





# Womenia

## Pediatric healthcare and the third wave of Covid-19

SIDDHI JAIN

Experts are forewarning against the third wave of Covid-19 hitting India as early as September, with many fearing that it could hit children disproportionately. According to Rekha Mittal, Neurologist at Rainbow Hospitals, since many adults would have had the disease or the Covid vaccine, in comparison children would be a susceptible population.

"Third wave and more waves can always occur in a pandemic till it burns out or there is herd immunity. So far in our experience, the majority of children who have had Covid infection have either been asymptomatic or had mild symptoms. Therefore we hope the next wave will not be a serious threat to children," says Mittal.

"The treatment of children who get serious manifestations of Covid requires specialists who are trained in intensive care of children, and the appropriate equipment and support staff. We should definitely plan and be prepared for a crisis situation if it does occur. We should not be complacent," Mittal adds.

How can a surge in cases be avoided? The expert suggests not letting our guard down, by maintaining Covid-appropriate behaviour such as social distancing, use of masks, and hand sanitisation measures. "We need to avoid

**Since many adults would have had the disease or the Covid vaccine, in comparison children would be a susceptible population- Rekha Mittal**



crowded places such as malls, markets, gatherings etc. Also, the children will get protected indirectly, if the adults around them receive the Covid vaccine."

Asked how critical can it be to administer the expensive injection like this with skill, Mittal

says, "Administering such an expensive and uncommonly used drug can be a challenge. One will need to have complete knowledge about procuring, handling and administering the medication. Also, one would have to have all facilities to handle the side ef-

fects if they occur, such as liver damage, drop in platelet count etc."

Speaking about vaccination for children, the doctor said vaccinations for vaccine preventable diseases should continue on time for children as per schedule.

TWEET PATROL



**SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRA**  
**@THESHILPASHETTY**

BREATHE... it's THE most important function that the body performs. Breathing right helps provide oxygen to the organs to perform all the crucial processes, from cognition to digestion to strengthening the immune system. [tps://fb.watch/6fQRP5fTF4/](https://fb.watch/6fQRP5fTF4/)  
#MondayMotivation #YogaDay



NEWS ROUNDUP

## Raja Kumari's new track 'The Rani Cypher' focuses on gender equality

Indian-American rapper Raja Kumari released her latest track "The Rani Cypher" on Monday, to mark World Music Day.

The track highlights its theme of woman power with appearances by female emcees Dee MC, Siri and Meba Ofilia.

"When I entered the Indian rap scene in 2016, it was rare to see a woman on stage and even more rare to hear a woman on the mic.

I decided early on to use my Influence to create a platform for female artistes and creatives in order to claim a space that could be safe for all of us," claimed Raja Kumari.

She added, "It's so exciting to feature Meba Ofilia, Dee MC and Siri on this all-female rap cypher out of India. From beginning to end, working on Rani Cypher has been a hands-on experience and I'm thankful to have worked with such a talented female led team."

Siri said, "(I am) So hyped for this one! A much-needed collaboration for the scene. The shoot was super fun, all of us in our element, exchanging positive energy."

Dee MC said, "Super stoked to have worked with these



amazing and talented ladies on 'Rani Cypher'. This was definitely in the works for a while and I'm so glad it's finally happened. Safe to say it sets a benchmark for all upcoming female collaborations."

Meba Ofilia said, "I'm nervous, yet very excited! Honoured to be a part of this

unique project. Definitely a first for me, sitting down in a studio with artists from different parts of India (and the world!) to record a song. Colourless campaign in order to create a world in which people look beyond their differences, while also driving global unity."

## Pastels and Pop's karigars bring vision to life with S/S21 collection

N LOTHUNGBENI HUMT SOE

Bengaluru-based handcrafted jutti brand Pastels and Pop celebrates the karigars that infuse life into every pair of juttis, not just by its sewing and embroidery but by making us believe that a happiness still lies ahead, even after these uncertain times.

The colours chosen for the collection imbibe a sense of happiness and positivity, meanwhile providing one with fabrics and accessories ranging from luscious silk, organic cotton, linen, and organza.

Embellishments such as hand-cut sequins, Czech glass beads, pearls, colorful anchor threads, and beads are some of the elements added to the new launch. The designs range from exquisite to versatile, with different schools of embroidery such as Zardosi, tassels, knot embroidery, striking floral patterns, organza, and mirror embroidery.

"Pastels and Pop' Spring Summer collection 'Promise of Tomorrow' is a melting pot inclusive of individual tastes, styles, and palette. Aanksha and Aarti Chhabra Co-founder, Pas-

tels and Pop shares the inspiration and journey of creating "Promise of Tomorrow" while celebrating the Karigars - craftsmen who have put all their effort to bring vision to life.

**Why launch a collection when stores are shutting down?**

Our Spring Summer collection '21 had been primed for launch on 20 April. But the unfortunate escalation of coronavirus cases and casualties meant that this had had to take a backseat while our country tries to get back on its feet.

However, we came to realise now that keeping the new collection under wraps meant keeping our team of gifted artisans from savoring the fruit of the labour and painstaking effort they have put in over the last few months to bring this collection to life. Hence, we decided to launch our SS '21 in May, with the name 'Promise of Tomorrow'.

**What are the fabrics that you have used? How many pieces are in this collection?**

This season, we have predomi-

nantly featured striking floral patterns in our embroideries, while the fabrics and accessories employed range from the exquisite to the versatile. We have made a total of 6 styles using a varied range of fabrics such as luscious silks, organic cottons, Linen and organza.

**What is so unique about your prints? Are these all-digital prints?**

We do not work on prints so much, our forte is hand-embroidery. We work with some of the best karigars from across the country who are highly skilled in their craft and weave their magic on shoes. Our designs are unique because you can find great examples of different schools of hand embroidery like Zardosi, tassels, knot embroidery, organza and mirror embroidery in our juttis. Our design team also works with a vast range of embellishments such as hand-cut sequins, zardosi, Czech glass beads, mirrors, pearls, colorful anchor threads and colorful beads to create beautiful juttis.

**Do you think fashion is moving**

**towards a more season-less approach?**

I personally don't follow the seasonal trends. I focus on the styles of clothes I love instead of feeling pressured to update my wardrobe with the latest fashion. I see this change in many people around me which I think is fantastic as it saves money, time and is more environment friendly. Another big plus is that one gets to wear something one loves and is comfortable in. At Pastels & Pop, we have in fact never followed seasonal color schemes. We make juttis that are timeless, beautiful, and are loved by customers all year round.

**What is your take on responsible fashion?**

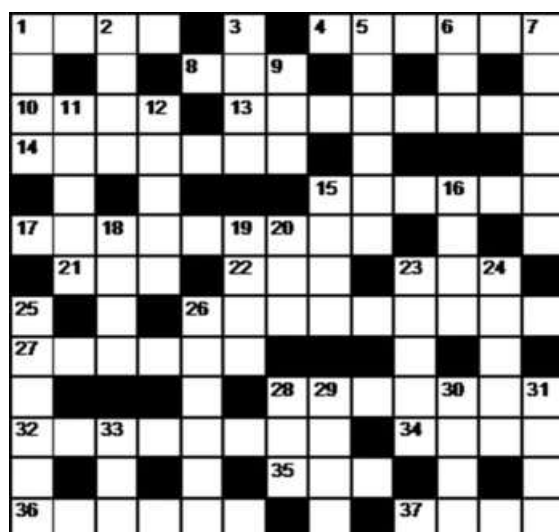
At Pastels and Pop, we've reused our leftover fabric and faux leather trimmings to make potli bags, hair bands, rakhi's and cute brooches. We send these out as 'Free gifts' on special months like Rakshabandhan, Diwali, New Years and valentines. Personally, I have also made conscious changes to my wardrobe. Quality wins over quantity. I choose classic

timeless pieces over cheap and disposable ones, whenever I can.

