



# THE HANS INDIA

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## WINDOWS

### Venkaiah Naidu recovers from Covid-19

New Delhi: Vice-President M

Venkaiah Naidu on Monday tested negative for Covid-19, his office said. Naidu had tested positive for corona virus on September 29. The 71-year-old was asymptomatic and in good health. He was under home isolation during his recovery from the infection. "As per today's RT-PCR test conducted by AIIMS, both the vice-president and his wife Usha Naidu have tested negative for Covid-19," the Vice-President's Secretariat said in a statement. Naidu is in good health and is expected to resume normal activities soon as per doctor's advice, it said. "He thanked all those who prayed for his well-being," the statement said.



### NEET result on Friday

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency will declare the NEET Result 2020 on October 16, 2020, according to its official website. Candidates who appeared for the NEET 2020 exam are requested to visit ntaneet.nic.in for the process of checking and downloading their respective NEET Result 2020, once released.



### Kushboo Sundar joins BJP

New Delhi (PTI): Actor-turned-politician Kushboo Sundar joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) here on Monday, hours after she quit the Congress. Speaking to reporters at the joining ceremony, the actor from Tamil Nadu said she had come to the understanding over a period of time that if the nation has to move forward, then someone like Prime Minister Narendra Modi is needed to take the country "in the right direction and to its glory". She said people have reposed their faith in Modi time and again. "You have 128 cr people actually believing in one man and that's our prime minister. I think they're doing something absolutely right," she added.



# Festival bonanza for Central staff

## Special interest-free advance of ₹10,000

New Delhi (IANS): Coming festive season government employees will receive interest-free advance of Rs 10,000 each that will help generate demand worth Rs 8,000 crore in the Covid-affected economy. Employees will get pre-loaded Rupay Card of the advance value, which they would have to spend by March 31, 2021.

The amount spent would be recoverable in 10 instalments. The bank charges for the issue of card will be borne by the government.

With a view to boosting consumer demand and revive the economy which has been subdued amid

► Employees to get pre-loaded Rupay Card of the advance value which need to be spent by March 31, 2021

► The amount spent would be recoverable in 10 instalments

► Bank charges for the issue of card will be borne by the government

► The scheme to ensure digital mode of payment to yield tax revenue and encourage businesses

► Unlike the LTC scheme, consumers free to spend on items of their choice irrespective of GST applicability

### Rules of LTC offer

- Employees could buy items that attract 12% or more GST
- All purchases to be made in digital mode from GST-registered outlets

the pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced a slew of measures to stimulate expenditure by the public.

As per the minister, the scheme would ensure digital mode of payment, resulting in tax revenue and encouraging honest businesses. But unlike the LTC

scheme, consumers would be free to spend the amount on items of their choice irrespective of GST applicability.

Continued on Page 5

## Cash vouchers instead of LTC

New Delhi (PTI): The government on Monday announced giving out cash vouchers to central government employees this year in lieu of leave travel concession (LTC) fare which could be spent only on buying non-food GST-rated items.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the employees could buy items that attract 12 per cent or more goods and services tax (GST). These purchases will have to be made in digital mode from GST-registered outlets. Every four years, central government employees get LTC to any destination to their choice plus one to their hometown. Since travel is difficult to undertake during the pandemic, the government will pay the entitled fare as cash vouchers which have to be spent by March 31, 2021, she said.



### Stanford duo share Nobel honours in Economics

Stockholm (IANS): The 2020 Nobel Prize in Economics was on Monday awarded to American economists Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats".

Both Milgrom and Wilson are affiliated to the Stanford University.

According to the Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Wilson has been awarded this year's Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences as he "showed why rational bidders tend to place bids below their own best estimate of the common value: They are worried about the winner's curse, that is, about paying too much and losing out". Meanwhile, Milgrom "formulated a more general theory of auctions that not only allows common values, but also private values that vary from bidder to bidder".

"This year's Laureates in Economic Sciences started out with fundamental theory and later used their results in practical applications, which have spread globally. Their discoveries are of great benefit to the society," said Peter Fredriksson, chair of the Prize Committee. The Nobel laureates in Economic Sciences have produced research results that have deepened the understanding of how auction markets function in the presence of private information, said the Committee for the prize.

## Amid LAC row, Rajnath inaugurates 44 bridges

Shimla (IANS): Two crucial bridges on the strategic 475-km Manali-Leh highway were among the 44 bridges inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday to facilitate movement of armed forces and logistics in forward areas of Union Territory of Ladakh, officials said.

The new bridges in Himachal Pradesh are the 360-metre-long Darcha-Barsi steel truss bridge in Darcha in Lahaul-Spiti district and the 110-metre-long Palchan bridge near Manali in Kullu district.

The Darcha bridge across the Bhaga river is the second longest in the country, constructed at a cost of Rs 27.25 crore, officials said.

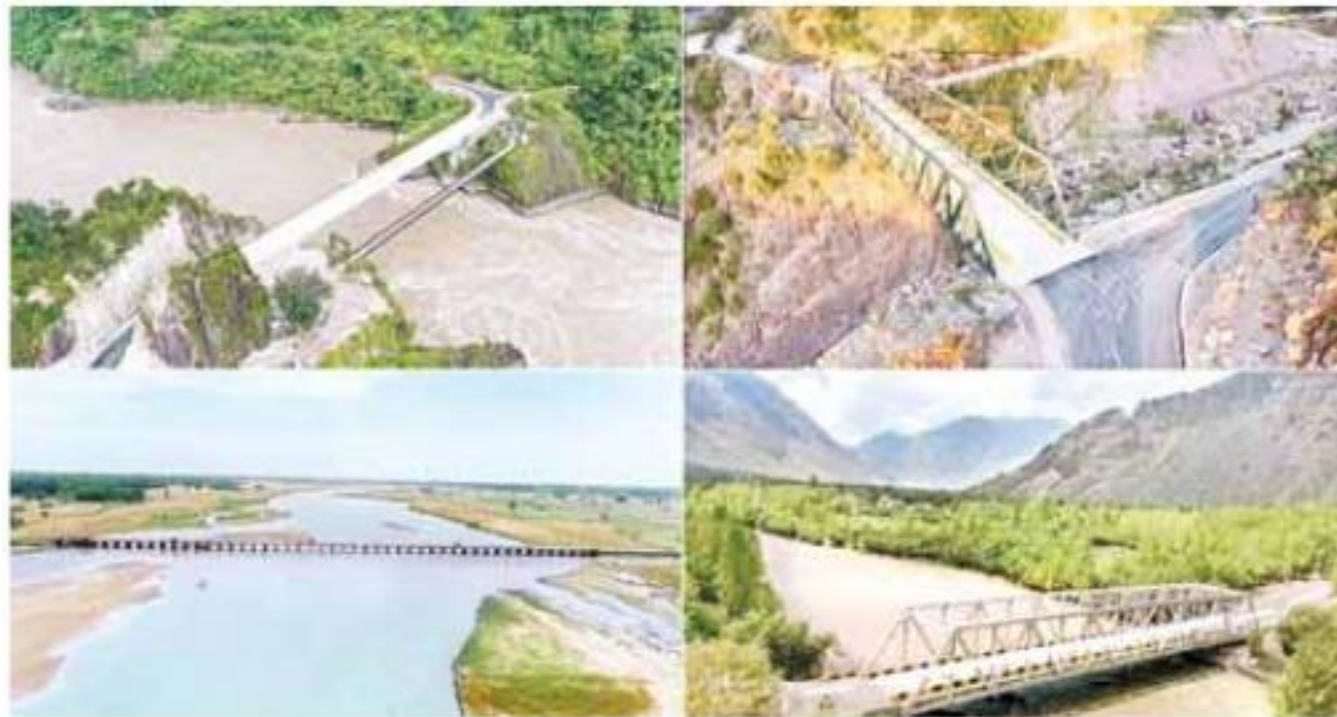
Besides improving the flow of traffic, the new bridge,

would prove helpful increasing load carrying ability, an official statement said.

Darcha is located some 33 km ahead of Keylong, the district headquarters, at a height of 11,020 ft, the last permanent settlement in the state.

From Darcha, one road bifurcates towards Shinku La (pass), the shortest route that traverses to the remote Zaskar region towards Padum, some 30 km from Leh, and another towards the windy Manali-Leh highway.

The 297-km-long Darcha-Nimmu-Padum road has been identified as the third strategic alternative to Ladakh in wake of the threat from Pakistan and China. The double-laned road is under construction and likely to be completed



Four among 44 bridges, built by BRO across seven States and UTs, which were dedicated to the nation by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Monday

by 2023, officials said.

The BRO is also studying the feasibility of constructing

a tunnel beneath the 13.5-km-long snow avalanche-prone Shinku La like the Atal Tun-

nel near Manali to avoid the majestic pass.

Continued on Page 5

### Poor air quality in Delhi

New Delhi: Air quality in Delhi and adjoining areas was recorded in the poor category on Monday morning and the level of superfluous particles - PM2.5 and PM10 was the highest so far this season. 'Air quality monitoring system of the Ministry of Earth Sciences' Saffar said that the air quality index is expected to improve slightly in the coming days due to the change in the wind's attitude. The overall air quality index was 240 in Delhi at 10 am.

## APHC orders CBI probe over remarks against judiciary

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Expressing displeasure over the investigation by the state CID, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday directed the CBI to probe the alleged derogatory comments made by ruling YSR Congress leaders in the social media against some judges and the judiciary.

A bench, comprising Justices Rakesh Kumar and J Uma Devi, directed the CBI to register an FIR and submit a report in eight weeks. It had commented that cases were not registered against the YSRC leaders only to save them.

The bench also directed the state government to cooperate with the CBI in the investigation. The High Court had on its

own taken cognizance after a series of alleged derogatory posts were made on the social media platforms against judges and the judiciary following some verdicts that went against the state government.

It may be recalled that on the directions of the High Court, its Registrar General lodged a complaint with the CID giving names and related evidence but the state police wing reportedly booked only nine people. The court also took serious note of the comments made by Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram, Deputy Chief Minister Narayana Swamy, MPs V Vijayasai Reddy, Nandigam Suresh, former MLA A Krishna Mohan and other leaders of the ruling YSRC.

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## Over 18K tonnes Covid-19 waste since June

New Delhi (PTI): India generated 18,006 tonnes of Covid-19 biomedical waste in the last four months, with Maharashtra contributing the maximum (3,587 tonnes) to it, according to a Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

Around 5,500 tonnes of Covid-19 waste was generated across the country in September - the maximum for a month so far. According to the data received from state pollution control boards, since June, all states and Union Territories have generated 18,006 tonnes of Covid-19-related biomedical waste which is being collected, treated

Covid-19 biomedical waste include PPE kits, masks, shoe covers, gloves, human tissues, items contaminated with blood, body fluids like dressings, plaster casts, cotton swabs, beddings contaminated with blood or body fluid, blood bags, needles and syringes

Maharashtra generated 3,587 tonnes of Covid-19 waste in four months since June, followed by Tamil Nadu (1,737 tonnes), Gujarat (1,638 tonnes), Kerala (1,516 tonnes), Uttar Pradesh (1,432 tonnes), Delhi (1,400 tonnes), Karnataka (1,380 tonnes) and West Bengal (1,000 tonnes). Around 5,490 tonnes of such waste was generated in September, with Gujarat contributing the maximum 622 tonnes, followed by Tamil Nadu (543 tonnes), Maharashtra (524 tonnes), Uttar Pradesh (507 tonnes) and Kerala (494 tonnes). Delhi generated 382 tonnes of Covid-19 bio-medical waste in September

and disposed of by 198 common biomedical waste treatment facilities (CB-WTFs).

Covid-19 biomedical waste could include PPE kits, masks, shoe covers,

gloves, human tissues, items contaminated with blood, body fluids like dressings, plaster casts, cotton swabs, beddings contaminated with blood or body fluid, blood bags,

needles, syringes etc.

Around 5,240 tonnes of covid-19 waste was generated in August, of which 1,359 tonnes was in Maharashtra, and 588 tonnes each in Kerala and Karnataka. In July, the country generated 4,253 tonnes of Covid-19 waste, with Maharashtra (1,180), Karnataka (540) and Tamil Nadu (401) being the top three contributors. India generated 3,025 tonnes of Covid-19 waste in June, with Maharashtra alone accounting for 524 tonnes, followed by Gujarat (350 tonnes), Delhi (333 tonnes) and Tamil Nadu (312 tonnes).

Continued on Page 5

## KAPIL KAVURI

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# Womenia

TWEET PATROL


**TWINKLE KHANNA  
@MRSFUNNYBONES**

You have always made me laugh! I am sure it is not easy when your body stops being your ally but you have inspired so many with your spirit and your candour. Loved your book, my friend- always a warrior and never a victim.



