

TRS TO ADOPT SAGAR STRATEGY TO WIN HUZURABAD

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TO checkmate the plans of opposition parties for the upcoming Huzurabad elections, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi leaders are likely to adopt the Sagar bypoll strategy. As per the plan, party president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will address a public meeting before the poll notification is released, and Ministers and MLAs will be appointed as in-charges in all mandals of the constituency.

TRS leaders said that the party had changed its strategy for the Sagar bypoll, especially after the Dubbaka debacle. According to sources, the party would be appointing MLAs and MLCs as in-charges for

- The party is planning a public meeting by CM in Huzurabad before the poll notification is released
- It is also likely to appoint MLAs, MLCs as in-charges for mandals in Huzurabad Assembly constituency
- By the time the notification is released, much of the groundwork would be done by the TRS leaders through their door-to-door campaign

every mandal, who would take up specific responsibilities entrusted to them, and the CM would address a public meeting in Huzurabad before the announcement of the schedule as he did for Sagar bypoll by addressing two meetings in Halia.

For Dubbaka, the party entrusted the entire responsibility to one leader, which the leaders felt, had backfired. However, when it came to Nagarjunsagar, the party ap-

pointed one MLA each to the seven mandals in the constituency apart from assigning tasks to the Ministers.

The Ministers and MLAs took over the responsibility a month before the bypoll schedule was released. By the time the election date approached, the MLAs toured extensively by taking up door-to-door campaign reminding people about the welfare activities taken up by the TRS government.

Already a couple of the Ministers have started their work in Huzurabad.

Backward Classes Welfare Minister Gangula Kamalakara and Finance Minister T Harish Rao are holding meetings with the local leaders. Sources said that the senior leaders of the party were making ZPTCs, MPPs and other leaders to fall in line. The MLAs would be given the list of beneficiaries of various government schemes and their task would be to remind them about the welfare activities of the government.

"There will be meetings soon with various communities and associations. Had we adopted the same approach in Dubbaka, we would have won there with ease," said a senior TRS leader.

Uttam stokes Dalits to slam KCR

- The TPCC chief accuses the Chief Minister of repeatedly betraying Dalits
- Asks how the CM can conduct a meeting with Dalits when he himself and his government were causing atrocities on them

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

HITTING out at Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N Uttam Kumar Reddy said that K Chandrashekar Rao had repeatedly betrayed Dalits despite becoming the CM with their blessings. Addressing the Dalitha Avedana Deeksha on Sunday, organised to protest the atrocities on Dalits in the State, Uttam reminded how K Chandrashekar Rao went back on the promise of making a Dalit as CM. "The Madiga community, despite being the largest community and making up to 12 per cent of the State's population, is not represented in the State cabinet," he added.

Reddy said that when Congress leaders met Chief Minister to submit a memorandum regarding the death of Mariyamma,



Congress MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy speaking at the Dalitha Avedana Deeksha in Hyderabad on Saturday

the Chief Minister apparently told them that he was not aware of the incident. This was a blatant lie as the High court had already ordered a judicial probe into the matter, he said.

He added that the death of Mariyamma, a native of Chintakani mandal of Khammam district, in the Addagudur police station on June 17, was heartrending one. He said that the Dalits in the State were meted out with injustice and added that Mariyamma succumbed to police brutality.

He wondered how the Chief Minister could call for a meeting with Dalits on empowering them. Apart from Mariyamma, Dalits like Narasimhulu, Rajababu and Rangaiah also died due to the highhandedness of police and upper caste people, he

said. He reminded that the Congress had made Damodaram Sanjeevaiah, a Dalit, as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and also elected him as president of All India Congress Committee.

Uttam faulted with BJP for criticising the Congress for giving memorandum to the Chief Minister on Mariyamma's death. He said that leaders who frequently change political parties have no right to criticise the Congress.

CLP leader in Assembly Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Congress MLAs Jagga Reddy, Sridhar Babu, former PCC president P Laxmaiah, AICC official spokesperson D Sravan, former Minister J Geetha Reddy, AICC secretary Sampath and several other senior Congress leaders participated in the programme.

Guv, CM to release books on PV tomorrow

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

GOVERNOR Tamilisai Soundararajan and the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao would release nine books brought out by the PV Narasimha Rao centenary celebrations committee headed by MP K Keshava Rao at PV Gyan Bhoomi on Monday.

The government appointed committee led by Keshava Rao appointed another sub-committee for publishing books by appointing senior journalists K Ramachandra Murthy, Tankashala Ashok, government advisor KV Ramachary, Official Language Commission Chairman Devulapally Prabhakar Rao, PV Narasimha Rao's son PV Prabhakar Rao, daughter Vani Devi, Ambedkar University Vice Chancellor Prof Seetharama Rao, Director of Culture Mamidi Harikrishna as members.

Keshava Rao said that their main objective was to highlight the multifaceted personality of PV as an educationist and literary expert. He said that the books were published due to the hard work of the committee members. He said that a total of eight books were published by the department of culture and Telangana Sahitya Academy of the total 8 books, four were authored by PV himself.

The books which are published include influence of India's Culture on the West and Other Speeches, the Granny and Other Stories, The Meaning of Secularism and Other Essays, Thus Spake PV-Interviews with PV, Narasimha Rao, PV Narasimha Rao-Architect of India's Reforms, Legend in Lines and Chanakya. The Telugu books on PV like Namaste PV, Kalateetudu.

'Centre focusing on developing vaccine for Delta variant'

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy says Centre will take a call on vaccinating children after second phase trials

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy said that the Centre was making efforts for the development of a super vaccine to handle any challenges that the Delta plus virus might pose.

Addressing the media on Saturday after inaugurating the oxygen concentrators bank, launched by the Lions Club in Sitarambagh, the Union Minister said the Centre would take a call on vaccinating children below the age of 18 years, after the completion of the second phase trials.

He said some people have approached courts questioning trials on children. But, the courts have dismissed such petitions and allowed the continuation of research.

Appreciating the Lions Club for starting an oxygen bank and providing oxygen concentrators, besides taking up several social services activities, the Union Minister said that many non-



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy inaugurating the oxygen concentrators bank set up by the Lions Club in Hyderabad on Saturday

governmental organisations in the country have been working along with the government to save people from Covid.

Kishan Reddy said that the Centre has improved about 1 lakh oxygen concentrators and sent the same to the States. In a record time of eight months, he said that 51,000 oxygen concentrators were made operational.

"In addition to providing masks and PPE kits to 85 countries, the Centre has augmented

medical oxygen to meet the demand by deploying and running 85 oxygen expresses on the green channel. Also, the Centre had deployed flights to expedite the distribution and supply of oxygen in different parts of the country," he added, appealing people not to spread fake news on the Delta plus variant of Covid.

Later, the Minister distributed hygiene kits and essential commodities to the people at Aghapura.

MLA inaugurates 33/11 kV substation

SHADNAGAR

LOCAL legislator Anjayya Yadav inaugurated a 33/11 kV power substation and planted saplings as part of Hariitha Haram programme in Chatanalli village of Shadnagar constituency on Saturday. The 33/11 kV power substation was constructed at a cost of Rs 2 crore. Later, the MLA handed over CM Relief Fund cheques to heart surgery patients and the beneficiaries in the constituency. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA lamented that earlier many leaders said power crisis would come and Telangana would have to remain in darkness if a separate State was formed but now under the leader-



ship of CM KCR the Telangana State has become an ideal for the country in the field of electricity. He said that the Telangana government will work hard to provide uninterrupted power supply. He reminded that the TRS government is providing free electricity to farmers 24 hours a day in Telangana like nowhere else in the country. The

credit for providing 24 hours electricity to agriculture and other industries goes to the CM KCR government, he added. Municipal Chairman Narendar, Vice Chairman Nataraj, Councilors, Keshampet ZPTC Tandra Vishala Shrivani Reddy, AE, AD Taurya Nayak, Electrical Staff, Line Men, TRS leader and others were present.

Only TS gives 2 BHK for poor, says KTR

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MUNICIPAL Administration IT and industries minister KTR Rama Rao on Saturday claimed that only Telangana State is offering free two bedroom houses for the poor in the country.

Along with ministers Srinivas Yadav, Mahamood Ali and others KTR inaugurated 330 units of 2 BHK apartments near Necklace Road facing Hussain Sagar.

The minister appealed that the beneficiaries should protect themselves by focusing on clean and green environment. He stated that he feels proud to give free houses for the poor free of cost to live in a self respect manner. The



Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao vision of poor housing coming true now with this facility. The buildings of 2 BHK have modern facilities, green environment and 16 shops to get some income for maintenance, he said.

No other state in India gives such houses for the poor in the country, KTR said. The KCR government is spending Rs 45,000 crore for welfare of people.

We are trying our best to cater to the poor people needs through several programmes, he said.

Srinivas Yadav praised that the government of KCR is creating wonders by such schemes. No other states offer such help to the poor in the country except Telangana, he added.

TGS seeks all-party meet on tribal development

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

RANGA Reddy District Convener of the Telangana Tribal Association (TGS) Srinu Nayak along with association members held a meeting regarding tribal development on Saturday in Shadnagar. Srinu Nayak on behalf of the tribals, appealed to the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to convene an all-party meeting immediately to safeguard the development of the tribals in the State of Telangana. Speaking on the occasion, Srinu Nayak said that the development of socially, economically and politically backward tribals in the State needs to be developed with funds with a special plan. He said tribals are backward in education too and are not receiving any kind of benefits from the government. All political parties should convene an all-party meeting with tribal communities to discuss tribal empowerment on the issues of tribal people who are facing many problems. He requested the CM KCR and related authorities to look into the issue as soon as possible. Telangana Tribal Association members and others were present.

AITUC demands govt to resolve employees' issue



HANS NEWS SERVICE
RANGA REDDY

AITUC and medical contract employees staged a protest against the government on Saturday in Shadnagar. AITUC district president Panuganti Parvathalu said that we have been protesting for the past ten days to include security and sanitation workers working in the medical sector under the PRC.

Speaking on the occasion, Panuganti Parvathalu said that the government is

ignoring sanitation workers who clean the hospital on a regular basis by providing all kinds of services to corona patients. He said that AITUC will continue to fight till all those working in the medical field are made permanent through contract outsourcing. [Later, he demanded the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to open his eyes and abolish the contract system.

AITUC District Secretary M Srinu, Medical Employees Mallesh, Balaraju, Chittibabu, Sujatha, Padma, Indira and others were present.

HMDA lodges complaint against CNN ventures

Accuses CNN Ventures of deceiving people with advertisement on Kokapet lands which are still in the process of e-auction

HYDERABAD

THE Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has lodged a complaint with the Central Crime station (CCS) against the CNN Ventures for deceiving people with advertisement on Kokapet lands, which are in the process of e-auction. The HMDA officials said that even before the auction could get completed, the organisation, CNN Ventures, gave advertisements in a few newspapers and tried to deceive people and also collected money from them. The authorities took this as a serious case and lodged a complaint. The CNN Ventures gave advertisements stating that the citizens can own 3-BHK flat measuring 1,500 sq feet by spending 50 per cent of the market value in Kokapet.

PROTEST AGAINST CONTENTIOUS FARM LAWS

Farmers submit memoranda to Punjab, Haryana Guvs

CHANDIGARH

TENS of thousands of farmers, mainly comprising women and youngsters, on Saturday, marched towards Chandigarh from Punjab and Haryana to submit memorandums to the respective Governors to mark the completion of seven months of farmers' agitation against the three contentious Central farm legislations.

