

## WINDOWS



A student from a slum area teaches other students during an open-air class, on Teachers' Day, at Yamuna Khadar in New Delhi on Saturday

## Rlys to hold exams for 1.4 lakh posts from Dec 15

**New Delhi:** The Indian Railways will start conducting the first stage of computer-based exams from December 15, said the national transporter's board chairman VK Yadav on Saturday. Yadav, while addressing a virtual briefing, informed the exams will be held to fill around 1.40 lakh posts in three categories of vacancies. The vacancies are of three types - non-technical popular categories (guards, clerks etc), isolated and ministerial and level 1 (track maintainers, pointsman etc). Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal also announced the exam dates on Twitter.

## Govt to probe if 5 Arunachal men abducted by PLA

**Itanagar:** The Arunachal Pradesh police has launched a probe following reports that five people, who had gone hunting in a forest in Upper Subansiri district on the Sino-India border, were allegedly kidnapped by the Chinese military, a senior official said on Saturday. The alleged incident occurred on Friday night in Nacho area of the district, their families said. Two others, who were in the group, managed to escape and informed police. "I have sent the officer-in-charge of the Nacho police station to the area to verify the facts and directed him to report immediately. However, the report will be available only by Sunday morning," Superintendent of Police Taru Gussar said. Those allegedly kidnapped have been identified as Toch Singkam, Prasat Ringling, Dongtu Ebiya, Tanu Baker and Ngaru Diri. All of them belong to the Tagin community.



## WEB SERIES CROSSES 100 MN VIEWS ON MX PLAYER

## Raktanchal: Crime drama full of thrill and action

PURNA SINGH

**New Delhi:** Inspired by real-life events of the eighties, 'Raktanchal' is all about crime drama with full of thrill and action. Released on MX Player - the series is produced by Shashank Raai, Pradeep Gupta and Mahima Gupta under the banner of Pinaka Studios Pvt Ltd and Mahima Productions Ltd. The trendy web series 'Raktanchal' has crossed 100 million views on MX Player.

In an exclusive interview



to The Hans India, Raktanchal actor Nikitin Dheer says that the cinematic experience is priceless; web shows can't replace it. The web series was inspired by real-life events of

the eighties. 'Raktanchal' is all about crime drama full of thrill and action. Nikitin Dheer is well known for his roles in Chennai Express. The Thangabali actor aka Nikitin Dheer, plays a nega-

tive character of Waseem Khan in 'Raktanchal'. According to him, 'Raktanchal' is an earthy retro feel web series about Poorvanchal, in the eighties and efforts have been made to try to stay as true as possible to the genre. It was an absolute delight to be a part of the story, something I haven't attempted earlier, so was fresh too, he said. He said shooting of Raktanchal was done but the dubbing was left when lockdown was imposed.

Continued on Page 4

## IS DELHI WITNESSING A SECOND WAVE OF COVID?

# Spike in corona cases due to increased testing: Kejri

**New Delhi:** Amid the alarming rise in coronavirus cases across the national capital, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the situation in the city-state is 'under control', adding that the cases are rising because the testing has been doubled.

Urging people not to panic, Kejriwal at an online media address said that his government has taken several steps to control the spread of the virus. He, however, said that there is 'no room for complacency', noting Delhiites must follow preventive measures



against Covid-19. "As per data between August 15 and today, fatality rate among COVID-19 patients is 1 per cent in Delhi against 1.7 per

cent of national fatality rate. Our recovery rate is 87 per cent against 77 per cent on national level. COVID-cases are rising in Delhi be-

cause we've increasing testing," Kejriwal said. Noting that there is no shortage of beds in Delhi, Kejriwal said that only 5,000 beds out of 14,000 are occupied in the national capital. "Out of 5,000 beds, 1,600-1,700 beds are occupied by those who belong to other states," Kejriwal said.

Delhi has been witnessing a rise in coronavirus cases over the last few days. According to state health department, the national capital on Friday reported its biggest single-day spike of 2,914 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking Delhi's tally to over 1.85 lakh.



## Venkaiah Naidu owes his success to teachers

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi:** Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu said that he owed his attainment and accomplishments in life to his teachers and mentors, who coached and trained him during his school and college days. Interacting virtually on Teachers' Day with teachers and students of Akshara Vidyalaya, a school run by Swarna Bharat Trust at Nellore and trainers of skilling courses conducted by SBT in association with various institutions at Nellore, Vijayawada and Hyderabad.

Continued on Page 4



# Rlys to start 80 more spl trains from Sept 12

## Reservations from Sept 10

**New Delhi:** Railway Board chairman VK Yadav on Saturday said 80 new special trains will start from September 12 and reservations for the same will begin from September 10 adding

that trains will be notified later in the day.

"Eighty new special trains or 40 pair of trains will start operations from September 12. Reservations will begin from September 10. This will run in addition to the 230 trains already in operation," Yadav said.

The chairman of the railway board pointed out that all trains that are currently in operation will be monitored in order to determine which trains have a long waiting list.

"Wherever there is a demand for a particular train, wherever the waiting list is

long, we will run a clone train ahead of the actual train, so that passengers can travel," the railway board chairman said. Yadav also said the Railways will run trains whenever there



is demand from states for exams or other similar purposes.

Earlier, the Indian Railways said it will run special trains across states for students appearing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). The National Testing Agency (NTA) is conducting the NEET on September 13 and JEE from September 1 to September 6.

# 'Don't attempt to change status quo at LAC'

**Moscow/New Delhi:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has clearly conveyed to his Chinese counterpart Gen Wei Fenghe that China must strictly respect the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and not make attempts to unilaterally change its status quo, asserting India is determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, officials said on Saturday.

In the first highest level face-to-face contact between the two sides after border tension erupted in eastern Ladakh in early May, Singh and Wei met for two hours and 20 minutes in Moscow on Friday evening on the sidelines of a meeting of the defence ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Officials said Singh conveyed to his Chinese counterpart that the

## Rajnath asserts India will protect its territorial integrity



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a meeting with Defence Minister of Kazakhstan, Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev, in Moscow, on Saturday

current situation should be handled responsibly, and that neither side should take any further action that

could either complicate the situation or escalate matters in the border areas. Continued on Page 4

## Rajnath to halt in Tehran, meet Iranian counterpart

**New Delhi/Moscow:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will make a stopover in Tehran and meet his Iranian counterpart, on his way back to India from Russia. Rajnath Singh had gone to Moscow to participate in a joint meeting of Defence Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. Just before leaving Moscow, he said: "Leaving Moscow for Tehran, I shall be meeting the Defence Minister of Iran, Brigadier General Amir Hatami."

# Andhra tops EoDB ranking

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Andhra Pradesh has been ranked as the top State in implementing the State Business Reforms Action Plan (State BRAP), which indicates ease of doing business for

Atmanirbhar Bharat in the State. The ranks were announced by the Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry through a video conference chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the presence of Union Minister of Commerce, Piyush Goyal and state industries

ministers.

According to AP Industries Minister Mekapati Gautam Reddy, these rankings represent the ease of doing business in the state with increased transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the government regulatory functions vis-a-vis the business enterprises. He said these rankings which were done through a survey of the investor community during January and February 2020 truly stand testimony to the investor-friendly commitment of the State and a transparent governance already in place. Continued on Page 4



## ICMR'S ADVISORY INDIA ALLOWS TESTING ON DEMAND FOR COVID-19

**New Delhi:** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has allowed testing on-demand for Covid-19 even as it has allowed states to adapt to the recommendation as per their requirements. "ICMR's advisory is generic in nature and may be modified as per the discretion of state health authorities," said the national research agency in its advisory. The advisory came after the Delhi high court asked the state government to re-strategise its policy to include asymptomatic patients for testing. ICMR told the court it is just an advisory body and states were free to make changes as per their needs. Rapid antigen testing (RAT) is the preferred strategy for screening in Covid-19 containment zones. Continued on Page 4

## KAPIL KAVURI

Nanakramguda, Hyderabad

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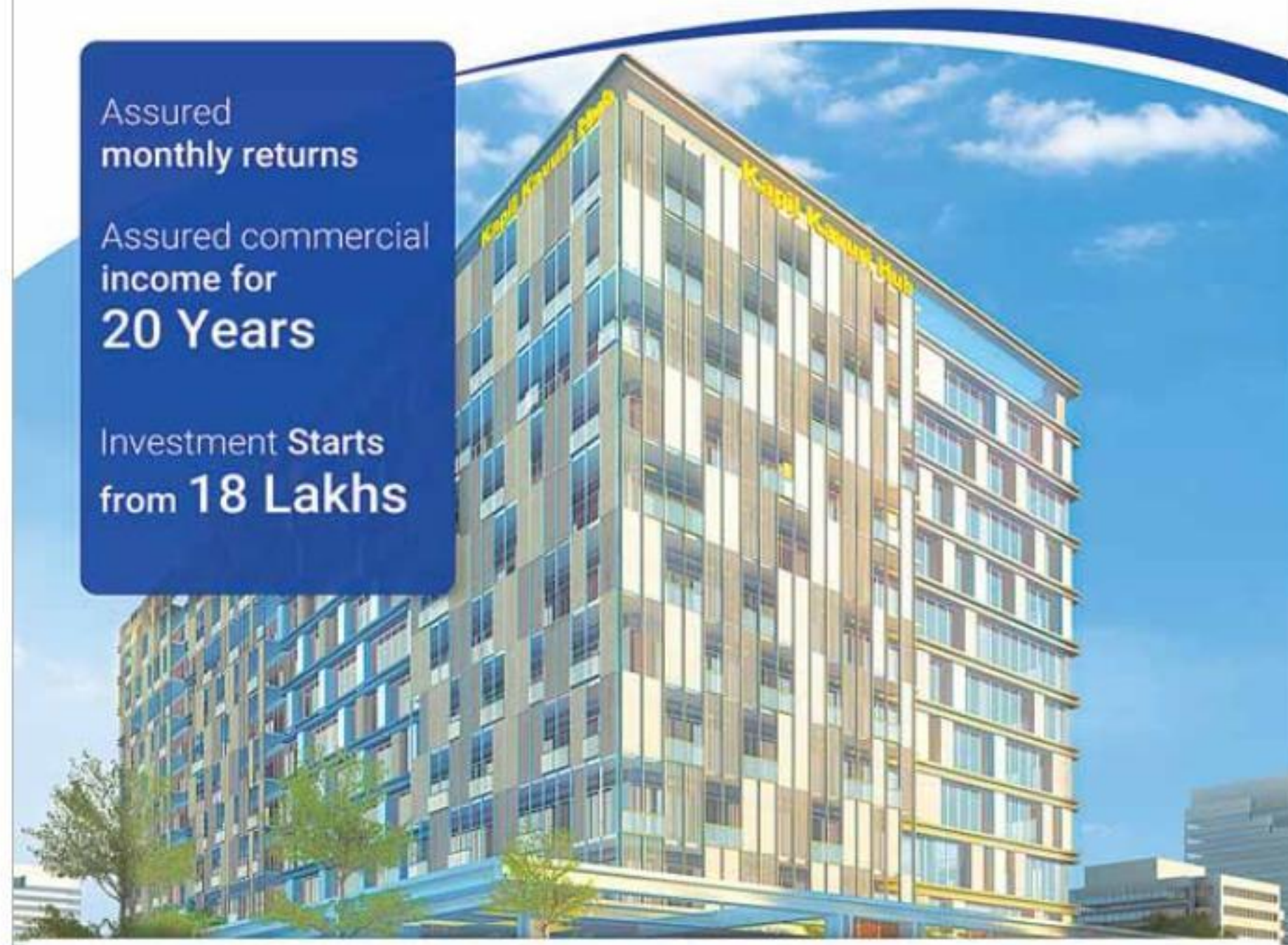
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# Will develop Khammam on par with best cities, says SUDA chairman

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Khammam/Warangal:** We are leaving no stone unturned to develop Khammam on par with the best cities, Stambhadri Urban Development Authority (SUDA) Chairman B Vijay Kumar said.

He along with the chairmen of Karimnagar, Siddipet and Nizamabad urban development authorities on Saturday visited several development works being taken up by the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA) as part of field study.

After the field visit, the KUDA Chairman Marri Yadava Reddy and Project Officer E Ajith Reddy explained the way they have been carrying the development works through PowerPoint presentation.

Referring to their field study,



Chairmen of urban development authorities with their KUDA counterparts in Warangal on Saturday

the SUDA Chairman Vijay said, "It was quite useful and it likely will help us in planning and execution. The field study and the experience of the KUDA officials enlightened us especially the way to procure funds and their utilisation."

Kumar informed that they have been working hard to come up with an action plan for the development of SUDA under the guidance of the MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao and Transport Minister Puuvada Ajay Kumar.

Siddipet Urban Development Authority Chairman M Ravinder Reddy, Satavahana Urban Development Authority (Karimnagar) Chairman GV Ramakrishna Rao and Nizamabad Urban Development Authority Chairman Chamakura Prabhakar Reddy were also present.

# MP donates ₹1.23 crore for six ambulances

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Khammam:** TRS floor leader in Lok Sabha and Khammam MP Nama Nageswara Rao donated Rs 1.23 crores for purchase of 6 ambulances for Covid-19 services. On Saturday he handed over the cheque to urban development minister K Taraka Rama Rao in Hyderabad.

While addressing the media he said that in order to provide better service and facilities to Covid-19 patients decided to donate an amount for purchasing 6 ambulances. The ambulances will be used in both Khammam and Bhadrachalam-Kothagudem districts, he informed.

The MP also pointed that Covid-19 virus is spreading rampant in the State and people should stay home and support the government in preventing the



Khammam MP Nama Nageswara Rao handing over Rs 1.23 crore cheque to the Minister for Urban Development KT Rama Rao on Saturday at Hyderabad

virus. Very soon these ambulances would be made available in Khammam, Wyra, Madhira, Sathupalli, Aswaraopet and Kothagudem for Covid-19 patients services, he

added. Further, he said that KTR appreciated him for donating money. Mahaboobabad and Peddapalli MPs Kavitha and B Venkatesh were present.

# ZP chairman dismisses Mission Bhagiratha completion rumors

**Narketpally (Nalgonda):** ZP Chairman Banda Narender Reddy said that Telangana State government flagship programme Mission Bhagiratha designed to provide safe drinking water to households was not yet finished as being shown in the papers and directed the officials to complete all the pending works soon.

On Saturday, along with Nakrekal MLA Chirumarthi Lingaiah, he participated in mandal parishad general body

meeting in Narketpally.

Speaking at the meeting he ordered officials to finish the works of Palle Pragathi Vanam in all the villages of the mandal.

He also advised MPP, MPDOs to take the help of local body representatives in identifying the places for Prakruthi Vanams in the villages it is pending.

He informed that on non-availability of government lands at Narketpally, Choudampally and Akkenepally villages in the mandal, permission was taken

from district collector to establish Palle Prakruthi Vanam in places of collapsed buildings of R&B and IB departments in the respective villages.