We should all try to invest in hand-made pieces over machine manufactured. This provides livelihood to so many and also keeps art and craft alive. All of us in the industry need to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for our employees and provide them a fair wage with benefits.

**What is the impact of the pandemic on the brand and the craftsmen working?**

We had big plans for 2021 for two really exciting announcements but they have been on hold for some time now due to the current situation. Our shipments to customers have been delayed because to us, the safety of our team is of utmost priority and so our office was shut down for almost a month. We decided to not have any form of gathering in the office from mid-April 2021 and everyone has been working from home including the designers and the karigars which has certainly slowed things down and pushed some plans further.



SOLUTION TO JUNE 21

### CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Lubricates (4)
- 4 Thick mucus in throat (6)
- 8 Manner (3)
- 10 Exploited (4)
- 13 Tailor (8)
- 14 Knight's attendants (7)
- 15 Bruce Lee's forte ? (4,2)
- 17 Telling, recounting or reporting (9)
- 21 For what reason? (3)
- 22 Literary snippets (3)
- 23 Male child (3)
- 26 Explosive material consisting of saltpetre, charcoal and sulphur ? (9)
- 27 Neck-cloth (6)
- 28 Repeat (7)
- 32 From nothing (2,6)
- 34 Fail to win (4)
- 35 Unit of illumination (3)
- 36 Up-to-date in ideas; in the manner or fashion of the present day (6)
- 37 Optical device (4)

Down

- 1 Responsibility (4)
- 2 In \_\_\_ of : instead ? (4)
- 3 Ascend (4)
- 5 Peppermint drop (6)
- 6 Swallow food (3)
- 7 Speak in low voice (6)
- 9 Short native? (3)
- 11 Red indian woman (5)
- 12 Journal (5)
- 15 Strike sharply (4)
- 16 Well behaved (4)
- 18 South American ostrich (4)
- 19 Pulled tight (4)
- 20 Hostelry (3)
- 23 Eddy (5)
- 24 Cosy homes (5)
- 25 Yell, belly laugh (6)
- 26 Pick (6)
- 28 Unwell, sick (3)
- 29 Solicit customers (4)
- 30 First-class (1-3)
- 31 Long fishes (4)
- 33 Sign of assent (3)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JUNE 21

## Onion Rings Day

Onion Rings Day is your opportunity to get out there and enjoy your favourite deep-fried savoury treat. They're simple to make at home, and while a deep fryer is great, it isn't essential in their preparation. There are even baked Onion Rings if you decide to go that way, but nothing beats the original. Just heat up a pan of oil until a small drop of batter starts to sizzle when dropped in, and then carefully submerge your coated Onion Rings one by one and cook until a golden brown. There are dozens of recipes online that you can try, and even more recipes for sauces to serve them with.

If making onion rings isn't your idea of fun, but you like eating them, then you can head out to any one of the dozens of restaurant chains that serves them as part of their daily menu. While many fast-food chains offer onion rings, the best examples come from independent restaurants with proprietary recipes. It's highly likely that you have at least one of these in your area, serving up rings in the traditional style. Look for local diners with a long history and experienced management. Family businesses tend to be the best.

Some people really don't like onions. Many won't go near them, even if they're covered in batter and deep-fried, but that's okay. You don't have to eat onion rings, though, to celebrate Onion Rings Day - you can branch out. Remember, onion rings were the inspiration for many of the fried snacks and sides that we enjoy today. French fries, deep-fried brie, and fried chicken are all delicious alternatives that you can try if you fancy something different.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY  
Rakshabandhan



# Mahoba first Uttar Pradesh district to be Corona free

LUCKNOW

MAHOBA district in Uttar Pradesh has become the first district in the state to be completely Covid-free. The district, on Monday, saw recovery of the last known infected person.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced a reward for the district which eliminated the disease with emphasis on strict screening, treatment and vaccination. "Mahoba's success must serve as an inspiration for all other districts. It is attributed to the combined efforts of all residents

of the district, including health workers, frontline workers and the local administration. The district will be rewarded if the current situation is maintained for one more week," announced the chief minister at a high-level Covid review meeting held on Monday.

Mahoba has been able to bring down the fresh Covid-19 cases from 150 daily to not even a single fresh case of Covid-19 infection for almost a week now. District magistrate Mahoba, Satyendra Kumar, explained, "This achievement is a result of dedicated efforts of the surveillance committees, local

participation, timely provision of free medicine kits, large-scale contact tracing and planned containment strategy as per the directives issued by the chief minister."

The administration prioritized active surveillance while simultaneously providing free medicine kits at the doorstep of infected people through more than 3,000 members of over 363 surveillance committees that are active in the district. The district conducted house-to-house surveillance through surveillance committees to detect all influenza like illness (ILI), traced contact consistently, and provided



medicine kits to ASHA workers and gram pradhans for timely distribution wherever required. Meanwhile, for the first time in three months, Uttar Pradesh has reported less than 215 new confirmed cases of coronavirus in a single day. Prior to this, less than 215 fresh cases of infection were recorded in a single day in the state before March 15 this year.

The state is left with just 4,163 active cases out of which nearly 2,500 are under home isolation while the percentage of active cases as against the total confirmed cases is just 0 per cent. Similarly, the test positive

rate is 0.09 per cent. No new Covid cases have been reported from, at least, 18 districts of Uttar Pradesh in the past 24 hours. Except for Lucknow, all districts of the state have less than 200 active cases. As many as 66 districts have reported 10 or lesser number of fresh cases.

Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal said: "At a time when several states are recording thousands of cases, UP has been able to bring down cases. However, the decline does not mean that people should drop guard against the pandemic as the virus is still active."

## UP CM will be decided after polls: Minister

LUCKNOW

SENIOR BJP leader and Uttar Pradesh Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya has said that the next chief minister of the state will be decided by the central leadership after the completion of Assembly elections early next year.

The chief minister will be finalised by the central leadership after the Assembly elections, Maurya told newsmen in reply to a question at the BJP.

Conflicting signals have continued to emerge from the ruling BJP over who would lead the party in the 2022 Assembly elections and who will be the chief ministerial candidate.

Speaking to newsmen in Etah last week, the BJP's state unit president Swatantra Dev Singh had said that the next Assembly polls will be contested under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

"Corruption and hooliganism have ended and development is taking place. We will fight the 2022 elections under the hardworking and honest Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath," Swatantra Dev had stated.



ister Yogi Adityanath," Swatantra Dev had stated.

Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya had earlier said in Bareilly that the party's national leadership will decide under whom the upcoming elections will be fought.

When asked if there was any confusion in the party over who would lead the party in the coming polls and who would be the chief ministerial candidate as seen in the recent statements of

party leaders, BJP spokesman Harishchandra Srivastava said, "Swatantra Dev is the state unit president and what he has said is important. What Keshav Prasad Maurya and Swami Prasad Maurya have said is on the basis of the party's norms and traditions."

Formally, the announcement of chief minister's name is decided by the Parliamentary Board, and so Keshav Maurya and Swami Maurya would have said this, Srivastava added.

## Row over UP IPS officer's alleged tweet

LUCKNOW

A 2014 batch IPS officer, Gaurav Banswal, has landed in controversy after a tweet posted from his profile said that he has stayed on a non-cadre IPS post for one year. However, on Sunday, the tweet and the account of the IPS was deactivated. ADG, law and order, Prashant Kumar said that the matter has come to his notice and Gaurav Banswal has informed about his Twitter account being hacked in the past. "The matter will be investigated and action will be taken based on the facts," he said. On Friday, a tweet from Gaurav Banswal's handle, sarcastically stated that - "Today I completed one year in a non-cadre post in UP".

Bhim Army founder Chandra Shekhar Azad, an activist and others were tagged in the controversial tweet, allegedly made from Gaurav's Twitter handle. Banswal has been posted as superintendent of police, crime, in DGP Headquarters for almost a year. Gaurav Banswal was earlier posted as ASP in Kanpur and Kushinagar and later, as SP in Hathras.