Farmers from Haryana stopped well ahead of entering Chandigarh from the Panchkula side, while those from Punjab entered Chandigarh after breaking police barricades and facing water cannons and marched close to the Raj Bhavan of Punjab.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) had announced to observe June 26 as "Kheti bachao, loktantra bachao" (save farming, save democracy) day on the completion of seven months of the farmers' protest and the 47th anniversary of Emergency in India.

Gurnam Charuni, the leader of the Haryana unit of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), who was leading the protest, had appealed that the protest would be peaceful and would submit a memorandum to the President of India through the Governor. He had also announced that



they would sit peacefully at the entry point if police would not allow them to enter Chandigarh.

Accordingly, they stopped ahead of entering Chandigarh and submitted the memorandum for Haryana Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya through a government official.

Likewise, the police managed to convince protesting farmers from Punjab, who were marching from Mohali towards the Governor's residence in Chandigarh, to hand over their memorandum to them for further sub-

mission to Governor V.P. Singh Badnore.

Fearing disruption of law and order situation, heavy barricading and security have been deployed in and around Chandigarh.

The protesting farmers, raising slogans against the central government, were carrying farm union flags and riding on tractors and cars and many of them were walking on foot.

En route to Chandigarh, both from Punjab and Haryana, special 'langars' or community

kitchens were organised for the protesting farmers by locals.

"Our protest will continue till the three black farm laws are not revoked," said Gurjit Kaur, a protester who came from Ludhiana city in Punjab along with her friends to participate in the protest.

She said her parents have been camping at Singhu border of Delhi since November 26 last year. Another protester Gurjot Kaur said the coronavirus pandemic was not a threat to them, so they don't need masks. "The

Not allowed to meet LG, send us to jail: Rakesh Tikait

NEW DELHI

PROTESTING farmers on Saturday gheraoed Raj Bhavans in different states on completion of 7 months of their agitation and tried to give memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor. In Delhi, the farmers under the leadership of Yudhveer Singh were not allowed to meet the LG, after which Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said, "Either let the farmers meet the Lieutenant Governor or send us to Tihar Jail."

Farmer leader Yudhveer Singh and others who were sitting at Ghazipur border, had come to meet the LG.

Singh said that the farmers will submit a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, but the farmers were not given time. However, the Delhi Police kept all the farmers with them.

The farmers have alleged that their leaders have been held by the Delhi police and are being taken from one place to another, and were not allowed to meet the LG. After that Rakesh Tikait held a meeting at Ghazipur border.

Rakesh Tikait, after the meeting, said, "We have made it clear that either the farmers be allowed to meet the Lieutenant Governor or they should be sent to Tihar Jail.

There will be no protest to get them released."

"We have also decided in the meeting that, we will hold two yatras in the month of July. One will start from Shamli on July 9, and will reach Singhu border on July 10, passing through Baghpat. The other yatra will start on July 24 from Bijnor and will reach Ghazipur border on July 25 through Meerut. I will come to Ghazipur border on July 25."

Meanwhile, in view of the sensitive situation in Delhi, the security of the Lieutenant Governor's residence has been beefed up. No one is being allowed to meet him. (IANS)

YSRCP MP threatens complaint against Chidambaram

AMARAVATI/NEW DELHI

FOLLOWING a sarcastic message by Congress leader P. Chidambaram, senior Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and Rajya Sabha member V. Vijayasai Reddy on Saturday threatened to lodge a complaint with the Chairman. Chidambaram mocked that the Ministry of Labour and Employment allegedly said it had no data on women's participation in the labour force and called for renaming it.

"Ministry of Labour and Employment tells Parliamentary Committee that it has no data on women's participation in the labour force. This is an opportune moment to rename the ministry as Ministry of Malemployment," said Chidambaram.

However, Reddy contended that Parliamentary Committee meetings are confidential till those reports are laid out in the Houses.

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lowing rules harm the objectivity of the report and vitiate the process," he noted.

The YSRCP leader said he will file a complaint with the House chairman for strict action.

Earlier, Reddy said that the IT Appellate Tribunal has favourably ordered for the expeditious return of Rs 219 crore plus interest to Vizag metropolitan region development authority.

"GST exemption rendered by all services by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams and expeditious renewal of its FCRA application to enable NRI pilgrims to donate were the top pointers for discussion with Nimala Sitharaman," he added, on his meeting with the Union Finance Minister. (IANS)



It's simple, we are with farmers: Rahul Gandhi

AMARAVATI/NEW DELHI

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Parliamentary panel to seek explanation from Twitter for locking accounts: Tharoor

NEW DELHI

AFTER Union Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor were temporarily locked out of their Twitter accounts on Friday, the latter said that he would seek an explanation from the microblogging platform for its actions.

"As Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, I can state that we will be seeking an explanation from @TwitterIndia for the locking of @rsprasad's & my accounts & the rules & procedures they follow while operating in India," Tharoor said in a tweet.

In an earlier tweet, the Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram had said: "And @Twitter locked me out

again because to explain the problem, the first tweet in this thread included the offending copyrighted video. Locking is a foolish response to a DCMA notice; disabling the video (which they've now done) should be enough. @Twitter has a lot to learn." Earlier in the day, Prasad was denied access to his Twitter account for almost an hour over alleged violation of the US' Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

After being temporarily blocked, Prasad said in a series of posts on Koo, the India-made micro-blogging platform: "Twitter's actions were in gross violation of Rule 4(8) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 where they failed to provide me any prior notice before denying me access to my own



account."

Prasad, who has been at the forefront of the government's drive to bring in more compliance and stricter norms for social media platforms, added: "It is apparent that my statements calling out the high handedness and arbitrary actions of Twitter, particularly sharing the clips of my interviews to TV channels and its powerful impact, have clearly ruffled its feathers."

"No matter what any platform does, they will have to abide by the new IT Rules fully and there shall be no compromise on that," he added. (IANS)

Deducting DA govt's 'mischievous' approach, must be restored: Cong

NEW DELHI

THE Congress on Saturday accused the Union government of adopting a malevolent approach towards scores of Central government employees, Army staff and pensioners with regard to the payment of dearness allowance (DA) and demanded immediate repayment of arrears. Addressing a press conference here,

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said, "This non-payment highlights and underlines the clear hypocrisy and double standard of the government, which speaks in two voices because these figures are undeniable, well-known and universal."

"These are a mischievous, malevolent and Machiavellian approach,

which needs to be immediately rectified, at least from July 1 onwards, both in terms of the past and the future," he added.

Singhvi said that on April 23, 2020, the government had kicked the people's stomachs by cutting Rs 37,500 crore, which was admittedly payable as DA by the 7th Pay Commission to 115 lakh army staff, pensioners from the armed forces, and serving employees and pensioners of the Central government. (IANS)

NCB busts international drug syndicate active over darknet

NEW DELHI

THE Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday said that it has busted a drug trafficking syndicate operating over darknet.

The syndicate was supplying drugs to international markets with the use of multi cryptocurrencies, said an NCB official, adding that they even used internet pharmacy as method.

The official said that the syndicate were operating nine websites all registered in geographical space beyond India.

He said that the syndicate is spread across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand in India and having tentacles in US, UK, Canada and Philippines.

The official pointed out that the destination of the consignments were primarily to US, UK, Europe and other countries.

Highlighting the payment method, the official said that multi crypto currencies used and bitcoin had major share in the transactions.

He further said that bank accounts beyond India are under investigation.

The official said that total 37 seizures took place, with 22 lakh psychotropic tablets like Tramadol and 245 Kg psychotropic drugs have been seized.

A pharmaceutical manufacturing company based in Haridwar involved in this network already busted.

The official further said that herbal supplement packages were used to disguise and conceal the contrabands.

He also said that the digital forensics reveal orders to the tune of Rs 1 lakh already shipped out by this module. (IANS)



Over 48K Covid cases, 1,183 deaths in 24 hours in India

NEW DELHI

WITNESSING a slight dip, India reported 48,698 new Covid-19 cases and 1,183 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to data released by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on Saturday.

The total caseload rose to 3,01,83,143 cases as India crossed the mark of over three crore Covid cases on Wednesday.

This is the ninth consecutive day in the last two months when the death toll has been below the 2,000-mark. India has become the second country after the US to record more than three crore cases of Covid. India added one crore cases in the last 50 days.

It is also the 19th consecutive day when India reported less than one lakh new coronavirus cases. On March 23, India had recorded 47,262 cases while on June 22 India reported 42,640 cases. The active cases have now come down below 6 lakh. The country has 5,95,565 active cases presently and has witnessed 3,94,493 deaths so far.

According to the Union Health Ministry, a total of 64,818 people have been discharged in the last 24 hours, taking the total discharge to

2,91,93,085 till date.

The Health Ministry said that a total of 31,50,45,926 people have been vaccinated so far in the country, including 61,19,169 who were administered vaccines in the last 24 hours. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, 39,95,68,448 samples have been tested up to June 24 for Covid-19. Of these 17,35,781 samples were tested on Thursday. (IANS)



Vaccinated & Covid-recovered tests positive for Delta+

JAIPUR

IN the first case of Delta positive in Rajasthan, a 65-year-old woman, who recovered from Covid-19 in May and had undergone both doses of vaccination, has tested positive with the variant.

However, the woman is healthy, confirmed government officials.

With this, Rajasthan became the ninth state in the country to register the new virus strain.

According to Bikaner's PBM Hospital Superintendent Par-

mendra Sirohi: "The patient's sample was sent to NIV on May 31 and after 25 days, the state government received the reports which were then sent to Bikaner district collector for further action."

Bikaner CMHO O.P. Chahar said: "Special instructions have been issued for tracing in and around the residence of the woman. All those people who tested positive in the area in last one month will be tested again," he added.

This woman has already recovered from the Covid infec-

tion," Chahar said.

Rajasthan government is taking this issue seriously. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that there will be no laxity in services and the new guidelines will ensure that the Delta plus variant does not spread across the state.

Delta plus variant has also been traced in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The highest number of patients have been reported in Maharashtra with 21 cases. (IANS)

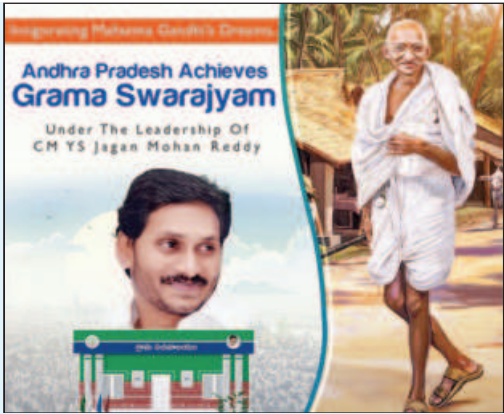
Village/ward secretariats to provide Aadhaar services too

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

VILLAGE and ward secretariats launched by the YSRCP government are playing a key role in distribution of rice cards, pensions, house site pattas and implementation of schemes like Amma Vodi, Rythu Bharosa at grassroots level. But, Aadhaar card is a must to get the benefits being extended by the state and the Central governments. The Aadhaar card must be very clear and spelling mistakes may create problems in getting the benefits. So far, Mee Seva centres and special counters in the banks are providing Aadhaar related services to the people. A large number of people are visiting the Mee Seva centres and the banks to get the Aadhaar cards or update demographic and other information or rectifying mistakes.