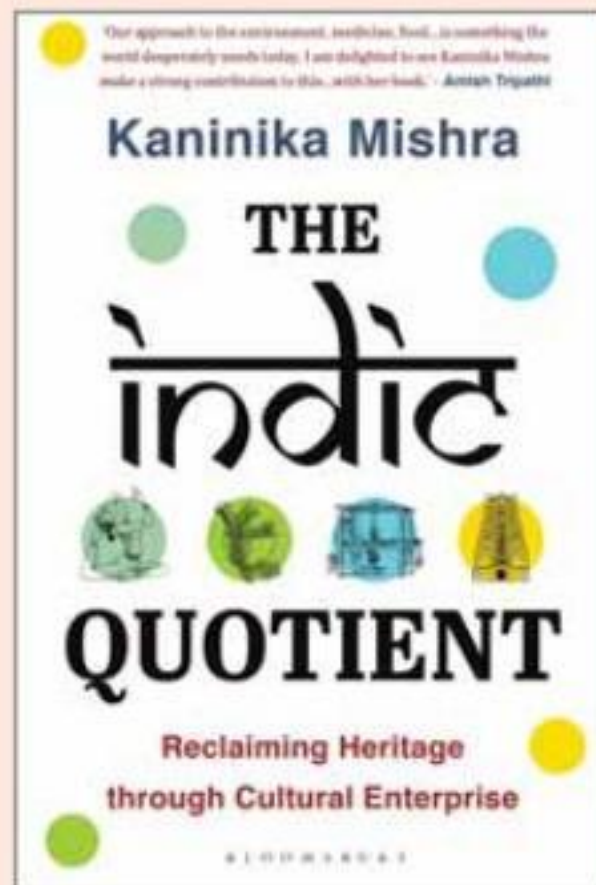
# Reclaiming heritage through cultural enterprises

ASKARI JAFFER

Kaninika Mishra has traveled across India finding success stories of entrepreneurs who made a mark in unconventional sectors like art, medicine, food and handlooms. Kaninika's fourth book highlights real stories of successful ventures and imaginative social initiatives centered around Indic ideas. Her best-selling book 'The Indian Millionaire Next Door', published in 2012, has been translated into Hindi and Tamil.

The initial idea that led to this book came up to her when she started to learn yoga 6 years ago where she met many young people who had turned to yoga, ayurveda or Indian dietary regimens to cope with stress and health problems of modern living.

She shares, "Around that time the market for ayurveda personal care products and Khadi had also begun on its path of exponential growth. This struck me as a significant change from only a decade ago when yoga was considered suitable for the elderly and urban Indians were fascinated with foreign products. I began researching this trend. I found several start-up founders and activists who were passionate about Indian heritage and were working hard to bring forward Indic wisdom from the past to benefit contemporary society. Their stories of enterprise and devotion to Indic cul-



ture were inspiring and I thought of putting these tales together in a book."

Kaninika spent four years researching the various dimensions of Indic heritage that she wanted to include in the book. Her research was three-fold. One aspect was understanding the philosophy and historical perspectives related to yoga, ayurveda, textiles, literature and Indic art. The second was tracking and analysing the entrepreneurial activity in the heritage sector through news reports and the third involved travelling and



The book 'The Indic Quotient' delves into socio-cultural transformation through insights from passionate entrepreneurs who made a mark by exploring age old Indic cultures and traditions like yoga, ayurveda, handloom, sattvik food and launched initiatives to promote, develop and conserve Indian heritage and culture

meeting people across India.

"I travelled across India and interviewed people in diverse fields, ranging from temple conservation to beauty products, and from yoga schools to digital initiatives in ayurveda practice. I sought out initiatives which I felt made an impact. In my conversation with entrepreneurs and ayurveda doctors, the Hindu antecedents of ayurveda is one reason for a lack of acknowledgement of this system in an increasingly Hindu-phobic world. With yoga we find that the western validation, that has happened through the slow stripping away of the spiritual core of yoga, has led to a wider acceptance and support for it."

In her travels across India for her book, 'The Indic Quotient', she met several artisan communities, each with their own distinct weaving style and unique artistic sensibilities. India is one of the major producers of hand-made products in the world with approximately 7 million artisans and a total of 744 clusters. The number of people engaged in hand weaving, however, is fast dwindling.

Several entrepreneurs who Kaninika spoke to have been direct beneficiaries of the economic liberalisation. Many of them have worked in multinational companies and even lived abroad but are not fascinated by the West like the generation before them.



## Improve your fashion style

Has your closet kept you feeling stuck in a style rut? A woman can advance her shopping, image, and fashion skills.

With that in mind, here are a few styling tips to get your style unstuck so can you feel even more like the confident, gorgeous, powerhouse woman you already are.

### Find your style vibe

Replicate the personal style you love by being an anthropologist. Examine rather than judge to borrow vibes from another person's image.

This builds on the complexity of putting entire looks together because rather than simply appreciating one thing or detail, you're capturing the feeling of an overall aesthetic. Let's imagine you'd love to feel more and. You often see women who reflect that in the way they dress and you admire it. These women catch your eye because they do it in the most authentic way. For them, it is an internal feeling they exude through their clothing choices. They dress to express that part of themselves.

### Know why you like something, to wear what you want

The next time you like or don't like an item of clothing take note of why.

When we are attracted to or repelled by an item, there are details that make you go yay or nay. Regardless if it is the color, the pleats, the fabric, or the way it moves, it's your job to understand why you kinda love it or hate it. As you start paying attention to why you like something you'll notice patterns in your style preferences. These patterns are valuable information to dressing yourself smarter. Our awareness of why we are attracted to something is a tool in creating more of that in our lives.

### Embrace and Figure out your body's shape

Your body is fashion's ultimate accessory and you are your canvas. When we struggle to understand how to dress our shapes, it can hinder creativity and/or highlight our insecurities, making us feel frustrated and with limited options.

An integral step in making smarter purchases and ending frustrating shopping experiences. Your body is the way that it is and will continue to change as you age. Learning to work with and love what you've got is one of your greatest resources. Women who know what works for their body understand how to flatter it.

## Get rid of acne and wrinkles with banana peel



Banana peel is high in lutein, an antioxidant and carotenoid vitamin related to Vitamin A. Lutein helps in protecting the skin against the damage done by the sun. Banana peel is high in esterified fatty acids, which are hard to find otherwise and constitute as one of the basic ingredients in many patent lotions.

With the use of banana peel, you can achieve acne and wrinkle-free skin. It has vitamins A, B, C, E, potassium, zinc, iron, and manganese that can reduce even the old acne marks. It hydrates your skin from the inside out and

gives it a softer look. If you too want naturally clear and younger-looking skin, this is how you can get it.

### How to use banana peel?

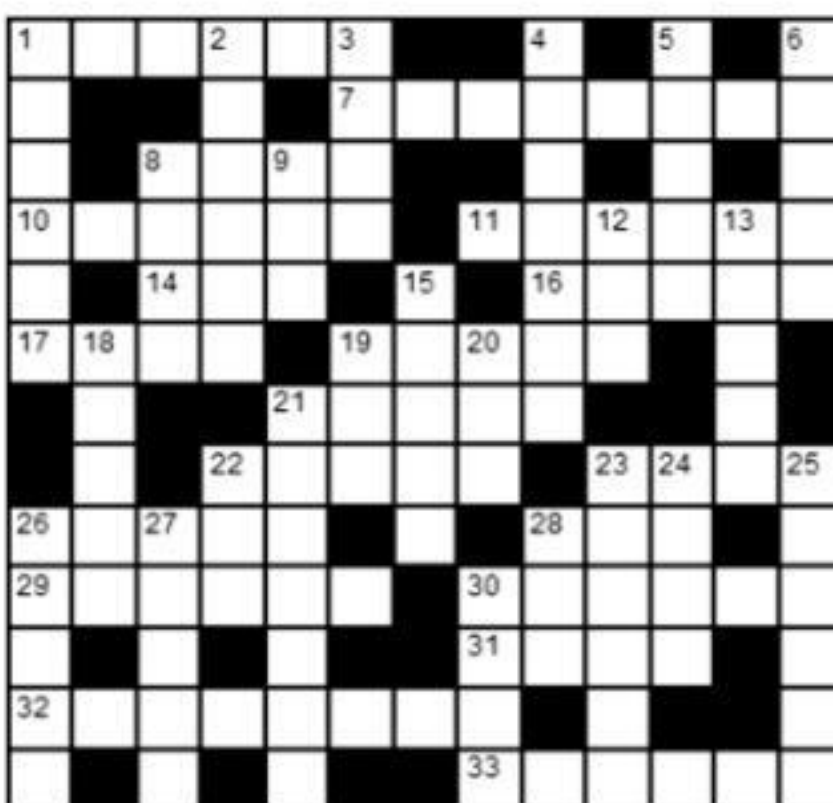
First, prepare your skin. Use a mild cleanser to get rid of oil and dirt on the skin. Don't scrub or be harsh on your skin, especially if you have acne. Take a ripe banana and cut its peel into chunks and rub the inner part directly on the skin for 10 to 15 minutes in a circular motion. Keep a check if the peel is turning black from the inside.

If that is the case, it means that the peel needs to be replaced now. Don't wash your face instantly.

Let your skin absorb all the moisture for at least 4-5 hours. Then rinse off

with cold water. You can use banana peel daily for better results. Banana peel is rich in various minerals and vitamins which make it a perfect ingredient for resolving other skin related troubles as well. Here are some other benefits that you can reap from banana peel:

It can be used to get rid of warts. Just tape the banana peel on the skin and leave it overnight. With continuous use, your warts will vanish. Because of high sugar content, it can help you with haemorrhoids. As it is high in natural moisture, it can treat eczema and psoriasis as well. You can use banana peel to correct cracked heels as well. Banana peel is rich in potassium and is anti-inflammatory in nature. It can be used to treat the skin irritated by the sun.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 12

## CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Loose rock (6)
- 7 Solar system models (8)
- 8 Insincerely fluent and easy (4)
- 10 Furrow (6)
- 11 Indian snack (6)
- 14 Purchase (3)
- 16 Fictional work (5)
- 17 Commotion (4)
- 19 A game of chance (5)
- 21 Picture puzzle (5)
- 22 Eat heartily (3,2)
- 23 Made haste (4)
- 26 Braid (5)
- 28 Tibetan gazelle (3)
- 29 Bolster or strengthen (4,2)
- 30 2013 Wimbledon Champion (6)
- 31 Assert (4)
- 32 Bangkok its capital (8)
- 33 Word origin (6)

### Down

- 1 Sacred river of India (6)
- 2 Boldness (6)

- 3 Earring site (4)
- 4 Renders harmless (7)
- 5 Russian ballet company (5)
- 6 Standard (5)
- 8 Asian desert (4)
- 9 Climbing plant (3)
- 12 Cow call (3)
- 13 Intuit (5)
- 15 Leg bone (5)
- 18 Unit of magnetic induction (5)
- 19 Ask for charity (3)
- 20 Convent dweller (3)
- 21 Codes of ceremonies (7)
- 22 Brief swim (3)
- 23 Extremely (6)
- 24 Young salmon (4)
- 25 Rehearsal (3,3)
- 26 Babble (5)
- 27 Jordanian capital (5)
- 28 Governor (3)
- 30 Constituted (4)

## SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 12

## NEWS ROUNDUP

### TV actress Aishwarya Sharma: Dance is my first love

Actress Aishwarya Sharma, popular as Pakhi of the show Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein, says dance is her first love.

"I have done Visharad in Kathak. It is a six-year-course. Dance for me is freedom of expression. It clears my mind. I can dance anywhere. Whenever I hear beats, my body just starts dancing. It is my first love and will always be," she said.



However, she says this doesn't mean that her dedication towards her craft of acting is any less. "I don't remember exactly when I realised I wanted to be an actor, but I used to do a lot of mimicry of my faculty members and friends in my school and college days and a lot of people used to tell me that I should try acting. I used to read a lot of celebrity interviews and something always told me that I should do it, but then I never spoke about it at home. Then, after engineering, I happened to tell my father that I want to do something in that field, and it was he who told me I should get into acting. I am so grateful to him for saying that," she added.

She has appeared in shows like "Code Red" and "Sankat Mochan Mahabali Hanuman".



**New Delhi:** The prolonged closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic in India may cause a loss of over USD 400 billion in the country's future earnings, besides substantial learning losses, according to a World Bank report.

South Asia region stands to lose USD 622 billion from the school closures in the present scenario or up to USD 880 billion in a more pessimistic scenario, it said, adding while the regional loss is largely driven by India, all countries will lose substantial shares of their GDP.

The report titled "Beaten or Broken? Informality and COVID-19 in South Asia" claims that South Asia is set to plunge into its worst-ever recession in 2020 as the devastating impacts

## Shutting schools over Covid may cost India over \$400bn: World Bank

of COVID-19 on the region's economies linger.

"Temporary school closures in all South Asian countries have had major implications for students. They have kept 391 million students out of school in primary and secondary education, further complicating efforts to resolve the learning crisis," said the report. "While most governments have made enormous efforts to mitigate the impact of school closures, it has been difficult to engage children through remote

learning initiatives," it said. The report also noted that the pandemic may cause up to 5.5 million students to drop out from the education system and cause substantial learning losses, which will have a lifetime impact on the productivity of a generation of students. "Most school systems closed in March, and -- though there are important exceptions -- countries are starting to reopen or have already opened their schools. Children have been out of school for approximately



5 months. Being out of school for that long means that children not only stop learning new things, they also forget some of what

they have learned. "The projected learning loss for the region is 0.5 years of learning-adjusted years of schooling (LAYS), falling

from 6.5 LAYS to 6.0 LAYS, an enormous setback from recent advances in schooling," it said. The "Learning Adjusted Year of Schooling" (LAYS) concept, introduced by the World Bank, seeks to combine access and learning outcomes into a single measure.

It combines quantity (years of schooling) and quality (how much kids know at a given grade level) into a single summary measure of human capital in a society.

The report has projected that based on country data on household labor incomes, the average child in South Asia may lose USD 4,400 in lifetime earnings once having entered the labour market, equivalent to 5 percent of total earnings. "These projections

are based on what we currently know about returns to schooling, using the reduced level of learning caused by the crisis. Summing these numbers for all children in South Asia, the region stands to lose USD 622 billion from the school closures in the present scenario, or up to USD 880 billion in a more pessimistic scenario.

