

From Monday, the government and private offices will open in Delhi with 50 per cent strength. At the same time the Metro services will operate as well with 50 per cent capacity.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said all markets and malls in Delhi are being reopened on the basis of odd-even formula. This means half the shops will remain open on one day and half the shops on alternate day from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



AMEESHA PATEL
@AMEESHA_PATEL
Quick Sunday run
to get some
errands done



Are you pregnant? It's time to know about Preeclampsia

Preeclampsia is a pregnancy-specific disorder indicated by hypertension which leads to proteinuria occurring after the 20th week of gestation. It is observed that Preeclampsia is often developed without any symptoms. However, regular monitoring of the blood pressure levels will help one stay cautious. Any blood pressure reading that exceeds 140/90 mmHg or greater recorded on two occasions, within a time interval of four hours, is considered abnormal. These can be the primary signs of Preeclampsia.

Other symptoms of the disorder includes severe headaches, discharge of protein in the urine (proteinuria) or other signs of kidney problems, abnormal pain in the upper abdomen – usually below the ribs on the right side, decreased urination, nausea or vomiting,

RESEARCH AND MEDICAL DISCOVERY SHOW THAT PREECLAMPSIA IS ONE OF THE FOUR BLOOD PRESSURE DISORDERS THAT CAN OCCUR DURING PREGNANCY

shortness of breath caused by fluid in the lungs.

Research and medical discovery show that Preeclampsia is one of the four blood pressure disorders that can occur during pregnancy. The others include Gestational hypertension, chronic hypertension, and chronic hypertension with superimposed Preeclampsia.

The causes for Preeclampsia include several factors. However, experts believe that it all begins with the placenta, an organ that nourishes the fetus during pregnancy. In women with Preeclampsia, the blood vessels are poorly developed or will not function

well. It will cause difficulty in sending blood to the placenta and leads to insufficient blood flow into the uterus.

This disorder in blood pressure may be due to chronic hypertension seen in the family. It can also occur in the first pregnancy and in some cases of new paternity where the pregnancy with a new partner increases the risk of Preeclampsia more than does a second or third pregnancy with the same partner. Sometimes Preeclampsia is seen in young women and women who are pregnant after the age of 35. The interval between pregnancies also has an impact on this. Conceiving in an interval less than two years or over ten

years apart ends up at higher risk of Preeclampsia. As much as one is aware of the situation, one also needs to take precautions to avoid Preeclampsia.

A few tips are as follows:

- Calcium supplements in the diet: A healthy diet routine with calcium supplements is advisory for pregnant women.
- Regular water intake: Drinking between 6-8 glasses of water a day is a good practice
- Regular exercises to stay fit
- Avoiding alcohol and caffeine intake
- Keeping feet elevated a few times a day
- Avoiding fried or processed food
- Excluding added salt from the diet

(Dr Gopi A, Director - Cardiology, Fortis Hospital, Cunningham Road)

Your Bollywood-inspired summer closet

We've survived comfort clothes and a zoom closet for over a year, but with summer in the air we can't help but ditch the lockdown wardrobe for some fashionable fun. A summer closet is all about bright colours and chic styles. If you've been religiously working out at home through quarantine, now is the time to flaunt your curves or abs. We searched through high street brands to help you get a celebrity look and make a splash in vibrant hues.

Deepika Padukone's monochromatic cool

Get street ready with Padukone in green. Deepika shows you how to wear hue from head-to-toe. A pastel wrap-around Jacquemus soft knit crop cardigan it is paired high-waist leather trousers in a jewel tone. Padukone finished the look with a pair of green Air Jordan Nike sneakers.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas's power dressing style

Nothing beats summer blues like a hint of yellow, or a lot of it. If you are not afraid of experimenting with bold colours, PeeCee's yellow skirt suit by Rowen Rose, worn at one of the promotional events for her movie "The White Tiger" is a must. The blazer with chunky black buttons and padded shoulders are great for those zoom conferences. She completes the look with golden hoops and a delicate golden choker.