He also ordered officials to finish works of crematorium in all the villages without any delay. The meeting was chaired by MPP S Narender Reddy, MPDO Sambashiva Rao, MRO Radha, grid EE Vamsi Krishna, vice MPP Yadagiri, public representatives, officials and others also took part in the meeting.

# Collector holds video conference, directs officials to speed up Rythu Vedika works

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Mahabubnagar:** Mahabubnagar district collector S Venkat Rao directed the mandal-level officials of Engineering, Revenue, Agriculture and Mandal Parishad Development to speed up the construction of Rythu Vedikas in all the villages and instructed the concerned authorities to make sure there is no compromise on the quality.

While speaking to officials through Webx Media Conference, the district collector also directed the officials to give highest priority to the construction of Rythu Vedikas and by the end of September Rythu Vedikas must take a concrete shape so that they can be handed over to the farmers. "The



State government has already allocated adequate funds and had also provided sand in advance to the construction agencies so that there is no delay in the construction works. The special officers must take out at least one to two hours time every day to visit the villages and take stock of the status of the

construction of Rythu Vedikas," he said.

Collector also instructed the engineering officials to make sure that the construction is being done as per the stipulated rules and regulations and measurements as denoted by the government. He further warned that in case any fault

is found, or any rules and regulations are not followed, strict action will be taken against the concerned executive engineer of the concerned mandal.

The Mandal revenue officials MPDOs, agriculture officials have been directed to visit the villages on a regular basis to inspect the construction status of Rythu Vedikas in 2-3 villages at a time and based on their inspection they can provide proper suggestions and guidelines and the problems and issues must be identified and resolved.

Panchayati Raj Commissioner Bhageerath, R&B and Engineering officials, Tahasildars, MPDOs and Agriculture officials of all mandals took part in the video conference.

# Man hits cousins with axe over property dispute

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Khammam:** Clash between two families over property distribution injured two persons in Chidummarri village in Mudigonda mandal on Saturday.

According to information, three cousins namely G Kotaiah, Upender and Srinu had disputes over property distribution. On

Saturday, in a fit of rage, there was a clash at the fields over the same where Kotaiah attacked Upender and Srinu with axes.

In the incident, the victims Upender and Srinu suffered injuries and were shifted to private hospital in Khammam. Their condition is said to be stable. Police registered a case and the investigation is on.

# 15-month-girl drowns in water container

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Kothagudem:** A fifteen-month-old girl drowned in a water container at Danavaipet village in Cherla mandal in the district on Saturday.

According to sources, the deceased child called as Rishika fell in the container while playing outside her house. Her parents, Mallam Srinivas and Sammakka who are both labourers had gone to work when the incident took place.

After returning from work in the evening they looked around for their child and found her in the water container. They rushed the kid to a local hospital where she was declared dead.

Cherla police booked a case in connection with the incident.

# Offenders loot gold, silver jewellery, ₹15,000 in cash

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Mothkur (Yadadri-Bhongir):** Unidentified offenders broke into a house near YJ Gardens in Mothkur municipal limits and fled with 5 tolas of gold, 70 tolas of silver ornaments and Rs 15,000 net cash.

The incident took place on Friday night when owner of the house Nalla Mallaiiah had gone to his kin's house located at Kakkireni village of Ramannapet mandal in the district to attend a function.

He was shocked seeing the doors open when he returned to his home on early hours of Saturday. He then informed the incident to the police who then on his complaint visited the victim's house, filed a case and took up investigation.

# Former AP CM escapes unhurt in accident

**Chotuppal (Yadadri-Bhongir):** One of the vehicles of AP's former CM Chandrababu Naidu's convoy was damaged in an accident that took place near Dandu Malkapur of Chotuppal mandal in the district on Saturday. The accident took place while the driver of the escort vehicle of Babu tried to save the

cow that crossing the road. Bullet proof vehicle of the convoy hit the escort vehicle due to sudden breaks applied by the latter. Chandrababu Naidu who was heading towards Hyderabad from Amaravati escaped unhurt. Escort staff who suffered minor injuries went to Hyderabad in another vehicle.



# Forest wing on toes for Tigress hunt

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Bhupalpally:** The Forest Department which has been tracking the movement of a tigress that created disturbance among tribal pockets surrounding Nimmagudem thickets is yet to trace out its whereabouts.

Amid speculation that the big cat had entered Peddapally district crossing Manair river, a farmer had seen the tigress near Vencharami village under Chityal mandal in Jayashankar-Bhupalpally district on Saturday morning.

Following which, CFO of Warangal Circle MJ Akbar and DFO Purushotham rushed to Vencharami near Tadicherla under Malharrao mandal and inspected the pugmarks.

Jayashankar-Bhupalpally Dis-



CFO of Warangal Circle MJ Akbar and DFO Purushotham discussing about the whereabouts of tigress near Vencharami village under Malharrao mandal Jayashankar-Bhupalpally district on Saturday

trict Forest Officer K Purushotham said, "Since the news of tigress' movement broke, the forest wing is on high alert. We

took all precautions to ensure the privacy of the big cat. On Saturday, we found pugmarks of the tigress near Vencharami village. The lo-

cation is somewhat ideal to stay on for the tigress. So far, we didn't have any information of the big cat crossing the Manair river to enter Peddapally district."

It may be recalled here that the tigress was first spotted at Nimmagudem forest in Peddapally range under Mahadevpur division in the district on August 30. It had also killed a cow. The forest officials who confirmed the pugmarks alerted the neighbourhood. Since then the forest wing has been trying to track the movement of the tigress.

# TLF knocks govt doors for financial aid

State coordinator of the Telangana Lecturers Forum, Pokala Nagaiah demands private college management to take the lecturers back and urges government to help financially

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Karimnagar:** The State coordinator of the 'Telangana Lecturers Forum' (TLF), Pokala Nagaiah urged the government to provide financial aid to the lecturers working in private colleges.

The lecturers of various private colleges along with the representatives of the 'Telangana Lecturers Forum' (TLF) held a dharna on the occasion of September 5, the Teachers Day, demanding the government to solve their issues, here, in front of the main gate of Collectorate in Karimnagar district on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, the State coordinator of the TLF, Pokala Nagaiah said that many lecturers working in private colleges are living under miserable conditions as they are removed from their posts by the management of the private colleges due to the coronavirus pandemic.

He urged the government to help private college lecturers financially as they have been facing a lot of problems from the past five months.



Private college lecturers staging dharna on Teachers Day in front of the Collectorate demanding a solution their issues

P Nagaiah further demanded the management of the private colleges to take the lecturers back and allot their jobs immediately. The TLF Karimnagar district president A Sampath, working president M Sadananda Chary, Jagtial district president Md Ga-

fur, State leaders P Satyanarayana, D Ravinder Reddy, B Raju, K Babu, Nagesh, Sridhar, Shankar, Suresh, Satish, Veeresham, Madhukar, Srinivas, Narasingha, Ganesh, Kanakaraju, Sampath and V Suresh were also present along with others.



# How to decide who should get the Coronavirus vaccine first

**New York (IANS):** At least 19 global health experts have proposed a new, three-phase plan for vaccine distribution -- called the Fair Priority Model -- which aims to reduce premature deaths and other irreversible health consequences from Covid-19.

"The idea of distributing vaccines by population appears to be an equitable strategy," said study lead author Ezekiel J. Emanuel from the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

"But the fact is that normally, we distribute things based on how severe there is suffering in a given place, and, in this case, we argue that the primary measure of suffering ought to be the number of premature deaths that a vaccine would prevent,"

Emanuel added.

In their proposal, the authors point to three fundamental values that must be considered when distributing a Covid-19 vaccine among countries: Benefiting people and limiting harm, prioritizing the disadvantaged, and giving equal moral concern for all individuals.

The Fair Priority Model addresses these values by focusing on mitigating three types of harms caused by Covid-19: Death and permanent organ damage, indirect health consequences, such as health care system strain and stress, as well as economic destruction.

Of all of these dimensions, preventing death -- especially premature death -- is particularly urgent, the authors argued,



which is the focus of Phase 1 of the Fair Priority Model. Premature deaths from

Covid-19 are determined in each country by calculating "standard expected years of life lost,"

a commonly-used global health metric.

In Phase 2, the authors pro-

posed two metrics that capture overall economic improvement and the extent to which people would be spared from poverty.

And in Phase 3, countries with higher transmission rates are initially prioritised, but all countries should eventually receive sufficient vaccines to halt transmission -- which is projected to require that 60 to 70 per cent of the population be immune. The authors also object to a plan that would prioritise countries according to the number of frontline health care workers, the proportion of the population over 65, and the number of people with comorbidities within each country.

They said that preferentially immunising health care workers -- who already have access to

personal protective equipment (PPE) and other advanced infectious disease prevention methods -- likely would not substantially reduce harm in higher-income countries.

Similarly, focusing on vaccinating countries with older populations would not necessarily reduce the spread of the virus or minimise death.

Moreover, low and middle-income countries have fewer older residents and health care workers per capita than higher-income countries, the researchers said. The authors conclude that this model is the best embodiment of the ethical values of limiting harms, benefiting the disadvantaged, and recognising equal concern for all people.

## Rhea's bro, Miranda admit getting drugs for Sushant

**Mumbai:** Showik Chakraborty and Samuel Miranda, held in connection with the drugs probe linked to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death have revealed to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) that they used to procure drugs for the late actor.

After several hours of questioning, Showik and Miranda were arrested under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The 'drug link' is the latest angle that surrounds the death of the 34-year-old actor. The high-profile case is being probed by three federal agencies -- the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the NCB.

After the arrest of Showik and Miranda, media reports said the Narcotics Control Bureau did not recover any drugs from the residences of the duo.

But sources told Outlook that Showik has confessed to the central probe agency that he used to buy drugs for Sushant Singh through Miranda. He also said it was Rhea who used to pay for the drugs.

Sources also revealed that Miranda told the NCB that he used to procure a drug called Bud for



### BJP Minister seeks protection for Kangana

**Mumbai:** The political row over Kangana Ranaut's tweet likening Mumbai to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir -- for which she has been threatened by Shiv Sena leaders -- heated up further when Anil Vij, Home Minister in BJP-led Haryana government, sought police protection for the actor. "Kangana Ranaut should be given police protection. She should be allowed to make revelations freely (in the Sushant Singh Rajput case)," Haryana Minister Anil Vij said seemingly endorsing the "freedom of speech" stance taken by Amruta Fadnavis, wife of former Maharashtra Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis. Vij's request to "protect" the actor comes a day after Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik said Ranaut should be booked for sedition and that his colleague Sanjay Raut's suggestion -- of Shiv Sena women members slapping the actor if she flew into Mumbai on September 9 -- were mild.

Sushant Singh on the instructions of Showik. Bud is a curated form of marijuana and is believed to be

the most sought after drug in parties, as expensive as cocaine, costing around Rs 5000 per gram.

## Kovind, PM pay tribute to S Radhakrishnan

**New Delhi (IANS):** President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday paid homage to former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his 132nd birth anniversary on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

"President Kovind paid floral tributes to Dr S. Radhakrishnan, former President of India, on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan," a tweet from the official Twitter handle of Rashtrapati Bhavan read.

In a series of tweets, PM Modi said: "We remain grateful to the hardworking teachers for their contributions towards shaping minds and building our nation. On Teachers' Day, we express gratitude to our teachers for their remarkable efforts. We pay tributes to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan on his Jayanti."

"Who better than our knowledgeable teachers to deepen our connect with our nation's glorious history. During the recent Mann Ki Baat, I had shared an idea of teachers teaching students about lesser known aspects of our great freedom struggle," Modi said attaching a video from his monthly radio broadcast programme.

## INDIA-CHINA BORDER ROW

## Cong urges PM to take nation into confidence

**New Delhi:** The Congress on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to take the nation into confidence on talks with China on the border row in Ladakh, saying people want to know about the outcomes of the repeated conversations with the Chinese side.

The Opposition party's demand comes a day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart Gen. Wei Fenghe held an over two-hour-long meeting in Moscow with a focus on easing escalating border tension in eastern Ladakh.

Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said it was "Rajdharm" of the prime minister and the defence minister to take the nation into confidence on the important issue.

Listing the various levels of talks held with the Chinese from the foreign ministers level and corps commanders level to the defence ministers' discussions, Surjewala asked what is the outcome of these talks.

"What is the conversation about, what is happening. Will



Prime Minister Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh take the country into confidence?" he asked.

Surjewala also referred to Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's remarks that it was an "unprecedented" situation at the India-China border and "we've never had this sort of a situation since 1962", to underline the seriousness of the issue.

"The important part is what is the outcome of the repeated conversations with the Chinese counterparts by our government.... How will we ensure that Chinese transgressions are defeated," Surjewala said in a video posted on his Twitter account.

He said people want answers to questions such as how the Chinese will be repulsed to "reclaim our motherland".



## Nanobody may prevent Covid-19

**London (IANS):** To fight against the Covid-19, the scientists have identified a small neutralising antibody, a so-called nanobody, that has the capacity to block SARS-CoV-2 from entering human cells.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, suggests that this nanobody has the potential to be developed as an antiviral treatment against Covid-19.

"We hope our findings can contribute to the amelioration of the Covid-19 pandemic by encouraging further examination of this nanobody as a therapeutic candidate against this viral infection," said study co-author Gerald McInerney from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

The search for effective nanobodies--which are fragments of antibodies that occur naturally in camels and can be adapted for humans--began in February when an alpaca (animal) was injected with the new coronavirus' spike protein, which is used to enter our cells.

## NDMC cell director tests positive

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Director of New Delhi Municipal Council's (NDMC) Covid-19 cell and three other employees have tested positive for the coronavirus, a senior official said on Saturday. "The Covid-19 cases are again coming to the NDMC headquarter. Four employees have tested positive," a senior official told IANS on the condition of anonymity. Besides the Director of Covid-19 cell, three others include an education officer, a regular muster roll worker in the secretary's establishment branch and a helper of the vigilance department have also tested positive.

## India's Corona cases cross 40-lakh

**New Delhi:** India's COVID-19 infection tally sprinted past 40 lakh, just 13 days after it crossed 30 lakh, with a record 86,432 cases being reported in a day, while recoveries have surged to 31,07,223 on Saturday pushing the recovery rate to 77.23 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 40,23,179, while the death toll climbed to 69,561 with 1,089 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours, data updated at 8 am showed.

India's COVID-19 cases jumped from 10 lakh to 20 lakh in 21 days. It took 16 more days to race past 30 lakh and 13 days more to cross the 40-lakh mark. It took 110 days for the



COVID-19 cases in the country to reach one lakh while it had taken 59 days more to go past the 10-lakh post. The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the novel coronavirus infection has further declined to 1.73 per cent.

There are 8,46,395 active cases of coronavirus infection, which is 21.04 per cent of the total case-load, the data stated. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7 and went past 30 lakh on August 23.