"While the regional loss is largely driven by India, all countries will lose substantial shares of their GDP. For reference, note that South Asian governments spend only USD 400 billion per year in total on primary and secondary education. The total loss in economic output from the current closures is hence substantially higher than what countries currently spend on education," it said.

## Night cremation: Hathras DM owns full responsibility

Victim's family pleads that the trial of the case be shifted to either Delhi or Mumbai

**Lucknow (IANS):** Hathras district magistrate Parveen Kumar Laxar has owned full responsibility for the decision related to holding the cremation of the 19-year-old victim in the night.

Laxar pleaded that cremation had been done in the dead of the night because they had received intelligence inputs that some vested interests could try to provoke caste violence.

He also said that there was a possibility the body decomposing if the cremation was delayed further. He denied that there was any pressure on him from the government or higher officials.

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court that held a detailed hearing of the 'forced cremation' of the Hathras victim on Monday, said it would give the detailed order later.

The court has fixed November 2 as the next date of hearing.

The division bench of Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Rajan Roy heard the victim's family and also various government officials during its two-hour hearing.

The victim's family pleaded that the trial of the case be shifted to



### Journalist's arrest: SC to hear plea after 4 weeks

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Supreme Court on Monday said it will hear after four weeks a journalist's body plea, challenging the arrest of a scribe in Uttar Pradesh under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The journalist was arrested by the state police while on his way to Hathras, where a Dalit woman died on September 29 after being allegedly gang raped by four upper caste men on September 14.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ), submitted before a bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian, that with the UAPA charges added in the case the journalist will not get any relief from any court in the state.

The bench replied that the petitioner should approach the Allahabad High Court for relief in the matter.

either Delhi or Mumbai. Seema Kushwaha, counsel for the victim's family said that the family wanted the case to be transferred out of Uttar Pradesh.

She said that the security of the family was a major concern because the family had already been receiving threats from various groups supporting the accused. She said that security should not be turned into a joke. Seema Kushwaha also urged the court that information about investigations should be kept private so that the family's privacy is not compromised. She alleged that an effort was being made to alter the narrative in the case by disclosing information related to call detail records and other information.

The family, while deposing before the court, maintained that the cremation of the victim was held against their wishes and neither were they allowed to attend the last rites. The mother said that they were not even sure if the body cremated was that of their daughter because they were not allowed to see her face for the last time.

## Woman gang-raped by 7 in Buxar, son killed

**Patna (IANS):** Seven men in Bihar's Buxar district gang raped a woman and killed her 5-year-old son, an official said on Monday. One person has been arrested.

The incident was reported near Chaigain village. A man hunt is underway to nab the others, police said.

The victim had visited a bank in the village to deposit money. While returning home, she was intercepted by the accused and taken to a nearby forest area, where they took turns raping her.

Their brutality did not end there. The accused then strangled the mother and son (who had accompanied her) using ropes and threw them in to a



canal. The men thought them to be dead.

However, passersby rescued them and took them to Sadar hospital where doctors declared the child brought dead. The woman survived.

A 17-year-old girl has been raped by a student of a polytechnic college in Uttar Pradesh in-

side the campus despite police presence while a civil service exam was underway. Her tormentors robbed her, made objectionable videos and even thrashed the boy she had gone to meet.

The victim alleged that around a dozen students of the polytechnic college forcibly took her inside the campus where one of them raped her.

SSP Jhansi, Dinesh Kumar P., said two of the main accused have been arrested.

A 17-year-old girl in Maharashtra was allegedly raped by her father and boyfriend following which she became pregnant, police said on Monday.

## Pak LeT man killed in Kashmir encounter

**Srinagar (IANS):** Top Pakistani Lashkar e Taiba militant Saif-ul-lah, involved in a number of fatal attacks on the Central Reserve Police Force troopers, was killed along with one more terrorist, in an encounter in Srinagar on Monday.

The gunfight at Rambagh between terrorists and security forces began as a cordoned off operation in the area was launched. The search operation was on the basis of a specific information about the presence of terrorists.

As the security forces zeroed in on the terrorist hide-out, heavy firing was initiated by the ultras. Speaking to reporters in Srinagar DG Police Dilbag Singh said that Saif-ul-lah was a Pakistani terrorist who was involved in three major terror attacks on the security forces in the past.

"He was involved in an attack on a CRPF party in Budgam in which CRPF Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) was martyred. In a second attack at Kandizal, two CRPF men were killed and three others were injured and a third attack at Kandizal carried out on a convoy which was repulsed," he said.

He said a total of 19 policemen, 21 CRPF troopers and 15 soldiers have been killed in action during this year.



## With 66K Covid cases, India's tally crosses 71L

**New Delhi (IANS):** With a spike of 66,732 coronavirus cases and 816 deaths in 24 hours, India's tally on Monday mounted to 71 lakh with a total of 71,20,538 cases.

Out of these, 8,61,853 are currently active, 61,49,535 have been discharged, while 1,09,150 lost the battle against the pandemic.

While the recovery rate stands at 86.36 per cent, the fatality rate is 1.53 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 15,28,226 cases including 40,349 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 9,94,851 sample tests in a single day on Sunday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 8,78,72,093.



## Guj boy held for issuing threats to Dhoni's daughter

**Mundra :** A 16-year-old boy was nabbed on Sunday from Mundra in Gujarat for allegedly issuing 'rape' threats against cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's minor daughter, police said.

"The class 12 student from Namna Kapaya village was detained for questioning in connection with a disgusting threat message that was posted on the Instagram account of Dhoni's wife Sakshi Dhoni a few days back," Kutch (West) superintendent of police Saurabh Singh told reporters.

The teenager "confessed" to have posted the

threatening message on the Instagram account after the Indian Premier League 2020 match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings cricket teams, police said. Ranchi police had shared information regarding the boy with Kutch (West) police and asked them to confirm if he was the one who had posted the threat message, Singh said. "We detained him for ques-



tioning after Ranchi police informed us that the accused hails from Mundra in Kutch district.

"We have confirmed that the boy is the same who had posted the message. He will be handed over to Ranchi police as the FIR was lodged in that city," the SP said. The nature of

the threat had caused a huge outrage on social media, with several cricketers, politicians and celebrities expressing disgust and demanding action.

## 52K voters opt for postal ballot in Bihar polls

**Patna:** More than 52,000 voters, who are either senior citizens above 80 years of age or are people with disabilities, have opted for postal ballot in the first phase of Bihar elections to be held on October 28, the Election Commission said on Monday.

Booth Level Officers in 71

constituencies spread across 16 districts of the state had approached over four lakh voters of the two categories. More than fifty two thousand such electors have opted to vote through postal ballots in phase one of polls, the EC said in a statement.

The remaining electors have

preferred to visit the polling booth to cast vote. Those who have opted for the facility would be provided postal ballots on a pre-informed date by the concerned returning officers with proper security and videography arrangements to ensure secrecy, safety, and transparency in the process.

In subsequent two phases of elections in Bihar and in by-elections in other states, the exercise will continue so that the electoral process becomes more accessible, inclusive and safe for these categories of voters against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, the poll panel said.

## 'Babas' and 'gurus' bring saffron hue to Cong in MP

**Bhopal (IANS):** The bypolls in Madhya Pradesh this time seem to be different from all the previous elections. The saffron hue, which is usually associated with the BJP, appears to be the favourite of the Congress now. The party has got several "Babas", "Sadhus" and "Gurus" to campaign for it.

Not only this, the Congress has made saffron clad Sadhvi Ram Siya Bharti its candidate from the Bada Malhera Assembly constituency.

The bypolls are going to be held in 28 Assembly seats in the state. In these elections, both political parties are putting in all their resources, but the Congress seems to be ahead of the BJP in getting sadhus and gurus to campaign for it.

It is generally believed that the BJP uses saints and sadhus in elections, but the opposite is being witnessed in Madhya Pradesh. Although the BJP has two big saffron leaders -- Uma Bharti and Pragma Thakur in the state -- but their activism seems to be low key during these elections.

While the BJP is avoiding bringing sadhus to the poll forefront, the Congress is going full steam ahead with saffron. The 'Computer Baba' group is taking out a 'Save Democracy Yatra' for the Congress. The group has given a call to support Congress candidates in the state. Similarly, "Mirchi Baba" is campaigning



for the Congress. Sadhana Bharti, who is the national spokesperson of the Congress, has also hit the campaign trail.

Congress spokesperson Ajay Yadav said that while the BJP has always tried to take advantage of religion in politics, the Congress has never used religion. But now the Congress is expressing its religious feelings openly. State Congress chief Kamal Nath built a grand statue of Lord Hanuman in Chhindwara, while programmes were held at his residence and the party office before the foundation stone of the Ram temple was laid in Ayodhya.

Political analysts believe that the Congress is fighting on all fronts and that is why it is trying to use this strategy, which has given the BJP big numbers so far.

For the Congress, a team of holy men is campaigning hard. It remains to be seen how much benefit this saffron strategy will give to the Congress in the bypolls.

## Why you shouldn't get paranoid about coronavirus on bank notes

**New Delhi (IANS):** As new research claiming that Covid-19 can survive longer on bank notes -- up to 28 days at 20 degree Celsius along with humidity -- started doing the rounds amid the corona surge, health experts said on Monday that people should avoid being paranoid and must take proper pandemic-related precautions.

Researchers at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's national science agency, claimed that that SARS-CoV-2 can remain infectious on surfaces for long periods of time as it can survive for up to 28 days on common surfaces including bank notes, glass such as that found on mobile phone screens and stainless steel.

Stressing that there are loopholes in this study, Dr Richa Sareen, Consultant-Pulmonology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj, Delhi, said that the research was carried out in the



dark, with stable temperature (20 degree) and humidity.

"These are virus friendly conditions and do not simulate the actual temperature and humidity variations. Earlier studies had documented the presence of virus on bank notes for up to two-three days and glass and steel for six-seven days, which seems more acceptable," Sareen told IANS.

Another important point to remember here, she said, is that fomites (inanimate objects) are not

the main source of spread of Covid-19 infection.

"It is primarily spread by aerosols, droplets and personal contact".

The research, undertaken at the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) in Geelong, found that SARS-CoV-2 survived longer at lower temperatures and tended to survive longer on non-porous or smooth surfaces, compared to porous complex surfaces such as cotton.

Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, senior

consultant for internal medicine at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, said that coronavirus is transmitted mostly through direct contact with an infected person, especially the virus-laden particles they emit while coughing, sneezing, speaking, singing and even breathing.

"The direct contact with the infected person remains the major source of spreading the virus. The findings did not necessarily reflect the potential to pick up the virus from casual contact, as the presence of the virus in the study was detected by laboratory tools, not fingers and hands as would be the case in everyday life," Chatterjee elaborated.

"Such findings are minor causes for the spread of the virus and can potentially create paranoia among the people," he warned.

However, money changes hands frequently and can pick up all sorts of bacteria and viruses and things like that.

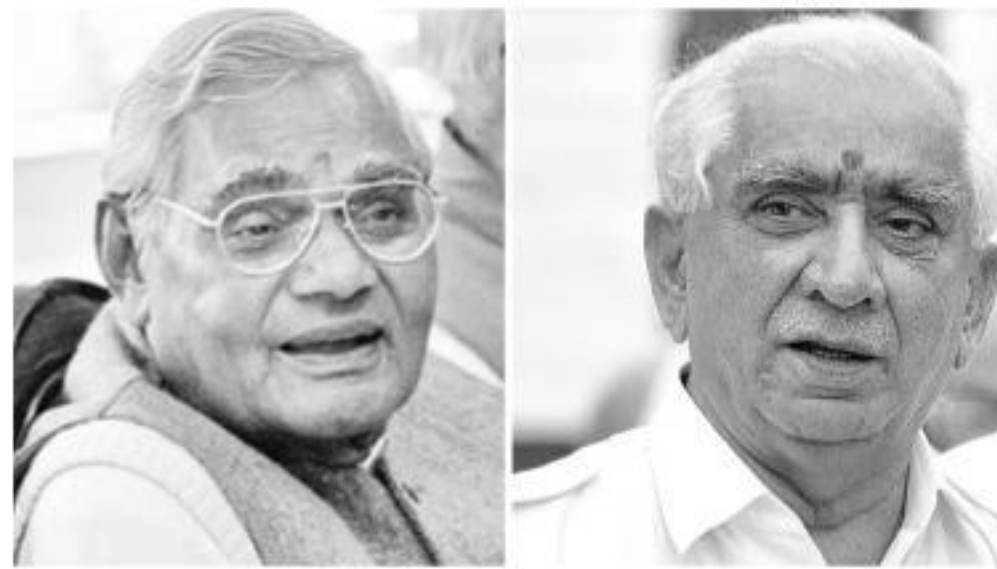


## N Korea unveils monster missile; keeps world on edge

The news that North Korea unveiled a new inter-continental ballistic missile (ICMB) at an unprecedented night-time parade on October 10, showing off its long-range weapons for the first time in two years, almost came as a shock to the world. The missile appeared to be one of the largest Pyongyang has ever rolled out and adds to its already threatening stockpile of weapons. "This missile is a monster," Melissa Hanham, Deputy Director of the Open Nuclear Network, told media agencies. North Korea also displayed the Hwasong-15, the longest-range missile ever tested by North Korea, and what seemed to be a new submarine-launched ballistic missile. The occasion was the parade to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of North Korea's ruling Workers Party. The event is the first ever since North Korea's Supreme Leader Kim Jong met with Presi-

dent Donald Trump in 2018. It was meant to be a denuclearization summit, but it failed to conclude on those lines. "We will continue to strengthen the war deterrent, the righteous self-defense means, so as to contain and control all the dangerous attempts and intimidatory acts by the hostile forces, including their sustained and aggravating nuclear threat," Kim said during the parade. "Our party has already built up the strongest military capability of safeguarding peace, with which to firmly defend socialism, the dignity and lifeline of our people, and to make our people enjoy the benefits of prosperity generation after generation on this land, eternally free from war," he added. Kim blames the world for its nuclear programme accusing the latter of imposing sanctions against it and threatening peace. Kim always claims that he cherishes it as the highest honour to serve and struggle for his country. He added, "I solemnly swear once again in this place that I will live up to the people's trust without fail even if my body is torn and crushed to pieces on the way of defending their great trust and that I will remain faithful to that

trust." But Kim should explain to people what is there to celebrate for the country and rejoice. His country's economy is crippled by harsh US sanctions. Covid-19 impact on the country and some of the most destructive floods and typhoons coupled with chronic food shortages have destroyed the economy of the country almost completely. Credit is due to Kim for admitting honestly that the economy was in bad shape. But he does not even know how to handle the economy. Kim has launched an 80-day national campaign to uplift the crippled economy while acknowledging that the country cannot overlook the many goals that the people have to attain. Against this background, it is not difficult to fathom why Kim does what he does - keeps his people confused at best. He knows that like many rulers of the world today, he could successfully play with the emotions of his people. And he knows how to divert their attention. Foreign threats, scheming dark forces, devious designs of the unseen enemies are all that he needs to use to keep his people under the leash. Jingoism is a successful tool that leaders like Kim often employ to remain in power.