Anushka Sharma's colour pop

Anushka Sharma proves happy girls are the prettiest, and nothing to brighten up that smile like a pop of colour. The leading actress shows us and how to carry off multiple bold colours in one go. For one of her shoots for a fashion glossy, Sharma teams and green halter top

with a pair of royal blue high-waisted trousers and sunny yellow sneakers

Jahnvi Kapoor's flirty and sporty style

Jahnvi's playful antics on social media keeps her fans hooked. The actress usually keeps her style casual and comfortable for her dance reels, workout routine and spoofs. In Los Angeles she wore a pretty lilac strappy top and lavender trousers, a summer staple for millennials.

Ananya Pandey's feminine chic avatar

Usually one to keep it girly and young, every now and then, Ananya Pandey takes it up a notch with something glamorous and sexy. Take cue from this young star and pick a bra top with a pair of figure hugging jeans to make a statement. Beach waves and accessories finish the look

Kriti Sanon's sultry vive

If you're lucky enough to have Kriti's slender and tall frame then you can carry off just about anything.

Get Kriti's glam look by pairing a nude cutout shirt with masculine fit trousers in sexy satin or silk for a look that works from dawn to dusk.

Sonakshi Sinha's traditional flair

Summer is all about easy breathable fabrics, flowing silhouettes and printed and woven ensembles. There's nothing like Indian kurta sets, cotton sharers and saris to keep you cool and looking fresh any time of the day. Pick from Sonakshi Sinha's block printed style with bell sleeves for a hint of quirky in your ethnic wear.

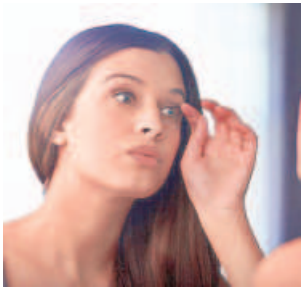


BEAUTY FUNDA

Will eyelashes grow back?

Like the hair on the rest of your body, your eyelashes can also fall out. Thankfully, they also grow back. It takes a couple of months for lashes to grow back under normal circumstances. However, your lashes don't typically all fall out at once, so you won't notice that they're in the process of growing back. Sometimes, lashes can fall out due to an underlying condition. If there's a medical issue causing your lashes to fall out, they may take longer to grow back. Sometimes, they won't grow back at all.

Causes of eyelash loss: Lashes fall out for a variety of reasons. Your eyelashes fall out naturally, of course like your hair but there are other causes for eyelash loss. **Irritation:** Allergies to cosmetics and other beauty products can cause irritation that leads to eyelash loss. Don't use products if they cause irritation around the eyes. Stop using them immediately. Infections can also cause irritation and eyelash loss. **Mental illness:** Trichotillomania is a psychological condition that causes a person to remove their eyelashes in response to stress.



NEWS ROUNDUP

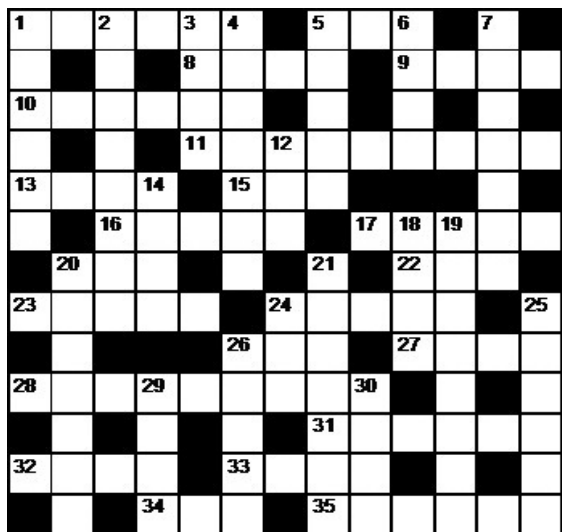
Mrunal Thakur: I never choose films thinking I will be a star

Actress Mrunal Thakur, who has the films "Toofan", "Jersey" and "Aankh Micholi" lined up, says that she has always taken projects which will help her survive longer in the industry.

The actress says that she has always focused on giving her best performance in every role. "I am glad that cinema is reaching a wider audience. There were people and filmmakers who asked me to do a couple of films in order for me to be famous. But I never choose my films thinking that I will be a star. I want to survive longer here. One thing that lasts longer is talent and performances," says Mrunal.