## Disclosure of sexual abuse was for public good: Ramani tells court

**New Delhi:** Journalist Priya Ramani told a Delhi court on Saturday that her remarks alleging sexual harassment by former Union Minister M J Akbar were "her truth" which she disclosed in "good faith" for the "public good" and, therefore, do not amount to defamation. Ramani submitted this before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja through her lawyer during the final hearing of a private criminal defamation complaint filed by Akbar against her.

During the #MeToo movement, Ramani in 2018 accused Akbar of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago when he was a journalist.

## Don't ignore exhaustion, chest pain, say experts

**New Delhi (IANS):** Lung injury and acute respiratory distress syndrome had taken centre-stage as the most

dreaded complications of COVID-19. However, with time, more issues have begun to be discovered. Heart damage has now emerged as another grim outcome in the virus's repertoire of possible complications.

Cardiology experts say people should not ignore chest pain or exhaustion even if there is no fever. The suggestion was put forth during a discussion on 'Heart Wellness during Covid-19' hosted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) in their Illness to Wellness series on Friday.



Experts are of the opinion that people should be on the lookout for symptoms other than fever for early detection of COVID-19.

Dr. Mohsin Wali, cardiologist and former physician to president of India, said that the most harmful feature of this virus is its uncertainty. Dr Ashok Seth,

## DECLASSIFIED TAPES RELEASED

## Richard Nixon had called Indian women most unattractive in the world

**New Delhi:** A set of newly declassified tapes from the White House reveal the stark hostility former US President Richard Nixon had towards India and Indians. Nixon referred to Indians as the "most sexless" and "pathetic", and called Indian women the "most unattractive women in the world" during a meeting with senior officials at the Oval Office on June 17, 1971, reports say.

The tapes were recently declassified and released in batches up to May this year after Gary J Bass of Princeton University filed a legal request for their declassification. The tapes were reported by Bass in an opinion piece in The New York Times. Nixon's antipathy towards Indians was also fanned by Henry Kissinger, the National Security Adviser during that time, who also determined US policy towards New Delhi in the



early 1970s. Richard Nixon, a Republican, was the 37th President of the United States, serving from 1969 until 1974.

Kissinger referred to Indians as "superb flatterers" whose "great skill" was to "suck up to people in key positions". The conversation, which was part of a meeting held between 5:15 pm and 6:10 pm on June 17, 1971 was recorded by Oval

Office taping system, and it appears as Conversation 525-001 of the White House Tapes.

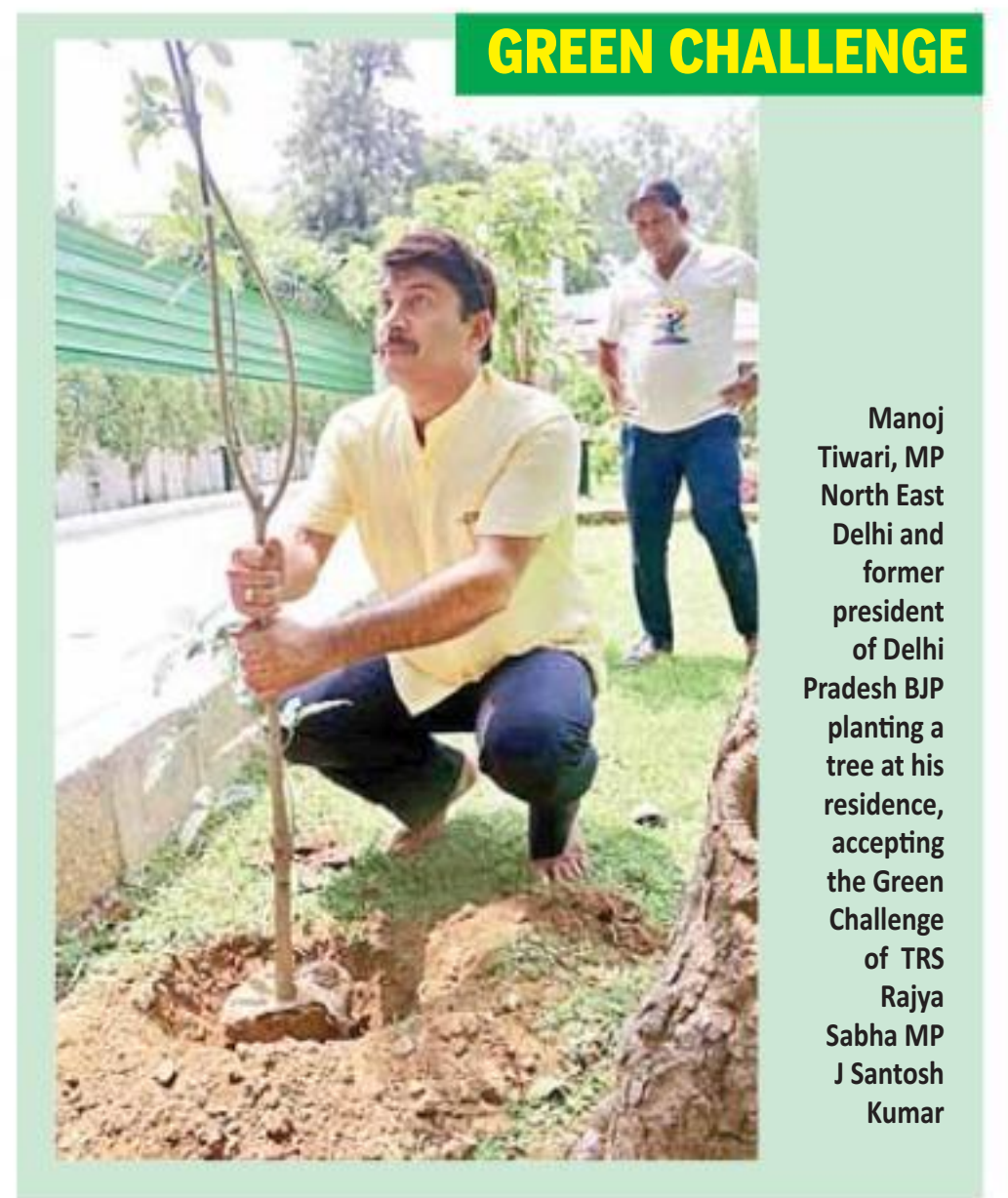
Bass says that the declassified White House tapes reveal a 'stunning' conversation between Nixon, Kissinger and the then White House chief of staff HR Haldeman in the Oval Office in June 1971 in which Nixon asserts in a 'venomous tone' that Indian women

are 'undoubtedly the most unattractive women in the world.' Nixon also calls Indians 'most sexless', 'nothing' and 'pathetic', according to the tapes. "On Nov. 4, 1971, during a private break from a contentious White House summit with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India -- a rare woman leader at the time -- the president harangued Kissinger about his sexual disgust at Indians," Bass writes. The tapes reveal the personal racism of Nixon and his prejudice towards Indians reflecting his attitudes towards international events and actors. It also makes it evident how Nixon had hostility towards India, while having a soft corner for Pakistan that led him to look away from the atrocities of Pakistani army against Bengali people in the East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

During the meeting towards the

50th minute of the 54-minute, 42-second tape, Nixon goes on to say, "Undoubtedly the most unattractive women in the world are the Indian women. Undoubtedly." "The most sexless, nothing, these people. I mean, people say, what about the Black Africans? Well, you can see something, the vitality there, I mean they have a little animal-like charm, but God, those Indians, ack, pathetic. Uch," Nixon adds, followed by laughter from the attendees, a report in the Indian Express stated.

"As Americans grapple with problems of racism and power, a newly declassified trove of White House tapes provides startling evidence of the bigotry voiced by President Richard M. Nixon and Henry Kissinger, his national security adviser," Bass wrote in the opinion piece titled 'The Terrible Cost of Presidential Racism'.



Manoj Tiwari, MP North East Delhi and former president of Delhi Pradesh BJP planting a tree at his residence, accepting the Green Challenge of TRS Rajya Sabha MP J Santosh Kumar



# Break chain of Covid transmission, AP told

- Expressing concern over alarming levels of active cases and deaths in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Centre tells them to take aggressive steps to curb spread
- Union Home Ministry identifies Prakasam and Chittoor as ‘districts of concern’ in the country

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The Centre here on Saturday exhorted Andhra Pradesh to focus on undertaking aggressive measures to break the chain of transmission and to ensure that the mortality is kept below 1 per cent.

The state has been advised to proactively ensure higher testing, effective clinical management to lower fatality and save lives along with efficient monitoring at various levels.

Andhra Pradesh along with Maharashtra and Karnataka accounts for about 46 per cent of active cases reported nationally in the last 24 hours.

Similarly, these three states account for 52 per cent of all Covid deaths reported across the country in the last 24 hours.

The Union home ministry also highlighted the districts of concern in each state. In Andhra Pradesh, Prakasam and Chittoor were highlighted as districts of concern and the need for daily monitoring of facility-wise deaths, strengthening of hospital facilities, increasing the number of ICUs, oxygen beds and efficient clinical management were



## State logs 10,825 new cases

**Amaravati:** With more districts touching new landmarks by the day, the state on Saturday inched closer to the five lakh mark in coronavirus cases as 10,825 more were added afresh in 24 hours. After 10,830 on August 26, this is the highest addition of cases in a day in the state.

For the second day in a row, close to 12,000 Covid-19 patients got cured and discharged from hospitals, thereby bringing down the number of active cases, the latest bulletin said.

The state's Covid-19 chart now showed 4,87,331 total cases, 3,82,104 recoveries and 4,347 deaths, with the number of active cases being 1,00,880. The state completed testing of over 40.35 lakh samples till date, returning a positivity rate of 12.08 per cent, much larger than the national average of 8.43 per cent.

focused upon. In cumulative terms, five states account for more than 60 per cent of the total active cases in the country. Maharashtra contributes maximum to the active case load amounting to almost 25 per cent, followed by Andhra Pradesh (12.06 per cent), Karnataka (11.71 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (6.92 per cent) and Tamil Nadu which stands at 6.10 per cent.

Of these, three states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka account for nearly 49 per cent of the active cases and more than 57 per cent of Covid deaths.

In fact AP's travails have only got compounded with action

against illegal Covid-19 centres established by private hospitals without permissions. Particularly, after the Ramesh Hospital/Swarna Hotel incident in which 10 lives had been lost, several private quarantine centres have shut down and the pressure on the government-run hospitals is visible.

Reports from districts suggest that the beds in the government hospitals are not enough to cater to the needs of the patients now and there is a long waiting list of patients.

It is also pertinent to note that the second phase might have begun in AP with the TTD reporting repeat cases, it is said.

# Raktanchal: Crime drama full of thrill and action

*Continued from P1*

Just like so many people across the world, they worked from home, to complete the balance work on the show to make sure that they present it in the best fashion to the audience.

Explaining about how he got on board he said, "I received a call from Parag Mehta, who was casting for this series, that the makers were keen to meet me with regard to this series, so I went to the Pinaka office in Andheri, met the Producer and Director of the series, I was narrated a small brief by Ritam, the director, and in five minutes I was ready to be a part of the show, as the way Waseem was written I could see myself in him, instantly."

Nikitin, who played several negative roles in movies like 'Jodha Akbar' or scenes like in 'Dabangg 2', said every role has its set of challenges,

some mentally, some physically. "When one signs a project of the said genre one commits to all that it encompasses. That's how all actors are wired I guess," he said.

When asked about major differences between South and Bollywood industry, he said, "Actors are actors, just like music has no language, our art as actors has no language, the emotions are the same. Whether its the South Indian Film industry or Hindi Film Industry, both are driven with love & passion..." Replying to another question on whether the web shows were replacing the concept of 'larger than life' big screen industry, he said he does not think that anything can or will replace a cinematic experience.

"Watching a film with a hall full of people, watching them react to different elements of cinema...is priceless," says Nikitin.

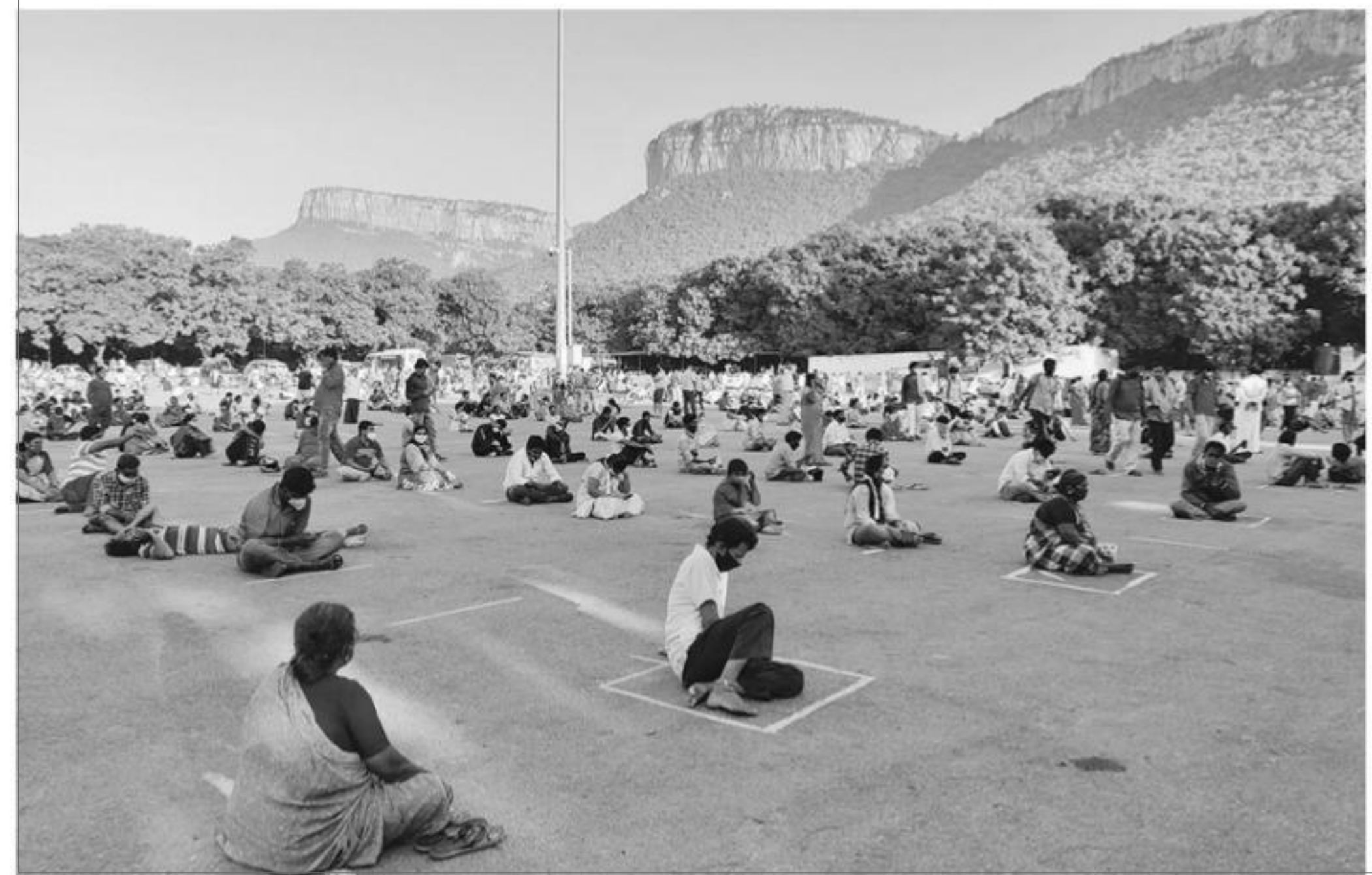
# India allows testing on demand for Covid-19

*Continued from P1*

People with influenza-like illnesses, all direct and high-risk contacts (family members, colleagues, those above 65, immunocompromised, or have conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, or heart, kidney, and lung diseases), are required to be screened.