## Vajpayee, Jaswant were friends, but could differ like gentlemen

SAEED NAQVI

Jaswant Singh's final goodbye acquired extra poignancy. Shred into his study in my mind's eye by the reliable Thomas, his secretary, I can see him induce a smile by way of politeness, gesture with his right hand, slowly nodding his head disapprovingly. He would have been pained at the Hathras rape and a blanket "not guilty" verdict on all and sundry accused in the Babri Masjid demolition conspiracy case. He was a gentleman politician with whom one could disagree and yet return satisfied with many take-aways. He had the rare ability to change his views (as on Jinnah) if that is what the evidence suggests.

Jaswant Singh reminded me of Ismat Chughtai's description of Dilip Kumar who acted in films for which she had written the script and which her husband, Shahid Lateef, had directed. "Dilip Kumar is not a handsome man but he knows how to act as one."

Likewise, Jaswant Singh's "haw, haw" English was plausible, if not always authentic. He spoke with deliberation which was custom made for pauses enabling him to pluck out words he enjoyed using. His feudal Rajput background, polished by his years at the National Defence Academy under the supervision of Commandant Leslie Keith Malcolm (Bonny), a fastidious Scottish officer, his yen for polo and custom made safari suits with epaulettes (sans insignia), all these enhanced his aristocratic bearing.

The 'style' came in handy when as External Affairs Minister, he kept Bill Clinton's Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, in his thrall during the marathon series of exchanges on the nuclear issue.

In the choreography of Atal Behari Vajpayee's Cabinet, the Jaswant Singh persona had a deliberate placement. Was his 'princeliness' a criteria? That would have exposed Vajpayee to the charge of having a class fetish. After all, the Minister of State in the foreign office, Vasundhara Raje was a thoroughbred princess. It was Vajpayee's larger than life figure, his seniority over any RSS chief during his time, his evolution into international cosmopolitans through the Nehru years, his incomparable oratory and a natural bent for deep reflection, left in him no smallness of mind to nurse prejudices or be overawed by 'style'.

Jaswant Singh's flair was allowed full play in the Cabinet, but the reins were firmly with Vajpayee, something which became so clear when Vajpayee flinched away from what would have been a disastrous military engagement in northern Iraq and on which Jaswant Singh had set his heart. Having pulverised Iraq in April 2003, the US thought of sharing administrative responsibility with 'allies' on what it imagined was a 'conquered' oil rich country. Blandishments came India's way.

Singh was not the only one so dazzled by the projection of American power on new global television, particularly the hyped up drama on April 9 on the pulling down of Saddam Hussain's statue: the story put out by the US was that the statue had been pulled down by anti Saddam masses. Nothing of the sort had happened.

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**The pulling down of the statue registered with Vajpayee as the rise of an "awesome power", an event which dictated that festering regional conflicts should be ended. A week later, on April 18, 2003, while on a visit to Srinagar, he held out his hand of friendship to Pakistan. This, despite the two armies poised for military action - after Operation Parakram.**

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A senior Indian diplomat was dispatched on a secret mission to gauge the level of hospitality India would receive, should it accept its new imperial role. The diplomat returned after meeting Masoud Barzani, Jalal Talebani and, by way of a bonus, with a bag full of truffles strewn all over Talebani's Estate.

With foresight, the diplomat made a clever detour to Dubai to establish contact with Adnan Pachachi, a former Iraqi Foreign Minister who the diplomatic grapevine in West Asia tipped as the possible front for the new 'conquerors' of Iraq.

The Indian Ambassador to Iraq, B B Tyagi, had been parked in a three-star hotel in Amman, waiting for the Americans to declare themselves the country's new rulers. Tyagi would charge down and present his credentials. Such unseemly obsequiousness.

Awake from the herd, Vajpayee had made his own calculations. He realised his Cabinet colleagues had been taken in by the sole superpower moment. At this moment (his colleagues thought) it would be tactless to refuse an American invitation. But Vajpayee asked tough questions. A Division plus 8,000 soldiers and men would be required. The thrill and grandeur of the expedition was alluring, but not if New Delhi had to foot the bill. Permanent membership of the Security Council would be worth the gamble but that is not what the Americans were talking about.

Vajpayee the skilful politician came into play when he called up CPI leader, A B Bardhan, a friend of many years. Would Bardhan be happy at the sight of Indian troops, in Division strength, operating under US command without a UN flag? Vajpayee's signal to Bardhan was to mobilise public opinion against the idea. Not only would it help India, but it would enable his colleagues to slide down the pole they had climbed up to impress the Americans.

That Singh corroborated to me bits of this untold story, a story in which he himself does not come out smelling of roses, shows the kind of gentleman he was. In fact, Vajpayee's was a Cabinet of women and gentlemen, a few rotten apples notwithstanding. Supposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood in front of a mirror and kept a photo of this team of seniors by his side, for easy contemplation, I wonder what thoughts would cross his mind.

(The writer is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues. The views expressed are personal)

# RTI#15: Govt clueless on migrant labour



workless workers moving back to homes on foot. Lack of plans and information about food and travel resulted in several deaths either in accidents or of exhaustion.

The first and foremost crisis the nation confronted was crores of migrant labour moving from one place to another after sudden imposition of nation-wide lockdown from midnight, as announced by the Prime Minister over television on March 24, at 8pm. The government gave people just four hours to prepare themselves. It also triggered a humanitarian crisis of an unprecedented scale. For months followed, thousands of migrant workers, who were rendered jobless overnight due to the lockdown and had no means to survive in cities in absence of wages, started moving towards their villages, on heels or wheels, whatever they could find. The lockdown implemented in India was considered the strictest in the world.

The tragedy was that the government failed to gauge the issue of people working at different places and failed to provide any relief to them, because they had no information about it.

The corona-caused lockdown turned out to be information lock-down with 28 State Information Commissions were on Covid-19 vacation shutting down the doors. The Central Information Commission took at least a few hearings on WhatsApp platform connecting both the parties from the residence of the Commissioner with skeleton office support. The CHRI could ascertain the fact of closure of SICs in 28 States while CIC could function from April 20.

For a few months, citizens had no benefit of first or second appeals, without which they cannot even approach the High Courts under writ jurisdiction. Similarly, the legal remedy for police excesses and violations of human rights were not within the reach as the subordinate judiciary has been totally ceased from functioning while High Courts and Supreme court had a few hearings through video conference of 'emergency' matters. Besides information, the justice also was mostly inaccessible.

Venkatesh Nayak, of CHRI has tried to secure the information about the migrant workers and their conditions during Covid-19 from Central Labour Commissioner's (CLC) office. Disappointed with the CLC, he filed a complaint with the Central Information Commissioner, which rightly took up out of turn hearing. But the CIC chose to give an advisory to the Chief Labour Commissioner, requiring him to upload information about stranded workers on an official website within a week's time. It was not a direction. The CLC has a statutory duty under section 4 of RTI Act to voluntarily disclose the data about migrant labour and its efforts to find solution to their crisis of survival and transport. The tragedy is this



In the last week of May, the cause of 238 migrant workers being killed in various accidents was analysed. The reasons for migrant workers' deaths include: getting burnt to death in forest fires, being hit or crushed by truck/bus/trains, exhaustion, heart attack, blood in vomiting, chest pain, asphyxiation after falling in a deep pit, being trapped in snow, stomach pain, breathlessness, hunger, exhaustion, dehydration, fatigue, multi-organ failure, and snake bite, among others. The government did not care to find out these causes and provide relief. It did not even hesitate to declare that it does not know

section is rarely implemented and the law, nodal agencies and the Information Commission have no clue on breach of Section 4.

The CLC had, on April 8, issued a circular to his regional heads to collect data about every stranded migrant worker in every district and State. Templates were issued for data capture during the enumeration process. Both blue- and white-collared workers were to be enumerated in this manner. The regional heads were given three days to collect this data and send it to the CLC. This shows inefficiency and defective governance in CLC.

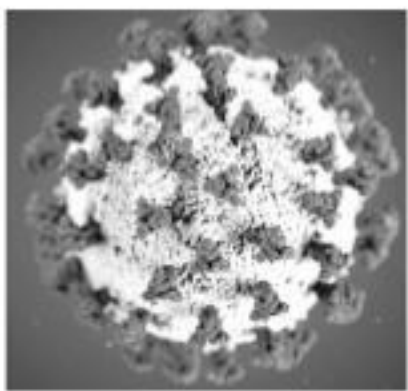
According to the Chief Labour Commissioner's office, the three States that recorded highest number of migrant workers who are stranded are Chhattisgarh (10,85,828), Kerala (2,86,846) and Telangana (1,84,006). The total number of stranded migrant workers is 26,17,218 and most of them (46%) are in localities where they are usually 'clustered'. 43% are stranded within their workplaces and only a tiny minuscule 10% are staying in actual relief camps or shelter homes.

There are several news reports about tragedies of migrant workers being killed in various kinds of accidents. There are some such gruesome instances: a) May 16 in Auraiya, Uttar Pradesh, 27 migrant workers were killed and 33 injured when a trailer truck carrying sacks of lime and 43 people rammed into a stationary truck with a number of migrant workers sitting inside it near a roadside eatery. b) May 8, a goods train in Maharashtra's Aurangabad crushed and ran over 16 migrant

workers, who fell asleep on tracks due to exhaustion, while walking towards their home in Madhya Pradesh. c) April 21: 12-year-old Jamlo Makdam died of exhaustion and dehydration after walking for nearly 110 kms from Telangana to her village in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. She had gone to Telangana to work in the chilli fields. d) May 27: In Bihar's Muzaffarpur a toddler was trying to wake his dead mother lying unattended on a railway platform. The woman was travelling in a Shramik Special train from Ahmedabad and was headed to Katihar. There are several such incidents, where government was expected to provide some help to the victims.

According to a media report, the database maintained voluntarily by four individuals has recorded 906 deaths between March 14 and July 4, 2020 and classified them under 10 categories. As per the data available on tejesghn.com, the highest number of 216 deaths between March 14 and July 4 occurred due to the combined reasons of starvation and loss of money, 209 deaths took place due to road or train accidents and 133 suicides were also reported during lockdown. The database showed that 77 persons died due to lack or denial of medical care, 49 of them lost their lives because of alcohol withdrawal, 47 people had died of exhaustion, either due to the walk home or because of standing in long queues, while 49 migrants died in quarantine centres, and 18 succumbed to non-communal, lockdown-associated crimes. During the lockdown, 12 persons lost their lives in police excessive actions.

## Something must be done to contain Covid



then out of the recommended clinical guidelines issued periodically by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In early March, when the first few cases of Covid-19 began to emerge, SMS Hospital in Jaipur successfully treated a patient with a combination of lopinavir and ritonavir, the antiretroviral drugs used in the treatment of HIV. Three days later, the drug combination had made it to the Health Ministry's treatment protocol. It recommended lopinavir-ritonavir for high-risk patients including those above the age of 60, the immuno-compromised, those with diabetes, kidney failure and chronic lung disease. HCQ was also announced as a preventive medication initially and then as treatment

for severe cases along with an antibiotic in March. By the time the next version of these guidelines was released in mid-June, both the HIV drugs were replaced by HCQ, which was then recommended for use in moderate to severe cases on its own. An anti-inflammatory steroid, methylprednisolone, was added to the list. But the WHO's decision to entirely discontinue trials for HCQ as a possible Covid-19 cure saw the anti-inflammatory drug return to its use as a preventive medication in mild and moderate but high-risk cases (involving those with comorbidities) in the third and latest version of the guidelines. According to experts HCQ was never proven to have much benefit against Covid-19. There are some small studies proving its effectiveness as a preventive medication. India has reached a stage now where more combinations of medicines are being used to control a few particularly key and dangerous aspects of Covid-19, viral replication, cytokine overproduction and inflammation. The judicious use of steroids has also made a difference. However, steroids remain difficult to administer to patients with high or unstable blood sugar and thus mortality risks in these cases are still high. We need to address high-risk Covid-19 care next.