## Loni case: Twitter MD says available for video call

LUCKNOW

TWITTER India has responded to the legal notice issued by the Ghaziabad Police regarding the viral video of an elderly man being assaulted in Loni, Ghaziabad.

Twitter India Managing Director Manish Maheshwari said he is available on video conferencing to explain the issue to the concerned authorities. While clarifying that he does not deal with the matter at hand, Maheshwari said he is willing to be questioned by the police.

Ghaziabad Police is not satisfied with the social media giants response and is mulling if it should send a second notice. The police are also reportedly seeking legal counsel on whether or not to take up Twitter India on its offer. If accepted, the video call will be made by an official at the level of Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police.

In the legal notice mailed to Twitter India MD Manish Maheshwari last Thursday, the police had directed him to come to the Loni Border Police Station and record a statement within seven days. Maheshwari and several others are accused of sharing



## Rana Ayyub gets transit bail

MUMBAI

THE Bombay high court on Monday granted 4 weeks transit anticipatory bail to journalist Rana Ayyub in the FIR registered by the Uttar Pradesh police over her tweet on the Ghaziabad incident related to the assault of an elderly Muslim man. A single bench of Justice PD Naik ordered that protection can be granted to Ayyub for a period of four weeks to enable

her to approach the appropriate court to seek appropriate reliefs. Senior Advocate Mihir Desai, who appeared for Ayyub, told the bench that she was a globally renowned journalist who has won several awards for her work and contended that she had only made the tweet based on news reports.

When conflicting versions emerged about the incident, Desai said, Ayyub deleted the tweet.

the video of the elderly man being assaulted in Loni with the alleged

intent of "provoking communal unrest".

## Big B's family priest involved in clash with police

MIRZAPUR

BOLLYWOOD actor Amitabh Bachchan's family priest, who has also reportedly performed 'pujas' for the Gandhi family, was allegedly beaten up during a scuffle between priests and the police at the Vindhya Vasini temple in Vindhyachal area.

A video of the incident has gone viral.

According to reports, the clash took place on Sunday after the district magistrate of Chandauli district and his family were escorted to the temple by the police to perform pujas despite the weekend lockdown.

However, when Bachchan's family priest Amit Pandey, along with other priests, reached the temple for performing pujas, the police refused to let them in, leading to an altercation.

Seeing the district magistrate offering puja, the priests also insisted that they be allowed in.

No case has been filed in the incident so far. Sumit Pandey, brother of the priest, told reporters, "Police deliberately did this. Protesting priests are also



implicated in false cases. We are very respected in the community." He said that his brother regularly performed 'puja' for the Bachchan family.

Rajan Pathak, former president of Panda Samaj, also condemned the incident and said that every worshipper is equal in the eyes of the almighty. He also said that the temple does not discriminate against anyone.

Additional Superintendent of Police Sanjay Verma denied the incident and said that no policeman escorted any official for performing puja in the temple.

"A priest performed darshan puja and when Amit Pandey started taking other visitors for the darshan puja which the police objected to," Verma said.

## 5 bike-borne miscreants rob editor-in-chief at gunpoint

NOIDA

FIVE miscreants in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida (West) district allegedly held the Editor-in-Chief of a well-known news channel at gunpoint and robbed him. The miscreants also threatened to shoot the journalist.

Following this incident, the law and order situation in Noida has come under severe criticism and to improve it the commissionerate system has been implemented.

This incident took place just 300 metres from a police station.

Journalist Atul Aggarwal narrated the incident on the social media. He said he pleaded with the miscreants for his life for the sake of his young son. As of now no complaint has been lodged with the police in connection with the incident.

The journalist wrote a social media post, saying, "On June 19, 2021 at nearly 1 p.m., I was passing by near Rise Police station at Noida Extension when the music system in my Safari Storme car stopped working, so I stopped my car and took a pen drive comprising my song playlist. I must have been at a distance of nearly 250-300 metres from the police station."



"Suddenly five boys riding two motorcycles stopped near Noida Extension. One bike was parked in front of my car and the other one on the side of my driving seat door. All the boys were wearing masks. A tall 6'4" boy first got off the bike and pulled my car's door with force."

The journalist said, "The door of my car was locked so they could not open it. The tall boy then hit hard on my car's window and ordered me to lower it down. When I refused to lower the car window, he took out a pistol. I had no choice left but to obey his orders and opened the door of my car. He threw me down from the car and held me at

gunpoint." "The miscreants pointed a pistol at me and asked me to hand over my chain, ring, watch, money and mobile phone to them. I gave all my money worth Rs 5000-6000 to the miscreants. I replied that I have allergy from gold which is why I don't wear chains and rings."

The journalist further wrote, "My condition was battered and my legs were shivering. I again pleaded for mercy with folded hands to the miscreants to leave me as I have a little son. Then the tall guy got down from my car and grabbed my collar and said in a growling tone that if I acted oversmart then everybody would die. He threw my phone on the car seat and left from there."

## Amid infighting in Punjab Cong, Amarinder to meet panel today

NEW DELHI

AMID escalated infighting in the Punjab Congress, chief minister Amarinder Singh has arrived in Delhi and is scheduled to meet the party panel on Tuesday. The panel is headed by leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge and Harish Rawat and JP Aggarwal are its members.

The meeting gains significance after disgruntled leader Navjot Singh Sidhu once again opened front against the chief minister. Sidhu has reportedly said that he is not a 'show piece' to be used in elections. The Congress panel has been authorised to resolve the issue without alienating any of the factions in the state.

The Congress panel constituted to resolve factionalism in the Punjab unit, submitted its report to party interim President Sonia Gandhi on June 10.



Sources said the panel has not recommended the removal of the chief minister and Captain Amarinder Singh is likely to lead the party in the next elections. Instead, a slew of reforms have been suggested in the party state unit. While the fate of Navjot Singh Sidhu is still not clear, sources said the panel wants his rehabilitation in the Punjab cabinet. Amarinder Singh is averse to Sidhu being elevated to the post of deputy CM but is ready to accommodate him in the cabinet, sources said.

The panel had met all the stakeholders in the party including chief minister Amarinder Singh and Navjot Singh Sidhu.

## Two held for forcing over 1,000 conversions in UP

LUCKNOW

THE Uttar Pradesh ATS have arrested two people from Delhi for allegedly forcing over 1000 people to change their religion.

The two accused, Umar Gautam and Jahangir, have allegedly forced around 1000 non-Muslims to convert to Islam. One of the accused revealed that he is a resident of Batala house in Jamia Nagar and he himself has converted his religion.

UP ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said in a press

conference here on Monday that there is a racket operating in the state, forcing people to convert to Islam. Kumar confirmed that around 1000 people have converted their religion till now.

The ADG further said that these two people used to target poor families, unemployed youth, and handicapped people, especially those who were hearing and speech impaired, children and forced them to change their religion.

According to the police, people were lured to convert their

religion for money and financial stability. UP ADG also mentioned that this might be a case of funding from ISI for religious conversions.

Prashant Kumar also said that many women have been forced to change their religion and were married off. He said that the racket was operating in Noida, Kanpur, and Mathura. The accused used to run a centre named 'Islamic Dawa Centre' that got funding from all across the world.

Police is also tracking those



people who got trapped in this racket and is investigating fur-

ther to understand how they influenced people.