During the Covid lockdown,

- CM to will launch the services in July
- Initially, the services will be started in 500 village /ward secretariats in the State
- The aim is to bring the Aadhaar services closer to people as Aadhaar is important for the people to avail benefits of all the State and Central government schemes



the post offices, banks and Mee Seva centres have stopped the Aadhaar services for many months. A large number of people could not get the benefits from the state and Central governments due to lack of Aadhaar card.

Now, the state government has decided to introduce the Aadhaar services in ward/village secretariats soon. Dr N Bharath Gupta, IAS, commissioner, commissionerate of gram volunteers/ward volunteers and gram secretariats, ward secretariats

told The Hans India that initially Aadhaar services will be introduced in 500 ward/village secretariats. Basing on the requirements of the people the Aadhaar services will be increased to more ward/village secretariats in the state.

He said Aadhaar card is very important to get the benefits of the state and Central government schemes. He said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy would inaugurate the Aadhaar services in the village/ward secretariats next month.

Gupta said more people will be benefitted and get Aadhaar cards with the availability of Aadhaar services in village/ward secretariats. People were habituated to visit the ward/village secretariats to avail the benefits being extended by the governments and they will have one more important service to avail in these places, he added.

Kathi Mahesh hurt in road mishap at Nellore

- The car he was travelling rams into a container truck from rear side
- The film critic and actor suffers serious injury in eye
- He is shifted to Chennai for better treatment

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

FILM actor and critic Kathi Mahesh suffered serious injuries when the car he was travelling crashed into a container vehicle at Chandrasekharapuram under Kodavalurmandal in the district on NH-16 on Saturday morning. He was shifted to Chennai by the family after treatment at a city hospital.

Sources said he had suffered a serious injury in eye.

Kodavalur police said Mahesh was on the way to his native place Bhakarapet in Chittoor district for visiting relatives in a car being



driven by his friend Suresh. The speeding car, while trying to overtake a container, crashed into it. Suresh is unhurt in the mishap while Mahesh who sat in the front seat, received serious head and eye injuries.

His friend immediately called ambulance and police for shifting him Medicover hospital in the city. His family members and

friends later shifted him to Chennai for better treatment.

Mahesh is a vociferous critic of actor-politician and Janasena party founder Pawan Kalyan and is known for his comments and observations on various subjects.

He has acted in several movies and most recently campaigned for the YSRCP in the Tirupati Parliamentary bypoll.



AP CS offers prayers to Goddess Padmavathi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

STATE chief secretary Aditya Nath Das along with his family members offered prayers to Goddess Padmavathi in Tiruchanur near here on Saturday evening.

On his arrival at temple, TTD joint executive officer Sada Bhargavi, chief vigilance and security

officer (CVSO) VSO Gopinath Jatti, temple DyEO Kasturi Bai and temple priests welcomed him with traditional honours. After the darshan of the Goddess, the JEO presented prasadam to Das.

Earlier, district collector M Harinarayanan, Tirupati Urban SP Ch Venkata Appala Naidu and senior officials accorded a warm welcome to the chief secretary on

his arrival on a two day visit to the district at Renigunta airport.

After offering prayers in Tiruchanur, the chief secretary and his family went to Kanipakam where they performed special pujas in Sri Varasidhi Vinayaka Swamy temple.

Official sources said chief secretary and his family after an overnight stay in Tirumala will offer prayers to Lord Venkateswara on Sunday.

He will also visit Srikalahasthi to offer prayers in Srikalahasthiswara Swamy temple before his return to Amaravati on Sunday afternoon.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

DURING the present mango season, 16,000 metric tonnes (MT) of mangoes were exported through 30 Kisan special trains from the state, according to special chief secretary, agriculture, Poonam Malakondaiah. She said that the state government has been making efforts to protect the interests of horticulture farmers.

Speaking to media persons here on Saturday, the special chief secretary said steps have been taken to prevent inconvenience to farmers in transporting the mangoes.

The mango production in the state in the present season stands at 14 lakh metric tonnes. Of the total crop, marketing facility was provided to 70 per cent of crop at Rs 9 to 14 per kg, she said adding that balance of mango harvesting will be completed by July-end.

Poonam Malakondaiah said



- Agriculture Spl CS says the govt has provided marketing facility to 70% of the total 14 lakh tonne mango crop by ensuring Rs 9-Rs 11 price per kg
- She makes it clear that the govt is making all efforts to protect the interests of horticulture farmers in the State
- The statement comes in the wake of criticism by Oppn TDP that mango farmers have been left in the lurch by the YSRCP govt amid fall in prices

that the state government has been making efforts to provide remunerative price to farmers by appointing monitoring committees at food processing units. Rythu Bharosa Kendras are also

helping the farmers in marketing the mangoes, she added.

She said remunerative price of Rs 6,850 per quintal to turmeric, Rs 7,000 to chillies, Rs 1,450 to sweet oranges, Rs 750

per onions, Rs 800 for banana, Rs 2,500 per pulses is being provided. She said the state government has been developing godowns and cold storages with a capacity of 500 metric tonnes for the benefit of farmers, adding the government spent Rs 6,000 crore for procurement of agricultural products other than paddy.

The special chief secretary's statement comes amid allegations by TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu that the state government has abandoned mango farmers to their fate as prices plunged pushing them into crisis and debts. The Opposition leader on June 24 demanded the state government to ensure viable prices for mango farmers and setting up of mango board.

Rejecting his criticism, agriculture minister K Kannababu on Friday stressed that the state government is taking all steps to support horticulture farmers, including mango farmers.

TDP QUESTIONS NEED TO EXTEND GARUDA VARADHI

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP state executive secretary Buchi Ramprasad on Saturday demanded the YSRCP government and the TTD Specified Authority to explain why the 7-km long 'Garuda Varadhi' flyover project in Tirupati temple town was totally neglected in the past two years.

Ramprasad said that 60 per cent of the Varadhi works were completed during the Chandrababu Naidu government itself and the required pillars were constructed as part of the Rs 684 crore project. These works were not continued under the present regime but now, they came out with a plan to extend Varadhi from Kapilatheertham to Nandi Circle without any logic.

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP leader asked whether the Garuda Varadhi extension was now proposed for the sake of commissions or to cause further delay in the opening of the flyover. The TDP regime came out with this flyover from Tiruchanur Padmavati Amravati Temple to Kapilatheertham in order to solve the

- Party executive Secretary Buchi Ramprasad says the State govt and Endowments minister owe an explanation to the devotees on extension of Varadhi at additional cost of Rs 200 cr
- Points out that there are no crossroads between Kapilatheertham and Nandi Circle necessitating extension of the flyover



perennial problem of traffic jams and congestion. If the TTD and the YSRCP regime completed the remaining 40 per cent works, the Garuda Varadhi would have been open for public use by now.

Ramprasad said that the AP government and endowments minister Vellampalli Srinivas owed an explanation to the devotees why the Varadhi extension was proposed at Rs 200 crore additional cost. This was done though there was no clear necessity for the flyover between Kapilatheertham and Nandi Circle. There were no crossroads in this

stretch as the hill forests of Tirumala were lying on one side and residential localities on the other.

The TDP leader demanded the minister to explain since the TTD full board was not in force now while the TTD Specified Authority was being technically run by the government officers. Specified Authority chairman and EO K S Jawahar Reddy should clear doubts of the public on this issue. Where was the need to extend Garuda Varadhi in a stretch where there was no traffic congestion, he asked.

Ramprasad accused the Jagan Mohan Reddy government of adopting a discriminatory approach to the Hindu devotees. The Rs 64 crore Venkateswara

Swamy temple and Kalyana Mandapam in Amaravati were not taken forward. Not a stone was laid there under the YSRCP rule. Moreover, its cost was reduced to Rs 18 crore and this was also not spent. If the Amaravati Balaji temple was completed by now, it would have been very convenient for the local devotees to offer prayers and have darshan.

The TDP leader expressed concern over the manner in which the YSRCP rulers and the TTD were pursuing misplaced priorities. They were promising to construct Venkateswara Swamy temples in Kashmir, Varanasi, Kanya Kumari and other places but not in Andhra Pradesh.

Once a week classes for students of Classes 9 and 10

GUNTUR: THE state government proposed to conduct classes weekly once for students of Classes 9,10 to clarify their doubts and directed the teachers to attend them. State Council of Educational Research and Training director Dr B Pratap addressed a meeting held with recognised and unrecognised teachers' union leaders at SCERT office at Ibrahimpatnam in Krishna district on Saturday on New Education Policy-2020 to know views of the teachers union leaders.. Speaking on the occasion, Pratap recalled that the government was conducting the online classes for the students studying in the government schools while the corporate and private schools too have started online classes .

TOMAR ASKS FARMERS TO END 7-MONTH LONG PROTEST

Continued from P1

The Supreme Court has put on hold the implementation of the three laws till further orders and has set up a committee to find solutions. The committee has submitted its report.

"I want to convey through your (media) that farmers should end their agitation.Many are in favour of these new laws across the coun-

try. Still, some farmers have any issue with provisions of the laws, Government of India is ready to listen and discuss with them," Tomar tweeted.

He said the government held 11 rounds of consultations with protesting farmer unions. The government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) and is procuring more quantity at MSP.

US to Europe, Delta variant spreading rapidly

Continued from P1

US President Joe Biden has urged all unvaccinated Americans to get inoculated against the novel coronavirus, warning that the Delta variant could lead to more deaths. "The new variants will leave unvaccinated people even more vulnerable than they are or were a month ago. This is a serious concern. Especially because of what experts are calling the Delta variant. It's a variant that is more easily transmissible, potentially deadlier and particularly dangerous for young people," Biden said during a White House press conference recently.

Russia is facing a surge in Covid-19 cases that authorities

blame on the highly infectious Delta variant and slow progress in vaccinating people, with deaths linked to the virus hitting a new record in Moscow on Friday. Although cases in France have been falling, Delta is causing concern in an area in the southwest of the country. On Thursday, Prime Minister Jean Castex and the country's health minister visited Les Landes, where the variant accounts for 70 per cent of infections. Across France, it is believed to be behind 10 per cent of cases.

Portugal has announced new restrictions for the Lisbon region and two other areas due to rising case numbers.

The centre of Australia's largest city Sydney entered lockdown, a shock for a population that had returned to relative normality after months of recording very few local cases.

Israel, which has prided itself on having one of the world's most successful vaccination campaigns, has seen infections surge since dropping a requirement to wear masks in enclosed public places 10 days ago.

The archipelago of more than 300 islands recorded a surge of 300 new daily infections on Thursday, after going a full year without recording a single community case until April — when the Delta variant arrived.

2 CITIES OF ANDHRA ON TOPPERS' LIST

Continued from P1

When the Central government announced smart cities, Visakhapatnam gained a place in the list. In connection with this, various works have been grounded in the city, while some are in the process of nearing completion.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation commissioner Prasanna Venkatesh said the 4-star ranking to Vijayawada was given based on the performance from 2019 to 2020 on town planning, bio-diversity, green building, air quality, water management and solid waste management.

The Ministry of housing and urban affairs suggested the VMC consider deploying energy monitoring information system (EMIS) to start segregating and recording major electrical load for municipal services, commercial, industrial and residential electricity consumption separately.

