** World number seven Bianca Andreescu has pulled out of the upcoming French Open Grand Slam and will take the rest of the season off to focus on her health and training.

"I have come to the difficult decision to skip the clay court swing this year and will be taking the remainder of the season off to focus on my health and training," the Canadian said in a statement on Tuesday. Andreescu, who did not defend her 2019 US Open title in New York this year, has not played on tour since the WTA Finals in Shenzhen last year. She also did not participate in the Australian Open held in January this year.

The 20-year-old further said she is looking forward to the next year's Tokyo Olympics and wants to utilise the time in improving her game.

"As hard as it was to come to this conclusion, I have so much to look forward



to in 2021, including the Olympics. I want to use this time to focus on my game so I can come back stronger and better than ever," Andreescu has now

joined Ashleigh Barty and Naomi Osaka in the list of players who have pulled out of the clay court grand slam beginning Sunday.

## West Ham manager, 2 players test positive

**London (IANS):** Premier League club West Ham United have confirmed that head coach David Moyes and two players - Issa Diop and Josh Cullen have tested positive for Covid-19.

"West Ham United can confirm that David Moyes, Issa Diop and Josh Cullen have returned positive tests for Covid-19," the club said in a statement on Tuesday.

The club's medical team was informed of the test results as the team was at the London Stadium preparing for Carabao Cup third round tie against Hull City which they won 5-1 as Robert Snodgrass scored the opening goal while Sebastian Haller and Andriy Yarmolenko each score twice and contributed to the win. In Moyes absence, assistant manager Alan Irvine took charge of the team.

"All three, who are asymptomatic, will now follow public health England and Premier League guidelines and protocols," the statement added.



# Focussing on expressing myself, having a lot of fun this IPL: Stoinis

**Dubai (IANS):** Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis, who played an instrumental role in Delhi Capitals' incredible win over Kings XI Punjab in their opening IPL 2020 encounter, has said that all he wants is to express himself and have a lot of fun throughout this year's tournament.

On Sunday, Stoinis' quick-fire 53 off 21 balls with the bat and 2-29 with the ball took the match into an exciting Super Over, where the Delhi Capitals secured the win against Kings XI Punjab. Having proved to be the game changer in both the innings, Stoinis has said his maturity played a role on the day. "I've come in with some confidence through good performances this year, but also maybe putting less responsibility on myself than some other years. Sometimes when you're young and you're in a rush, you want to do well and you're trying so hard."

"So I think this year I sort of just wanted to express myself and its only one game, so we'll see, you can turn from a hero to a villain quickly, but yes,



my focus is on just having a lot of fun and trust that I'll be good," he added.

The 31-year-old all-rounder also said that "going back to basics" has helped him. "I think everyone who plays cricket at this level, the main reason you play it is because you love it. You start playing when you're a kid, and there's so much travel, staying away from home and there's obviously the pressures. But the main reason you do it is because you love what you do. That's the main ingredient," he added.

With 17 wickets and 526 runs under his belt in 30 IPL matches, things haven't always gone according to plan

for the Australian, but Stoinis said it is always a rewarding feeling to contribute to wins.

"There are a lot of games, as a professional sportsman, that you go out and you don't perform as well as you want to. Cricket is that type of game - you sort of get used to underperforming a lot of the time. So when you do perform and you do well for the team, it's a very rewarding feeling," he said.

The limited-overs specialist also said that his team has a "really good vibe". "With Ricky (Ponting) as a coach and as a leader, he sets that standard. We have a good core of young players, with lots of energy and some good experience. We've got some good overseas players too. So I think our balance on the whole, makes it an exciting group and we've got a good energy around the team," Stoinis said. Stoinis will look to maintain his form when Delhi Capitals take on Chennai Super Kings at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Friday.

## Playing against senior players helped me mature faster: Thapa

V India midfielder Anirudh Thapa feels playing friendly matches against senior players helped him mature faster as a player. The 22-year-old feels that that it was because of the number of matches that he got to play against quality opponents while he was at the Academy, that he has now become a regular feature in the heart of the Blue Tigers midfield.

"I feel blessed to have trained under someone like Gautam (Ghosh) sir during my AIFF Academy days," said Thapa during a live chat on AIFF TV.

The midfielder further talked about how matches were arranged every week at the Kalyani Stadium, where the AIFF Academy boys trained. While these were essentially friendly matches, the boys used to play against senior teams, most of whom were regulars in senior leagues, he said.

"Gautam sir used to set up matches for us. They were good teams, all seniors, and were play-



ing in the Kolkata Premier League," recalled Thapa. "Whether we won or lost these matches was not important. What mattered was that it helped us grow. Those really were the best days.

"Gautam sir used to treat us like we were his own children. And that's not an easy task since he had his own family and his own children to look after. It's not easy to manage 25-30 more boys on top of that," said Thapa.

"I had never seen him as a player, but we could tell that he was really good, just by looking at the moves he used to make on the training pitch," he said.