Dr Malini Reddy, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

## LETTERS

### Culprits should be punished not protected

In the shocking case of rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras village in Uttar Pradesh, the court has to go beyond merely expressing shock, it has to reassure an apprehensive nation that it has what it takes to contain, and punish, an administration which has gone rogue. Comparisons in such matters are distasteful, but sometimes they are necessary to show us how far we have fallen. Hathras cannot but evoke painful memories of the Nirbhaya case of 2012. But then the State and the Central governments behaved quite differently and with compassion. Throughout the protests then the victim was provided all possible medical care, and was even flown to Singapore for specialised attention; her family was treated with compassion, the media and the Opposition had full access to them, no attempt was made to create an alternative narrative of conspiracy and what have you. The then Prime Minister and Congress president went to the airport to receive Nirbhaya's body. Need one contrast this with what is transpiring today?

Ch Rama Rao, Hyderabad



# Guest house has nothing to do with capital: AP govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The state government on Monday made it clear that the construction of the guest house in Visakhapatnam had nothing to do with the shifting of administrative capital of the state.

Advocate general of the state Subrahmanyam Sriram here on Monday told the High Court that the construction of a guest house at Kapuluppada on the Visakhapatnam beach road was only aimed at creating permanent infrastructure for the state government.

He said similar guest houses were planned to be constructed at Kakinada and Tirupati as well.

“At present, the government is paying huge rent to the private parties for the state guest houses at these places. Hence, the government has decided to construct permanent guest houses only to avoid paying huge rents,” the advocate general said.

He clarified that the guest house at Visakhapatnam was not part of the exercise



- Advocate General says the guest house being built at Kapuluppada on Vizag beach road is only part of efforts to create permanent infrastructure for the State govt
- Claims currently the govt is paying huge rent to the private parties for the State guest houses in those places and has decided to construct permanent guest houses to save money

to form three capitals with executive capital at Visakhapatnam.

“The size of the guest house depends on the population of the area,” he explained.

The advocate for petitioner said doubts were being raised on the size of the guest house at Visakhapatnam as there are apprehensions that it might be used as a camp office of the chief minister.

“No details were

furnished about the size of the guest house, the number of rooms and the area in which it is being constructed at Visakhapatnam. There are also no details about the other two guest houses,” the petitioner argued.

He, however, said there was no objection if the government wanted to construct the camp offices for Chief Minister at various places. The court adjourned the hearing to November 2.

# Meters only to help farmers: AP CM

- Tells officials to create awareness and allay fears among farmers over meters to pumpsets through extensive campaign from village to district level
- Farmers need to be told that they pave the way for supply of nine-hour free power to agriculture sector during daytime
- Officials inform that 14,354 linemen have been trained to create awareness among farmers on the installation of new meters

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy here on Monday directed the officials to create awareness among the farmers that new electricity meters would not burden them and will in fact pave way for supplying nine-hour free power to agriculture sector during daytime.

During a review meeting on power sector here on Monday, the Chief Minister said it should be widely publicised that not a single rupee of burden will be imposed on farmers with the installation of smart meters to motors but they will give data on consumption and required load of feeders.

The data on consumption of elec-



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy holding a review on energy sector at his camp office in Tadepalli on Monday. Energy Minister B Srinivas Reddy, advisors and officials are seen.

tricity could be logged every 15 minutes with the help of meter and it will help for the hassle-free supply of nine hours power to farm sector, he said and added that the government would directly credit the money into the farmers’ bank accounts for the power consumed by them, and they will pay the bills to the discoms (distribution companies).

The Chief Minister said posters should be displayed in all village secretariats on setting up of meters. The message should be clear to the farmers that installation of meters is only for uninterrupted supply of nine hours power to farmers with no additional burden. District, divisional, mandal and village level com-

mittees should conduct extensive awareness programs in this regard, he added.

The Chief Minister said high priority should be given to quality in acquiring and setting up of transformers and meters. Consult Central government agency Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) if needed in this regard, he said and directed the officials to create awareness among farmers to use motors with ISI standards and also to ensure capacitors also meet ISI standards.

The officials said 14,354 linemen had been trained to create awareness among farmers on the installation of new electricity meters. The

feeder capacity has been increased to 97.5 per cent and the remaining would be completed by November.

The Officials said that bid documents have been prepared for the setting up of 10,000 MW solar power plants and tenders will be called after the completion of the judicial review to which the Chief Minister directed the officials to complete the process and start the project works as soon as possible.

Minister for energy Balineni Srinivasareddy, Green Energy Corporation CMD G Sai Prasad, AP-Transco CMD N Srikanth, APGenco MD B Sridhar and finance principal secretary SS Rawat and other officials were present at the meeting.

## Guv wants to speed up piped water supply to schools

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan in a virtual review meeting with Raj Bhavan here on Monday with chief secretary Nilam Sawhney and the officials of departments concerned on implementation of ‘100 days campaign’ under Jal Jeevan Mission, told them to expedite the provision of piped water to schools and anganwadi centres throughout the state.

The Governor recalled that provision of piped water to schools and anganwadi centres under the ‘100 days campaign’ starting from October 2, was launched by the Prime Minister under Jal Jeevan Mission across the country in all states and the Union Territories, as it will have a positive impact on children’s health and help in their holistic growth.

He said children are more prone to water-borne diseases like typhoid, dysentery, diarrhoea and cholera among others and consumption of unsafe water is likely

to have debilitating effect on them. “The ‘100 days campaign’ should be implemented in all schools and anganwadi centres on a mission mode by involving gram panchayats, village water and sanitation committees, NGOs, Self-Help Groups and others,” he said.

Chief secretary Nilam Sawhney briefed the Governor on the action plans prepared to provide piped water to schools, anganwadi centres and panchayat buildings and said funds for the same have been provided under the Jal Jeevan Mission. She said out of 95,66,332 rural households, 33 per cent have been covered with tap connections and it is targeted to achieve 100 per cent coverage by 2024. She further said 44,782 schools (45 per cent) and 55,607 anganwadi centres (35 per cent) are already covered with piped water under the state government’s flagship programme ‘Naadu-Nedu’ and 100 per cent coverage under the ‘100 days campaign’ will be ensured by end of December, this year.

## Lokesh decries attempt to kill ‘baby capital’



TDP national secretary Nara Lokesh and leaders express solidarity with Amaravati farmers in Amaravati on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** TDP national general secretary and former minister Nara Lokesh who visited the protest camps of farmers, farm labourers and women in the capital city villages on Monday on the completion of 300 days of Amaravati agitation, asserted that the TDP fully supports their just demand for ‘One State, One Capital’.

The TDP leader accused Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of trying to kill the ‘baby capital’ of Andhra Pradesh in utter disregard for the rights and sacrifices of farmers who gave away 34,000 acre in response to a call given by the then chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Amaravati was selected at that time as per the wishes of all people of the state.

- Tours capital villages, expresses party’s solidarity with farmers, Dalits and women staging stir
- Says Jagan, who as the Leader of Opposition accepted Amaravati as capital, has completely changed his tack after coming to power and trying to shift capital

Even Jagan spoke in favour of Amaravati selection on the floor of the Assembly in his capacity as Opposition Leader at that time, he recalled.

Addressing protesters at Penumaka, Nara Lokesh said it was Jagan Mohan Reddy who in fact demanded an equidistant capital between north Andhra and Rayalaseema in over 30,000 acre where there would be no water shortage. Amaravati had met all these parameters. But, Jagan, had completely changed his stance and started shifting capital after coming to power. A

ruler would show greater responsibility while in power but here this Chief Minister was displaying an erosion of that responsibility, he remarked.

Lokesh strongly objected to the ministers and MLAs insulting the farmers and women who were agitating.

Lokesh also visited and addressed agitators at Yerrabalem, Krishnayapalem and other villages in Amaravati capital area. He was accompanied by Guntur MP Galla Jayadev, Tadikonda former MLA T Sravan Kumar and other leaders.

## Botcha himself is a paid artiste, slams Narayana

- CPI national secretary says opposition parties will not accept three capitals unless Jagan wins election on the plank
- Warns that people will not allow MLAs and MPs to move in public if they oppose Amaravati as capital
- Left parties and TDP stage protests in solidarity with the agitation of Amaravati farmers

**Tirupati:** There is no question of opposition parties accepting the three capital proposal unless and until Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy wins the election on the plank of that (three capitals), asserted CPI national secretary K Narayana while addressing a protest meeting held at RDO office here on Monday.

The dharna was held jointly by the opposition TDP, CPI, CPM and other parties expressing solidarity with the Amaravati farmers’ struggle on the occasion of the stir completing 300 days.

Predicting that next election will be mainly on the two issues – retaining Amaravati as capital and Special Category Status to AP, Narayana said the people and political parties should vote only for those supporting the two demands.

He further said that without the approval of the people no government can decide on such crucial issues unilaterally and observed, “taking the three capitals Chief Minister Jagan is playing with the emotions of the farmers.” Reacting sharply to the reported remarks of municipal minister Botcha

Satyanarayana slighting the protesting Amaravati farmers as paid artistes, he said it was the minister who is the paid artiste and not the farmers who were standing firmly on the capital issue and warned that the day is not far away for the people not allowing the public representatives move in public if they oppose Amaravati as state capital.

CPM district secretary Pullaiah and RPI state president P Anjaiah said Jagan when he was in opposition supported Amaravati but keen on three capitals now revealing his double standard and alleged that the state development was in limbo with the government focusing on establishment of the three capitals.

Meanwhile, TDP activists led by Chittoor Parliamentary constituency president Pulivarthi Nani staged a rasta roki at Mangalam on the city outskirts disrupting traffic for sometime on the busy road while protests were held by TDP activists at many places, responding to the state party call to express solidarity with Amaravati farmers spearheading the struggle against three capital proposal.

## Amid LAC row, Rajnath inaugurates 44 bridges

Continued from P1

“The tunnel beneath Shinku La will further drastically reduce the distance between Manali and Leh,” an official told IANS.

The Palchan bridge, constructed on the Beas river, has cost Rs 12.83 crore.

The 44 major bridges dedicated to the nation virtually constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in a record time in seven bor-

der states and Union Territories in western, northern and north-eastern India.

Singh also laid the foundation of important Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh. The project has been accomplished by 70 Road Construction Company of the BRO.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur joined the event virtually to inaugurate them from his official residence.

## Over 18K tonnes Covid-19 waste since June

Continued from P1

The CPCB had in March issued specific guidelines for handling, treatment and disposal of such waste at health-care facilities, quarantine centres, homes, sample collection centers, laboratories, pollution control boards, urban local bodies and common biomedical waste treatment facilities (CBMWTFs). The apex pollution body had in May developed

the “COVID19BWM” mobile application to monitor coronavirus-related biomedical waste and to compile the data through electronic manifest system.

This application tracks COVID-19 waste at the time of generation, collection and disposal. The Supreme Court has made it mandatory for all urban local bodies and state pollution control boards to use the mo-

bile application for tracking biomedical waste daily in a bid to ensure that the waste is collected, transported and sent to the registered CBMWTFs.

The directions came on July 30 on recommendations made in a report by the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority. As on Monday, India’s COVID-19 caseload stands at 71.2 lakhs while the death toll is 1.09 lakh.

## Festival bonanza for Central staff

Continued from P1

Festival advance along with other similar advances were abolished on the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission.

Prior to this, non-gazetted central government employees used to get Rs 4,500 as festival advance. With the latest proposal, the festival advance to government employees (both gazetted and non-gazetted) will be for festivals up to March 31, 2021. The Centre, is likely to disburse Rs 4,000

crore towards the advances.

If implemented by all state governments too, another Rs 8,000 crore is likely to be disbursed, with the current assumption that 50 per cent states would adopt the scheme and the states’ expenditure estimate would be at Rs 4,000 crore. This scheme would not result in any permanent increase in government expenditure and as it advances will be recovered. The move is likely to generate additional consumer demand of Rs 8,000 crore.

## Hyd bar sealed for violating Covid-19 guidelines

Continued from P1

Apart from it, the video evidence clearly suggests that the waiters and other management staff of the bar were also not wearing the face masks.

It was also noted that the bar management took no effort to clear the crowd putting their customers and staff members at increased risk of infection, the officials said.

“The Excise department has sealed the premises of the bar and also cancelled its licence u/s 31 of Telangana State Excise Act. Under the AP Excise

Rules, 2005, the department invoked Section 33 for employing persons to serve alcohol without prior approval from authorities and Section 38 for improper documentation,” the officials said.

Bars and pubs were allowed to reopen after a gap of 194 days due to the ongoing pandemic and they were clearly instructed by the state governments that they shall not permit more than 50 percent of public and all musical events and performances were to be banned until further notice.

## APCC says attack on judiciary is abominable

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** The Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee took a strong exception to the attack on the judiciary by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy describing it as reprehensible.

In a statement, on Monday, the working president of the APCC Dr N Tulasi Reddy said that the attack on the judiciary is nothing short of blackmailing. “If the court verdict is against the Constitution or the law, the government can move to the higher court and if the judges were proved to be biased and partial, they can be removed through impeachment in Parliament. What is the point in

**The working president of the APCC N Tulasi Reddy says the attack on the judiciary is nothing short of blackmail**

blaming them in the media?” he wondered.

Tulasi Reddy said that the statements of the chief minister and the YSRCP leaders appear to be intended to frighten the judges, blackmail them and trying to influence the judgments.

He said that if he was convicted in the criminal cases, he will claim that he was targeted by the judiciary which is a cunning tactic to gain public sympathy.