## Girl child most affected by pandemic

HAVE women, particularly the girl child, in India borne the brunt during the pandemic in the last one year or so? Yes, by all means. Women have always suffered during calamities and wars. But, even this war against the virus has seen them suffer the most. A study by a prominent organization working in the field, Aksha Centre for Equity and Wellbeing, whose head is also the vice president of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, has confirmed that the worsening of poverty during the pandemic may well have led to a worrying spurt in marriages of girl children in India. The information available indicates that has happened, pushing back the progress of recent decades in reducing child marriages. Experts in the field and other social scientists are now having a relook into the issue demanding a serious study of the same. The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted life for all groups in society. While attention has been focused on the direct effects of Covid-19 on hospitalisation and deaths, the ways in which it has affected the young has received less at-

tention. Indeed, the young have been thus far less affected by the virus than older age groups. However, studies have found that the pandemic has affected the young indirectly and it is these indirect consequences that pose a severe threat to the future of the generation, especially for the most vulnerable among them. What is important here is that the least documented consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and related lockdowns in India is a spurt in child and early marriage. Drawing from available insights — from research in previous humanitarian disasters and crises in India and elsewhere, as well as from reports of telephone and online surveys, and print and electronic media reports it was concluded that these young adolescents have taken the worst blow. Alongside we have the estimates from the UN child agency UNICEF suggest that while 110 million child marriages took place globally and an estimated 25 million were averted over the decade 2011–2020, this trend may now be reversed. UNICEF now projects that up to 10 million more girls are at risk of child marriage in the decade

2021–2030 (UNICEF 2021). In contrast, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that the Covid-19 pandemic will globally result in 13 million additional child marriages over the 2020–2030 decade. Of these, 74 million are attributable to the slowdown in programme implementation, and the remaining 5.6 million to the worldwide economic downturn through its effect on household poverty (UNFPA 2020). Perhaps the least documented consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and related lockdowns in India is a spurt in child and early marriage. Earlier research is indicative of the fact that every third child marriage takes place in India and the implications of these estimates for India are severe. In 2006–07 almost half (47%) of females aged 20–24 in India had married as children, that is, below the age of 18, the legal minimum. Juxtaposing the figures of its own survey over the next decade, the Aksha centre has concluded that all the good work in the field could come to naught in future. Is this 'Beti Bachao, Beti Pado'?



## Yoga helps improve respiratory health post Covid: Experts

It has been observed that nearly 10 per cent of people diagnosed with Covid-19 experience prolonged symptoms, including breathing trouble, headaches, blood clots, nausea, fatigue and muscle pain which may last for weeks, months, possibly years even after recovery. Apart from a healthy diet, yoga can play an important role in the recovery process post Covid

YOGA has long been known as a holistic medium to achieve health and wellbeing. The Covid-19 pandemic has further put the spotlight on the myriad benefits of yoga.

On the occasion of International Day of Yoga on Monday, experts said that practising yoga can boost respiratory health and immunity post Covid.

It has been observed that nearly 10 per cent of people diagnosed with Covid-19 experience prolonged symptoms, including breathing trouble, headaches, blood clots, nausea, fatigue and muscle pain which may last for weeks, months, possibly years even after recovery.

Apart from a healthy diet, yoga can play an important role in the recovery process post Covid, experts said.

"Yoga can help support, balance and boost the immune system and can help fight oxidative stress that poses a risk to the healthy cells. While the novel coronavirus especially attacks the respiratory system, breathing exercise or 'pranayam' can help a lot in strengthening the system if done in a correct way and under good guidance," Ismit Tyagi, Consultant Physiotherapist, Columbia Asia Hospital, Gurugram, told IANS.

Patients who have recovered from Covid-19 can do some easy yoga movements to increase the body's capacity.

"Movements like Tadasana, Chakrasana, Trikonasana, Bhujangasana and Pawanmuktasana will not only help in increasing the capacity of the lungs, but will also increase the amount of oxygenated blood in the body and transfer direct blood to the brain, due to which the body feels strong and young. Yoga also helps to maintain proper alignment of our body besides enhancing our immunity," said Chitra Kataria, Head-Rehabilitation, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi.

Besides physical health, the pandemic has taken a severe toll on the mental health of people -- dealing with the deaths of loved ones, loss of jobs, being cooped up at home and uncertainty of the future. All these can result in feelings of anxiety and despair.

"Yoga could be useful during the pandemic in three ways -- helping to cope with the stress by alleviating depression and anxiety, improving the respiratory system which is mainly damaged by the virus, and boosting immunity. Yoga is a great tool to help improve respiratory health and immunity, both of which are involved in the prevention and healing from Covid-19," said Tilak Suvarna, Senior Interventional Cardiologist, Asian Heart Institute, Mumbai.

While yoga and meditation are known to be beneficial for holistic health, there is no proof that they help the human body to fight coronavirus. However, studies on yoga in managing flu symptoms during an influenza season have shown promising results, the experts noted.

Regular yoga practice can also help people of all ages prevent and control noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) like cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes -- a major risk factor for developing severe Covid-19 symptoms, said Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia.

NCDs kill 41 million people globally every year, more than a third of them prematurely. "People living with NCDs are at higher risk of developing severe Covid-19 symptoms. They must continue to be provided uninterrupted access to NCD services and encouraged and enabled to take preventive action, for which yoga at home can prove beneficial and safe," Singh said.

"Yoga is a powerful way for people of all ages and incomes, whatever their gender or ethnicity, to prevent and control NCDs, increase overall physical and mental health, and reduce individual and public health expenditure," she added.



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

pression of ordinary individuals, social media writers and the journalists working in print and electronic media. The ethical norms so far will get converted into penal provisions and the immunity that was given to intermediaries by IT Act 2000 now vulnerable to criminal liability through these Rules 2021.

The Principal Secretary of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and the minister or government through him will be exercising enormous powers as he would be heading the Inter-Departmental Committee of Secretaries of Central Ministries as an oversight body.

Three UN Special Rapporteurs (a) on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; (b) on the rights to freedom of peaceable assembly and (c) on the right to privacy, expressed their serious concern at the possible chilling consequences of implementing the Rules 2021 replacing the Rules 2011.

The Special Rapporteurs team is of opinion that the Rules 2021 do not appear to meet the requirements of international law and standards related to the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and right to privacy as protected by Articles 17 and 19 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which India acceded, in 1979.

Article 19 (3) of the ICCPR says that the restrictions on the right to freedom of expression must be "expressly prescribed by law" and necessary "for respect of the rights or reputations of others" or for "the protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals".

### The devil in 'ambiguity'

The devil dwells in details. A close reading of the Rules 2021 reveal that the restrictions are 'catch all' provisions with wide scope and highly ambiguous. The penal law becomes atrocious not because of severe punishments prescribed but because of ambiguity in defining criminality. UN Rapporteurs cautioned against adoption of broadly defined legislation which may result in undue restrictions to freedom of opinion and expression.

### Big source of abuse

Whether international law or domestic law, the restrictions must be provided by law (statute passed by legislature) and be formulated with sufficient precision to enable an individual to regulate his or her conduct accordingly. In this regard, terms such as content that is "racially or ethnically objectionable", "harmful to child",

"impersonates another person", "threatens the unity... of India," "is patently false and untrue", "is written or published with the intent to mislead or harass a person [...] to cause any injury to any person", are overly broad and lack sufficiently clear definitions and may lead to arbitrary application.

Most of the terms in the Rules 2021 do not rigorously define grounds for restrictions and fail to provide adequate guidance on the circumstances under which content may be blocked, removed, or restricted, or access to a service may be restricted or terminated, thereby falling short of the legality requirement under international human rights law.

Freedom of speech is not absolute. The Parliament can impose restrictions reasonably on only grounds listed in Article 19(2). Neither the PMO nor the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting imposes any new restrictions through their subordinate legislation like framing of rules.

The Government of India is trying to usurp the power of Parliament and control the media through the Rules and not by statute passed according to procedure.

### False, fake, and untrue information

Generally, the restrictions and use of high power from authority is based on a ground of false and untrue information. The UN Special Rapporteurs wrote: More specifically, we would like to underscore that false and untrue information is protected under international human rights law. In its General Comment no. 34, the Human Rights Committee has made clear that the ICCPR does not permit general prohibition of expressions of an erroneous opinion (CCPR/C/GC/34 para. 49)".