It also suggested that the VMC can plan improvement in technical capacities on the latest available technologies on municipal services -- buildings, streetlighting, and pumping. Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recommended to increase utilisation of renewable energy by initiating solar programme and building solar parks as part of the existing and state and national-level policies.

Union Cabinet expansion on cards?

Continued from P1

The lone entrant from Delhi will be New Delhi MP Meenakshi Lekhi.

Amid the significant churn in Bihar, Pasupati Paras who rebelled against Chirag Paswan is likely getting a central berth from LJP, as are JDU nominations RCP Singh and Santosh Kumar.

Karnataka may well be represented by Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar. Gujarat BJP president C R Patil is moving to the government along with Ahmedabad West MP Kirit Solaki.

From Haryana, Sirsa MP Sunita Duggal, a former Income Tax officer is also among the probables. Ladakh MP Jamiyang Tsering Namgyal who impressed with his Parliament speech is also being considered.

The reshuffle is being necessitated by some vacancies caused due to untimely deaths like Ram Vilas Paswan and Suresh Angadi and exits of Akali Dal and Shiv Sena.

Many ministers are saddled with multiple portfolios due the deaths and exits.

Upcoming elections in UP are a factor in the reshuffle and also the need to add some heft to government with the entry of Bhupender Yadav, a strong organisational face.

Since Modi came back to power in 2019, this will be the first such reshuffle cum expansion.

RISE IN DOWRY DEATHS IN KERALA, A WORRYING TREND

Despite, tall talk of the gender equality professed by the present LDF government in Kerala, the state is witnessing increasing and alarming number suicides and dowry related deaths in the state. The window dressing that the government is presently engaged to give a healthy colour to women's protection, by launching 'Women-friendly Kerala' sounds extremely hollow and untenable.

The chairperson of the Kerala Women's Commission, M C Josephine's resignation under duress for speaking the truth of the plight of the women in Kerala, did not get any support for the CPM cadres, include women members like Sreemathy and others, who joined the male bandwagon to berate Josephine for telling the victims to register a police complaint or prepare to endure, and suffer; was interpreted to be insensitive remarks against aggrieved women by the CPM, who talk about empowering women, and giving the same status and respect as men.

The spate of suicides by women in Kerala is on the increase, of late. The case of two missing women, who were found dead in a river the other day, in connection with the arrest of Reshma, who was suspected to have abandoned her new born child as her relations with her husband had soured beyond redemption. The police called the two ladies to the police station to be questioned - the tactlessness of the police in handling the case



is widely believed to be the reason for the women to take the extreme step.

And dowry deaths of two women, who were being regularly and systematically harassed by husbands relatives, and in one case by husband himself, gives a dismal picture of Kerala, where people are regarded to be knowledgeable and educated. It is a pity that marriages in Kerala are "broker driven, in which the so-called marriage broker is the main liaison between the two families; and the families seldom go in for the background check of each other's families, which often results in such tragic situations.

Keralites are generally known for constructing better houses

than the neighbours, not caring for the financial and economic potential to do so; and the dowry system that is given to the bridegroom in terms of gold and other movable and immovable property is well known. The families that have no capacity to do so, too have a longing to be able to live up with others, but miserably default in the promise that becomes a tool for harassment by husband and in-laws, later, which ends up either in suicide or brutal murder.

A recent case of a husband who had done away his wife with snake bite, despite having a child; in order to own her ornaments, with a view to marry another lady, with a similar largesse in waiting, talks of the diabolic

mentality and cunningness of society's greed and readiness to make easy wealth and a partner.

It is imperative that harassed women in society must gather courage to tell this to others, and show courage to register a complaint, though this may not be to the liking of husband and his family. The physical torture and ill-treatment that the victims tend to put up with, seems unending that ends only in their death as the brutality continues perpetually. What is the use of the husbands and in-laws being punished and put behind the bars, after a wife's life is snuffed out, without justice being granted to her, while she was alive?

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Why honorarium to pastors in Andhra?

Present State government is distributing money and other freebies to deserving and undeserving sections in the shape of various unproductive schemes. It is being liberal with solicited and unsolicited proposals as if this is purely a welfare/charitable government and has kept the development of state at the back burner.

The most glaring scheme is paying honorariums to pastors. What for they be paid? Are they freedom fighters or guarding the State against external threats or are they officially educating the people to behave responsibly during Covid testing times? What specific contribution are they extending to state except indulging in proselytizing, are they really be paid for this specific service? If so, the tax payers money should not be misused for this purpose, it is nothing but draining already sick state economy.

No sensible person will approve this scheme, it should be withdrawn forthwith or explain to the people the purpose of scheme and what great service are they extending to the state to be reimbursed with cash? In the current scenario, there is no problem for rich as they can afford the high inflation and lower classes are any way



are given doles in various forms, only majority middle class people are sandwiched between them, it is in fact the middle class people paying various taxes imposed on them.

Our backs are already broken and there is nobody coming to the rescue of the middle class segment, various taxes are imposed on them to cater to the needs of state to distribute money on unproductive schemes. We are already suffering under the pangs of Covid pandemic disasters and the entire saving are exhausted for medical purposes and are groaning under the pressure of heavy taxes and spiralling of prices of essential commodities and of late the

prices of vegetables are also touching sky. The proposal to enhance the houses tax in an irrational way is the last straw on the camel back.

The State government must understand the gist of the old saying that if you give a fish to the hungry they fight for it if you teach them hunting, they survive long without any dependency. Hope good sense will prevail over the government and scrape unnecessary and cash draining schemes especially the paying of monthly honorariums to pastors and other religion heads forthwith. The State it seems has only one head that is debit. How long can this show be run? God alone knows!

Ramki M, Kakinada

Maverick McAfee

The sad news of suicide committed by John McAfee, the



pioneer of Antivirus McAfee in a jail cell near Barcelona on Wednesday has indeed shocked the entire world. John McAfee was 75 years old and was found dead hours after a Spanish court approved his extradition to the United States to face charges of tax evasion between 2014 and 2018. The justice department confirmed that 75-year McAfee died by hanging inside the prison.

During one of his last hearings, McAfee had expressed his anguish over spending the rest of his life in prison if he were to be convicted in the United States. It may be recalled that the incredibly nerdy McAfee became a computer programmer who was shot to fame in the 1980 when he founded McAfee Associates, a software company that made its name by selling commercial computers security software.

Further, in the mid 1990's, he founded a company behind PowWow, one of the first instant messaging and chat programs for Windows operating systems. In 1994 he resigned from the computer security software company, and the company was bought by Intel for 7.7 billion in 2010. McAfee (the company) was initially a part of Intel's cyber security unit; in 2016, Intel spun out McAfee as a separate security company.

By 2009, McAfee's fortunes were depleting fast and whatever business he floated or entered

became unsuccessful. One company he started was QuorumEx,

based in Belize, which promised to make herbal-based antibiotics. But his research facility was raided in 2012 by the police department's Gang Suppression Unit on suspicion that he was manufacturing methamphetamine, a highly addictive and illegal drug that can produce euphoria and stimulant effects. Quite interestingly, in 2015 and 2020, McAfee announced his run for US Presidency, and he badly fell by the way.

However, John McAfee led a riotous life and several countries wanted him to be prosecuted for different crimes he had committed. The US wanted him as he had been evading tax authorities. A US federal court indicted McAfee in March 2021 on conspiracy to commit commodities and securities fraud and several other frauds relating to cryptocurrencies and money laundering. Morally, he had become so abased that he did everything to wallow in pleasures. He was once caught red-handed lying with a 17-year-old girl.

McAfee was arrested last October at Barcelona's international airport and had been in jail since then awaiting the outcome of extradition proceedings. Though he was born in England, he moved to Virginia as a child and grew up troubled with a father who beat him mercilessly. The father, a drunkard, killed himself with McAfee's shotgun when the boy was 15. So, it is nothing eccentric or unusual with the way McAfee acted to embrace death. His circumstances were not morally good to lead a good life enjoying the immense wealth he had accumulated through his stupendous work.

T K Nandan, Kochi

Emergency-like scenario exists today too

Apropos "Remembering the Emergency" (THI 25 June), the media including your paper who follow balanced policy taking on the Establishment and where deserved praising the government have all the right to speak and recall Emergency for the present generation. This is vital for them to know what happened then and how the late PM Indira Gandhi lost the elections. That she came forward to announce the election knowing fully well was itself enough that she understood that it was a blunder when people surrounding her started misusing it using her name.

However, the BJP now led by PM Modi and Shah have lost the moral ground to talk or recall about Emergency so also the media house who have turned fifth pillar for the ruling party in power who instead of speaking for the people are speaking for the party in power. In fact, very few leaders are there in present BJP have no role in Emergency or have any idea about emergency. In this context I was a bit surprised to see a lengthy article in one of the dailies on Emergency.

The Home Minister himself was just 10 or 11 when it was declared in 1975 and was entering



in teens when it was lifted in 1977. Whatever he may have been taught about Emergency was from RSS school. As for Emergency, the credit for dethroning Indira should go to the people and students, and not the leaders except JP and few others whose participation to fight Ms Indira had some purpose and vision.

JP misjudged the leaders from various opposition parties including so called non-political entity RSS and Jan Sangh who

joined his independent movement which he called "Sam-poorna Kranti" (Total Revolution). Yours truly like lakhs of others in Delhi with just one call from JP went on foot from our respective homes to attend his meeting at Ram Lila Maidan on 25 June. People attended that with a lot of dreams and hope that it would be a real revolution. But all this was dashed when the government by people collapsed when merged parties started using the mandate only

to consolidate its own power from within.

With Jan Sangh having more say supported by RSS from outside everything was going wrong and finally Jan Sangh leaders came out under direction of RSS to form new party BJP which is now in power. Though there is no declared emergency, people have already stopped speaking or writing against the government. In fact, some print media have even stopped giving space for critical comments from or-

inary people and in fact quite few print media has discontinued even "letters to editor column" or squeezed the space for readers comment.

On the face of it there is no Emergency, but does the government have tolerance to digest dissenting voices? If during Ms Indira Gandhi's rule there were few sycophants around her, now only sycophant praising supreme leader are around him. If it was then hail Indira, now it's hail Modi has become the order of the day. Just imagine soon after the free pan India vaccination program was launched, the state government quickly went on to thank Modi.

Soon it spread like wildfire even Vice Chancellors were asked to thank Modi for giving free vaccines as if he is providing from his personal money. Even KV Class 12 students were not spared who were asked to thank PM Modi for announcing cancellation of CBSE class 12 examination. The less said the better about institutions under BJP. So the only difference then and now is, in 1975 we were aware there was an Emergency, now it is not imposed but it's indeed an Emergency-like environment has been created all around.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

Sanitation and hygiene, two eyes for public health

Sanitation and hygiene are most important activities for the human beings to lead life effectively and stay healthy. Proper management of solid and liquid waste is an important determinant of improved sanitation in any community. In the rural areas, sanitation and hygiene is mostly neglected due to lack of proper infrastructure, unavailability of sustainable technology at household or community level and moreover lack of adequate O&M infrastructure and awareness of common people.

The domestic waste generated in rural households of India is increasingly becoming an issue of serious concern. In fact, management of solid and liquid wastes in rural areas is much easier than in urban areas.

Because, no highly contaminated waste is present in rural areas comparatively as in urban areas. Most of the rural area waste is bio-degradable and not toxic. But due to increasing population, changing food habits, people following modern lifestyles, growing consumerism, packaging and use and throw items and use of plastics etc, the management of waste is emerging as an issue need urgent

attention in rural areas also.