BIZ BRIEFS

YFLO holds webinar

Hyderabad: YFLO organised virtual meeting on 'Mind over Medicine' for its members. As part of this webinar, Kurshed Batliwala, a renowned art of living teacher and craniosacral therapy practitioner, delivered a talk on craniosacral therapy and its uses. He created India's first craniosacral therapy practitioner training programme. Dr Ankita Dhelia, Director of Bengaluru-based Alternative Healing Arts Department of Sri Sri Panchakarma Centre also spoke. Chandana Mannedi, founder of two Pilates studios, moderated the discussions. "Mind is the most interesting yet intriguing organ of all. If you put your mind to it - you can do anything, achieve anything. It is the means to attaining enlightenment, the source of all power, the means of conquering desire, sometimes the hub of all our troubles and pain," said YFLO chairperson Apurva Jain.

LG Electronics' CSR initiative

Hyderabad: To mark the International Day of Girl Child, LG Electronics pledged support towards education of the girl child by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Kendriya Sainik. As part of its 'Kar Salaam' CSR initiative, it donated Rs 1 crore contribution to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) under Kendriya Sainik Board Secretariat (KSB SECTT), a nodal organisation of the Ministry of Defence. The donation will be utilised for education of the girl child of martyrs and ex-servicemen. AFFDF is dedicated to welfare of war widows, children of martyrs', war disabled soldiers and ex-servicemen. Young Lak Kim- MD, LG Electronics India, said: "The education of the girl child has the ability to bring socio-economic changes and through this initiative, we aim to provide financial support to the cause and help in bringing a positive change to the world".

Home Credit to expand

Hyderabad: Home Credit India, a local arm of the international consumer finance provider with operations spanning over Europe and Asia, announced the launch of its new products under its insurance portfolio for existing and new customers. The new products include Bajaj Allianz General Insurance's family healthcare insurance and pocket insurance. With the launch of these products, the company now offers a variety of financial solutions which are easy, quick and hassle-free. Marko Carevic, Chief Marketing & Customer Experience Officer, Home Credit India, said: "The launch of new products under our Insurance offerings is the reflection of our customer focused approach. We are certain that our insurance offerings will help customers provide financial security to their families. The products with simple processes are key to easing customer anxieties".

Axis Bank's new card

Hyderabad: Axis Bank, in collaboration with Google Pay and Visa, on Monday launched ACE Credit Card. The card is designed for the growing base of users keen to participate in the digital economy. Payments for essential use cases like mobile recharges, bill payments made via Google Pay earn users 5 per cent in cashback. Users also get 4-5 per cent cash back for spends made on daily use categories such as food ordering, online grocery delivery, cab rides for transactions made on partner merchants' platforms such as Swiggy, Zomato, BigBasket, Grofers and Ola. There is also an unlimited 2 per cent cashback on all other transactions.

Inflation hits 8-month high

Zooms to 7.34% in Sept as essential kitchen items turn costlier

Vegetable segment inflation at 20.73%

Consumer Food Price Index at 10.68%

Retail inflation print at 6.69% in Aug

New Delhi: Pushed by rising prices of essential kitchen items, the retail inflation rose to an eight-month high of 7.34 per cent in September, making the RBI's task to push growth by reducing the interest rate even more difficult in coming days.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was 6.69 per cent in August and 3.99 per cent in September 2019.

Inflation has been hovering above 4 per cent since October 2019. The previous high in the CPI was witnessed at 7.59 per cent in January 2020.

According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) crossed the double-digit mark and was 10.68 per cent in September. It was 9.05 per cent in the previous month.

The inflation in the vegetable segment was 20.73 per cent in September, significantly up from 11.41 per cent in the preceding month. Similarly, the rate of price rise in the fruits was high over August.

Data showed that the rate of price rise in the protein-rich eggs was 15.47 per cent in September



compared to 10.11 per cent in August.

Icra economist Aditi Nayar said the CPI inflation hardened beyond expectations in September.

"Even though the high food inflation will eventually prove to be transient, with the favourable base effect and Kharif arrivals to soon initiate a downward trajectory, the average inflation figures for FY21 as well as H2 FY2021 are likely to be uncomfortably high," she said.

The retail inflation was also high month-on-month in 'meat and fish', and 'pulses and products'. However, it was lower in 'cereals and products' and 'milk and products'.

The government data further showed that the CPI-based price rise was lower in the 'fuel and light' segment at 2.87 per cent during September over 3.10 per cent in the preceding month.

Nayar said amidst the unpalatable headline and food inflation figures, the relatively stable core inflation over the last three months offers some relief, keeping the hopes of a February 2021 rate cut alive. The government has tasked the Reserve Bank of India to keep the retail inflation at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Last week, while announcing the monetary policy, RBI Governor Shaktianta Das had said the retail inflation is expected to remain close to the targeted level by the last quarter of the current fiscal year.

Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuite Ratings & Research, said inflation print has come contrary to market expectations that unlocking of the economy and easing of supply constraints, food prices will moderate over next few months.

Industrial output shrinks 8% in Aug

Covid takes big toll on manufacturing, mining sectors

New Delhi: Industrial production declined by 8 per cent in August, mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation sectors, official data showed on Monday. According to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data, manufacturing sector production registered a decline of 8.6 per cent, while the output of mining and power segments fell 9.8 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively.

The IIP had contracted by 1.4 per cent in August 2019.

"It may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the Covid 19 pandemic," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in a statement.

With the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in the economic activities by varying degrees as well as in data reporting, it added.

Meanwhile, the contraction in IIP in July has been revised to (-)10.8 per cent from the (-) 10.4 per cent



provisional data released last month. Similarly, May IIP has been revised marginally to 33.4 per cent contraction from 33.9 per cent decline. The decline in IIP for June remained unchanged at (-) 15.8 per cent. The central government had imposed a lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19 infections on March 25, 2020. The IIP had shrunk by 57.3 per cent in April as most industrial and commercial establishments remained closed. As per the latest data, the manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the IIP, recorded a decline of 8.6 per cent in August 2020, as against a contraction of 1.7 per cent in the same month last year.

Similarly, mining sector output fell 9.8 per cent as against a flat growth in August 2019. Power generation shrank by 1.8 per cent, compared to a contraction of 0.9 per cent a year ago. Output of capital goods, which is a barometer of investment, fell by 15.4 per cent in August as against a contraction of 20.9 per cent earlier.

Hiring activity in India up 24% during Sept

New Delhi: Driven by industries like pharma, fast-moving consumer goods, education and IT, hiring activity in India saw a growth of 24 per cent in September compared to the previous month, according to a new report by job portal Naukri on Monday.

Further opening up of the economy with unlock measures and increased mobility has led to an improvement in hiring activities in industries like real estate, auto/ancillary and hospitality/travel versus August, revealed the Naukri JobSpeak Index for September.

Key industries such as business process outsourcing (BPO)/IT enabled Services (ITeS) and banking and financial services continue to post robust growth sequentially, said the report.

"While the hiring is yet to touch



last year levels and is down by 23 per cent in Sept'20 versus Sept'19 but this is also a marked recovery from a 35 per cent-60 per cent decline that we have witnessed in the last few months," Pawan Goyal, Chief Business Officer, Naukri.com, said in a statement.

"Businesses that are leveraging digital channels for dissemination and consumption of goods and services are thriving and will continue to do so as we imbibe social distancing norms in our daily lives."

Metros which were reeling under various lockdown measures earlier have posted strong double-digit growth in the month of September Vs August with Pune leading the pack followed by Hyderabad and Chennai, while Bangalore is lagging with a 14 per cent growth.

Balaxi Pharma posts ₹10 cr net in Q2

Hyderabad: City-based Balaxi Pharmaceuticals Limited (BPL) reported Rs 60.3 crore revenue for the second quarter ended September 2020. It reported an EBITDA of Rs 10.3 crore and a net profit of Rs 10.1 crore during the period. During the first half of current fiscal, it posted a total revenue of Rs 112.4 crore. The EBITDA stood Rs 19.3 crore while net profit came at Rs 18.8 crore. Ashish Maheshwari, company's Chairman and Managing Director, said: "We are delighted to report a decent growth in our business amidst Covid-19 pandemic. The company has 548 pharmaceutical product registrations spanning across five countries and 582 product registrations in pipeline.

We also have a well-established expert regulatory team, which carefully monitors the registration process at every stage. We aim to double our pharmaceutical product registrations over next 2 years."

Tesla will kick off India plans in Jan: CEO Musk

Says the electric carmaker will release order configurator for India

New Delhi: Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Monday further revealed plans for the India entry of the electric car maker, saying the process to bring Tesla cars to India will begin in January 2021.

Earlier this month, Musk said the electric carmaker is finally ready to enter the India market next year.

Reacting to a tweet by Tesla Club India that is there a India team working on the next year for sure scheduled Tesla entry, Musk said: "Will release order configurator probably in Jan".

It means that Tesla sales teams are working on building custom sales and production orders for the India market, ensuring orders are complete and validated once the configuration is

Tesla sales teams are working on building custom sales and production orders for the India market, ensuring orders are complete and validated once the configuration is finished. The move will also open India to select as one of the countries where Tesla cars can be purchased.

However, whether Musk will announce a Tesla plant in India to push Prime Minister Narendra Modi's domestic manufacturing dream or source them from other facilities (Gigafactory in Shanghai, China is the nearest one) is not yet clear.



Earlier, Musk revealed his plans to bring Tesla cars to India in his response to a Twitter post that asked about the progress on Tesla's planned entry into India.

"Next year for sure," Musk said in response to the tweet that posted pictures of T-shirts with "India wants Tesla" and "India loves Tesla" printed on them. "Thanks for waiting," he added.

Despite Covid, 'Bharat' set to drive festive sales

Industry insiders see more demand coming from small towns, rural areas

New Delhi: While the ongoing pandemic has left crores of Indians in deep financial trouble who are struggling to make ends meet, the aspirational Bharat - riding on the pent-up demand and discretionary income - is all set to embark on a record online festive sale journey that begins this week.

E-commerce marketplaces Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal are ready with festive discounts and mega offers that will begin raining on the consumers from October 16 and those five-six days are set to defy the pandemic-induced economic distress that has engulfed the masses, according to industry experts.

Driven by the small-town India, the festive sales are looking to break earlier records.

According to Bengaluru-based management consulting firm RedSeer, the forthcoming festive season sale is projected to generate a gross merchandise value (GMV) of \$7 billion - a massive

84 per cent growth compared to \$3.8 billion in GMV sales in the same period last year.

Based on the expected strong festive sales performance, e-commerce is anticipated to grow and reach \$38 billion in sales in CY20, up 40 per cent year-on-year.

As experts debate the impact of the pandemic in small-town India, RedSeer said in its annual 'Online Festive Sales 2020 Forecast' report that this year's festive season sale will see more than half of the orders coming from tier-2 towns and cities with 45 to 50 million users.

According to Prabhu Ram, Head- Industry Intelligence Group (IIG), CMR, the festive season sales will be driven by two broad consumers' cohorts.

"On the one hand, premium buyers will seek to engage in impulsive shopping to make-up for the lost time. On the other hand, there will be the value buyers, including many first-time e-commerce shoppers from aspirational Bharat," Ram said.

Over 1 lakh Amazon-enabled local shops, kiranas and neighbourhood stores across India will serve customers in the upcoming festive season on the e-commerce platform.

More than 20,000 offline retailers, kiranas and local shops from "Local Shops on Amazon" programme will participate in the "Great Indian Festival" sales for the first time, that starts from October 17.

"This festive season we are focused on helping our sellers and other MSME partners grow their business and bounce back from

the recent challenges," said Manish Tiwary, VP, Amazon India.

More than 6.5 lakh sellers are ready to offer crores of products on Amazon.in and customers can shop from over 4 crore products from small and medium businesses (SMBs) and products from over 20,000 local shops across 100 cities.

Flipkart is not far behind. It will unveil over 200 special edition products in partnership with more than 100 leading brands during its 'Big Billion Days' sale that begins from October 16.

The e-commerce marketplace has also on-boarded over 50,000

kiranas to bring festive cheer to consumers across 850 cities.

Called 'Kum Mein Dum,' the Snapdeal sale selection is built around the choices indicated by more than 1.25 lakh participants across 92 cities.

Snapdeal said it worked closely with manufacturers to bring products for its customers at prices lower than last year, adding over 10,000 sellers in the last three months to increase its inventory of value-priced merchandise.

According to industry reports, the festive season shopping is going to witness huge demand from consumers with over 45-50 million shoppers coming online.

"The focus of e-commerce platforms will be to drive accessibility, availability and affordability for consumers in tier II, III and beyond (including smaller towns), with the intent of driving sales," Ram emphasized. According to RedSeer, the 2020 e-commerce festive period is set to witness 1.8 times more

shipments compared to last year's festive period.

"Covid has enabled massive growth in new shoppers as consumers now more than ever prefer to shop in a manner that is convenient, safe and hygienic and the e-commerce space meets these requirements. Consumers show positive sentiments to purchase during this (festive sale) period," it said.

According to Kalyan Krishnamurthy, CEO, Flipkart Group, this festive event continues to focus on Flipkart's commitment to provide value for consumers, opportunities for growth for MSMEs and sellers, and "employment generation through e-commerce".

"Emerging from the throes of the pandemic, all the indicators point to a bigger than usual sales during the festive season. This may seem definitely at odd with the overall economic scenario, low consumer confidence and curtailed discretionary spending," Ram said.