Referring to fake news as a ground for restriction on Media, the UN Rapporteurs said that the Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and "Fake News", Disinformation and Propaganda published by my mandate and regional experts on freedom of expression, sets out the applicable human rights standards in this context. While noting with concern that disinformation may harm individual reputations and privacy, or incite to violence, discrimination, or hostility against identifiable groups in society, the Joint Declaration made clear that general prohibitions on the dissemination of information based on vague and ambiguous ideas, including "false news," are incompatible with international standards for restrictions on freedom of expression, and "should be abolished".

Another ambiguity is about 'misleading' news. If the executive governments exercise power in directing the removal of content that may "mislead" and cause "any" injury to a person is considered excessively broad and can cause selective interference into media from the authorities.

What needed is specific and precious definition. As social media intermediaries deal with a huge amount of content, a rigorous definition of the restriction of freedom of expression is critical for them to protect speeches that are legitimate under international law, such as the expression



**The Special Rapporteurs team is of opinion that the Rules 2021 do not appear to meet the requirements of international law and standards related to the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and right to privacy as protected by Articles 17 and 19 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which India acceded, in 1979**

### Leading to removal of legitimate expression

Now, the serious problem in India is that the ruling parties and their governments frequently seek removal of contents called takedown requests. The social media platforms, or intermediary companies must comply with commands of the government to takedown the material from the publication sites. These companies are under obligation either to develop digital recognition-based content removal systems or automated tools to restrict content. These techniques are unlikely to accurately evaluate cultural contexts and identify illegitimate content. There are serious apprehensions and worries as to compliances of these commands at the short deadlines, coupled with the criminal penalties that could lead service providers to remove legitimate expression as a precaution to avoid sanctions.

Respecting human rights is an obligation not only on state-actors but also the private companies like social media intermediaries. The private companies have a responsibility to respect human rights, per the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. However, the outsourcing of content moderation by requiring private companies to remove broad categories of content, without an order of a court or independent administrative authority, may run contrary to international standards on freedom of expression. Content removals must be

undertaken "pursuant to an order by an independent and impartial judicial authority, and in accordance with due process and standards of legality, necessity and legitimacy" (A/HRC/38/35, para. 66).

In this context, the landmark judgement of the Supreme Court in Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India, of 24 March 2015, wherein it was clarified that content restrictions may only come from a reasoned order from a judicial, administrative, or government body.

It is known to all that the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology directed Twitter to shut down over 1,000 accounts under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, on 31 January 2021, on grounds that these accounts were spreading misinformation about farmers' protests. The UN Rapporteurs and democratic activists in India are worried that the new Rules may provide the authorities with the power to censor journalists who expose information of public interest and individuals who report on human rights violations in an effort to hold the government accountable. We would like to emphasize that the respect for diversity, pluralism and independent information is a necessary condition for the functioning of any democratic society.

The Rules 2021 are potential enough to subject individual employees of companies to criminal liability, which is of serious concern for the international and internal intermediaries in India. The UN Rapporteurs said "The severity of the envisaged penalties incentivizes the restriction of content and is likely to have a chilling effect on freedom of expression."

(The writer is Professor of Law, Bennett University and former Central Information Commissioner)

## LETTERS

### Abrogation of Art 370 accrued no visible benefits

THE Modi government ended the statehood and autonomous status to Jammu & Kashmir by dividing it into two Union Territories - Jammu and Ladakh, and revoking Article 370. Since 5 August, 2019, the day parliament attached administration of J&K to the Centre, people of the area have been undergoing great troubles. It is because almost all the political heads including former CMs have been under house arrest and internet service has been shut down. In fact there has been absolutely no political activity which is bedrock of democracy. The Modi government in a hurry to implement RSS ideology revoked Article 370. But it said it did it to control terrorism, promote rapid development and finish separatist tendencies. But in reality none of them came true. Instead, this action promoted encounters in new areas. Now, the Modi government has decided to invite all political parties to a meeting on 24 June with a view to beginning a political dialogue as it is being pressured on account of border aggression by China, changes to be occurred in

Afghanistan, failure to control coronavirus and clear warning like statement from US President Joe Biden for early solution to the issue. Under this backdrop, the Centre has convened the meeting even without disclosing agenda. So, political parties in the area especially regional parties must participate in it whether it is for restoration of statehood or delimiting constituencies. On the other hand the regional parties can demand the agenda for the next meeting in the interests of people of the area.

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru, AP

### Political motive behind lifting of Covid curbs

KCR seems to have taken the decision on lifting lockdown curbs with the sole aim to stem the rot in his government and party. TRS and government are being used as exclusive properties of KCR and his family with no minister or leader getting any chance to express any opinion. By deciding to reopen educational institutions, he has dumped the responsibility of Covid protocol on the institutions without even assessing their capability to handle the situation. If any untoward incident happens, KCR can wash his hands of.

The school administrators, teachers and parents will have to draw up specific SOPs to be implemented and ensure a smooth transition from online to physical functioning. The set of guidelines so framed by these groups should specify the duties and responsibilities of all the cohesive units. Everyone will have to function/perform with dedication and care to ensure that the children are able to pursue their studies and regain their confidence without any mishap or malfunction.

Let us not depend on our politicians whose aim is to stay in power so as to command power and amass wealth.

J Kannan, Hyderabad

### Safety of students should be top priority

THE editorial "Govt should rethink on reopening of schools" (June 21) giving mild warning in the guise of advise is very timely. As rightly said online teaching is not a replacement to listening in class room physically. Somehow studies are going online and examinations too. Are teachers not

thehansreader@gmail.com

aware that taking two vaccine shots do not shield them from virus attack? Children are more prone to atmospheric ailments. They are being transported in crowded autos and other vehicles. Hostels are also crowded. Parents should also give a thought in such critical moment - so also education institutions. Education is a must but safety is first.

Dr NSR Murthy, Secunderabad

### Govt must pay ex gratia to kin of Covid victims

THE central government's 'discovery' that the Covid-19 pandemic is not a 'one-time disaster' and it is unlike a natural disaster like an earthquake or a flood appears to be an excuse to abdicate its responsibility to give ex gratia to families of Covid-19 victims. It should not be so used. Its thesis that limiting relief to monetary pay-off is a 'narrow and pedantic approach' is rendered spurious by the simple fact that money matters; it is needed to alleviate suffering and survive. The contention that there is no precedent of giving ex gratia payments for a disease or a disaster spread over a long period of time does not hold good as everything in life is not done on the basis of precedent. Now set a precedent by doing this humani-

tarian gesture for the future. True, there is no certainty of an end to the pandemic. But the government cannot cite it as a reason for refusing to consider granting ex gratia compensation. The government bases its reasoning against ex gratia to the families that are suddenly left in dire straits without earners because of Covid-19 on the premise that this pandemic disease is not different from other diseases of which too people die is specious. Just by saying that it has earmarked lakhs of rupees for augmenting health services, oxygen production and supply, providing succor to migrant workers and economic stimulus packages, the government cannot shy away from giving a helping hand to families that have lost their breadwinners to Covid-19. Such families cannot be forsaken and left to fend for themselves. If the government is not there to help them to pick up the pieces, who else will be there? The government holds that distribution of ex gratia payments will dry up precious financial resources. At the same time, it has no qualms about spending a whopping Rs 20,000 crore on the Central Vista, a vanity project while Rs 4 lakh for each of 4 lakh families bereaved due to Covid-19 comes to Rs 16,000 crore. By getting its priorities right, the government can secure fiscal affordability for ex gratia payments without overstretching itself.

G. David Milton, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu



# ‘Stop projects or we will divert Krishna waters in Mahbubnagar’

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

CAUTIONING Andhra Pradesh government not to disturb the friendly relations with Telangana, Excise Minister V Srinivas said that the Telangana government would divert Krishna waters in Mahbubnagar district if the neighboring Telugu State does not change its attitude.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Srinivas Goud said that there are good relations between people of the two States and these



should not be disturbed. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao wants cordial relations between two States but the AP government was involved in water dacoity, said Goud

adding CM KCR was going with a plan against this dacoity.