The actress adds that the medium has never really mattered to her. "No matter where my films come, they need to be good. If you ask me personally my job is just to be a part of the movie. That's what my dream is. Thanks to OTT, in the midst of a pandemic, as an artist if I can entertain then that is only through OTT," she says.

However, she does feel insecure due to the current situation. "There is a bit of insecurity also because of the time that we are living in. I am not apprehensive, I am just worried that a film should get the recognition it deserves. Things have slowed down and this has affected the entertainment industry," the actress added.



SOLUTION TO JUNE 5

CROSSWORD

Across

- Font embellishments (6)
- A booking for musicians (3)
- Volcanic discharge (4)
- Early riser (4)
- Taxi drivers (6)
- Reconciliation (9)
- Diva's song (4)
- At the stern (3)
- Cram (5)
- Wash (5)
- Which person ? (3)
- ___ Lanka (3)
- Burial vault (5)
- Spooky, macabre (5)
- Be mistaken (3)
- Gun shop purchase (4)
- A scheduled route of a trip (9)
- U.S. sharpshooter (6)
- Currency of Chile (4)
- An insult or blackening of

Down

- someone's character ? (4)
- Clothing etc. for a particular activity or situation (3)
- Transmitter (6)
- College's annual function (6)
- Trashy (8)
- Very small insect (4)
- Capital of New Mexico (5,2)
- Thin or emaciated (5)
- Dejected (4)
- Trachea branches (7)
- Not on ? (3)
- Over or above (4)
- A large continent (4)
- Quivered (8)
- Twisted or contorted in pain (7)
- Be containing iron (7)
- Age (3)
- Archer's supplier (6)
- German painter Max (5)
- Recess (4)
- Ready, to Shakespeare (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JUNE 5

Chocolate Ice cream Day

Vanilla is considered the most popular flavour of ice cream, but ever since the Italians froze hot chocolate in 1692, chocolate has been a close contender. The celebratory day itself was likely started by an ice cream manufacturer to encourage greater sales of the delightful dessert, but the question remains whether there was really any need to encourage people to eat more chocolate ice cream.

Chocolate ice cream is made by combining the cocoa powder with eggs, cream, vanilla, and sugar. The recipe is then frozen, and the more adventurous celebrant could consider making their own ice cream-based dessert in order to celebrate Chocolate Ice Cream Day, or simply open the freezer and grab any tub that is close to hand.

But what is it exactly about chocolate ice cream that we should be celebrating?

The US is the third-highest producer and consumer of the cold stuff in the world. Whilst the good old chocolate flavor may have been pipped to the post by vanilla, it is not any less worthy of being celebrated with its own day every year and is still in the top 5 rated ice cream flavors!

So, if you need a reason other than the fact that chocolate ice cream even exists, you have come to the right place! Well, if that is the case be prepared to eat your words or rather, ice cream! A firm favorite in America and of course, the rest of the world, ice cream is not just for those who are going through a breakup.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY
Ice Cream

Performance Grading Index: Punjab, Chandigarh in top 5

NEW DELHI

PUNJAB, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Kerala have occupied the highest grade (Grade A++) in Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20.

The information comes after the Centre on Sunday approved the release of the grading index for states and Union Territories (UTs) that catalyses transformational change in the field of school education.

The grading index helps the states and UTs to pinpoint the gaps and accordingly prioritise areas for intervention to en-

sure that the school education system is robust at every level.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' made the approval with a set of 70 parameters.

The PGI for states and the UTs was first published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18. The PGI 2019-20 is the third publication in this series.

The PGI exercise envisages that the index would propel states and UTs towards undertaking multi-pronged interventions that will bring about the much-desired optimal education outcomes.

Most of the states and UTs have improved their grade in



PGI 2019-20 compared to the earlier years.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have improved overall PGI score by 10 per cent that is 100 or more points. "Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Punjab have shown improvement by 10 per cent (8 points) or more in the PGI domain: Access," said a statement issued by the Ministry of Education. "As many as thirteen states and UTs have shown improvement by 10 per cent (15 points) or more in the PGI domain: Infrastructure and Fa-

cilities. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Odisha have shown improvement by 20 per cent or more." The Ministry said that Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Odisha have shown more than "10 per cent improvement in the PGI domain: Equity."