In rural areas local bodies have had responsibility to provide clean and green environments to the people. So Gram Panchayats must act on that and control solid and liquid waste menace. Due to sanitation problems rural people suffered a lot and many diseases occurred and people lost the lives also. So sanitation and personal hygiene is plays a crucial role healthy conditions to the human beings. Solid and liquid waste problem need to address by the gram panchayat effectively and take stringent action on violators against government rules.

Gram Panchayats take O&M measure such as construction of sheds, vehicle for transportation of waste from household to segregation shed, adequate manpower required and distribute dustbin to the each and every household. Gram panchayats make aware people for segregation of waste in to dry, wet waste at source level and change their behaviour to implement day-to-day waste management activities in village. They choose appropriate method for composting the waste and generate waste in to manure and identify waste collectors or scrap



dealers for dry waste and tie up them with GPs.

Liquid waste management in the rural areas, grey water problem is very high than Black water. Waste management techniques should be decentralised, because wet waste can compost by the households at sources level. It is easy to manage by the gram panchayats. We must follow so called-4 Rs: Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Recovery. So that, GP manage easily, otherwise it is became too difficult manage in the villages. State governments must focus on proper

waste manage techniques with scientifically.

Sanitation and hygiene problems are neglected by the people, particularly rural masses. So central, state governments encourage local bodies to tackle the waste problem effectively and provide adequate financial and expertise support to control. Sanitation and hygiene are two eyes for public health. When both are manageable by the governments then only society became healthy.

Abhignav Siddhartha, Hyderabad

CUSTOMER CARE?

It is shocking to note that a security guard of Bank of Baroda's Bareilly branch has shot down a customer of the branch for not wearing the mask. Not wearing a mask is not a criminal offence and the act of the security guard is highly condemnable as a security guard does not have powers to use his rifle except under extreme dangerous conditions of self-attack or under conditions of mass riots at the branch premises where loss of lives and property are likely to occur.

Just because the customer provoked a heated argument re-

garding not wearing the mask, the security guard is not supposed to shoot the customer and instead should have brought this incident to the notice of the branch management who would have acted appropriately in diffusing the tension created by the customer in making unnecessary arguments. Not only this, even the bank management is expected to be more watchful in the premises to avoid such petty issues which have given a life and death threat to the poor customers avoidably.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad

Healthcare delivery in Singapore

Normally the charges are collected at the time of discharge and irrespective of bill paid or not the patient is discharged first. Every part is being maintained with the highest standards and better than the best of the private hospital in India

VANAM JWALA
NARASIMHA RAO

A decade ago, when I visited Singapore, I happened to interact with Dr V Anantharaman, Professor-Senior Consultant at Singapore General Hospital working in the area of emergency medicine. Singapore's healthcare delivery system provides population the primary healthcare, hospital care, long-term care and other integrated care. The city-country has a network of outpatient polyclinics and private medical practitioner's clinics to provide primary medical treatments, preventive healthcare as well as health education.

Unlike in many countries, in Singapore, 80 percent of primary healthcare services are offered by 2000 private medical clinics; whereas the remaining is delivered by 18 government polyclinics. In Singapore, Hospital care consists of inpatient, outpatient and emergency services. By contrast to primary healthcare, public hospitals provide 80 per cent of hospital care including specialty treatment. Even in the bed strength, government hospitals account for 80 per cent, whereas private hospitals just 20 per cent. The percentage of registered doctors (excluding specialists) and in the public institutions is about 80 and that of private sector is a mere 20.

Singapore, an island country with population of little over five million, has one of the highest medical standards across Asia. It is well-known for its efficient and widely covered healthcare system. Government promoted a National Health Plan in 1983. It detailed the infrastructural plan for the next 20 years together with the idea of Medisave. The plan is being up-dated from time to time to suit the needs.

There are three main regulators in the system, Minister of Health (MOH), Central Provi-



dent Fund (CPF) and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). The well-established healthcare system in Singapore is composed of 13 private hospitals, 10 government hospitals and a number of specialist clinics, each one specialising in catering to the needs of different patients at varying costs. Patients are free to choose the providers within the government or private healthcare delivery system and can walk in for a consultation at any private clinic or any government polyclinic. For emergency services, patients can go at any time to the 24-hour Accident and Emergency Departments located in the government hospitals. Both the private and public hospitals of Singapore are equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment in order to maintain the highest standards of medical services.

The government's healthcare system is based upon the "3M" framework. This has three components: Medi fund, which provides a safety net for those not able to otherwise afford healthcare, Medisave, a compulsory health savings scheme covering about 85 per cent of the population, and Medi shield, a government-funded health insurance scheme. Singapore government ensures affordability of healthcare within the public health sys-

tem, largely through a system of compulsory savings, subsidies and price controls. Singapore's system uses a combination of compulsory savings from payroll deductions to provide subsidies within a nationalized health insurance plan known as Medisave.

Medisave introduced in April 1984 allows Singaporeans to put aside part of their income into a Medisave account to meet future personal or immediate family's hospitalisation, day surgery and for certain outpatient expenses. The savings can be withdrawn to pay the hospital bills of the account holder and immediate family members.

A key principle of Singapore's national health scheme is that no medical service is provided free of charge, regardless of the level of subsidy, even within the public healthcare system. At the same time no one is refused treatment on the pretext that payment has not been made. Normally the charges are collected at the time of discharge and irrespective of bill paid or not the patient is discharged first. The increasingly large private sector provides care to those who are privately insured, foreign patients, or public patients who are able to afford what often amount to very large out-of-pocket payments above the levels provided by govern-

ment subsidies. Approximately 70-80 per cent of Singaporeans obtain their medical care within the public health system.

The Singapore General Hospital (SGH) is the largest and oldest hospital in Singapore. The Tan Tock Seng Hospital is the second largest hospital, but, its accident and emergency departments are the busiest in the country largely due to its geographically centralized location. Sing-Health is Singapore's largest group of healthcare institutions. The group was formed in 2000 and consists of two public hospitals across the island, five specialist centers and a network of nine polyclinics. The group operates Singapore General Hospital and KK Women's and Children's Hospital. The group runs five specialist centers which include National Cancer Centre Singapore, National Heart Centre Singapore, Singapore National Eye Centre, National Dental Centre of Singapore and the National Neuroscience Institute.

At SGH, patients have access to over 600 doctors from 29 clinical specialties. Except for emergency cases, patients are admitted to Singapore General Hospital only on recommendation from their medical specialists from the Specialist Outpatient Clinic. Once a date for admission is confirmed, patients are encouraged to visit the Hospital's Pre-Admission Testing (PAT) Centre to seek information on ward accommodation and register themselves for their desired accommodation class. Patients will also be advised on estimated bill size, average length of stay, various modes of payment accepted, documents to bring on day of admission and assistance available for those in financial difficulties. The PAT Centre will also schedule appointments for patients to undergo compulsory pre admission investiga-

tions such as blood tests, chest x-ray, electrocardiogram, which are conducted one week before admission.

A unique feature of Singapore healthcare is that, patients who seek medical treatment at any Public Health-Care Institution, from hospitals to specialist centers and polyclinics need not recount their medical history to the doctors. This information is captured in a centralized database known as National Electronic Health Records System.

In the Emergency Department, priority is to attend to patients with serious illnesses and injuries. The Emergency Department at SGH is one of the busiest in the country. There is a Senior Emergency Physician on duty on every shift. Patient will be assigned a specific priority level according to the severity of his or her medical condition. Hospital staff will advise the patient appropriate area to go to for consultation and treatment. There are separate waiting areas for patients with different priority levels. Patients with fever will be managed in a separate area in the Emergency Department. This is to reduce the risk of infection to the other patients in the Emergency Department.

In Singapore, the Emergency Ambulance Service (EAS) is operated by the Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF) and it can be reached by dialing 995. The service is designed to provide an immediate response to patients with life-threatening situations. 995 ambulance services are free only if it is a true emergency. In all there are 40 ambulances parked in 14 ambulance stations providing this service. I went round the SGH with Dr Anantharaman and found every part of it being maintained with highest standards and better than the best of the private hospital in India.



A global model to tackle violence against women

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

AS the world grapples unevenly with the effects of Covid-19, a parallel and equally horrific pandemic has threatened half the world's population. In the early months of the pandemic, the United Nations projected that quarantines and lockdowns could lead to a shocking 15 million additional cases of gender-based violence every three months. Sadly, those predictions appear to be coming true.

This week, world leaders and others will gather at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris and online in a massive push for gender equality. At that meeting, I will call on states, companies and individuals to join in a global initiative, with proven results, to end the fear and insecurity that threaten the health, rights, dignity and lives of so many women and girls.

From domestic violence to sexual exploitation, trafficking, child marriage, female genital mutilation and online harassment, violent misogyny has thrived in the shadow of the pandemic.

Full data will take time to collect and assess, but the trends are clear. In twelve countries tracked by the United Nations, the number of cases of violence against women and girls reported to various institutions increased 83 per cent from 2019 to 2020, and cases reported to the police grew by 64 per cent.

In the first months of the pandemic, calls to helplines increased by an average of 60 per cent across the European Union. Calls to Peru's sexual violence hotline almost doubled in 2020 compared to 2019. In Thailand, the number of clients visiting domestic violence crisis units in hospitals in April 2020 was more than double the number from the same time period of the previous year.

Such statistics and stories span the world, adding to an existing epidemic of violence against women and girls. Before the pandemic, the World Health Organization estimated that one in three women would experience male violence in their lifetime.

Just over a year ago, I raised the alarm. Echoing my call for a global ceasefire, I appealed for peace in the home -- an end to all violence everywhere, from

war zones to people's homes -- to allow us to face the pandemic, humankind's common enemy, with solidarity and unity.

More than 140 countries expressed support. Some 800 measures have been adopted in 149 countries, the majority focused on shelter, legal assistance and other services and support.

But, in many cases, these actions have been limited and short lived. Worse, other countries are retreating, rolling back legal protections and standing by as violence is used to target women, including human rights defenders protesting these reversals.

The pervasiveness of violence against women and girls has led to acquiescence that it is somehow inevitable or impossible to end. This is as outrageous and self-defeating as it is plain wrong. Despite the challenges of the past year, the United Nations, with significant funding from and partnership with the European Union, has demonstrated that change is possible.

Over the course of 2020, the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls has delivered notable results in 25 countries. Eighty-four laws and policies to protect women and girls were adopted or strengthened. Prosecution of perpetrators increased 22 per cent. Some 650,000 women and girls received services despite lockdowns and mobility restrictions. Close to 900,000 men and boys -- including traditional leaders, heads of religious institutions, male taxi drivers and young gamers -- were engaged to be allies in finding solutions. And across these countries, national budget allocations for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls increased by 32 per cent, a clear indication of future sustainability.

By coming together, in Paris, around a proven model, we can begin to ensure that the next generation of girls will not be expected to live with fear simply because we didn't act. In time, there will be many lessons learned about what the world got right and wrong in handling this pandemic. One of the first must be to ensure that this disgraceful hidden pandemic facing half our population ends now.