The new strategy lists situations where molecular testing such as reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) should be preferred over the cheaper and faster but less accurate RAT. "Ideally, it is suggested that 100% of people living in the containment zones should be tested by RAT particularly in cities where there has been a widespread transmission of the infection," say ICMR guidelines. In non-containment areas, the

ICMR strategy suggests that preference should be given to molecular methods to test all those with influenza-like symptoms, all symptomatic contacts of confirmed cases, and all asymptomatic high-risk contacts. Testing methods like RT-PCR should also be used for routine surveillance of all symptomatic travellers within seven days of illness and health-care or frontline workers involved in Covid-19 management. The ICMR strategy says that molecular tests should be preferred over RAT within hospitals for testing those with severe acute respiratory infections, all patients with influenza-like symptoms, all asymptomatic high-risk contacts in need of hospitalisation, asymptomatic patients undergoing surgery or other inva-



Devotees wait in long queues for Sarvadarshan tickets of Tirumala temple at Alipiri link busstand in Tirupati on Saturday.

Hans Photo: Kalakata Radharkrishna

# Devotees rush to get Sarvadarshan tokens

HASN NEWS SERVICE

**Tirupati:** In the wake of surge in coronavirus cases in the temple city as well as in Chittoor district, TTD has announced on Saturday a temporary halt to issue of Sarvadarshan tokens. No tokens for Sarvaradarshan will be issued

until Septmeber 30 from Sunday, i.e. September 6. Earlier in the morning, a huge number of people sat and stood in marked circles in queues for Sarvadarshan tickets before the break of dawn at Bhudevi Complex here. 'Every day around 10,000 tickets were being issued by TTD

through online for Rs 300 special darshan. Apart from that, 3,000 more tickets are directly issued at Tirupati Bhudevi counter for Sarvadarshan devotees. Nearly 1,000 tickets are issued for those who donate Rs 10,000 to Srivani Trust. Currently, a total of 14,000 dar-

shan tickets are being issued daily.

The crowds mainly constitute of locals of Tirupati and neighbouring aras in Chittoor district. Devotees were seen wearing masks and maintaining a two feet distance from each other while in queue.

# Multi-purpose Ankudu tree cultivation neglected

- The wood of the tree is used in making of famous Etikoppaka toys
- The tree grows mainly in agency mandals of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari
- Toy makers urge the forest dept to cultivate the species like teak as several families eke out livelihood by making toys

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Rajamahendravaram:** Forest department is neglecting cultivation of Ankudu trees (Wrightia Tinctora) which has a great economic potential as it has many uses including making of world-famous Etikoppaka toys.

The flowers, leaves, fruits and seed of Ankudu tree are used as fodder for livestock. It is a source of dye and wood.

Etikoppaka toy maker D V V Kasi Viswanath told The Hans India on Saturday that Ankudu tree is available in Chintapalli, Paderu, Araku, Kambalapalli and Narsipatnam in Visakhapatnam district and Rajavommangi and Addateegala in East Godavari district and other parts of the



A fully grown Ankudu tree

state. The toy makers purchase the wood for Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,500 having a length of 4 to 6 inches. Being a soft and easily to mould, the wood is a favourite for toy makers.

This way, Ankudu trees provide livelihood for several families. The consumption of wood is based on the sizes of toys that are made.

Kasi Viswanath urged the forest department to cultivate Ankudu tree like teak trees and sell them through depots which would benefit toymakers. He said their family had been making

toys for 60 years. A forest department official said separate budget is needed to cultivate Ankudu trees with an action plan.

The seeds explode because of high temperatures during April and May months and start germinating in June.

He says it takes 10 years if a tree's would can be used for making toys.

Even after cutting its branches for the purpose of wood, they regrow. The officials said trees grow in the districts of Krishna and West Godavari too.

# Madhu Babu bags Best Teacher award

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Madhu Babu Asanna, teacher, ZPH School, Kasibugga Srikakulam district has been honoured with this year's National Award for Teachers from the state. The award was given away on the occasion of Teachers Day celebrations on Saturday. Addressing the award winning teachers through a videoconference, President Ramnath Kovind urged them to continue contributing their best for digital education.



Madhu Babu A

# Venkaiah Naidu owes his success to teachers

*Continued from P1*

The Vice-President paid his humble tributes to former President and Vice-President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and described him as an eminent teacher, philosopher, scholar, statesman and author.

Naidu also paid tributes to his teachers and mentors on the occasion and recalled that he had offered his reverence on Guru Purnima to more than 51 teachers and mentors, who played an important role in shaping his career and life. The Vice-President said that he had enjoyed every moment during his school and college days.

Observing that learning is a continuous process, the Vice-President told the students to acquire knowledge from teachers, parents and their grandparents, who have rich practical experience of life. He also advised them to read books.

Lauding Akshara Vidyalaya, SBT, Muppavarapu Foundation and other organisations for conducting online classes and training courses, Naidu expressed confidence that the people of the country would overcome the pandemic. He stressed that it was important to impart skills to the youth of the country to enable them find employment or become self-employed.

Observing that 'share and care' is the core of the Indian philosophy, Naidu complimented SBT at Nellore for extending help to the migrants and other needy people of surrounding villages during the lockdown by providing food and other items, including medical assistance.

# ‘Don’t attempt to change status quo at LAC’

*Continued from P1*

He told Wei that the actions by the Chinese troops, including amassing a large number of troops, their aggressive behaviour and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo were in violation of the bilateral agreements, the officials said. A week before an India-Japan summit, Japan's ministry of economy, trade and industry (METI) announced it would add India and Bangladesh to a list of Asean countries to qualify for subsidies for Japanese manufacturers moving out of China. The METI announcement comes days after India, Japan and Australia decided to advance cooperation on building trusted, resilient supply chains.

Singh also underlined that the two sides should continue their discussions, including through diplomatic and military channels, to ensure "complete disengagement and de-escalation" along the LAC at the earliest.

Singh conveyed to his Chinese counterpart that both sides should take guidance from the consensus of the leaders of the two countries that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas was essential for further develop-

ment of ties and that the two sides should not allow differences to become disputes.

At the talks, Singh categorically conveyed India's position on the developments along the LAC including at the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in the last few months, the officials said.

However, even as the two senior leaders discussed the issue, the PLA continued to be aggressive mode south of Pangong Tso as it faces Indian Army troops at the bump feature and at Rechin La in the Chushul Valley.

According to senior officials, around 150 PLA troops are deployed at the bump feature with an anti-aircraft gun being moved up the Black Top by the Chinese army on its side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

With India matching the PLA in not only troop build-up but also heavy artillery, the road to disengagement and de-escalation is long and tenuous. Now that the two defence ministers have had candid conversations, the stage is set for external affairs minister S Jaishankar to meet his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the SCO sidelines on September 10 to give a further push to peace.

# TDP claims credit for EoDB ranking

- AP Planning Board ex-vice president says the Centre has taken indicators from Naidu's govt while assigning rank to the State

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tadepalli:** Andhra Pradesh Planning Board former vice-chairman Ch Kutumba Rao on Saturday described the number one rank given to AP in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) as a progress report on the performance of the previous Chandrababu Naidu government during 2019.

Kutumba Rao asserted that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government cannot claim credit for the latest ranking since the Central government considered performance indicators of the previous government.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Kutumba Rao said that the reforms brought in by the Naidu government made AP to stand in first place in the country in EoDB during 2019 while Uttar Pradesh came second and Telangana third place. In 2018, AP stood top while Telangana got the second place. This was possible because of the reforms initiated by Naidu in enforcement of contracts and agreements, starting businesses, labour reforms among others.

Kutumba Rao said that the Chief Minister should have continued the TDP's reforms but the YSRCP government treated dismissively the previous government's initiatives. If the policies of the present government like cancellation of PPAs are considered, AP rank would fall far below. A sort of uncertainty in ruling party's policies has shaken the goodwill that was earned for AP during the TDP rule. Kutumba Rao said the pride and arrogance of the YSRCP government has greatly affected the Ease of Doing Business climate in the state. He said industries minister G Goutham Reddy was himself speaking about EoDB achievements of the TDP very slightly in the beginning but these days, but he was depending on them to attract industries.

# SEC denies reports of new poll scheduled

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** The State Election Commission (SEC) said in a statement here on Saturday that it was brought to the notice of the commission that a schedule of elections was being circulated in the social media stating that it was released by the commission. The commission denied the social media posts as false, mischievous and motivated and described it as nothing but part of disinformation campaign.



# No one respects teachers anymore

I have been working as a Primary Teacher for over thirty years and this is my first letter to any newspaper, though I try to spare time to read the newspaper as frequently as possible and would like to thank you for your wonderful article "Teachers' Day should regain lost glory" (THI 5 September). Your observation is right most of the teachers have lost interest in imparting quality teaching. When joined this profession with a dream of making the life of children better which in turn would make them good citizens in future. I am working in a reputed central school where both children of central government employees of different categories and non-government are admitted. They are from different backgrounds therefore the teachers need to have more



patience and time to handle such children.

Unfortunately, this doesn't happen as we are constantly under pressure from not only parents but the Principals (who often come on transfer and leave after four or five years), followed by Headmaster/Headmistress and of

course the bureaucrats (not those who have managed educational institutions). Each time this group of people change who are supposed to trust the teachers and their capacity to handle, enforce changes which in turn affects not only our morale or plan. While, one can pardon the

management, the Principals, HMs some time or other have been a teacher who often forget but often harass and bully us to do what they think is best.

Many occasions, while on rounds, they will simply enter class and without even observing, will shout in front

of children in the Class room on the way we handle class. If this is not enough, just for the sake of earning extra money on holidays the Principals would accept exams (which necessarily not the one conducted by CBSE or other boards) and force the teachers to accept invigilation work etc. Many teachers unable to bear such physical and mental torture have either opted for VRS and quit their well-paying jobs.

If the school head does not respect their own teachers but only focuses on their own future prospects so much that even office staff and Class IV staff do not respect us as teachers. Over the years we have simply functioned like a slave and have become turned robots do as directed as of turning creative. In spite of this scenario, we have not let down our children, though we have

no or very little exposure to using technology in the classroom, we are still conducting classes using our own money to buy little things to make online classes lively.

Many people outside may not know we started our online classes from around April and after break in May, we are back to teaching from June. Our personal Mobiles have now choked with Whatsapp groups, PPTs and so on. We are constantly under fear as we don't when our mobile stops working in spite of moving them to another device. If Editors like you and others want to teach as "Jeevan Dharma" we appeal for little freedom and respect from all so that the teaching community can bring back the lost glory.

*\*J Mahalakshmi (name changed on request), Hyderabad*

## The unending woes of private school teachers in India

Teacher's Day celebration has gone without much pomp and gaiety as the country is still under the grip of Corona pandemic. Teacher's day celebration reminds us once more the significant role of a teacher in making the future of a nation. Many scholars have given different definitions for highlighting the nobility of the teaching profession. Sarcastically, the teachers who work in unaided schools and colleges are being deprived from those aforesaid privilege.

The plight of private teachers and non-teaching staff in our country is quite pathetic and demeaning. They have been undergoing untold miseries and financial crises since the outbreak of corona pandemic.

Many of them have been found idle. Only a few of them have been employed in online classes. Those teachers are being paid a meagre salary, probably Rs.100 per a period or so on. Very few corporate institutions are paying a considerable amount of salary only to the selected teachers.

The woeful plight of non-teaching staff is being found more deplorable and contemptuous. Many teachers have been terminated. Survival is a matter of concern for all the staff working under private managements. They have a tough time in managing the family since their regular source of income has been stopped. Many of these teachers have been undergoing inexplicable and incomprehensible wretchedness and adversities.

Thousands of those who chose teaching as a passionate profession are unable to move to any other profession due to vanity or self-esteem. Most of them have been undergoing untold psychological trauma and emotional imbalance.

Recently, many welfare programmes have been launched intending the well-being of the employees working in unorganized sectors. Financial assistance has been offered to the people of many other profession. Little is done for the enhancement of the private teachers.

The poor and hapless teachers are standing at the crossroads. They are bewildered. They don't know whether to blame the management or to blame the government. More than 70% of private schools in our country are either small budgets schools or medium budget schools. The managements of these schools depend upon the fees paid by the students to pay the salaries of teachers and non-teaching staff.

Unfortunately, as a result of the COVID outbreak and its consequent lockdown, many parents are reluctant to pay the school fee of their wards. The management of these schools have been found moving heaven and earth to pay the building rent and other administrative expenses.

Under such circumstances, it is quite absurd and incongruous in blaming the schools for not paying salaries during the days of this pandemic. Can the private teachers seek a little respite from either the state governments concerned or the central government? Regretfully, either the ruling party or the opposition is not taking an interest in this issue.

**Prabhakaran Vallath,**  
Vatakara, Kozhikode Dt

## A glorious profession on its last legs

Back in the late 1960s when as a school-boy, I was eagerly looking forward to the dawn of Teacher's Day every year, the birthday of great statesman, philosopher and former president of India Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. This reminds me my English teacher in class VIII quoting his words very often taken from his speech delivered at Jodhpur University in 1962 "All that is necessary for the youth of the country is selfless dedication which can be achieved only by a self-scrutiny, a self-search and by a



is to teach and inculcate noble traditions, compassion and love in the students in order to help him lead a full life later. Every culture in the world stresses the special relationship between teacher and student. Guru, the Sanskrit name for teacher, means the remover of darkness. True, parents bring us into the light but it is the teacher who lights up the mind. Myself and three of my classmates while in school on this special day every year from VI class onwards until completing schooling

must not avoid it in order to broaden one's mental horizons. After leaving the school, these words constantly ringing in my mind made me religiously cultivate this habit of good, wholesome, fruitful and beneficial reading of various books and reading materials as I grew and continuing even today. Unlike the past, most modern day teachers hanker upon accumulation of wealth by insisting students to take tuitions after school hours by forgetting the primary

aim of education is to teach and inculcate noble traditions, compassion and love in the students in order to help him lead a full life later. Every culture in the world stresses the special relationship between teacher and student. Guru, the Sanskrit name for teacher, means the remover of darkness. True, parents bring us into the light but it is the teacher who lights up the mind. Myself and three of my classmates while in school on this special day every year from VI class onwards until completing schooling

**KR Srinivasan,** Secunderabad

## WE CAN ONLY PRAY FOR BETTER TIMES



"Teachers' Day should regain lost glory" by V Ramu Sarma is an interesting article that highlights past glory of teacher-student relationship and the nobility of teacher's profession itself. Technology has done a lot of good but it also harmed in certain ways. Is it not possible to retain old values while taking benefits of technology?