Srinivas Goud said the Telangana government gave water to Telugu Ganga on a humanitarian basis, but this has turned into water dacoity. By increasing the capacity of Pothireddypadu, the AP government was doing severe injustice to Palamuru district. He said that there was no truth in the statement by AP Minister Anil Kumar that the projects were constructed as per rules.

The Telangana Minister re-

called that the AP government promised that is will not start new lift irrigation projects in Rayalaseema before the Apex council meeting, but they failed to live up to the promise. The AP government was indulging in enmity in the guise of helping hand, alleged the Minister. "Even the people of Seemandhra are shocked with AP government's move asking how they will get drinking water in Hyderabad," said Srinivas Goud. He urged the AP government to come to a compromise or CM KCR would act accordingly.

## MANUU awards PhD to Arif Moin

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) has declared Arif Moin qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy in Journalism and Mass Communication on topic "Socio-Cultural, Political and Religious Impact of Urdu Satellite TV Channels on Indian Muslims".

Prof. Ehtesham Ahmed Khan, Dean, School of Mass Communication & Journalism, supervised his research.

The topic covered four Urdu channels ETV, Door Darshan, Zee Salam and Munsif TV. Moin has extensive experience in TV production. He has been associated in various capacities with the programming department of ETV Urdu and News18 Urdu.



## Hyderabad roads buzz back with vehicles

UDAY PULLURI  
HYDERABAD

ON the second day of complete unlocking on Monday, roads were busy with heavy vehicular traffic in different parts of the City. They were again seen with traffic all day of private vehicles and public transport, like buses, autos and cabs. There were traffic jams in a few areas. The public were seen doing their tasks, as also Government employees, heading to and back from their workplaces.

Areas like Ranigunj, Masab Tank, Mehdiapatnam and Koti witnessed heavy traffic jams. Even RTC buses plied with 70 percent passengers. All business establishments---like shopping malls, restaurants, street food vendors---freely carried out their trade, as there was no time bound restrictions.

The public were excited on stepping out. In places like General Bazaar, Koti shoppers were seen with friends and relatives. There was a huge rush at General Bazaar. At restaurants on the Necklace Road there was a heavy movement of drive-in customers.



As most restaurants did not have walk-in facility during the lockdown, with unlocking most of them were crowded, with families coming with friends. Most resto-bars were open in Jubilee hills, Hi-tech City, Alwal, where customers were seen hanging out

with friends.

Street food businesses picked up in the Old City areas, like Charminar, Pathergatti, Purnanapool, and even on the Necklace Road. At a few places like General Bazaar, Necklace Road, people were seen without masks

and not following Covid norms. The police were seen fining the violators.

The Hyderabad Metro Rail ran its services from 7 am. While the last train started at 9 pm and reached the terminating station by 10 pm.

## Cyient Endows Chair in Future Communications at IIT Hyderabad

HANS NEW SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

CYIENT, a global engineering, manufacturing, and digital technology solutions company, on Monday announced that it has established an endowed chair in the field of new-age communications at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITHD). Prof. P. Rajalakshmi, Department of Electrical Engineering at IITH, was chosen as the first appointee of the Cyient Chair in Future Communications. The Cyient Chair will endow the professorship with an honorarium of Rs 25,000 and a contingency grant of Rs 1,00,000 per year for three years to further research and development in the field.

A selection committee comprising IITH Director Prof B S Murty, Chair Professor Ranjan Mallik, IIT Delhi, and Prabhakar Atla, Senior VP & Business Unit Head - Communications and Utilities, Cyient, picked P Rajalakshmi for her significant contributions in the field of new-age communications technology.

Prof. P. Rajalakshmi, IITH Chair Professor, Cyient Chair in Future Communications, said, "It is indeed a moment of pride to be recognized and picked for this Chair. I am thankful to the selection committee for appreciating my work in the field of communications. This recognition will

surely result in more good research in the future to come."

Conveying his wishes on the occasion, Krishna Bodanapu, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Cyient, said, "The Cyient Chair is a significant step forward in deepening the relationship between academia and enterprise to accelerate innovation. Helping attract the best minds and providing opportunities to experiment with new ideas and incubate technologies is exciting for Cyient. This is another important step of delivering on our vision of applying technology imaginatively to solve problems that matter."



## Dalit woman lockup death: Uttam, Bhatti write to Governor

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE TPCC president and Nalgonda MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy and Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday urged Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan to take stringent action against the police for the alleged lockup death of a dalit woman, Mariyamma, under the SC and ST Atrocities Act. In an open letter they demanded her to take steps to prevent such incidents in Telangana. They also demanded the Governor to direct the State government to give Rs 50 lakh compensation to the victim's family and a government job to her son Uday Kiran.

They alleged that Mariyamma died in police custody after she was 'tortured' by Adla Guduru police.

Giving details, the leaders said she was a native of Komatigudem village of Chintakanipalli mandal of Khammam district. She had worked as cook in a house in Govindapuram village of Adla Guduru mandal of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district.

The police had arrested Mariyamma and Uday Kiran on the charge of theft in the house. They were arrested on June 16 in Komatigudem and taken to the Adla Guduru police station and later to Chintakanipalli police station by the Adla Guduru and Komatigudem police on the evening of June 17.

Both were subjected to severe torture with third degree methods in the Chintakanipalli police station. They were brought to Adla Guduru police station again and interrogated Mariyamma died due to severe torture.

## AP's projects are based on allocated water, asserts Anil

- Taking strong exception to TS opposing State's irrigation projects, the Water Recourses Minister alleges that the neighbouring State has been building new project without permission and raising the capacity of Kalwakurthi and Nentempadu projects
- Stating that Rajolibanda project has an allocation of 4 tmc ft, he declares that CM will go to any length to protect the State's interests

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

WATER resources minister P Anil Kumar Yadav clarified that the construction of irrigation projects in the state is subject to water allocations by the tribunals and ridiculed the objections of the Telangana state on Andhra Pradesh's projects.

Speaking to the media at YSRC party's central office in Tadepalli on Monday, the minister said that Andhra Pradesh has been using only the water allocated to it, while Telangana had



been constructing new projects without any permissions and has increased the capacity of Kalwakurthi and Nentempadu projects. Asserting that the state government is not going beyond its allocations, Anil Kumar said that for Rayalaseema lift irrigation project, the state couldn't draw the allocated water of 44,000 cusecs from Srisaillam through Pothireddypadu, if the water level drops below 848 feet. To provide water for Rayalaseema and Nellore districts, the water could be drawn only at 881 ft level, which could be possible only for 15-20 days during flood period. Whereas, Telangana state can draw over 6 tmc ft

of water, even when the water level is below 800 ft and also taking up the projects like Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation.

He questioned on what basis it would be wrong for Andhra Pradesh to construct lift irrigation just to ease the process of withdrawing the allocated share of water, while the same is being done by Telangana state. The minister said that the Rajolibanda project has an allocation of 4 tmc ft and Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will go to any extent to protect the interests of the state. Telangana officials are falsely accusing the state, despite all the projects being administered as per the state allocations, he added.

He said the Chief Minister wanted the two states to be on friendly terms and took a step forward in that regard. All these projects have been there for decades and the state government is only trying to increase their capacity, he said. The minister stated that the Vamsadhara Tribunal has given clearance to construct the Neredi project and the construction will start soon.

## AP CM lauds staff for vax feat

- Says administering 13 lakh doses of Covid vaccines on single day proves that they can administer large number of jabs if there is enough supply
- Notes that the State has effective mechanism consisting of Asha workers, ANMs, village/ward secretariat staff and PHCs

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy congratulated the staff for setting record by administering over 13 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine on a single day.