(The author is Secretary-General of the United Nations)

Improving self-awareness

JYOTHI GOSALA

SELF-AWARENESS is an essential ingredient for the all-round development and growth of an individual in the various dimensions of life. Self-awareness can benefit one's life immensely through all round development, enhanced effectiveness, good communication and many more. Be it IQ and EQ, the level of confidence and greater motivation and zeal in doing things, it's an innate skill which needs to be toned consistently. With self-awareness, one may build through challenges in widening the awareness quotient, and also effectively dealing with it.

Essentials of self-awareness

- Embracing values
- Interpersonal relationships
- Overcoming challenges
- Effective feedback
- Tapping potential
- Practicing mindfulness
- Leadership connect
- Personal improvement
- Stress management

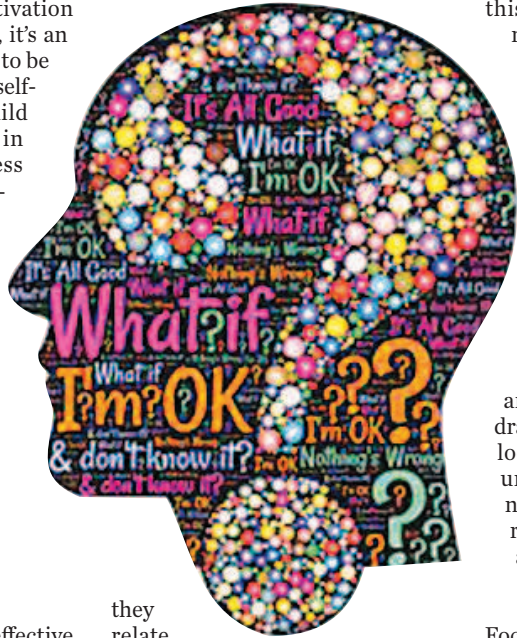
Self-awareness is an effective way to manage ourselves and all our activity most deftly. It's all the more important to build ourselves up. This factor of taking care of ourselves gets well versed by practicing the norms of self-awareness. The nuances are simple to follow which would enhance our efficiency manifold.

Practiced across vibrant cross sectional audiences and amongst diverse industries, it's becoming the latest catchword which is a good welcome change. We can decipher from studies which have a clear indicator on people who practice and who don't. Those who are more self-aware are having good strong personalities with diverse talents, maintaining cordial and congenial relations with presentation skills, empathetic, and a go-getting attitude. Negativity is diluted with such audiences who are go-getters, efficient at work with good recognition of their latent talents in organizations which cherish them as assets and are sustaining in the long run.

This critical skill enhancer is often practiced by leaders who need more understanding both

at the inner and outer level. Practicing is a norm but auctioning is even more critical. It's not a difficult skill set, all one needs is to make a beginning by analysing both the inner and outer realm for better clarity. Once this gets addressed, all the other factors scale up.

When we strike a direct connection with audiences on how



they relate to self-awareness & what does it imply, and what measures need to be taken to increase the quotient of self-awareness. Whether it's a leader or an employee, it's essential to know how they see themselves.

Self-Awareness is a kind of perspective. The way we see ourselves is one approach and the way others perceive us is another approach. So, how do we look at ourselves from an intrinsic way? Understanding the different planes of consciousness, we will have a better picture of both our inner and outer realms.

Yes, self-awareness is important and we need to fine tune it to build the awareness factor more vibrantly. Defining the two modes of looking at it, we need to understand what the internal & external factor constitutes. We do have a definite mindset with a lot of goals, correlated to beliefs and feelings, behaviour patterns and our skills that build us up. Good contentment in our professional and personal relationships with a feel good factor and an innate sense of contentment is

what internal self-awareness covers while negative factors like stress and anger are at bay.

Self-awareness at the external level is again perspective driven. This enables one to have clarity on the thoughts and feelings of others and vice versa. By being more practical and objective, we look at things from others perspective before getting judgemental. People who are good at this have sound meaningful relations with others, they are more empathetic and consider others point of view. In the case of leadership too, looking at the employee's perspective will win many laurels with enriching relations, job efficiency scaling up and an all-round satisfaction.

Both the awareness quotients seem different and distinct and we can't draw a common ground while looking at them. Both are unique in standing and we need to explore them separately. Most people look at a balance between the two so that there's no overlapping with one another.

Focusing on self-awareness at work must be on a regular basis for employees. If one is not clear on the awareness internally, it reflects at the external level on the performance. Constant feedback and evaluation are good parameters to assess staff.

By identifying the areas which need to be worked on, one can reach the objective with a sense of achievement by balancing perspectives. Lack of genuine feedback or ability to listen, may navigate the focus to see the truth. Good leaders value critical feedback and opinion. They are more self-aware and are accepted. A sense of reflection helps us in creating better understanding of our thoughts & feelings.

By practicing the rightful mode of self-awareness in a balanced way, one will be distinctly ahead and well placed than others. Learning through the process, understanding and analysing the internal and external modes of self-awareness, will hold one in a good position. By being more self-aware, we create a better conducive environment for us and others. Let's be more aware.

MAROONED MINISTER



Waterlogging outside the bungalow of Dy CM Renu Devi after heavy rains in Patna on Saturday

How China shackled Sri Lanka

ASANGA ABHEYAGOONASEKERA

IN early June, US President Joe Biden, under an executive order, essentially blacklisted Chinese firms by prohibiting US investments in certain Chinese firms that "undermine the security or democratic values of the United States and our allies".

The port city developers, China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC), and the mother company, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), were on this list.

On its China policy, the US stands firm with its bipartisan consensus. This would raise concerns in nations like Sri Lanka, which has a large Chinese infrastructure portfolio constantly growing in the country.

Regional powers and their periphery

Such Chinese firms are barely exclusive to Sri Lanka. In fact, they operate in the US's own backyard along the 82-kilometre Panama Canal. The Panama Canal was built for the strategic expansion of the US, connecting the Atlantic-Pacific Ocean route, and is today surrounded by Chinese infrastructure projects.

Chinese firms such as CHEC and CCCC are also involved in infrastructure development in Panama. In 2017, Panama ended its diplomatic relationship with Taiwan and embraced Chinese BRI assistance amounting in bil-



ions of dollars toward infrastructure. China is involved in a bridge project over the Canal for \$1.4 billion and a \$4 billion rail project.

It is also involved in the power sector, mining, and a Chinese telecom infrastructure project with Huawei, including a digital free trade zone in San Miguelito. Panama's shifting to Beijing had a domino effect, with 15 Latin American nations welcoming China's BRI.

However, the present Panamanian regime has managed to rebalance and scale back its Chinese infrastructure including the bridge, considering the Chinese 'debt trap' and the US geopolitical security concern.

In a similar manner, in the

backyard of the regional power India, Sri Lanka has invited the Chinese BRI with several projects that are of concern to India. Colombo has fallen into the premeditated scheme of a Chinese debt trap, paying off its loans in varied ways, from leasing its strategic assets through debt-equity swaps to creating extra-jurisdictional Special Economic Zones.

Like in Panama, the Sri Lankan government would need to backtrack its China 'bandwagoning' foreign policy and bring a 'balance', and develop a considered perspective on the geopolitical and regional security concerns its close relationship with China brings.

The interwoven regional geo-

graphical alignments, such as India-Sri Lanka and the US with its immediate periphery in Panama, cannot be outweighed by the strategic interest drawn by an extra-regional power, China. The same 'Monroe Doctrine' is applicable in China's periphery.

China's port city victory in Colombo

Speaker of the Sri Lankan house, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, inked the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill on May 27 after it received approval from two-thirds of the government. Sri Lanka's Supreme Court observed several clauses of the bill to be unconstitutional.

The praetorian regime, with its majoritarian power, passed the Port City Bill in a hurry, ignoring and threatening the nation's sovereignty.

Justifying the passing of the bill during the pandemic and lockdown, the Speaker of the house explained, "There were precedents that Parliament sittings have been conducted without any hindrance even during World War II and also when the Sri Lankan Parliament came under a bomb attack."

(Asanga Abeyagoonasekera is a geopolitical analyst and author of 'Conundrum of an Island [2021]'. This commentary was initially published by ORF New Delhi)



Vedanta gets 'Great place to Work' certificate

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

VEDANTA Group, the producer of metals, oil and gas including its business units – Balco, Cairn Oil & Gas, ESL, Hindustan Zinc, Iron Ore Business, TSPL and Vedanta-Jharsuguda has been certified as a great place to work by the renowned Great Place to Work Institute.

The accolade follows Vedanta Group's stellar work culture, which fosters an ecosystem of trust, high-performance culture and imbibes aspects of credibility, respect, fairness, pride, and camaraderie among its employees. Sunil Duggal, Vedanta Group CEO said, "Vedanta is one of the few organisations in India to be awarded with this coveted certification as a conglomerate, setting a benchmark for others. This bears testimony to our continuous efforts towards being the Best Employer Brand."

Vedanta has institutionalised several best-in-industry people practices in its endeavour to be a people-first organisation, such as Vice-Chairman's Internal Growth Workshop, a robust programme for identifying high potential employees early on in their careers and mentoring them for enhanced roles and responsibilities. This is followed by a structured review mechanism to map their growth and performance.

Over 1,000 leaders have been groomed via this initiative across various businesses. V-Reach (Graduate Development Programme), a programme that seeks to identify and develop young leaders from the graduate employees' cadre and map them to significantly elevated roles. V-Lead (Diversity Development Programme) to identify highly potential women candidates early on and groom them into leadership roles. Equal opportunity employer – Vedanta's ethos of gender-agnostic job roles have seen the company become India's first to have women as mine managers, a feat of true women empowerment.

HE LEFT HIGH-PAYING INTEL US JOB TO SELL HIGH QUALITY MILK

It has always been my passionate dream to do something big in the agriculture space, says Dr Kishore Indukuri, founder, Sid's Farm

P MADHUSUDHAN REDDY

How did you get the idea of entering the dairy segment?

After graduating from IIT Kharagpur, I did my Masters and PhD in Polymer Science and Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, US. Thereafter, I worked at Intel Corporation in the US in chip manufacturing for six years. But I always wanted to do something different in India. Finally, I took a call to return to India after living there for over 11 years. As we have some agricultural lands at Kollegal in Karnataka, I started vegetable farming (baby corn) there. I also roped in other farmers for contract farming. We offered good remuneration prices to farmers, but did not get any margins when we sold them to retail stores. After doing two cycles of this two-month crop, I felt that it would not be a feasible venture. I noticed that baby corn farmers kept some cows as baby corn stalks offered a high protein diet for them. That's how I got the idea of starting a dairy farm in Hyderabad. But I did not have any prior experience in this segment. So, I visited a few existing dairy farms in Hyderabad and Mysuru to gain some knowledge. Finally, I started my own dairy farm on leased land with 20 cows in 2012.

The initial investment was around Rs 25 lakh. Of that, we spent Rs 10 lakh on purchasing cows while the remaining we invested on sheds and used for other expenses. Initially, we sold milk in bulk to other companies. But they paid us just Rs 13-15 per litre while our expenses were double that, hovering around Rs 25-30 per litre. So, we started selling directly to the consumers in 2013

What is the story behind Sid's Farm name?

My elder son's name is Sidharth. When we were thinking about the name, we wanted to give a promise to our customers. That way we coined the name. It's like a promise from a father to son that he is offering good quality milk to him. The milk I am confident of giving to my children, I am giving to my customers.

What was the initial investment? How much have you invested thus far?

The initial investment was around Rs 25 lakh. Of that, we spent Rs 10 lakh on purchasing cows while the remaining I invested on sheds and used for other expenses.