The Covid pandemic too has affected teacher-student relationship as it harmed other aspects of life. Now it looks the only way out is to resort to collective prayer keeping in mind Tenyson's words: 'More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of'.

**J Bhagyalakshmi,** Madanapalle

## When the teacher learns from a student



**M PRADYU**

As the Teacher's Day approaches, we in the teaching profession, at least some of us, remember not just our teachers who inspired and motivated us to become teachers but we remember our students too especially those who would have given us beautiful memorable moments to be remembered forever and ever.

I had just got into my teaching career in the late 1990s at Sree Narayana Vidya Mandir, Kannur -a reputed English medium school in the North Kerala region - and was enjoying my venture in the profession. As one my senior teacher left the school, getting an appointment elsewhere, the Principal asked two of my seniors, if they were ready to handle higher classes. As they gave a big no because at that time, fresh teachers were scared to handle the students of class 9th and 10th the turn came to me. Getting an opportunity and heeding to my Department head that "opportunity knocks only once" I accepted the offer.

And as the teachers had cautioned me I found handling one section of the ninth a big challenge. The very first day I had to blast one prankster and had him out of my class. Later regretting for losing my temper I called him, advised him and said "sorry, if I have hurt your mind". I was stunned to see the very naughty fellow, who was a nightmare for teachers, holding my hand, tears in his eyes telling me "all these years, sir, I have been caned, rebuked, made to stand out, getting hurls of curses but it is for the first time I see a teacher apologising ....and that too forgiving me for my prank...I am really sorry sir". I just patted him on the back and told him it's okay.

Years passed and I had this student in my senior secondary classes too - now very friendly, supportive and helping. When social media giant Facebook was launched, this boy who had by then left the school, came to meet me and asked me if I have an account so that he could keep in touch with me. I felt embarrassed as I didn't have one. He immediately took me to an internet cafe, gave me all the tips on how to start an email and an fb account and now I feel very proud to say that the email that I have been using for the past so many years is one created and given to me by this student and whenever I open my fb I remember this boy who taught me.

## CPEC: A corridor to nowhere for Pakistan?

China's ambitious plans for Belt Road Initiative are too fraught with their hegemonic designs and to overpower trade and strategic military positions in the region to their advantage. Their recent incursions in Ladakh are also a broad part of their Machiavellian planning for BRI.

Pakistan which was more than willing to join and to please their Chinese masters has developed cold feet because of its implications and ramifications in not so distant future.

Imran who has no world view and is guided by Military bosses is trying to look through their prism. With stakes running high with Gawadar port and possibly China with its muscle and money power likely to manifest its strategic interests and Pakistan fears strangulating its position by China's aggressive approach. CPEC is all about China and nowhere Pakistan is going to gain anything out of this. Pakistan may be besieged with India Hate rhetoric but even Devil does not bite its



greivous approach. CPEC is all about China and nowhere Pakistan is going to gain anything

out of this. Pakistan may be besieged with India Hate rhetoric but even Devil does not bite its

hand. India is now in overdrive to woo its neighbours with a refreshing approach.

India's cosyng up to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, and Nepal may thwart China's grand design to corner India by hostile neighbors. India has wisely shunned extreme reaction to Nepal's intransigence and belligerent act of redrawing the map. China wanted India to react aggressively and to create a permanent wedge.

CPEC initiative is going to fail on its own. With India taking up strategic positions in the Ladakh area, China's evil designs may be on a backburner for a while but China is not going to let it go for good without a fight. Like CDS has warned that India should be prepared for two pronged war, though everyone wish it should not happen.

**Ashok Goswami,**  
Mumbai

### II

China wanted to play proxy war against India so befriended with Pakistan and maintained good relationships with it. In 2015, China announced CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Border) project, CPEC is the part of its intercontinental Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI). The aim of China is to expand influence in Pakistan and also in Central and South Asia. But some of the CPEC projects are stopped and some of them are on very slow process the major reason behind its reliant governments are not interested in this project.

PM Nawaz Sharif requested Jinping to postpone his protest but the Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party refused the cancel protests. The project suffers from Pakistan corruption too. The Bajwa's family benefited due to CPEC over a period has taken by Pakistan. The military establishment was not pleased with CPEC helped in Khan to raise his power. They never opposed this project, they thought that CPEC forced Pakistan to improve relations. China is in trouble how to handle it now. The growth of CPEC is major problem and Xi trying to divert situation.

**Sanjana Soni,** Hyderabad

### China and Covid-19 menace

World is under the grip of Covid-19. China is blamed because of keeping facts away from the world at the time of virus attack in Wuhan, China. The virus become a threat to the human kind. Millions of cases, thousands of deaths, collapse of business houses, many lost jobs, poor and poor nations in real danger. The pandemic spread all over the world become of Chinese strong business links. China, a first on population, third in area, member of UN security council, has failed in its responsibility. Chinese relation-

ship with some neighbouring countries is bitter. It is disrespecting the sovereignty of other countries. Chinese disputes of land and water is converted into dream of expansion, with aggression and domination by it instead of big brother in Asia. A country can be a true 'Super Power' when its human rights record is crystal clear, respect sovereignty of others nations and duties towards environment.

**D Kishan Prasad,**  
Thimmapur, Karimnagar

## Keep passport offices open on Saturdays

The Passport appointments issued at Post Office Passport Sewa Kendras (POPSK) and Passport Sewa Kendras (PSK) function only for five days a week from Monday through Fridays. It is thus given to understand that no appointments are allocated on all the Saturdays of the month and on the days of special clearance drives. As most of the applicants are working professionals, there is now a necessity to make the passport application process available even on Saturdays, which is the weekly off for most

of the passport applicants under the Normal Category.

With the increasing demand to obtain Tatkal and Normal category passports, the suggestion will highly benefit the working professionals who otherwise face logistical inconvenience for an appointment on any of the four-day working hours at the Passport offices. The move will also help respective Regional Passport Offices to dispose-off application requests quickly, thereby easing the online appointment availability with shorter wait times.

The Consular, Passports and Visa Division of the Hon'ble Ministry of External Affairs is thus kindly requested to look into arranging a passport application appointment process to at least on the First and Third Saturdays of every month at all POPSKs and PSKs. The suggestion may be considered in the best interest of working professionals who otherwise enjoy a weekly-off on Saturdays and thus may avail the facility in a hassle-free manner even on Saturdays.

**Varun Dambal,**  
Bengaluru

## FOCUS ON ECONOMY FIRST

Economy should be the foremost concern of the government. Financial stability is the foremost responsibility of the RBI. They have to work together to ensure that economy keeps buzzing and booming even while financial stability is not compromised.

If you push economy to the back benches and bring forward hindutva, citizenship it's completely wrapped priorities completely misplaced priorities.

Priority today is and at any given time for every government should be the economy. Management of pandemic was completely wrongly advised, wrongly guided and wrong decisions.

**Vikas Panchareddy,**  
Hyderabad



# Pakistan: A saga of paranoia, denial and cheating

BINAY KUMAR SINGH

The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) air crash in June that killed 97 people and the circumstances causing it beg a closer look. It is widely believed that the pilots of the ill-fated PIA aircraft were fake, who in all likelihood cheated in exams to secure a Civil Pilot Licence or perhaps went a step further and had imposters sit in their places. It is reported that around 260 commercial pilots of Pakistani origin have been grounded across multiple airlines to set things in order! The upshot of this incident is that Europe has taken an unprecedented step of banning PIA flights for six months!

But then, this should not be a surprise for those well versed with Pakistan's history of cheating.

The birth of Pakistan in itself was in every way a still-born idea. The annulling of the landslide victory of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League of East Pakistan in 1970 General Elections by President (General) Yahya Khan of West Pakistan, and the consequent call for self-determination by East Pakistan ended in the mindless murder of three million Bengalis.

These events which precipitated the vivisection of Pakistan into Bangladesh in December 1971 bear a fitting testimony to the bankruptcy of the founding principles of

Pakistan.

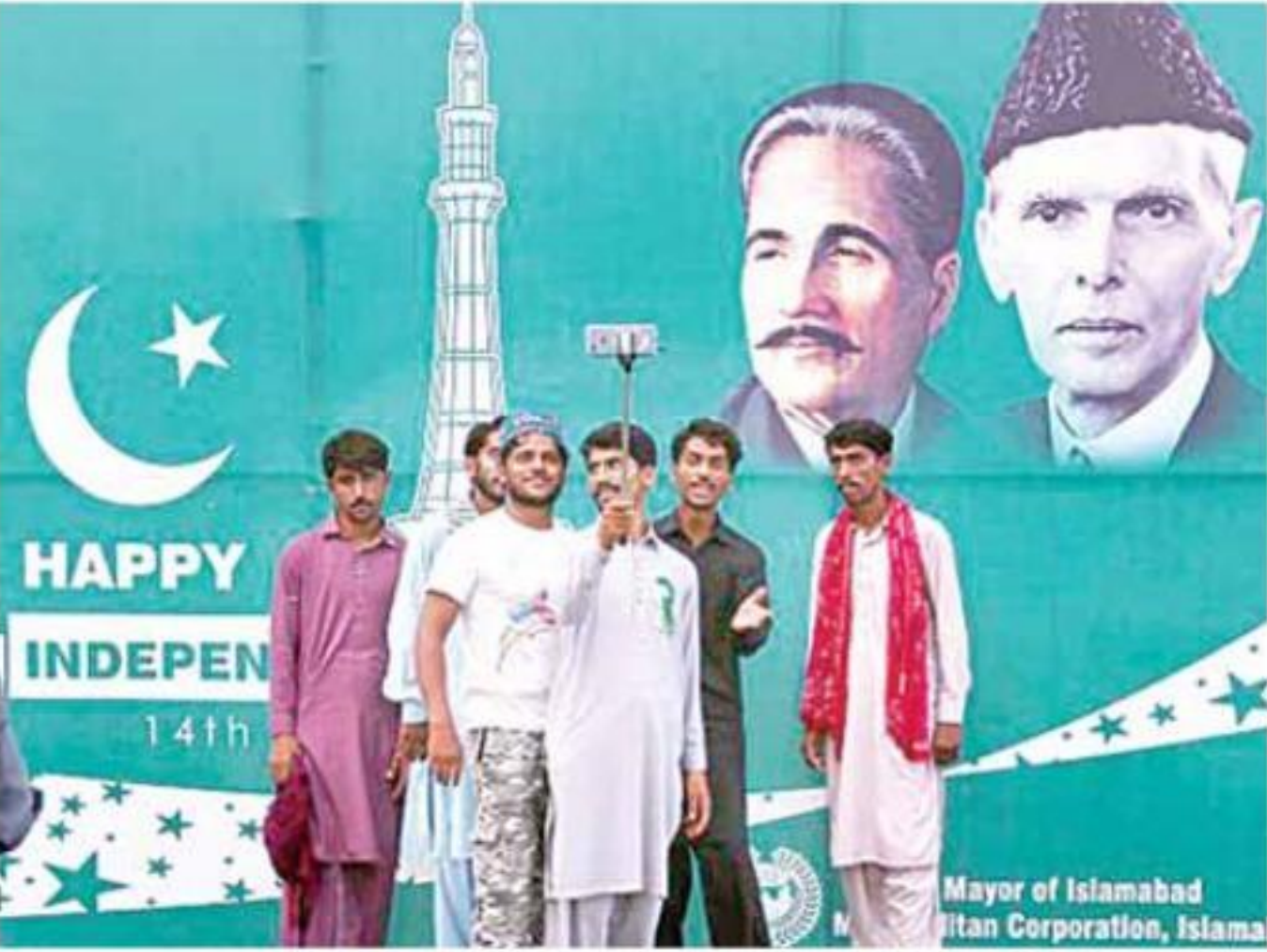
And yet the country continues to peddle the belief that faith is the glue that keeps it going and that the serious socio-economic-security problems facing the country are the work of a 'hidden hand' - India.

Hussain Haqqani, a prolific academic and a former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, in his seminal book 'Reimagining Pakistan: Transforming a Dysfunctional Nuclear State' argues that Pakistan was a premature, feeble offspring at birth and although it survived critical infancy, it never gained the strength necessary to combat its inborn ailments'.

In my opinion, the inborn ailments are the severe drought of selfless, visionary leaders, conspiracy thinking, inferiority complex, falsification of history, obsession or paranoia about India and internecine power struggles that often throw up a corrupt military dictator.

The consequence of these 'inborn ailments' is widespread cultural and moral decadence of the Pakistani society.

Surprisingly though, the Pakistani elite comprising mostly its Army generals and some politicians still manage to project a strong but misplaced notion of national pride built around superiority of its race, military, and nuclear weapons leaving millions of innocent Pakistanis



in grinding poverty.

It is instructive to mention that Pakistan is home to the world's third largest illiterate population; there are only 15 countries in the world with a lower literacy rate than Pakistan. Corruption, fraud and cheating form the very lifeblood of this dysfunctional state as substantiated in the following part of this article.

Fake websites have been created to promote fake global rankings listing Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) as the world's best intelligence service and the former Pakistan Army Chief General Raheel Sharif as the world's best commander! A ridiculous

proposition.

ISI is anything but a professional agency that intimidates the common man through hired thugs and mercenaries. As for the venerable General Raheel Sharif, his military acumen and leadership remain to be tested in a worth-mentioning military operation.

On the contrary, Raheel Sharif is a symbol of corruption and nepotism. He has managed to milk his position (Army Chief from 2013 e2016) to grab hundreds of acres of land worth billions of rupees, without consent of the civilian government!

In June 2020, it was reported that Pakistan en-

hanced military spending by 12 per cent to a whopping Rs 1,700 billion (including pension bill) as against a total development budget of Rs 650 billion, even as barely literate and unemployed youth continue to bulge at an alarming rate.

As per the latest Economic Survey, the current allocation for defence is hare-brained and unsustainable as Pakistan is heading towards massive joblessness, around 19 million, which would further accentuate the deplorable social conditions that Pakistanis are already reeling under.

According to one estimate, just one-fifth of Pakistan's

defence budget would be sufficient to finance universal primary education in the country, which currently remains abysmally poor. The increased defence spending is justified by creating anti-India hysteria supported by a massive misinformation campaign and fraudulent propaganda.