During the review at camp office on measures to control the pandemic and vaccination drive here on Monday, the Chief Minister said they had proven that they can administer large number of vaccines if provided and added that the state has effective mechanism comprising of Asha workers, ANMs, staff in village/ward secretariats and two primary health centres (PHCs) per each mandal. He said they should be



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy reviews steps to control Covid-19, vaccination drive and Nadu Nedu in Health Department in Tadepalli on Monday

prepared to conduct another mega drive once vaccines are available. The officials informed the Chief Minister that the state has the capacity and mechanism to administer 20-25 lakh vaccines in a single day.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to expedite the construction of new medical colleges and complete them on a war footing. The officials should focus on new medical colleges and monitor the work in progress regularly.

The officials said positivity rate has been decreasing in all the districts except East Godavari and active cases decreased to 63,068

cases. Positivity rate is 5.65 per cent and recovery rate is 95.93 per cent, they said.

The Chief Minister told the officials to be on alert as lockdown imposed in neighbouring states is being relaxed. The officials said 2,655 ICU beds and 13,824 oxygen beds are available at present and added that 91.48 per cent beds were occupied by patients who were being treated under Aarogyasri.

They said 7,056 beds were occupied in Covid care centres. The state has registered 2,772 black fungus active cases till date of which 922 patients underwent

surgeries, 1,232 were discharged, 212 died and remaining are being treated. The officials explained that 1,37,42,417 doses of Covid vaccine were administered in the state of which first dose was given to 82,77,225 people and two doses were completed to 27,32,596 people.

Vaccine was administered to 10,29,266 mothers of children below five years of age and first dose of vaccination is completed to 11,158 people who will be going to abroad. As many as 13,72,481 people were vaccinated in a single day during mega vaccination drive on June 20, they said.

## Lokesh likens Group-1 to Vyapam scam in MP

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALAGIRI

TDP national general secretary and MLC Nara Lokesh on Monday called upon the AP job aspirants and unemployed youth to wage a united battle against the Jagan Mohan Reddy government's bid to commit huge irregularities in the Group-1 exam on the lines of Vyapam scam in Madhya Pradesh.

Lokesh demanded the state government to immediately conduct manual evaluation of the Group-1 Mains answer sheets so as to ensure justice to the deserving candidates. Addressing a meeting with the aspirants on 'Irregularities in APPSC Group-1 and impact of

court order', Lokesh asked the job aspirants not to lose heart but continue their united struggle.

Digital evaluation of the Group-1 Mains papers should be cancelled forthwith. A white paper should be published on the standard operating procedures followed in this.

Lokesh demanded an explanation from the YSRC party government on the huge gap between the Group 1 and 2 posts announced during former chief secretary Nilam Sawhney's term and now. Nilam announced 907 posts but now only 36 jobs were proposed. Even in the police force, Nilam proposed 7,740 jobs while this number was reduced to 450 now, he pointed out.



Pro-tem Chairman of Legislative Council V Subrahmanyam hands over rule book kit to K Moshen Raju after he was sworn-in as MLC at his chamber in Legislative Council on Monday

## 4 new MLCs take oath

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

PRO-TEM chairman of Legislative Council V Subrahmanyam administered oath of office to newly-nominated MLCs (under Governor's quota), RV Ramesh Yadav, K Moshen Raju, Tota Thrimurtulu and Lella Appireddy, at his chamber in the Council on

Monday. Later, the pro-tem chairman handed over council rule book kit to the new members.

Ministers Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao, K Kannababu, M Sucharitha, T Vanita, Ranganatha Raju, G Jayaram, government advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, MP Mopidevi Venkataramana, MLAs and MLCs were present.

## TDP objects to Kanagaraj appointment as PCA chief

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALAGIRI

TDP national general secretary Varla Ramaiah on Monday strongly objected to the YSRC government appointing Justice V Kanagaraj as the chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Police Complaints Authority (APSPCA) without trying to ensure accountability or transparency. He said that this appointment was unacceptable since Justice Kanagaraj was known for having bias in favour of the ruling YSRC leaders.

The APSPCA should be promoted as an independent and

- Varla says constitutional institutions being used for political rehabilitation
- Alleges that unlawful appointments unabated under YSRC rule

unbiased constitutional institution. It should not be turned into a centre for political rehabilitation of the ruling party, he said.

In a statement here, the TDP leader criticised that many unlawful decisions were taken in the constitutional institutions like the State Election Com-

mission ever since the Jagan Mohan Reddy regime came to power in the past two years. The post of State Election Commissioner was turned into a rubber stamp by appointing Nilam Sawhney who served as the advisor to the Jagan Reddy government till a day before.

Ramaiah recalled how Nilam could not act unbiased and she gave arbitrary election notification for the MPPTC and the ZPTCs. Eventually, the High Court cancelled the elections. A lot of time and energy was being wasted in AP now because of unlawful decisions which were eventually getting struck down in the courts.







## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Yoga eliminates all diseases and discomforts

“YOGA should be popularised and practised even more as it eliminates all diseases and discomforts from lives of people. Yoga is a science that has unending benefits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made yoga a global practice and initiated a special global day to make people aware of benefits and significance of yoga


— Nitin Gadkari, Union Steel Minister



## MADE IN INDIA

### Airtel, Tata Group team up for 5G

BHARTI Airtel and Tata Group on Monday announced a strategic partnership for implementing 5G network solutions for India. Tata Group has developed "O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network) based Radio and NSA/SA (Non-Standalone/standalone) Core and has integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack, leveraging the Group capabilities and that of its partners

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	74.85	South	
Euro	89.05	African Rand	5.97
UAE Dirham	20.78	Hong Kong Dollar	10.98
Thai Baht	2.58	Japanese Yen	0.77
British Pound	103.8	New Zealand Dollar	52.18
Australian Dollar	56.19	Saudi Riyal	21.72
Canadian Dollar	60.2	Swedish Krona	9.91
Swiss Franc	81.29	Singapore Dollar	56.19

DELHI TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Karur Vysya's CSR initiative

Karur Vysya Bank has donated 10 ambulances to Tamil Nadu health systems project to fight Covid pandemic. The ambulances were flagged off by MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in Chennai. The ambulances will be deployed for Covid relief activities across the State, two for use in the plains and eight for use in hilly regions. This contribution is being implemented by the bank under its CSR initiatives at an outlay of Rs 1.77 crore. KVB earlier has donated oxygen generators to various government hospitals. B Ramesh Babu, bank's Managing Director, said: "As a responsible corporate citizen, Karur Vysya Bank has been supporting healthcare, education and environment sustainability projects. The bank will continue to provide valuable support to sustainable projects."

### Vivo starts campaign

Vivo has kicked off UEFA EURO 2020 with its campaign 'To Beautiful Moments' that encourages and enables fans to be in the moment virtually. Fans around the world tuned into the opening ceremony recently. The showstopper of a performance included collaboration between three great artists, Martin Garrix, Bono and The Edge, leading to a virtual performance that allowed fans across Europe and the world to feel closer to the tournament. Spark Ni, senior vice president, CMO, Vivo, said: "Along with football fans around the world, we've been eagerly awaiting the kick-off of the tournament. We are honored to have partnered with UEFA to present the opening ceremony and excited to help connect fans around the world and be in the moment for the beautiful game."

### Zupee launches skill academy

Zupee has announced the launch of their skilling academy, which will impart employable skills and promote equal opportunities in the youth of the country. Zupee Skilling Academy (ZSA) will be a first-of-its-kind mission by a corporation, aimed at skilling, upskilling and educating young, disadvantaged Indians. The idea is to prepare them for the future by getting them ready through skill training and ensuring that everyone in the programme has equal opportunities for employment. "We are truly delighted to launch the Zupee Skilling Academy (ZSA), which is part of our broader CSR vision based on three key pillars focusing on Sustainability and ESG, equal opportunities through skilling and upskilling, and technology and gaming for good," said, Subi Chaturvedi, Chief Corporate, Public Affairs Officer, Zupee.