Initially, we sold milk in bulk to other companies. But they paid us just Rs 13-15 per litre, while our expenses were double of that, hovering over Rs 25-30 per litre. So, I started selling directly to the consumers in 2013. As demand increased for our milk through word-of-mouth publicity, we began buying from other farmers by paying remunerative prices. Starting with hand packing, we bought a foot-operated packing machine and with further increase in demand, we went for automatic packing equipment. Thereafter, we established a chilling and pasteurising unit in 2014. We now have a 4,000 sq ft milk processing facility of 10,000 litre capacity in 2.5 acres at Shabad near Hyderabad. We also have a dairy farm of around 60 animals in 1.5 acres. We currently employ 110 people. In addition, there are 200 part-time delivery partners. We procure milk from 1,200 farmers. In total, we invested around Rs 5 crore till now. Normally, talented people don't opt for the dairy sector. But we succeeded in attracting talent from IITs, NITs, IIMs and XLRI.

Meet Dr Kishore Indukuri, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Sid's Farm, a Hyderabad-based dairy startup. An IIT Kharagpur and University of Massachusetts, US, alumnus, he left a high-paying (in US dollars) job at Intel Corporation in the US to sell high quality milk and milk-based products in Hyderabad. You heard it right. That's what his nine-year-old Sid's Farm is successfully doing in the City of Pearls now. And it clocked revenues to the tune of Rs 44 crore last fiscal! "It has always been my passionate dream to do something big in the agriculture space. That's what brought me back to India," Dr Kishore Indukuri tells **Bizz Buzz**



Dr Kishore Indukuri, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Sid's Farm

of Rs 44 crore last fiscal! "It has always been my passionate dream to do something big in the agriculture space. That's what brought me back to India," Dr Kishore Indukuri tells **Bizz Buzz**

months to develop high-quality testing standards. Now, we conduct 2,000 tests daily to ensure the best quality. That's what differentiates us from others. Some families buy a packet of our milk for their children while using low-priced milk from other suppliers for other family members' consumption. That shows our customers' trust in our products. We sell pure cow and buffalo milk and curd also. Currently, we deliver 17,000 litres of milk and milk-based products directly to over 10,000 customers. We also sell through some online platforms like Milk Basket.

There is an intense competition in the dairy sector in Hyderabad with the presence of local, government, national and international players. How do you differentiate yourself and compete with the big brands?

We only offer high-quality premium milk. That's the reason our prices are 25 per cent higher than others' product in the market. High quality pure milk is our USP. We spent six to seven

months to develop high-quality testing standards. Now, we conduct 2,000 tests daily to ensure the best quality. That's what differentiates us from others. Some families buy a packet of our milk for their children while using low-priced milk from other suppliers for other family members' consumption. That shows our customers' trust in our products. We sell pure cow and buffalo milk and curd also. Currently, we deliver 17,000 litres of milk and milk-based products directly to over 10,000 customers. We also sell through some online platforms like Milk Basket.

It looks like the pandemic has not impacted your business adversely...

Yes, the pandemic has not impacted us as milk is an essential item. We also took care of our employees during the pandemic. So, we did not face any labour shortage.

Did you achieve break-even? What is the current turnover?

We achieved break-even in 2019 and declared some profit in the last two financial years. Our annual revenues grew to Rs 44 crore in FY21 from Rs 24 crore in the preceding financial year.

What expansion plans you have lined up? Any plans to foray into other States?

At present, we are supplying milk in several areas of Hyderabad including Kukatpally, Hitech City, Banjara Hills, Jubilee Hills, Secunderabad, Uppal and Dilukhnagar. We will cover more areas of Hyderabad this financial year. There is a decent market for premium milk in this city as people here are looking for quality milk and also don't mind paying extra for the quality. As per our estimates, 1 lakh litres of premium milk could be sold daily in Hyderabad in the next five years.

The current market size for this premium segment is around 25,000 litres. So, there is a lot of scope for growth in Hyderabad itself. In future, we will expand our operations to several other cities and help more farmers.

Do you have any plans to raise capital for the expansion? If yes, what is the size you are looking at?

We are planning to raise Rs 25 crore in the next six months. We just started consultations in this regard. We will use the funds to expand the existing processing facility or invest in a new facility.

How is the dairy sector doing in Telangana now? Is the Telangana government incentivising such business?

For the dairy sector, the Telangana government is offering incentives and subsidies including subsidy on interest and power tariff. It is very supportive and has good policies like TS-iPASS.

Also, there is a great startup ecosystem in Telangana. My opinion is that no venture should be started by depending on the government subsidies and incentives. However, more and more farmers will take up dairy farming if remunerative price for milk is offered. Dairy plays a big role in the integrated farming model. The governments should work in that direction.

How is the dairy sector doing in India, according to you?

India needs to produce more milk as the demand is growing. There is not enough milk now. Moreover, there are price fluctuations as well. Prices shoot up in summer and fall in the rainy season.

Why does social impact sector need profit

Entities in the social impact sector are thus, well within their ethical limits to make profits and spearhead the empowering changes they envision



Viiveck Verma

Profit is a much-debated word in the social impact sector, as social enterprises are predominantly defined as businesses aimed to deliver significant socio-cultural and environmental impact and geared towards a humanitarian mission. It is often overlooked that they are businesses regardless of their proclaimed purposes and need to sustain themselves like any business. However, an articulation for the necessity of profit in this sector is met with tremendous amounts of cynicism and doubting of purpose. As scholars Duncan Scott and Simon Teasdale note with arguable distrust, "usage of the title 'social enterprise' may be a deliberate strategy to attract grant funding".

These skeptical observations strip social enterprises of any merit and paint the necessity of financial stability and gain as fundamentally immoral. A timely intervention here would be to emphasise the difference between profit and profiteering. While profit is the difference between income and expenditures of a business, indispensable for sustenance and expansion, profiteering is the use of unethical means to generate unreasonable profits. While the latter is unequivocally harmful for society as it disregards all worthy concerns in a rush for short-term profit maximisation, the former is a necessary component for



The social impact sector is located in a capitalist world which makes profit and capital essential for impact. It is short-sighted to deny this preeminent truth and it must be acknowledged that financial capacity, coupled with correct socio economic objectives can enable required expansions and developments to alleviate the predicaments the world is beset with

any endeavour to stay afloat and to create not only economic value but enable social change.

As Anshul Dhamija writes in a 2017 article in Forbes, "Social impact and profitability can co-exist. Profit is inherent to any private enterprise. Without it, you do not get scale. And only with scale can there be impact." This is irrevocably true when purely commercial enterprises have been able to do commendable work in making social impact, purely out of the might of their substantial presence and reach, all attained through profitable enterprise.

For instance, as a Bloomsbury publication notes, a brand like FabIndia works through the idea of "inclusive capitalism", linking more than 86,000 rural producers to modern urban markets, creating sustain-

able rural employment and preserving India's traditional arts, while paying fair prices to village artisans and producers. This demonstrates how social progress and transformation is not merely the domain of social enterprises and even openly ventures can deliver on the same front if they happen to have the suitable scale. The financial implication of social impact is real and thus, profit, to put it colloquially, is not such a bad thing at all.

The profit made by a social enterprise is re-invested in the business to fortify the social impact it is committed to. In fact, "for-profit" social enterprises can be seen as a worthy futuristic model for combining social impact and business. They are more sustainable because they do not rely on grants for their functioning and generate their own revenue to fur-

ther their mission. For example, Change.org is a multi-million-dollar for-profit private company and allows users to create campaigns to mobilise supporters around issues they care about. It's currently the world's largest social change platform, with more than 100 million petition starters and signers in 196 countries. To keep up such efforts to tackle gigantic issues, finance has to allow the endeavour to last, and thus, profit becomes indispensable for the same.

As noted by several scholars, successful social entrepreneurs deploy capitalist methods to attain their declared social objectives. While the primary motive might be to pioneer, invigorate and consolidate social transformation and battle large problems, the secondary goal of making a profit is exactly what bolsters the primary mission. A profit-

making venture can suitably compensate employees and can pave the way for general well-being in manifold ways. The 2015 State of Social Enterprise Survey in the United Kingdom found that 50 per cent of social enterprises earned a profit in the preceding year, and social enterprises were leading the economic recovery.

Of course, profiteering in the social impact sector is a worrying possibility and concern. However, it needs to be combated through the vigilant implementation of strong policy safeguards and cannot be used as an argument to deny the sheer requirement of profits in the first place.

While unscrupulous activities have to be undeniably dealt with, profits can be made legally and ethically and do not imply a lack of commitment to a larger social imperative. In fact, it is realistic to assume that an enterprise needs to tide over its expenditures to remain potent and present in the domain where the impact is to be made.

To sum up, the social impact sector is located in a capitalist world, which makes profit and capital essential for impact. It is short-sighted to deny this preeminent truth and it must be acknowledged that financial capacity, coupled with correct socio economic objectives can enable required expansions and developments to alleviate the predicaments the world is beset with. Entities in the social impact sector are thus, well within their ethical limits to make profits and spearhead the empowering changes they envision.

(The author is Founder, Upsurge Global, and Senior Advisor, Telangana State Innovation Council)

Distributed cloud set to shape working world

Distributed cloud service is a provision of an execution-rich environment in which application components are placed at geographically dispersed locations



Suresh Reddy

all the progress in technology, we still don't know what happens to our data on the cloud when it rains.

The Cloud, for the uninitiated, is just a term used where data and computing are not on your phone or laptop but is accessed from a remote server through Internet connectivity. Where traditional cloud services aim to cut costs and help users focus on core business competencies, distributed Cloud services add a geographical layer, moving to compute and data closer to users. Post the Covid crisis, online tools like Zoom, Webex or Teams have taken off in terms of users and for a good reason. The distributed nature of cloud services is a natural fit for managing virtual work. As the impact of the global pandemic continues to change the nature of work, distributed cloud technologies are now set to reshape the working world. Cloud computing has become the de facto go-to tech for the new enterprise.

With the evolution of the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence (AI), other data-intensive technologies, Cloud, especially distributed Cloud, has taken centre stage. Now with 5G around the corner, data-driven activity is slated only to increase multi-fold. The main value of distributed cloud services is the provision of an execution-rich environment in which application components are placed at appropriate geographically dispersed locations. A distributed cloud ensures that computation, storage, and networking are in a micro-cloud located outside the centralized cloud.

Let's take a look at how distributed cloud actually works. It consists of three layers that are:

Central cloud

This is the main layer of the distributed cloud that is responsible for data management and provision. It covers the entire works of the cloud. Among the most popular Central clouds are Google, AWS, and Azure.

Regional cloud

This cloud is considered to be the middle layer of a distributed cloud. It provides a high level of local mobility, data caching, and proxy. For example, regional clouds are CDN, PMIPv6.

Edge cloud

This cloud title says for itself – it is the last layer of the distributed cloud. It is located in the users' proximity. Edge cloud provides real-time services on mobile devices where data is processed close to its source.

As you would expect, it is not all rosy with distributed computing; it does have a few challenges in implementing it universally.

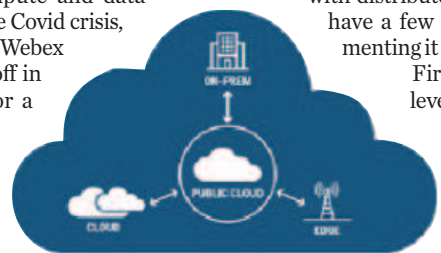
First, one being the high level of security and complex communication feature to make it seamless.