It is widely known that the beneficiaries of such disproportionately high defence budgets have mostly been the high-ranking military officers (mostly Army generals to the exclusion of Admirals and Air Marshals!).

As per a news report in April 2016, former Army Chief (1998-2007) and former President of Pakistan (2001-2008) General Pervez Musharraf was in possession of Rs 2,156 million in net cash in an offshore account in addition to immovable property worth several millions.

Also, former Army Chief (2007-2013) and head of Inter-Services Intelligence (2004-07) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani is known to possess a multi-million dollar Swiss bank account. He was also accused by a fellow officer of being involved in a major land scam in a Defence Housing Scheme.

Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, like most other national achievements, has a nefarious past. It is common knowledge that Abdul Qadeer Khan (born in Bhopal, India), the so called

weapon programme' built the technology from a stolen design and sourced material from a network of grey markets to try and destroy his country of birth! He is also instrumental in the secret proliferation of this technology to rogue countries like Libya and North Korea. So much fuss about Pakistan's nuclear weapons being the most important pillar of national pride!

In December 2019, a reputed international news agency carried a report that more than 600 young Pakistani girls, mostly from the minority communities, were fraudulently sold in marriage to the Chinese with the tacit approval of the state; sadly most would end up in prostitution.

In May 2020, a massive scam amounting to \$630 million was reported in a power project linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Chinese companies involved made wind-fall profits to the tune of 70 per cent by swindling Pakistani customers. It is widely acknowledged that Prime Minister Imran Khan can do little to rescue the common man as a retired Army Commander, General Asim Saleem Bajwa, who wields immense powers as the head of CPEC Authority would not dare antagonise the Chinese firms.

In many ways, paranoia, denial, fraud and cheating have begun to define Pak-

istan's national character, crushing the well-meaning but voiceless average Pakistani under its weight. In the aftermath of the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's statement powerfully summarises the arguments made thus far:-

"Pakistan has everything that gives you an international migraine. It has nuclear weapons, it has terrorism, extremism, corruption it is very poor e it is in a location that's really, really important."

In 73 years of its existence, Pakistan has nothing that even a marginally successful country can talk about.

In order to find solutions to overcome the overwhelming socio-economic-security problems, Pakistan needs to acknowledge that its faulty founding principles (hate, falsification of facts, conspiracy thinking) and inborn ailments (paranoia about/obsession with India, inferiority complex, corruption, fraud and cheating) are the root cause of its present state of mess. But the country continues to behave like a sick ostrich on a sleepy march, metamorphosing from an international migraine' into a giant cancerous tumour' well on its path to self-destruction.

(Binay Kumar Singh is a columnist and researcher. He writes on national security issues)

Never known to spend an idle moment during his five-decade journey in politics, during which he witnessed first-hand the evolution of a new India, Pranab Mukherjee, the country's 13th President who died on Monday, had penned four volumes of his autobiography after his term ended in 2017, three of which have been published by Rupa, while the fourth is the process.

This is a rare first-hand account of the events that have shaped India in the past 50 years and will serve as a valuable source material for academics, political scientists and the layman alike through the eyes of a man who never hesitated to call a spade a spade -- and suffered the occasional pin-pricks but eventually came out smiling.

A powerful orator and scholar, Mukherjee's intellectual and political prowess as well as remarkable knowledge of international relations, financial affairs and parliamentary process are widely admired. He has been acclaimed for his role as a consensus builder on difficult national issues through his ability to forge unity amongst the diverse political parties that form part of India's vibrant multi-party democracy.

Here, in descending order, is a brief description of the four volumes and key extracts from the first, second and third volumes:

\* 'The Dramatic Decade' focuses on one of the most fascinating periods in Independent India's history - the 1970s. This is when Mukherjee cut his teeth and plunged headlong into national politics. This is also when the Congress suffered significant losses -- and control -- of seven states after the 1967 General Elections but returned to power at the Centre for a fourth consecutive term.

India displayed her commitment to liberty by extending full support to East Pakistan's struggle for independence in 1971. Given the heavy toll the war took on the economy, and the subsequent oil crisis of 1973, there was spiralling inflation and an acute shortage of goods and services; India had to act swiftly and decisively.

The Emergency was declared in 1975, to widespread criticism and social unrest. Finally, in 1977, India saw the advent of the politics of coalition, with the Janata Party coming to power. This was a turning point in the history of Inde-

pendent India.

As one of the keenest observers of and participants in this stormy period, Mukherjee recounts brilliantly, and with a historian's rigour and insight, the developments surrounding the birth of a new country -- Bangladesh - and other landmark events of those years. Often candidly, he reveals his association with the key leaders of the decade, the rapport he shared with Indira Gandhi, and the tough decisions he chose to make in deference to his fierce sense of loyalty to the nation.

**Offering a direct window into this tumultuous, yet critical, period in modern Indian history, "The Dramatic Decade" is the most authoritative insider's account yet of Indian politics of the time, by a great politician and statesman.**

Extracts:

"It is believed that Sid-dhartha Shankar Ray played an important role in the decision to declare the Emergency: it was his suggestion, and Indira Gandhi acted on it. In fact, Indira Gandhi told me subsequently that she was not even aware of the constitutional provisions allowing for the declaration of a state of Emergency on grounds of internal disturbance, particularly since a state of Emergency had already been proclaimed as a consequence of the Indo-Pak conflict in 1971."

"Janata Party leaders, aided by a section of the media, alleged that our party was spending money like water. One newspaper reported that, as a close confidante of Indira Gandhi, I was especially entrusted with the protection of the party's cash chest. George Fernandes enacted a drama by going door-to-door to raise small collections. He was snapped by newspapers, bucket in hand, collecting donations from shopkeepers. The picture they tried to portray was that while the Janata Party was strapped for cash, Indira Gandhi's party was flush with truckloads of it. All major Janata Party leaders, except the Prime Minister, visited the constituency and addressed meetings. But their collective strength was not enough to prevent Indira Gandhi's re-entry into Parliament. She won the Lok Sabha seat of Chikmagalur by a margin of over 80,000 votes over her

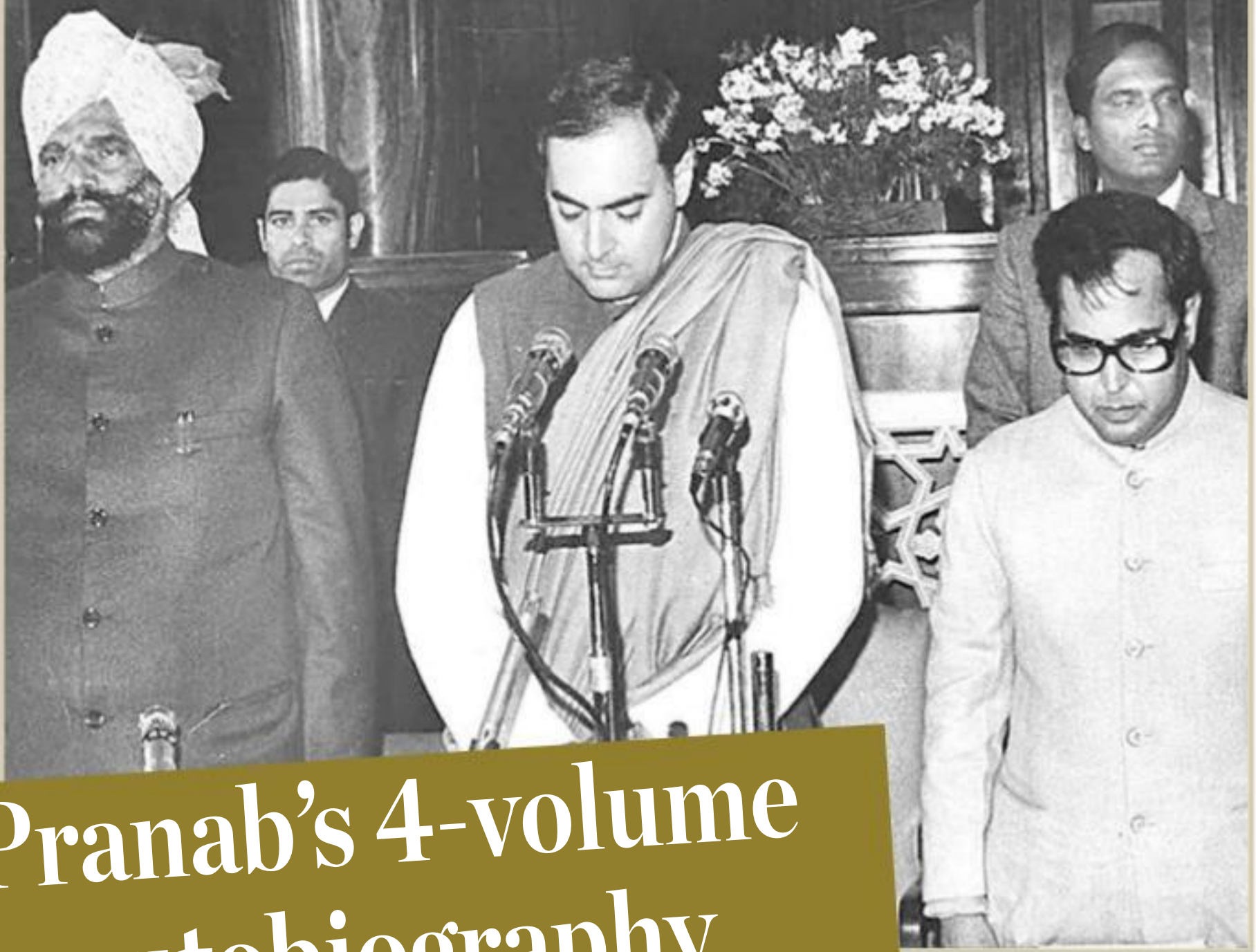
nearest rival."

"I did not know JP. I met him only once in 1974 at the Gandhi Peace Foundation along with C.M. Stephen. Krishna Kant had organized this meeting. We talked about the Naxalite movement, and I was impressed by his personality and his genuine approach to this emotional and sensitive issue. I found him to be far above petty political games; he truly wanted to restore moral values in Indian politics and hence expected everyone, including those in the ruling party, to follow his advice. I have reason to believe that he was more than justified in having such expectations. He was a rare Indian politician who didn't clamour for office or power in spite of having it within his reach; he was a man who could have succeeded Nehru as the second most popular man on the Indian political stage. How could such a man not see through the opportunism of the opposition parties?"

**'The Turbulent Years' opens in the 1980s. Sanjay Gandhi is dead under unexpected, tragic circumstances; not many years later, Indira Gandhi is assassinated; Rajiv Gandhi, 'the reluctant politician', abruptly becomes India's Prime Minister.**

Mukherjee was witness to (and, sometimes, a participant in) the momentous events of the 1980s and the 1990s, a period that was indisputably the most turbulent in India's post-Independence history. An insider, he sheds new light on every major political occurrence of the time - from Rajiv Gandhi's ascendancy as India's Prime Minister to the emergence of P.V. Narasimha Rao as a leader of the nation; from Operation Blue Star to the Babri Masjid's demolition.

Equally, Mukherjee is candid about each of the professional crises that marked this period of his career - the rumours that he wanted to elbow aside Rajiv Gandhi for the top post; the possible reasons for his ouster from Rajiv's Cabinet and, later, the party; and the allegation that he aided and abetted



Pranab's 4-volume autobiography encapsulates India from 1970s to present

the Left by not imposing President's rule in West Bengal and Tripura in the late 1980s.

The second volume of Mukherjee's autobiography is not only an honest account of his years in power (and in the wilderness), but also a cogent analysis of the political and social turning points of a key period in the evolution of modern India.

Extracts:

"Much later, in a heart-to-heart conversation with me in 1991, P.V. Narasimha Rao expressed the view that if I had not formed another party after my expulsion, perhaps my return to the Congress would have been faster. Rajiv would have brought me back, especially after Arun Nehru, V.P. Singh and others had deserted him.

"Looking back, I feel P.V. was correct. I could have avoided the RSC (Rashtriya Samajwadi Congress) fiasco. I should have had the wisdom to realize that I was (and am) not a mass leader. Those who left the Congress rarely succeeded. I could have

been of some help to the Congress party and the government during those crucial years of 1986 and 1987 when everything seemed to go wrong for Rajiv. Alas, I returned to the party only in 1988 -- too late to make any significant difference to the Congress' performance in the Lok Sabha elections of 1989."

**'The Coalition Years' begins its journey in 1996 and explores the highs and lows that characterized sixteen years of one of the most tumultuous periods in the nation's political history. It is an insightful account of the larger governance phenomenon in India - coalition politics -- as seen through the eyes of one of the chief architects of the post-Congress era of Indian politics.**

From the inexplicable defeat of the Congress in the 1996 general elections and the rise of regional parties like the TDP and

the TMC, to the compelling factors that forced the Congress to withdraw support to the I.K. Gujral government and the singular ability of Sonia Gandhi to forge an alliance with diverse political parties that enabled the Congress to lead the UPA I and II coalitions, Mukherjee was a keen observer and an active participant in the contemporary developments that reshaped the course of the country's political, economic and social destiny.

Beyond the challenges, complications and compulsions of coalition governments, this volume is also a recollection of Mukherjee's journey heading the key ministries of Defence, External Affairs and Finance, beginning from 2004. He recounts each of these events with candour - the path-breaking meeting with Henry Kissinger in 2004 that altered the course of the India-US strategic partnership, his timely advice to Bangladesh Army Chief, General Moen Ahmed, in 2008 that led to the release of political prisoners there and the differing views with

RBI Governor D. Subbarao on the structure of the FSDC (Financial Stability and Development Council).

The third volume of Mukherjee's autobiography is a sharp and candid account of his years at the helm. It offers the most authoritative account of contemporary Indian politics by one of the tallest leaders and statesmen of our generation.

Extracts:

"In my opinion, Sharad Pawar, as the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, expected the party to request him, instead of Sonia Gandhi, to stake claim to form the government. After Sonia's elevation as the Congress president, she consulted P. Shiv Shankar on all important issues rather than Sharad Pawar. This sense of alienation and disenchantment may have been responsible for his statements on Sonia's foreign origin, and his subsequent exit from the party in 1999."

"Following my active participation in the conclave, Sonia Gandhi started consulting me more frequently. A certain detachment which had earlier existed in our relationship gradually transformed into warmth and mutual respect. I believe that this detachment and her decision of not being aligned with anybody in particular is her greatest strength. It reflects another important dimension in India's political history. Like other illus-

trious members of her family, Sonia has adopted a truly pan-India approach. Her ability to reach out to the masses and their acceptance of her as their leader was the single most important qualifying factor for her to become India's prime minister. She could have acquired other essential qualities for this office after assuming power.

"Looking back, I can say that as the longest serving Congress president, Sonia's positive contribution to strengthen the Congress party has not received due attention in the analysis of contemporary political observers."