Based on the expected strong festive sales performance, e-commerce is anticipated to grow and reach \$38 billion in sales in CY20, up 40 per cent year-on-year











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# More pvt hospitals in State clamour for Covid care nod

With cases of infection continue to surface from different parts of the State, more private hospitals are expecting nod from the Health authorities to provide Covid treatment facilities

MAHESH AVADHUTHA

**Hyderabad:** Notwithstanding the decline in coronavirus cases except for a few districts where the numbers are steady though not out of control, private hospitals are queuing up to get permission from the health department to treat virus-infected patients. As of Monday, 228 private hospitals are admitting corona positive patients. The list has more than doubled in a span of two months.

Private hospitals were allowed to treat corona patients based on court orders from June onwards and the list of hospitals was just about 100 until August. Cases were peaking at that time in the State with districts also reporting a high number apart from GHMC limits. Earlier, most of these private hospitals treating corona patients were confined to GHMC



► Early diagnosis and treatment yielding good results leaving no scope for hospitalisation

limits with only a few from districts. However, presently, more hospitals from districts have joined the list so much so that they comprise two-thirds of the total list. Apart from private hospitals in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal districts, private hospitals from 15 more districts are treating coronavirus

- 228 hospitals at present with bed strength over 9,150 are treating Covid patients
- More hospitals in districts are keen on admitting Covid-infected
- Earlier, the number of private hospitals treating the Covid patients was below 100 until August
- Decline in new cases leaves beds vacant in many of these hospitals

The list includes hospitals from Adilabad, Jagtial, Jangaon, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Mancheril, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Peddapalli, Rajanna-Sircilla, Sangareddy, Siddipet, Warangal Urban and Warangal Rural.

With more private hospitals getting permission from the

health department to treat patients, bed strength has also gone up considerably. More than 9,150 beds are made available for infected patients to get treatment. However, almost 70 to 75 per cent of beds are remaining vacant for the last few weeks.

Indian Medical Association national vice-president Dr T Narsinga Reddy, who has his hospital in Warangal, stated that beds were remaining vacant now in most of the hospitals due to change in treatment pattern and drop-in patients number requiring hospital admission.

"As soon as people are getting diagnosed with the virus, doctors are starting treatment right away and it is yielding results. So, there is no necessity for hospitalisation. Earlier 5 per cent of patients used to fall critical, now it is less than one per cent," he said.

## GST compensation should be paid every two months, says Harish Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Monday urged the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to provide compensation to the States once in every two months as per section 7 (2) of GST Compensation Act.

Participating in the 42nd GST council meeting through video conference along with Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar from BRK Bhavan on Monday, Harish Rao said if the income falls short for the States the Centre should provide GST compensation once in every two months and this money should be compulsorily provided from the Compensation Fund.

He further said that apart from cess, the funds recommended by the GST Council should be compulsorily deposited into the GST Compensation Fund.

The Telangana finance Minister said the section 10 (1) of the Compensation Fund Act says that the loans under option 1 and option 2 are under other funds. The compensation to be pro-

- Wants the Centre to release Rs 723 crore as grant
- The State Finance Minister participates in video conference with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- The money should be compulsorily provided from the Compensation Fund, he emphasises



vided under option 1 is revised to Rs 1.10 lakh crore and the option 2 it is revised to 1.83 lakh crore. The difference between these two is just Rs 73,000 crore, which should be provided, said Harish Rao. He supported the statement of Chhattisgarh Finance Minister that the loans taken to clear GST compensation and payments should not be under Article 293.

Harish Rao said that as per the 15th Finance Commission, the tax share from the Centre to the state was decreased from 2.43 per cent to 2.13 per cent.

The special package announced by the Centre on Monday, as per the formula of the

Commission, would be a loss for the developing states like Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

He said that the Centre should have considered the population, capital expenditures of the state while announcing the package. The Finance Commission has recommended the Centre to provide one time grant of Rs 723 crore to Telangana as compensation in wake of decreasing the devolution grant from 2.43 to 2.13 per cent.

Stating that the Centre had not accepted this recommendation, the Minister wanted the government to release Rs 723 crore as grant.

## BJP, Cong will forfeit deposits in Dubbaka bypoll, says Harish Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Monday said that the candidates of BJP and Congress party would lose deposits in Dubbaka bye elections.

The Minister was addressing a gathering on the occasion of joining of Congress leader Madhula Nageshwar Reddy, who was the candidate in 2018 Assembly elections, at Telangana Bhavan on Monday. Harish Rao said Nageshwar Reddy stood second in the 2018 elections and now there are no leaders and cadre of Congress left in Dubbaka. "The Congress party leader Manicka Tagore is in Dubbaka... there are no leaders or activists in the constituency... the State leaders will have to give speeches and later applaud as there is no Congress cadre left in Dubbaka," said Harish Rao.

He questioned as to how the TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy could win Dubbaka when

he could not save his own seat of Huzurnagar.

The TRS leader lashed out at the Congress leader for opposing pharma city. He said that the pharma city would provide employment to youth but the Congress leaders were opposing. They opposed even the Kaleshwaram project, the party wrote letters to HUDCO against sanctioning loans for Mission Bhagiratha, recalled Harish Rao.

Harish Rao said that the TRS can show 100 things it has done for the people of the State and questioned can the BJP and Congress show at least one and added that about 78,000 farmers in the constituency were getting money under the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

He said that both the BJP and Congress leaders were tigers before mikes. The BJP government at Centre is bringing an Act to fix meters on the agriculture pump sets whereas CM KCR is giving free power, he said.

## Cong raises pitch for OBC quota ahead of civic polls

AICC spokesperson Dasoju Shraavan demands conduct of caste survey and categorisation of OBCs

- Dasoju Shraavan warns CM KCR of severe backlash if TRS government continues with its betrayal of OBCs even in Municipal Corporations elections like in Panchayat Raj polls

HANS NEWS SURVEY

**Hyderabad:** AICC spokesperson and senior Congress leader Dasoju Shraavan warned Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao of severe backlash from OBCs if the State government does not conduct caste census to ascertain OBCs population and provide reservations accordingly in the upcoming Municipal Corporations elections.

Stating that the TRS government has been betraying OBCs with political trickery, Shraavan demanded conduct of OBCs census through BC Co-operative Finance Corporation and also implement OBC categorisation even in elections like that in education and employment.

"TRS government is betraying



AICC spokesperson and senior Congress leader Dasoju Shraavan addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on Monday

OBCs with political trickery. In the Panchayath Raj Act brought out in 2018, Govt announced 34 per cent reservations for OBCs to woo them. But the same government has obstructed the implementation of these reservations in Panchayath Raj elections by adopting sly tactics. A Gopal Reddy, a TRS leader, approached the High Court against 34 per cent reservations for OBCs, saying that it will breach 50 percent cap on reservations," said the Congress leader addressing a gathering at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday.

"The Telangana government announced that it will approach the Supreme Court to ensure 34 per cent reservations, but did not even

fight the case. As a result, OBCs have lost opportunities in Panchayath Raj elections," Shraavan lamented.

The State government is once again trying to deceive OBCs in Municipal Corporations elections and called for a Special Assembly Session to make amendments to GHMC Act. But now we are warning CM K Chandrashekar Rao that OBCs we will launch a mass agitation against the TRS government if it goes ahead to conduct Municipal Corporation elections without taking up OBC voters survey and categorisation," said Dasoju Shraavan.

He said BCs form more than half

(52%) of the population of the state. Just because your government has majority you cannot bulldoze and suppress aspirations of downtrodden sections. Opinions of all the stakeholders should be taken before making amendments to GHMC Act in Assembly which is holding special session on October 13, the Congress leader said.

Ascientific survey of OBC voters has to be done before conducting elections for Hyderabad, Warangal and Khammam Municipal Corporations elections. Or else the government should be ready to get ready for backlash from OBCs in 'Telangana,' Shavaran warned.

If the downtrodden sections have to get representation in political activity and true spirit of democracy has to be achieved, then OBC categorisation has to be done and reservations be provided accordingly," added the AICC spokesperson raising his voice for OBC reservation.

Dasoju Shraavan cited the example of neighbouring State Karnataka in case of OBC categorisation and urged Telangana government to follow the same model in ensuring justice for OBCs.

## TRS leader hails Kavitha's victory

**HYDERABAD :** Senior TRS leader and Toopran Municipality legal advisor, Dr A V Swamy hailed the resounding victory of Kalvakuntla Kavitha in Nizamabad Council polls, thus rubbing the claims of Congress and BJP that the popularity of TRS is on the wane.

Swamy said the voters in Nizamabad have given a fitting reply to the Opposition's wild allegations and devious machinations. He attributed Kavitha's thumping victory to the hard work of TRS cadre.



## Assembly, Council premises inspected ahead of session

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Assembly Speaker P Srinivas Reddy and Council Chairman G Sukender Reddy on Monday directed the Legislative Secretary V Narasimha Charyulu to make sure that everyone follows the Covid-19 guidelines during the two-day Legislature sessions from Tuesday. The Speaker and the Chairman inspected the Assembly and Council premises and gave necessary instructions to the Secretary. They wanted the same seating arrangements which were made during the monsoon session to continue for this session. They wanted the officials to continuously sanitise the Assembly premises. They enquired with the DGP and Chief Secretary over phone about the bandobust and other facilities. They urged the members, staff, media and police personnel to get tested for corona if they have doubts and if they have any symptoms of corona, at the centres on Assembly premises.

## Vacate residents from dilapidated houses: KTR to GHMC officials

**Hyderabad:** Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao directed the GHMC officials to issue notices to those residing in the dilapidated houses and vacate them in the wake of heavy rains in city. In the wake of incessant rains in the city, the Minister asked the officials to be on alert and vacate citizens who are living in dilapidated houses. He asked the GHMC assistant city planner and town planning officials to be on alert. The GHMC commissioner, Lokesh Kumar, directed the officials to be on alert for the next 72 hours as there are chances of heavy rainfall in different parts of the city.

## Newborn's body found in Kapra Nala

**Hyderabad:** In an utter disgusting move a new-born baby girl was thrown into the Kapra Lake couple of days ago, but her body was recovered from the adjacent nala on Monday morning from where the water of the lake outflows. According to police, the infant's umbilical cord was still intact. During preliminary investigation it was suspected that she could have been thrown into the Kapra Lake a couple of days ago but the body floated and got stuck on the adjacent nala due to the increased water level due to continuous rains. Police said that a passerby noticed the child's body floating in a corner of the nala and alerted them. The nala travels from the Kapra Lake to Nagaram Lake near Keesara and the body was found near a culvert between Shubodaya colony and Laxmi Narsimha colony near Kapra, said the police. Preliminary investigations also revealed that the child might have been killed as it was born out of an illegal relationship and for this reason a case under section 318 of IPC has been booked against anonymous persons and the CCTV footage of the entire surrounding is being scanned to identify the culprits, said the police.

## Docs' attendance sheets to be sent to Health Minister

**Hyderabad:** All non-covid treating hospitals in the State that resumed their regular out-patient and elective treatments were told to submit doctors' daily attendance reports every morning at 11 am to the Directorate of Medical Education office, which will be later sent to the office of Health Minister Eatala Rajender. Quarantine leaves in all non-covid hospitals have been removed barring Gandhi, TIMS and King Koti, and doctors in the remaining hospitals have to report to duty every day. To ensure strict



compliance with these instructions, the daily attendance of doctors is being sought by the Minister. Accordingly, Osmania General Hospital Superintendent Dr Nagender issued a hospital order informing staff to sign in attendance register daily at 9.30 am sharp. This report would be forwarded to the DME office every day at 11 am, he mentioned. Superintendents of other hospitals are yet to issue these directions and are likely to follow the suit at the earliest.

## HC raps govt for fudging Covid figures

Report of the Director of Public Health on Covid-19 related matters is very cleverly drafted. It's not only vague, it gives us wrong information; it makes a wrong statement of the fact, observes Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

**Hyderabad:** The High Court flayed the State government for fudging the Covid figures.

The Chief Justice observed that report of the Director of Public Health on Covid-19 related matters is very cleverly drafted. It's not only vague, it gives us wrong information, it makes a wrong statement of the fact.

The Health Department is periodically dipping the number of Covid-19 tests. Our endeavour is to look after the medical needs of our own people. Earlier, in our order, we had asked the explanation of why suddenly the Covid-19 tests had been reduced. You are not given any reason for the sudden dip. Yet your emphatic statement is that there is no reduction in the number of tests conducted in the State, Chief Justice Chauhan stated.

The High Court division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh and Justice Bollam Vijay-sen Reddy heard a tag of 22 PILs of Covid-19 matters.

The Court pointed out that the report of Dr G Srinivas Rao, Director of Public Health, Telangana is completely vague. If such false statements are made in the report, the Court will issue a contempt notice, for misleading, misguiding the Court purposefully.

The High Court has said that the second stage corona is having a serious impact on the State of Telangana. The bench pointed out that according to WHO rules, there should be 3 beds for every 1,000 people, but it is not maintained by the State government, the Court said.

The High Court directed that display boards be set up at every government hospital. Corona tests should no longer be misreported, either to the people or to the Court.

The High Court wants to make a



LEGAL NOTES

## NO ACTION AGAINST ENCROACHMENT ON LAKES

### HC chides Nirmal Collector for flouting its orders

The High Court on Monday chided Nirmal district Collector Musharaff Ali Farooqui flouting repeatedly passed orders and giving certain directions since August 20 and asked if there is any particular reason behind his behavior.

The division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijay-sen Reddy made this remark while hearing a plea filed by K Anjukumar Reddy seeking Court to direct the State government to take action against the land grabbers/realtors who are destroying the tank bed land of Jafar Cheruvu tank/Kurranapet Cheruvutank at Nirmal and remove the encroachments made in the tank by fixing the FM limits of the tanks and also reconstruct the bund of the Kotha/Kotch Cheruvu which has been damaged by the land grabbers/encroachers.