Along with complexity, distributed cloud implementation is expensive as it contains several systems that should be connected to one. Accessing and sharing data between layers can make the integration quite expensive. Another challenge is the amounts of processed data are vast and need different levels of access. Access control based on who the user is an absolute necessity in making this a success.

Today, the world does not have much choice but to implement distributed cloud infrastructure to take on all the emerging technologies. That said, it is expected to happen in two stages. The first one being businesses using a hybrid solution of regular and distributed clouds. And the second stage, where next-generation cloud will provide the opportunity to buy substations for vast facilities like large businesses, universities and government.

(The author is Chairman and CEO of Hyderabad-based Brightcom Group)

The world does not have much choice but to implement distributed cloud infrastructure to take on all the emerging technologies





Support Olympic-bound athletes like our cricketers: Rijiju

NEW DELHI

UNION sports minister Kiren Rijiju said on Saturday that India's Olympic-bound athletes are national heroes and urged the people to extend support to them, the same way they back the country's cricketers.

"I want the Olympics movement and the importance of Olympics to be understood by everyone, spread across the length and breadth of India. Sports is the biggest soft power of a nation," said Rijiju.

Chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand spoke about how the athletes were more confident in their abilities than their compatriots in the past and underlined the role of the government in making this change possible.

"Today I can confidently say that every member of the team is training to be in their best form and possibly win a medal and if they don't have a medal or have good performances, I am sure they are going to be very disappointed," said Gopichand during a virtual interaction organised by CII-Sports-com Industry Confederation in association with the Sports Ministry.

Former hockey international player M.M. Somaya was confident that both the men's and women's hockey teams would do well at the Olympics.

"We have some of the world's best coaches involved with hockey these days and our boys and girls are in good hands," said Somaya, adding that he was hopeful that India could pose a challenge for a medal in Tokyo. The session was also attended by 2016 Rio Paralympic silver medalist Deepa Malik and 2012 London Olympics bronze medalist in shooting, Gagan Narang, among others. (ANS)

Kohli's batting struggles in Tests mental, not technical

NEW DELHI

INDIAN skipper Virat Kohli's manner of dismissal in the second innings of the World Test Championship final against New Zealand in Southampton has drawn comparisons to his dismissals during the 2014 trip to England when the India No. 4 batsman was struggling to handle the movement. But this time, it could be his mind letting him down and not technique.

While former England captain Nasser Hussain thought his second innings dismissal "was similar to how he was getting dismissed in the 2014 series in England", some Indian cricket experts feel Kohli, after all that he has done in the past, can afford a lean patch during which such dismissals happen. Kohli's recent run, especially in Test matches, has raised eyebrows. His average in Test cricket has been 24.64 in the eight Tests since he last scored a Test century back in November, 2019. It is very low compared to his career Test average of 52.04.

Even his ODI batting average has taken a hit. It is 43.26 in the phase (between December 1, 2019 to now) as

against his career average of 59.07. That apart, he has not got a single century in the period.

"It (lean phase) has happened to the best of people, happened to Sunil Gavaskar, Mohinder Amarnath, happened to me. I had good seasons in 1969, 1970, 1971 but in 1972 I got five zeroes in Ranji Trophy despite the fact that I was in good form," said former India batsman, coach and selector Anshuman Gaekwad to IANS.

Another former national selector Gagan Khoda too said it is not something to worry about.

"Every player goes through a lean phase. Playing eight Test matches without a century or a dip in average does not mean that a batsman like Kohli will continue to fail. He has made so many runs, scored so many centuries over the years, so there will be a time when he will struggle. Every batsman does," said Khoda to IANS.

Gaekwad refuses to blame any technical weakness in Kohli. But he points out to something that can let

a seasoned and experienced batsman down with his technique.

"The more you play, the more calculations you get in your mind. Technician goes with mind. You think it will work, (but) it doesn't work," he adds.

"Cricket is a game



of the mind. It is about how you apply your mind." Gaekwad said that players can sometimes not perform to potential and that is what has happened to Kohli. "That is why assessments go wrong. We thought India will win but they didn't perform to potential. Same can happen to individuals," he said.

Since his November 2019 Test ton against Bangladesh, Kohli has managed just three half-centuries in eight Tests. Kohli though hasn't looked out of sorts. His two half-centuries (72 and 62) in the first two

Tests against England in Chennai this year came on pitches that were tough to bat on.

His other half-century, in the first Test in Adelaide in December 2020, helped India gain a first-innings lead before India collapsed for 36 in the second innings.

Dutee Chand's Olympic hopes hang by a thread

PATIALA

STAR sprinter Dutee Chand's hopes of cracking Tokyo Olympic qualification time of 11.15 seconds in the women's 100 metres final at the National Inter-State Athletics Championships on Saturday may get dashed after she strained her left quadriceps muscles in the morning session. "It was a bad day for me on Saturday morning as I strained my left quadriceps muscles during the women's 100m heats. I've taken medicine as well as treatment from physio. My leg injury should be fine. I should be able to run a fast time in the final in the evening," the 25-year-old 2018 Jakarta Asian Games silver-medallist in 100m/200m told IANS.

On Monday, at the Indian Grand Prix IV, Dutee had clocked 11.17 seconds in women's 100m final. It was a national record and better than her previous record of 11.22 secs clocked in 2019 in Ranchi.

Dutee says she went all out during women's 4x100m relay heats on Friday and wasn't able to fully recover for Saturday morning's 100m heats.

"I clocked 11.76 seconds to win my heats. I took



it easy in the preliminary round in the morning session as the main focus is the final which is in the evening," she added. To prepare for the evening 100m final, Dutee said she has taken medicine and got treatment from her physio.

"I'm feeling better. Hope the stiffness will vanish by evening. Will do a good warm-up for the evening session. I will see how my injured leg reacts and will plan the final race accordingly," she added. (ANS)

Tough to beat India with this fragile England batting: Vaughan

LONDON

ENGLAND will find it tough to beat India in the five-Test series in August-September since their "batting line-up is fragile", said former captain Michael Vaughan.

Ahead of the World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand, England had lost the two-Test series at home 1-0 to the Black Caps. Before that they had lost a four-match Test series to India 3-1 in the sub-continent.

While there is hope that England would avenge the 3-1 loss to India in the upcoming series which begins on August 4, Vaughan said, "The batting line-up is fragile, it is as simple as that. (Jos) Buttler, (Ben) Stokes will come back in, (Chris) Woakes -- yes, they will improve the team



but unless that batting line-up changes and can learn and understand how to get big scores against good bowlers, I can't see how they can compete."

"It's going to be tough to beat India on these shores, I can't see it unless they make one or two changes," Vaughan told Fox Cricket.

Vaughan said beating Australia in Australia in the Ashes, which begins on December 8, will be tough as well.

"Australia will get 450-500 [runs]," he said.

The former skipper wants

some harsh calls to be taken ahead of the two important series (against India and Australia).

"I'd bring in Dawid Malan back in at No. 3. Apparently, he is not popular but you know what, who gives a hoot if he scores runs, that's what I like to see. He's got a bit of experience; he played well in Australia last time.

"I'd put him at No. 3, I'd put (Zak) Crawley in to open. I know that's a bit of fortune for Crawley because he hasn't got as many runs, but I think he can play. I'd leave (Rory) Burns, Crawley, Malan, Root, Stokes, Ollie Pope at six, Buttler at seven, Woakes at eight. Will that be a good enough eight to get big, big scores? I think it'd be a better chance than the seven I saw against New Zealand. They were very, very fragile," added Vaughan. (ANS)

Injured Williamson battles bio-bubble life without complaints

SOUTHAMPTON

EVEN as the New Zealand team reached Auckland to a rousing reception from the airport staff, public and media, the man who led them to the World Test Championship (WTC) title was not with the team. Kane Williamson, the New Zealand captain, has stayed back in England and won't return home till December after spending over eight months overseas thanks to a hectic schedule in bio-bubble life.

The 30-year-old batsman, who made 49 and 52 not out in the low-scoring WTC final, has been on tour since he arrived in India in early April for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021. Unlike players from other nations like Australia, Williamson, despite carrying an elbow injury and taking injections to overcome it, hasn't complained yet. Following the suspension of IPL 2021 on May 4, Williamson, pace bowler

Kyle Jamieson and spinner Mitchell Santner were left stranded before flying to Maldives and serving quarantine there. From Maldives they flew to England to join the other teammates arriving from New Zealand for the tour of England. Now having led them to the WTC title win, Williamson is staying back along with Jamieson, opener Devon Conway, and all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme for the T20 Blast. Williamson will follow the T20 Blast with a stint at the inaugural edition of The Hundred, beginning July 21, for Birmingham Phoenix.

New Zealand team coach Gary Stead has told New Zealand media that Williamson may have to miss some of the matches of The Hundred due to the troublesome elbow, which experienced pain during the WTC final and had forced him to sit out of the second Test against England in Edgbaston just before that.



BAD HOMBURG OPEN

Kerber seals final berth with win over Kvitova

FRANKFURT

GERMANY'S world number 26 Angelique Kerber overcame Czech Republic's world number 12 Petra Kvitova in a third-set tiebreak 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(3) to enter the final of the Bad Homburg Open here.

Kerber, the winner of three Grand Slam titles, including the Wimbledon in 2018, will take on Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic in the final on Saturday.

World number 76 Siniakova edged number eight seed Laura Siegemund of Germany, 7-5, 6-4 in the morning quarterfinals on Friday, before coming back hours later to dispatch number seven seed Sara Sorribes Tormo of Spain, 6-2, 6-4, and reach her maiden singles final of the year.

"I was really fighting until the end, and I was trying to believe that I can win the match and turn around the third set," Kerber told wtatennis.com after the match.

Medvedev one win away from maiden grass-court title

MALLORCA

TOP seed, Russia's Danil Medvedev, came back from a set down against Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain to win 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 at the Mallorca Championships and book a spot in his first tour-level grass-court final.

The world No. 2 Russian has lifted all 10 of his ATP Tour trophies on hard courts. He will get the chance to add a grass-court title when he takes on Sam Querrey of the United States in the final.

The 33-year-old Querrey fired 18 aces past Adrian Mannarino of France en route to a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

He saved the only break point he faced and won 97 per cent of points

behind his first serve to seal the victory in an hour and 10 minutes.

Medvedev, who is into his 18th career final, improved to 25-7 on the season with his semi-final win.

"I know that I can play good on grass," Medvedev said on Friday.

"Unfortunately we don't have that many tournaments, only one ATP 500 and one Grand Slam. It's going to be a special feeling (if I) win my first title on grass. I still don't have one on clay, even if I have one final. Adding these titles, especially on different surfaces, can help your confidence and it's just a great thing for your career," the Russian told atptour.com after the match.

Medvedev, who also won in Mar-

seille earlier in the season, relied on his big serves to bail him out of tricky situations. He fired 10 aces and won 81 per cent of points behind his first serves.

"It was not an easy match and it was in very hot conditions. I think we were both struggling physically in the third set. But I think it was a high-quality match. It was very important to start good in the sets; this is what I didn't manage to do in the first set. I had a lot of opportunities to try to come back, but he was better.

"This is where I was better in the second and third set. It was a tight battle, and I'm really happy with the second and especially the third set," he added. (ANS)





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