"Matters took a dramatic turn after the fall of the Babri Masjid. Sitaram Kesri created a scene, collapsing into tears and disrupting a Cabinet meeting at which I was present. I had to tell him, 'There is no reason to be melodramatic. All of you were members of the Cabinet and some of you were members of the CCPA. All decisions were taken in the meetings of the Cabinet and CCPA. Responsibility is collective; the onus cannot only be on the Prime Minister or Home Minister.'

"Later, in a private meeting with P.V., I did not mince words. I burst out, 'Was there no one who advised you of the dangers? Did you not understand the global repercussions of any damage to the Babri Masjid? At least now take concrete steps to quell communal tensions and assuage the feelings of Muslims through affirmative action'."

**'The Presidential Years' which is under process, will chronicle the journey of India's head of state in exhaustive detail. This unique autobiographical account promises to give readers a bird's eye view of the functioning of Rashtrapati Bhavan, the inside story of the issues that made headlines - from the imposition of President's rule in Arunachal Pradesh to demonetisation and the surgical strikes, his relationship with Prime Minister Modi and the NDA government and the functioning of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. -IANS**  
(The excerpts have been published with the permission of Rupa Publications India Private Limited)



## Production linked incentives on the anvil for automakers

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said that a lot of spade work has already been done on the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto and component manufacturers and the government plans to push it forward in a big way. Kant, who was addressing the 60th annual convention of the Association of Auto Component Manufacturers (ACMA) in New Delhi on Saturday, also said that the scrapping policy was at a “very very advanced stage” of the inter-ministerial discussions.

The vehicle scrapping policy is aimed at scrapping of old vehicles in exchange for some incentives for consumers.

“We at Niti Aayog have done a lot of spade work (on the PLI scheme). The department of heavy industry has actually interacted with the automobile and auto component manufacturers. We would push this PLI scheme in a very big way for auto components and automobile manufacturers,” he said.

“The scrapping policy also is at a very advanced stage of inter-ministerial discussions and we will push both these things forward,” Kant added. Terming the domestic auto component makers as “truly a great example of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’”, he said if India is going to get a V-shaped recovery from the (current) crisis, it will have to be on the back of the automobile and auto component manufacturers.

Kant said the companies which use technology, digitisation, among others, will grow survive and flourish in the days to come, adding that this is a huge opportunity for the people who adapt and get into complete innovative areas of growth and use technology and digitisation to leapfrog in the world of tomorrow. “We have reliance on imports for low-tech components like gear boxes, tubes and steering wheels. I do not see any technological impediment for localisation of these components. There is no rationale for importing these components,” Kant said.

He said that when the Prime Minister talks about Aatmanirbhar Bharat, “he is not talking about isolationism, he is not talking about anti-globalisation”.

“He is talking about making Indian companies excel, talking about



Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant

**Spade work already done on PLI scheme for auto, component manufacturers: Niti Aayog CEO**



the opportunity to capture the large domestic market of India and using the domestic market, assisting those for exports and penetrating the global market,” Kant said.

“I believe that there will be a huge indigenisation of all components of automobile value chains. There is a need to focus on local manufacturing at level of tier-1, 2 and 3 suppliers, and all technologies and resources need to be made available,” he said. There is a need to create jobs in the auto component sector with various skill development programmes to cater to new technologies like electric vehicles and infusioin, Kant emphasised. “There will be an inevitable disruption in the area of electric vehicles so it is essential to re-skill our existing workforce for a smooth transition. More jobs related to electronics and digitisation will be created,” Kant added.

The nature of jobs will change rapidly as more jobs related to electronics and digitalisation would be created, he said adding that the ecosystem as a whole will grow and electric revolution will be a huge job creator. “We are creating many many jobs but new kinds of jobs and therefore it is essential to re-skill our existing workforce for a smooth transition to EVs,” Kant said.

# Reviving GDP a Herculean task

The twin challenges of record rise in Covid cases, steep fall in economy will test Modi government's mettle

P MADHUSUDHAN REDDY

This may sound like a boring cliché. But we can't help it sometimes. That's what life is. And that's what life will be. Anyway, let's come to the cliché now. Time is the greatest healer. Isn't it? China reported its first case of novel coronavirus infection, now popular as Covid-19, in December 2019. India saw first its Covid case surfacing on January 30 this year. If one goes by the first case in China where the deadly virus originated, humanity has been living with the virus for the past eight months. That's pretty longtime. And majority of the world's population is still safe which is great news indeed.

But I am not here to say that no one suffered due to the Chinese-born novel coronavirus and everybody is safe like a rock. Millions of people got infected around the world. Thousands of people fell prey to the global pandemic. Scores of families are going through indescribable pain after losing their loved ones. Many more are in financial ruin and it may take several years for some of them to come out of the financial scar left by the pandemic. Impact of untimely loss of a family member is profound, immeasurable and immense.

In India alone, over 40 lakh people fell sick so far and nearly 70,000 people died. These are official numbers. The unofficial count will be much higher. That's sad indeed.

But we have fast learned fast to live with the deadly virus. More importantly, natural immunity that the humans embody has saved many of us. That had been the case whenever global pandemics attacked the planet. It's the same this time too in spite of path breaking advancements in the medical domain. Otherwise, it's practically not possible for our healthcare system to come to our rescue if everyone gets seriously infected.

However, we are not yet out of danger and Covid-19 threat still lurks around us. Our nation is witnessing over 86,000 new cases every day, the highest by any country. The day is not far off when India will turn into a nation with the highest number of Covid cases. India is speeding towards second place now while the US leads the global Covid tally with nearly 64 lakh cases. However, to be safe, everyone needs to practice Covid-19 safety



norms religiously until a safe vaccine is found. There is no other way. However, it's no exaggeration to say that the indomitable, never-say-die spirit of humanity is on full display during this one-in-a-century pandemic. Gradual pick-up in economic activities around the world is a clear testimony. China where the ongoing global health crisis began its journey succeeded in putting its economy back on growth track (3.2 per cent GDP upswing during April-June this year). Of course, the communist country deserves the backlash that it is getting from around the world for foisting the pandemic on the otherwise safe planet. But it also deserves accolades for containing the virus and reversing the economic slide at a faster pace. However, other countries are not so lucky. The US, the planet's sole superpower and the world's largest economy, is yet to come to terms with the pandemic and its economy is still in tatters.

Further, the Indian economy is in a far bigger danger. This was amply reflected in the first quarter (April-June 2020) gross domestic product (GDP) data released recently. The economy contracted by a staggering 23.9 per cent during the three months when the country went through a total lockdown that crippled the economic activity. From a positive growth of 5.2 per cent in the first quarter of last fiscal, the economy hit nadir in the same period this fiscal year. As IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath pointed out, India witnessed the highest contraction in the first quarter among the top

Covid has spread its tentacles to hinterlands and healthcare-lacking rural areas. As a result, the agriculture sector which was the only silver lining during April-June period will also take a beating now. That means the economy will land in a much bigger trouble



Meanwhile, an interesting video involving an English news channel has gone viral recently. Maybe, it still is. During a debate on young Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's alleged suicide and the controversy that surrounded it, a panelist raised the issue of the economy's freefall. Incidentally, the first quarter GDP numbers were released on the day the debate took place. Obviously, it was wrong on the part of the panelist to deviate from the core subject of the debate though undeniably, GDP is a far more serious issue. But anchors' behaviour is more reprehensible and disgusting. One of the two anchors went to the extent of saying that the panelist in question was wasting “nations' time” by raising the GDP issue! He shouted at him at the top of his voice, a regular feature in TV debates these days, and tried to paint him as a moron. Is discussing GDP on television a waste of time? That's as ridiculous as it gets. Our nation is facing its biggest economic challenge after the Independence and it's the economy that matters the most to people in this country, not the sleazy deals and sordid tales of the film world. The anchors should have allowed willing panelists to make brief comments on the economy before moving on to the main subject. But such a ruckus over serious issue like GDP has not only showed the anchors and the media outlet that they represent in poor light, but also the entire media.

This incident illustrates how fast some television anchors are turning insane these days. Hope better economic sense prevails on such anchors and we are spared of anarchy on the idiot box.

## Why Indian, Chinese economies decoupling?

Today, India is again in a mood to defy experts and stand up to China

ATUL SINGH, MANU SHARMA & VIKRAM SOOD

India has strong geopolitical, historical and economic reasons to disentangle itself from China's arms. Many experts argue India is the weaker power unable to take on China. In an article in Foreign Policy, James Crabtree argues that a trade war with China would be a bad idea for India. In his view, India's “military is inefficient, under-equipped, and dogged by procurement corruption scandals”. To develop its military strength, India needs a dynamic economy, and an “inward economic direction” would only benefit China in the long run. Therefore, an India-China decoupling is a terrible idea.

These analysts are wrong. Their argument against decoupling is based on three implicit assumptions. First, India is a deeply-divided country unable to act or respond decisively. Second, India is dependent on the Chinese economy for its growth. Third, China's rise is inexorable and India has no option but to come to terms with it. These assumptions are true, but it is an error of judgment to treat them as unqualified truths.

For Indians with longer historical memories than many of these experts, these arguments sound familiar. Just as India stood up to the US on the nuclear issue in the 1990s, it is capable of standing up to China in 2020. An India-China conflict is highly undesirable. Ideally, New Delhi and Beijing should be able to work something out over endless cups of tea. However, sanctimonious advice from foreign experts about dire consequences of an India-China decoupling has to be taken with a bucket, not a pinch, of salt.

In 1998, India went nuclear despite dire predictions for its economy. Many in Washington assumed that India depended on the West for its economy. Barely seven years prior, India had experienced a serious financial crisis. The Gulf War and slowing exports to the US crippled an economy by rising deficits and increasing debt. The precipitous decline of the Soviet Union meant India no longer had a godfather to bail it out. So severe was India's 1991 currency crisis that it had to pledge its gold reserves and liberalize its economy to get a bailout from the International Monetary Fund. In 1998, India was better off than in 1991 but certainly not in a strong position. Nuclear tests put it under immense pressure.

At the UN, the Conference on Disarmament condemned Indian nuclear



**Decoupling with China could boost domestic manufacturing not only for large but also for medium and small industries. This would increase employment, tax revenues and even demand thanks to a multiplier effect**

tests. In the preceding years, India had watched the West ignore the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown and fete China for its economic reforms. Condemnation for nuclear tests strengthened, not weakened, India's response. It stood up to the West, ignored experts and upended nuclear apartheid. Today, India is again in a mood to defy experts and stand up to China.

As troops amass on the India-China border, a full-scale economic war has broken out. It is leading to a structural break in the Indian economy. Both public opinion and political leadership is now committed to decoupling from China. In India, there is a ban on 59 Chinese apps by government authorities. Major trade bodies have formally announced boycotts of Chinese products. For instance, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has listed 3,000 such products. CAIT is a national umbrella organization with 40,000 smaller trade bodies and 70 million traders as members. The government has tightened country of origin rules for e-retailers and other sellers.

Demand for Chinese products is declining. Xiaomi is no longer India's top-selling phone. Samsung has replaced it. Increasingly, selling Chinese goods using Southeast Asian free trade agreements is becoming difficult. The existing business model of buying in China and selling in India is under pressure.

First, India enhanced trade ties with China not only for economic reasons but also geopolitical ones. Becoming a key market and investment destination for China was supposed to reduce the risk of conflict and wean Beijing off Islamabad. Aggressive Chinese actions have made India reconsider this strategy and change tack.

Second, India's manufacturing sector is reasonably well developed but has suffered from Chinese competition since China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. A 2018 parliamentary report concluded that Chinese imports were playing “a negative role for (India's) domestic industry”.

India is not alone in having concerns about China's abuse of WTO rules. A 2018 report to the US Congress expressed concern at “China's continued embrace of a state-led, mercantilist approach to the economy and trade”. It detailed “substantial costs borne by WTO members as a result of China's problematic trade regime” and the challenges presented by its “non-market economic system”. Given China's track record, there is a case to be made for India taking a more protectionist path.

Since 1978, China has followed the American playbook on steroids. It has powered through the largest and fastest industrialization in history. Its companies enjoy the advantages of infrastructure, cheap financing and political sup-

port. Therefore, they have been able to achieve economies of scale. As a result, Indian companies have been blown away. An India-China decoupling might give sectors from aerospace components to advanced pharmaceuticals a second chance.

Third, Chinese imports into India are nice-to-have, not must-have, goods. Demand for them is elastic unlike the inelastic demand for energy from the Middle East and the US. An India-China trade war that leads to a decoupling of the two economies could lead to short-term pain but has a strong rationale for the longer term.

In any case, experts forget that India is unlikely to turn entirely inward as it did after independence in 1947. Recently, billions of dollars have poured into India from the US. Reliance Jio, an Indian mobile internet company, raked in \$15 billion in 10 weeks. This is indicative of a deeper trend. Given new geopolitical imperatives, India is now looking to boost economic ties with friendly powers. It wants Korean, Japanese, European and American firms to set up shop in the country.

Many economists predict a short-term price shock as Chinese goods stop coming into the country. They forget that India has struggled with jobless growth even during the best of times. Decoupling with China could boost domestic manufacturing not only for large but also for medium and small industries. This would increase employment, tax revenues and even demand thanks to a multiplier effect. Improved job figures further increase political support for decoupling and decrease India's need to subsidize agriculture so heavily. For decades, agricultural subsidies have put pressure on public finances. If a lower amount is spent on subsidies, pressure on the fiscal deficit would abate.