Chief Justice stated that the report of the Nirmal District Collector dated September 23 is vague. The information sought by this Court by the earlier order was not even mentioned. This Court had sought information with regard to the 10 lakes existing in the Nirmal town, the FTL areas, the area of the buffer zone, encroachment on the lake and in the buffer zone area. All this information is conspicuously missing, the Court added.

The High Court directed the Nirmal District Collector to file a detailed report on a complete study of the Nala network prevalent in the Nirmal town. A complete survey of each Nala in order to discover the extent of illegal encroachment in or around nalas.

The extent of lakes, FTL area, extent of its buffer zone, encroachment made in the buffer zone, on the bund and in the lakes

especially in the FTL area, the time period required by the collector for removing the encroachment in these areas. The collector is further directed to ensure that the present construction/encroachment may should be stopped forthwith under the relevant provisions of law, the Court said. If the construction is continuing the same shall be seized by the collector forthwith and steps should be taken by him for demolishing the said illegal construction, CJ bench stated.

Nirmal District Collector Musharaff Ali Farooqui requested the Court to give two months time to file the comprehensive report on lake encroachments.

The High Court directed to file the report on or before December 1, 2020, and the Collector to be present in the next hearing.

The matter was adjourned to 4th December.



# Former India captain Chapman passes away

Chapman's contribution to Indian football will never be forgotten: AIFF

**New Delhi (IANS):** Former India captain Carlton Chapman passed away on Monday. He was 49.

As per goal.com, he died reportedly after suffering a heart failure in Bengaluru.

Chapman, a product of the Tata Football Academy (TFA), was one of the leading midfielders in the country during his playing days. He joined TFA in 1990 and three years later, he joined East Bengal and scored a hat trick for them against Al Zawra of Iraq in Asian Cup Winners Cup.

During his spell at JCT Mills which started in 1995, the team won 14 tournaments. After one season with FC Kochin in 1997-98, Chapman returned to East Bengal in 1998. The team won the National Football League under his captaincy in 2001, before he announced his retirement from professional football.

For India, He played as a midfielder between between 1995 and 2001 and also captained the side.

Following his retirement, Chapman coached the TFA team, then in I-League 2nd Division, from 2002 to 2008. He was signed in December 2002 on a one-year contract as an assistant to head coach Ranjan Choudhary and assistant coach Vijay Kumar.

In December 2017, Chapman was appointed the Technical Director of the Kozhikode-based Quartz International Football Academy.



The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has condoled the untimely demise of former India captain Carlton Chapman.

AIFF President Praful Patel, in a statement, said: "It's sad to hear that Carlton Chapman is no more. His contribution to Indian football will never be forgotten. I share the grief."

AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das added: "Chapman was a gifted player. He even inspired so many youngsters through his coaching. May his soul rest in peace."

Under Chapman's captaincy,

the Indian team went on to win the SAFF Championship trophy in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1997. He scored six goals for the Indian team in thirty-nine matches, including five matches when he led the side. He was part of the triumphant India side which won the SAF Games (1995) in Madras, Nehru Cup (1997) in Kochi and SAFF Championship (1999) in Margao.

At the club level, he began his career with Tata Football Academy in 1991 before moving to East Bengal two years

later. During his stay in East Bengal, he scored a hat-trick against Iraqi club Al Zawra at the Asian Cup Winners' Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata in 1993.

In 1995, he switched to JCT Mills. He was an integral part of their maiden NFL-winning campaign in 1997 under the coaching of Dhyani Chand Awardee Sukhwinder Singh. Also, he was part of the treble-winning JCT Mills team which won the Federation Cup, IFA Shield and Durand Cup in 1996. Next year, he lifted the Durand Cup trophy again with FC Kochin.

During his stay in East Bengal, he won the Calcutta Premier League four times (1993, 1998-2000), IFA Shield twice (1994, 2000), Durand Cup, Rovers Cup, Kalinga Cup once apiece besides the National Football League in 2001 before hanging up his boots.

At the domestic level, Chapman won the Santosh Trophy thrice (1993-94, 1998) with Bengal besides representing the state on two more occasions (1999, 2000). Incidentally, he scored the first golden goal in the history of Santosh Trophy, which came against Goa in 1995.

His coaching career started at the Tata Football Academy in 2002. Later, he coached Royal Wahingdoh, Bhawanipore FC, Student's Union FC, Sudeva FC. Recently, he was appointed as the Technical Director of Quartz FC, a club based in Kozhikode.



**Sethupathi will nail my bowling expressions in '800', says Muralitharan**

**New Delhi (IANS):** Vijay Sethupathi is a very talented actor and will nail the bowling expressions in my biopic '800', says former Sri Lankan spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan.

"800", a fast-paced and funny biopic, is touted to be a moving portrayal of Muralitharan -- one of cricket's most brilliant and divisive characters. The film will be shot in Sri Lanka, UK, Australia and India. The shoot is slated to start at the beginning of 2021 and is set to release at the end of next year.

"Once the script was ready, we thought the best fit for this movie is non-other than Vijay Sethupathi," said Muralitharan while speaking on Star Sports show Cricket Live.

"I think he is a very talented actor and he will nail the bowling expressions. I trust Vijay completely as he is one of the greatest actors and I have complete faith that he'll definitely do wonders for the film."

Speaking about Muralitharan, Sethupathi said, "It's really nice to listen to his story and spend time with Murali sir. He is like a stamp, he makes a mark wherever he goes with his charming character and personality."

Muralitharan is the only cricketer to have taken 800 wickets in Test cricket. Besides, he also picked up 534 and 13 wickets respectively in 350 ODIs and 12 T20Is.



## KKR express surprise over Sunil Narine warning

**Abu Dhabi (IANS):** Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Monday expressed surprise over off-spinner Sunil Narine being reported for suspect bowling action in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Narine was reported by the match officials during KKR's match against Kings XI Punjab which they won by two runs at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium last Saturday.

"This came as a surprise to the franchise and Mr. Narine, considering he has played over 115 games in the IPL since 2012 and as many as 68 games since 2015, when he was last reported during the IPL season for a suspect action before being subsequently cleared completely by SRASSC, an ICC accredited facility," the franchise said in a statement.

"Furthermore, he was playing his sixth game this season, with no concerns expressed formally or informally by the match officials so far," the statement added.

The 32-year-old was reported

for suspect action back in 2014 too while playing for KKR during the now-scrapped Champions League T20 tournament.

However, the franchise have said they are respectful of the process that the IPL has put in place to have Narine's action reviewed, and are working closely with the league in the matter.

"We are hopeful that there would be an appropriate resolution quickly. We appreciate the cooperation being extended by the IPL in expediting this matter," the statement read.

As of now, Narine is allowed to bowl in the league. However, if he is reported for the second time in the tournament, he will be suspended from the IPL until cleared by the BCCI Suspect Bowling Action Committee. However, there is no Suspect Bowling Action Committee in place as of now.

### TODAY'S MATCH

**Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Chennai Super Kings at 7.30pm**



## Injured Rishabh Pant sidelined for at least a week

**Abu Dhabi (IANS):** Delhi Capitals wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant will be out of action for at least a week in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020, skipper Shreyas Iyer has confirmed.

Pant had injured himself last Friday during the match against Rajasthan Royals - a game which Capitals won by 46 runs in Sharjah. In Sunday's match, Capitals, however, replaced him with Alex

Carey in the playing XI against Mumbai Indians - a match which they lost by five wickets at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

"We have no idea, I spoke to the doctor. He said he (Pant) has to rest for a week. Hope he comes back really strong," Iyer said about Pant while speaking at the post-match presentation ceremony after defeat against Rohit Sharma-led side.

Pant has been in good form in the ongoing IPL season, scoring 176 runs in six matches with a strike rate of 133.33.

Following Sunday's defeat against the defending champions, Capitals have gone down to the second spot in the points table, with 10 points from seven games. They next play Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday and then Chennai Super Kings on Saturday.

## Today you showed why you are king of clay: Djokovic to Nadal

**Paris (IANS):** World no.1 Novak Djokovic had to settle for runners up against the seemingly infallible Rafael Nadal at the 2020 French Open and the Serb was all praise for his Spanish rival after the match.

Djokovic, who was looking to become the first man in the Open Era to win all four Grand Slams twice, lost 0-6, 2-6, 5-7 to Nadal on Sunday.

"What you are doing in this court is unbelievable. Throughout your career you have been a great champion," said Djokovic.

"Today you showed why you're king of the clay. I have experienced it on my own skin. It was a very tough match for me today, obviously I'm not so pleased with the way I played but I was definitely overplayed by a better



player today on the court."

Djokovic also congratulated the organisers for successfully holding the tournament. Originally scheduled to be held from May 25 to June 7, the 2020

court for everyone and we were all worried whether we can play the sport we love. So thank you to all the organisers for making this possible," said Djokovic.

"A very tough year. Win here means everything to me. It's not the moment, to be honest, for me to think about the 20th, equal Roger on this great number. For me, today is just a Roland Garros victory. Roland Garros means everything to me. I spent here some of the most important moments in my tennis career, no doubt about that... for me, just play here is true inspiration. The love story I have with this city and with this court is unforgettable."

— Rafael Nadal

## Aiming to hit top fitness levels post Covid: Surrender Kumar

**New Delhi (IANS):** Defender Surrender Kumar, who was one of the six players of the Indian men's hockey team too have tested positive for Covid-19 in August, has revealed that the entire period was mentally very challenging for him. "I would often tell myself that so many people around the globe have battled this virus including top sports people and have come out of it. It was a difficult phase but I am really grateful for the kind of support system we had from Hockey India and SAI who made every effort to get us the best treatment," Kumar said. Unlike his other compatriots who had tested positive and recovered, Kumar had developed venous thrombosis, a condition in which there are blood clots. It is one of the many complications related to Covid-19 recovery phase. "Again, I am grateful to Hockey India and SAI for ensuring my recovery is closely monitored. I get my routine check-ups done regularly. We also have a doctor on campus who I can consult in case of any discomfort. I feel we are just fortunate to have this kind of support. My focus now is on hockey," he said.



**Abu Dhabi (IANS):** Mumbai Indians (MI) climbed to the top of the table with their five-wicket win over Delhi Capitals (DC) on Sunday at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium. Skipper Rohit Sharma said that being top of the table gives the team confidence on the way they are approaching their matches.

"Means a lot (to be top of the table). The kind of cricket we are playing, gives us a lot of confidence. It's important to have momentum with us, and it was a perfect day for us, getting those crucial two points," said Rohit in the post-match presentation ceremony.

The defending champions first restricted DC to 162/4 despite their opener Shikhar Dhawan playing through the innings before chasing down the target with two balls to spare. Rohit said that they would like to make sure that one of the top order batsmen

## Means a lot to be top of the table: Rohit

stays till the end in the death overs which did not happen for MI on Sunday.

"We were clinical with the bat, but not so much towards the end. We need one set batsman to finish off the game in general, and some set batsmen got out today. That is something we need to tighten up," he said.

"But again, I don't want to go too much into it because I think they batted really well. Chasing has not been so great in this tournament so looking at what we have done with the bat in the sec-

ond half gives us that confidence we can chase any score."

"Overall, they outplayed us in all the departments. We need to work on our mindsets before the next game. Definitely, I would say 10-15 short, 170-175 on the board would have looked completely different."

— Shreyas Iyer, DC captain



## Rabada continues to wear Purple Cap, Orange stays with KL

**Abu Dhabi (IANS):** Kagiso Rabada of Delhi Capitals and Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul continue to lead the respective lists of leading wicket-takers and run-scorers following the conclusion of 27 matches in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) edition.

On Sunday evening, Rabada returned with figures of 2/28 in his four overs and in the process took his tournament tally to 17 to hold onto the Purple Cap. However, his efforts couldn't avoid defeat for the Capitals as Mumbai Indians won the match by five wickets at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

He is followed by Mumbai Indians' Jasprit Bumrah, who has 11 wickets in seven games. Bumrah's teammate Trent Boult is third on the list with 11 wickets from seven matches.

## Evert calls out Djokovic for rivalry with Nadal 'biggest in sport' comment

**Paris (IANS):** Legendary women's tennis star Chris Evert has called out Novak Djokovic for saying his rivalry with 'King of Clay' Rafael Nadal was the greatest in the history of the sport.

"I've played (Rafa) more than I (have) played any other player in my professional career. Our head-to-head is the biggest head-to-head ever in the history of the sport... he's definitely my greatest rival," Djokovic said after his comprehensive defeat to Nadal in the French Open 2020 final on Sunday. However, Evert was quick to point out how many times she had played against Martina Navratilova during her playing days. "Well, true... in men's tennis... Martina and I played 80 times," Evert wrote on Twitter.

The American won 18 Grand Slam titles and was the year-ending world number one singles player in 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, and 1981. Overall, she won 157 singles championships and 32 doubles titles.



On Sunday, Nadal defeated Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 and the victory took him level with Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slam wins, the most for any male singles player. "For me, today is just a Roland Garros victory," said Djokovic's opponent.

"Roland Garros means everything to me. I spent here some of the most important moments in my tennis career, no doubt about that... for me, just play here is true

inspiration. The love story I have with this city and with this court is unforgettable," the Spaniard said after his 13th Roland Garros triumph. Some of the greatest tennis rivalries of all times are Rod Laver vs Roy Emerson; John McEnroe vs Jimmy Connors; John McEnroe vs Bjorn Borg; Stefan Edberg vs Boris Becker; Ivan Lendl vs Boris Becker; Pete Sampras vs Andre Agassi; Rafael Nadal vs Roger Federer.