### JD Institute's new admissions

JD Institute of Fashion Technology has opened admissions for the academic year 2021. The institute offers a plethora of undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma and post diploma programme in the field of fashion design, interior design, jewellery design, fashion communication, fashion and lifestyle entrepreneurship, fashion business management, visual merchandising, fashion photography etc. It is also providing a new 10 per cent scholarship in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for backward community students including SC/ST and kins of ex-servicemen from 2021."Making higher education accessible to all sections of the society equally without any discrimination is the only way we can provide for an egalitarian form of education," said Sandra Sequeira, Director, South, JD Institute of Fashion Technology.

# Ficci sees business normalcy in 12 mths

NEW DELHI

## Economic activity picking up as States get into unlock mode: Survey



WITH States easing lockdown curbs due to declining number of Covid-19 cases; there are immediate indications of improvement in economic activity as companies are hopeful of better performance in the next 6 to 12 months, according to a survey.

About 60 per cent of 212 companies, which participated in the survey conducted by Ficci and Dhruva Advisors, said there was a high impact on their businesses due to the State-level lockdowns. With different parts of the country under different sets of restrictions and consumer sentiment impacted due to the ferocity of the second wave of Covid-19, an evident dip in demand was witnessed by companies, it added.

This time it was not just demand in urban areas that was constrained but even the rural areas saw a compression in demand, according to the survey. "While the impact of the second wave-induced lockdowns on businesses is clearly visible, there is a silver lining on the horizon...With different States getting into the unlock mode, there are immediate indications of improvement in economic activity," the survey said.

Ficci said that with the number of new cases ebbing and States getting into the unlock mode, there is hope that business and economic activities would regain normalcy in the months ahead. "Even

For dealing with any subsequent waves, it suggested measures such as ramping up investments in healthcare infrastructure in smaller cities and rural areas; maintaining a sufficient pool of essential medicines; continuing with newly created temporary facilities; strengthening testing infrastructure

as we see signs of improvement, we must prepare ourselves well for the subsequent waves...Clearly, vaccination at scale has to be the priority if we have to beat Covid-19 and put it behind us," it added.

For dealing with any subsequent waves, it suggested five measures — ramping up investments in healthcare infrastructure in smaller cities and rural areas; maintaining a sufficient pool of essential medicines; continuing with newly created temporary facilities; strengthening testing infrastructure, and setting up a national facility for vaccine manufacturing with government funding.

The survey also suggested setting up vaccination facilities at airports, railway stations, bus depots, schools and village panchayat ghars; organizing mobile vans that can undertake vaccination in slums, rural areas and planning for vaccination of the elderly and people with disabilities, who have limited mobility, at home

# ‘Connectivity, communications fundamental rights’

## String of digital and physical (healthcare infra) will be new normal: Mukesh Ambani

NEW DELHI

BILLIONAIRE Mukesh Ambani, who heads India's youngest, but the largest telecom operator- on Monday pressed for bridging the digital divide 'both among nations and within nations', saying connectivity and communications have become the fundamental rights of every person. Also, there is a need to bring back the economies around the globe, added Ambani.

Speaking at the Qatar Economic Forum, Ambani said: "It's difficult to imagine what India would have been without the 4G telecom network during the pandemic. The digital divide must be bridged, both among nations and within nations. This is because connectivity and communications have become the basic needs, and also fundamental rights of every human being on

the planet (just) as basic as food, clothing, and shelter." "I think that this string of digital and physical (healthcare infrastructure) will be the new normal," he said. "To my mind, it is an absolute must for all economies to integrate and enhance this digital infrastructure which has been so very useful in the corona crisis." Ambani, CMD of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), India's most valuable company, said Covid-19 is a once-in-a-century humanitarian crisis and the world was not prepared for it.

On his connection with the Middle East, Ambani said he was born in Yemen where his father Dhirubhai had gone to work. And "he (Dhirubhai) always said I have Arabic blood", he said, adding Reliance values its relationships with all the Arabic countries. Reliance operates the world's largest oil refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat.



# Indices recoup early losses as banks, RIL support

## Mkt opened on weak note due to hawkish monetary policy of US Federal Reserve, later clawed back above day's low and closed in the green

MUMBAI

THE BSE Sensex wiped off early losses to finish with smart gains on Monday, propped up by HDFC twins, SBI and Reliance Industries amid a mixed trend in global equities. After plunging over 600 points in early trade, the 30-share BSE benchmark made a U-turn to settle 230.01 points or 0.44 per cent higher at 52,574.46. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 63.15 points or 0.40 per cent to 15,746.50. NTPC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 3.87 per cent, followed by Titan, SBI, HUL, UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel and IndusInd Bank.

"The domestic market opened on a weak note due to the hawkish monetary policy of the US Federal Reserve. But the market clawed back above day's low and closed in the green as the market expects a faster economic recovery owing to the PM's announcement on free inoculation for all citizens. PSU Bank was the top sectoral performer on reports

of the government finalising Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank for privatisation," said Vinod Nair, head (research) at Geojit Financial Services.

Binod Modi, head (strategy) at Reliance Securities, adds that "investors once again seemed to be lapping up quality mid-cap and small-cap stocks after the recent steep correction. Strong rebound in PSU banks was a prime factor for market's recovery. Further, Reliance Industries also recorded some gains ahead of its AGM and arrested market's fall. Barring Auto and IT, most key sectoral indices recovered to green from initial losses." In value terms, HDFC twins, HUL and Reliance Industries accounted for most of the gains. On the other hand, Maruti Suzuki was the biggest laggard, shedding 0.82 per cent, after the country's largest



maker said it will increase prices of its entire product portfolio in the second quarter of the current fiscal due to rise in prices of various essential commodities, including steel. TCS, Tech Mahindra, M&M, L&T and Infosys were among the other losers, skidding up to 0.74 per cent. Sectorally, BSE power, realty, utilities, oil and gas, finance and bankex rose up to 2.55 per cent, while auto, IT and tech ended in the red. Broader BSE midcap and small-cap indices rose up to 0.83 per cent. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses largely ended with losses. In Europe, equities were trading on a positive note in mid-session deals. International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.18 per cent higher at USD 73.64 per barrel. The Indian rupee slumped 24 paise to finish at 74.10 per US dollar as participants turned risk-averse. Meanwhile, India logged 53,256 new coronavirus infections, the lowest in 88 days, taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 2,99,35,221, while the active cases further reduced to 702,887, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

## Synchrony among top 5 cos to work for

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

FINANCIAL services company Synchrony said it has been listed among India's 100 best companies to work for 2021 by the Great Place to Work Institute. The company jumped from 27th place in 2020 to fifth rank this year. Synchrony has earned the recognition for four consecutive years.

This recognition further highlights company's efforts to create an environment that is caring, inclusive, collaborative, and innovative despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the company said.

"Our employees are our greatest asset and we are committed to supporting their well-being and success. Being recognized as a Great Place to Work, especially in this challenging year, further demonstrates our commitment to being a company that puts people first and maintains a high-trust culture with a positive and empowering working environment," said Andy Ponneri, Senior Vice President and Business Leader, Synchrony India.

## TREDA CONDUCTS BLOOD CAMP

HYDERABAD

A blood donation camp was organised jointly by Telangana Real Estate Developers Association (Treda), Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), Seva Bharthi in association with Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), Commissionerate of Police, Cyberabad, in PBEL City, a gated residential community. The blood donation camp received a phenomenal response with residents from the community donating blood with enthusiasm.

Krishna Yedula, General Secretary, SCSC, said, the group of these four organisations is conducting the blood donation camp with the help of Red Cross Society, Warangal.

SCSC has been organising the blood camps since April 2020 during the first wave of lockdown. Most blood banks had depleted reserves at that time. Cyberabad Police and SCSC conducted mega drives as well as multiple blood donation camps and collected 10,500 units. In the second wave, over 3,000 units have been collected by these organisations.

Noting that service to mankind is service to God, he said thalassemia patients require blood infusion on a regular basis as also cancer-leukaemia patients need blood regularly and other emergency surgeries. The camps conducted are a wonderful contribution and the various gated communities need to be congratulated for their cooperation.



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