To sum up, India has strong reasons to decouple and no longer consider WTO rules sacrosanct. A tectonic shift is underway. After World War II, a new rules-based order emerged. The end of the Cold War strengthened this order and led to visions that Western democracy was the final destination for all societies. With polarization and partisanship at home, Western democracies themselves are in peril. The order that emerged in 1991 is crumbling and a new one is about to emerge. History offers us lessons as to what to expect. (IANS)

(Vikram Sood is former RAW chief and Atul Singh is a journalist, CEO & Editor-in-Chief of Fair Observer. The views expressed are personal)

QUIZ NO. 138

## HANS BIZ QUIZ

Theme: 'Teachers who left classrooms to become entrepreneurs'

1. The digital media and motion graphics teacher at the Art Centre College of Design in Pasadena, California, started an online training library for web design in 1995. Identify the company which was acquired by LinkedIn for a whopping \$1.5 billion in 2015?  
a) Venngage, founded by Eugene Woo  
b) W3Schools, founded by Jan Egil Refsnes  
c) Lynda.com, founded by Lynda Weinman  
d) Pentagram, founded by Alan Fletcher

2. The billionaire entrepreneur, Jack Ma, struggled to gain admission to college. However, he became a lecturer of English and International Trade. Who among these famous authors did not begin their career as an English teacher?  
a) Ernest Hemingway and Agatha Christie  
b) Stephen King and Joanne Harris  
c) George Orwell and J.K. Rowling  
d) Dan Brown and William Golding

3. After teaching at the State University of New York at Buffalo, John Craig Venter led the first team that sequenced the human genome. In 2010, Venter became the first in human history to create a synthetic cell. Craig Venter is founder and Chairman of which of the below?  
a) Craig Venter Institute  
b) Human Longevity  
c) Synthetic Genomics  
d) All of the above

4. Which of the below is correct concerning Peter Thiel, the co-founder of PayPal and an early Facebook investor?  
a) He taught a course on Heterodox Science at the Berkeley Institute and start-up class CS 183 at Stanford University  
b) He taught a law course at the undergrad level at the Stanford University  
c) He taught Globalization and Technology at the Stanford University  
d) All of the above

5. A maths teacher at Dalton School, Manhattan joined as a junior assistant and then a floor trader, options trader in the 70s. He swiftly moved to become a wealth manager and financial advisor to the elite and CEOs. In 1980, he became Bear Stearns Partner and had Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, Naomi Campbell and America's wealthiest as clientele. Identify?  
a) Joseph C. Lewis  
b) Jeffrey Epstein  
c) James Cayne  
d) John Paulson

6. David Cheriton, a professor in Stanford's computer science department, co-founded Arista Networks with Andy Bechtolsheim. In which of the below, David Cheriton was one of the first investors, and the early investment has driven his net worth to 3.5 billion?  
a) Facebook  
b) Google  
c) Amazon  
d) Uber



7. Moderna's mRNA-1273 vaccine is one of the first to begin human trials, and the company's shares have nearly tripled in value since the WHO declared Covid-19. Meet the Harvard Medical School Professor who became a billionaire Thanks To Coronavirus and his stake in Moderna Inc?  
a) Timothy Springer  
b) Robert S. Langer  
c) Kenneth R. Chien  
d) Stephane Bancel

8. Derrick Rossi, is a stem cell biologist and Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School founded which biotechnology company?  
a) AstraZeneca  
b) Novavax  
c) Moderna  
d) Gilead Sciences

9. Professor Alok Sagar quit his job at prestigious IIT Delhi to serve the tribal people of Madhya Pradesh. Which prominent person was once the student of Alok Sagar?  
a) Raghuram Rajan, Former RBI governor  
b) Chetan Bhagat, Author  
c) Sachin Bansal, co-founder of Flipkart  
d) Predhiman Krishan Kaw, a Plasma physicist

10. Identify the celebrity tutor, billionaire entrepreneur, who has said he wants to do for Indian education what the Mouse House did for entertainment?  
a) Anand Kumar, Super 30  
b) Dr Ranjan Pal, Manipal Education  
c) Byju Raveendran, Think & Learn  
d) Satya Narayanan, Career Launcher

The Hans Biz Quiz has been compiled by **Sunil Dhavala**, CEO, The Third Umpire Media. He had held senior management roles at Bertelsmann, NGC, Fox Broadcasting, Star TV and others. He is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

KEY

101 2A 3D 4E 5B 6A 7A 8C 9B 101



# Happy Teacher’s Day: Ten extraordinary coaches of India who produced gems

“Instead of celebrating my birthday, it would be my privilege if September 5 is observed as ‘Teachers’ Day,” said India’s second President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan in 1962. That’s how India got it’s ‘Teachers’ Day.

On the occasion of 2020 Teachers’ Day, ‘Out-look’ look at ten coaches who helped shape the careers of Indian sports stars:

### Ramakant Achrekar (Cricket)

He is the quintessential guru and Sachin Tendulkar, the perfect student. But the Little Master is not the only one to be blessed by ‘Achrekar Sir’. Honoured with the Dronacharya Award in 1990 and the Padma Shri in 2010, Achrekar helped shape the careers of many cricketers, including Chandrakant Pandit, Pravin Amre, Vinod Kambli, Ajit Agarkar, Ramesh Powar, etc.



### Pullela Gopichand (Badminton)

He is one of India’s best, both as a player and a coach. As a player, Gopichand kept Indian hopes alive but as a coach, he has managed to translate dreams into reality by producing champions like Saina Nehwal, P. V. Sindhu, Srikanth Kidambi, Sai Praneeth, Parupalli Kashyap, etc. He was honoured with Arjuna Award (1999), Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (2001), Padma Shri (2005), Dronacharya Award (2009) and Padma Bhushan (2014).



### Satpal Singh (Wrestling)

He won a gold medal in the 1982 Asian Games, then guided Sushil Kumar to two Olympic medals - bronze in 2008 Beijing and 2012 London. He was honoured with Arjun Award (1974), Padma Shri (1983), Dronacharya Award (2009) and Padma Bhushan (2015).



### Mahavir Singh Phogat (Wrestling)

Mahavir is the real-life hero for many women wrestlers in India. He is the father and coach of famed Phogat sisters -- Geeta and Babita Kumari, and their cousin, Vinesh. Mahavir was awarded Dronacharya Award in 2016. The same year, his life was made into a blockbuster, Dangal.



### Desh Prem Azad (Cricket)

He never played for India, but Desh Azad gave the country a captain capable of leading a group of ‘journeymen’ to the World Cup triumph. Kapil Dev, indeed, is his



most famous student, but there are others who blossomed under Azad’s guidance -- like Chetan Sharma, Yograj Singh and Akhmalhotra. He was honoured with Dronacharya Award in 1986.

### Gurbaksh Singh Sandhu (Boxing)

He is probably the greatest Indian boxing coach. Gurbaksh has overseen the rise of boxing in the country and helped shape the future many champions, including Vijender Singh. He was honoured with Dronacharya Award in 1998.



### Pradip Kumar Banerjee (Football)

He is the only Asian footballer to be honoured with FIFA Order of Merit, in 2004. The former national captain later became one of the greatest Indian coaches, and managed both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan. He was honoured with Arjuna Award in 1961 and Padma Shri in 1990.



### Syed Nayeemuddin (Football)

He is another former captain who became a successful coach. After leading India in many memorable wins in the field, Nayeem coached the national team. He was honoured with both Arjuna and Dronacharya awards.



### Bishweshwar Nandi (Gymnastics)

He is the man behind pathbreaking gymnast Dipa Karmakar. Nandi, himself a brilliant gymnast, was honoured with Dronacharya Award in 2016.



### OM Nambiar (Athletics)

He is probably the most famous Indian athletics coach. Under his guidance, PT Usha emerged as a force to reckon with. Nambiar was honoured with Dronacharya award in 1985.



### Vasudevan Baskaran (Hockey)

He is the last Indian hockey captain to lead the national team to Olympics glory, in the 1980 Moscow Games. After a successful playing career, Baskaran coached India. He is an Arjuna Awardee, in 1980.



# Djokovic, Kvitova in pre-quarters

US OPEN

Washington (IANS): Tennis stars Novak Djokovic and Petra Kvitova made it to the last 16 of the ongoing US Open after winning the third-round matches in their respective categories.

In men’s singles, Djokovic defeated No. 28 seed Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 in a match that lasted One hour and 42 minutes at the Arthur Ashe Stadium on Friday.

“It was a very good performance from my side. I managed to read his serve well,” the top-seeded player said after the match as per the ATP Tour website. “I found my way, especially after the first set. The second and third sets were a really great feeling on the court.” “I’ve been playing well the past couple of weeks, training well, focussing on the right things, maintaining that level of performance and hoping for the best. I’m feeling confident about my game and taking that to every match I play,” he added.

Awaiting him in the next round is No. 20 seed Pablo Carreno Busta, who breezed past Ricardas Berankis 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. In women’s singles, No. 6 seed Kvitova moved past Jessica Pegula 6-4, 6-3 to advance to the round of 16 at a Grand Slam event for the 20th time in her



## Bopanna-Shapovalov enter second round

New York (IANS): The Indo-Canadian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov have made it to the second round of the men’s doubles event at the ongoing US Open after defeating the American pair of Ernesto Escobedo and Noah Rubin in straight sets. On Friday, Bopanna and Shapovalov beat 6-2, 6-4 in a match that lasted one hour and 22 minutes. After the win, Bopanna took to Twitter and wrote, “Through to the second round. Denis Shapovalov #USOpen.” Bopanna and Shapovalov will now lock horns



with German pair of Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Miles -- who had defeated the Aus-

tralian pair of Luke Saville and Max Purcell -- for a place in the quarterfinals.

career. “I think the whole match was at a pretty good level,” Kvitova told the media,

after her win. “We both played nice tennis, I would say.” She will next face another hard-hit-

ting American Shelby Rogers, who ousted Madison Brengle earlier on Friday.

# Messi to stay at Barcelona & see out contract

Madrid (IANS): Lionel Messi has confirmed that he would stay at FC Barcelona this season to see out his four-year contract signed in 2017.

The 33-year-old on Friday confirmed his U-turn in an interview with goal.com, which comes 11 days after he rocked the footballing world by informing Barcelona that he wanted to leave the club he first joined 20 years ago, reports Xinhua news agency.

Although Messi will remain at the Camp Nou until he can leave as a free agent, fans are worried at the interview in which he explained how he felt in recent months.

“I didn’t feel happy this last year at the club,” explained Messi.

“I have been (wanting to leave) all year. I thought the team needed younger players and I thought my epoch at Barcelona had ended. It was a complicated year. I suffered a lot in training, in games and in the dressing room. Everything was very difficult and there came a moment



when I decided to look for new objectives.”

“I wanted to go, and I was in my right to do so, because my contract said I was free. I wanted to go because I was thinking about being happy in my last years in football,” he commented.

The striker argued that a clause in his contract, which is due to expire in June 2021, allowed him to leave on a free transfer at the end of the 2019/20 season and that he wanted to take up the option.

Barcelona, who have been sup-

ported by the Spanish football league (La Liga), took a different viewpoint, insisting that if he wanted to join a different club, he would have to pay the 700 million euro release clause in his contract.

Under that clause, Messi could leave the club for free if he requested to do so by June 10, the nominal end of the season. But the 2019/20 La Liga season extended beyond that date due to the COVID-19 pandemic, complicating matters.

Barca is not willing to give up on Messi, especially not for free.

Messi’s father Jorge flew into Barcelona on Wednesday to meet Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu, but that meeting failed to see the two parties move closer to an agreement, raising the possibility of a court case - something Messi insisted he wanted to avoid.

“It really hurt me that people could think I would be able to go to court against Barcelona for my own benefit. I would never do something like that,” commented the striker.

## Hyderabad FC sign defender Chinglensana Singh

Hyderabad: Hyderabad FC have completed the signing of 23-year-old defender Konsham Chinglensana Singh ahead of the upcoming season of the Indian Super League. Known in the footballing circuit as ‘Sana’, the Manipuri defender joins in after a three-year spell with FC Goa and has penned a two-year deal till the end of the 2021-22 season. “The club is building a new squad with a lot of ambition in an exciting project. I want to be part of this team and play my role in helping the club establish its legacy in Indian Football by trying to win trophies and bringing back glory days to the city of Hyderabad,” said Sana who becomes the third new Indian signing at Hyderabad FC this season after Subrata Paul and Halicharan Narzary. On the international stage, Sana has represented India at the U19, U22 and U23 levels while also making his senior debut in 2016.

## Mo Farah, Hassan break one-hour world record in Brussels

Brussels (IANS): Four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah and Sifan Hassan both broke the one-hour world record at the Memorial Van Damme meet. The meet is part of the Diamond League series and was held at an empty King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels, Belgium, on Friday. Hassan first ran 18.930 kilometres, thus going past the previous record of 18.517 km set by Ethiopia’s Dire Tune at the Ostrava Golden Spike meet in 2008. In the final race of the meet, Farah covered 21.330 km, thus breaking Haile Gebrselassie’s 13-year-old record of 21.285 km. Farah was running with his training partner Bashir Abdi who challenged the British long distance running great until the closing stages of the race.

## Gokulam Kerala FC sign Mizoram left-back Zodinglana

Kozhikode (IANS): I-League club Gokulam Kerala FC have signed Mizoram left-back Zodinglana Tochhawng for the upcoming season. Zodinglana, who is also known as Adlinga, started his professional career with Shillong Lajong FC in 2013 I-League season and before that he was part of India under-14, under-16, and under-19 teams. Later he was loaned to North East United FC and played 10 matches for the highlanders. The next year, he represented Delhi Dynamos and played 12 matches. His last stint in ISL was with Pune City before moving to FC Goa reserve team. Last season, the 25-year-old played a major role for NERCA FC in the I-League, starting 11 matches.

## Dhoni's mentor recovering after being hospitalised

New Delhi (IANS): Deval Sahay, the man who played a crucial role in Mahendra Singh Dhoni’s early days by providing him a turf pitch to play on in Ranchi, is currently hospitalised in his home city with multiple health issues, including breathing and urinary. However, the good news is that the 73-year-old was removed from the ventilator support on Saturday. Sahay, who as Director (Personnel) with Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) hired a young Dhoni on stipend in 1997-98, was put on ventilator after being admitted in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Jagannath Hospital in Ranchi on Tuesday. But in the last couple of days he has showed signs of recovery and on Friday the ventilator tube in his throat was first removed for a couple of hours and on Saturday the ventilator was again removed and doctors were monitoring him. “The good news is that the ventilator has been removed now (1.30 pm). But he is still in the ICU,” Abhinav Akash Sahay, son of Sahay, told IANS from Ranchi on Saturday.

# Late fightback helps England beat Oz in 1st T20I

Southampton (IANS): A late fightback from the bowlers helped England beat Australia by two runs in the first T20I of the three-match series at the Ageas Bowl.

Chasing 163, Australia at one stage needed just 39 runs from the last six overs with nine wickets in hand to take a 1-0 lead in the series on Friday. However, they ended up on 160/6 and lost the game which was in their grasp for the majority of duration.

Earlier, Australia restricted England to 162/7, despite Jos Buttler’s early fireworks and Dawid Malan’s well-composed 66. For the visitors, it was Kane Richardson and Glenn Maxwell who provided control as they returned with figures of 2/13 and 2/14 respectively from three overs apiece.

Left-arm spinner Aston Agar, who was taken for 16 by Buttler in his first over, also bounced back and returned with figures of 2/32 in his four overs.

Other than Buttler and Malan, only Chris Jordan got to double figures, hitting 14\* from 8 balls in a late cameo.

Australia had a great start to their chase and looked on track to register a comprehensive victory, thanks to Aaron Finch and David Warner’s early dominance, with the pair adding 98 runs in



11 overs before the Australia captain lost his wicket after scoring 46 runs.

Steve Smith, who came in next, looked fluent as he scored 18 from 11 balls, but Adil Rashid had him caught sweeping and he then dismissed Maxwell four balls later as England fought back.

Warner (58) and Alex Carey also went back to the pavilion in quick succession as Australia lost four wickets for nine runs, with the visitors still needing 30 from 21 balls.

Australia needed 15 from the final over but Tom Curran kept his cool and didn’t allow Marcus Stoinis to take his team across the line.

The two teams will now lock horns in the second T20I at the same venue on Sunday.

**Brief scores:** England 162/7



It was the first time I've been here (England) and not got abuse. It was quite nice," David Warner