"Nineteen states and UTs have shown improvement by 10 per cent (36 points) or more in the PGI domain: Governance Process. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal have shown improvement by at least 20 per cent (72 points or more)."



Bride garlands groom, marries another

ETAH

IN A bizarre turn of events, two grooms reached the bride's residence on the day of the wedding. The bride garlanded one groom but ended up marrying the other groom. This incident took place in Siron village under the limits of Kotwali Dehat police circle in Etah district. The bride, after the marriage went to the home of the second groom while, furious over the incident, the first groom and his family members created ruckus and police had to intervene in the matter.

The police officials are now interrogating the girl's father and uncle after taking them into custody. The police have also arrested family members of the second groom and are investigating the matter. Senior police officials refused to comment on the matter saying that it was still under investigation.

Corona curfew lifted in all UP dists, except four



LUCKNOW

THE Uttar Pradesh government, on Sunday, lifted Covid-imposed curfew from all districts barring Lucknow, Meerut, Saharanpur and Gorakhpur, as active cases in these four districts are still above 600.

According to Additional Chief Secretary-Information Navneet

Sehgal the situation in these districts will be reviewed again and if the situation improves, a further decision will be taken.

Till Saturday, Lucknow had reported 1,121 active cases, Meerut had 1,248 active cases while Gorakhpur had 783 and Saharanpur 1,171 active cases.

The state government, on Saturday, announced relax-

ations in curfew in Bareilly and Bulandshahr districts from Monday. It allowed shops and markets outside the containment zones to open for five days a week.

The unlock process in UP began a week ago when the government lifted the curfew for 20 districts. It stated that the districts where active cases were

over 600 would remain under restrictions.

Over the last week, the cases have further declined in the state with overall active cases coming under 20,000. On Saturday, UP recorded 1,028 daily count while the recoveries were 4,346. So far, 21,151 people have succumbed to infectious disease.



IIM-Amritsar starts Executive MBA plan

CHANDIGARH

TO meet the challenges of the emerging business dynamics by grooming managers of the future, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Amritsar launched its new two-year Executive MBA program in a non-residential hybrid mode with an intake of 40 working professionals. The first batch of the EMBA program was inaugurated on Saturday by way of a virtual handshake between the students and the faculty.

Addressing the 40 working professionals of the first batch with job experience ranging from three to over 20 years, IIM Amritsar Director Nagaran Ramamoorthy said, "Our

institution will ensure that business leaders as well as accomplished alumni would endow the executives with expertise that would substantively benefit their current organisations."

He said the selection criteria for these executives working with prominent organisations in diverse sectors ranging from banking, financial services and insurance, IT and consulting to hospitality, retailing, and media and entertainment.

He motivated the students to dedicate themselves to learning as a continuous process, stressing that the rigour of the EMBA program would be the same as a regular MBA program.

Dera chief Gurmeet tests +ve for Covid-19



CHANDIGARH

DERA Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has tested positive for Covid-19. The controversial godman was on Sunday rushed to a private hospital in Gurugram from Sunaria jail in Haryana's Rohtak district, where he is serving a 20-year sentence on charges of rape and murder. On June 3, Singh had undergone some tests at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Rohtak after he complained of abdominal pain. He had refused to undergo

Covid test at PGIMS Rohtak.

The 53-year-old sect head of the Sirsa-headquartered Dera was taken to Gurugram's Medanta under heavy police escort for further tests on Sunday. A test at the hospital revealed he is Covid-positive.

Sunaria Jail Superintendent Sunil Sangwan told PTI over the phone that all tests related to Singh's condition could not be completed at PGIMS, Rohtak. When another top government hospital was approached in this regard, they said the tests were currently not being done due to the Covid-19 situation.

Later, it was suggested to the prison authorities that these tests could be done at Medanta Hospital. The permission for the same was granted, he said.

Among other tests, Singh had undergone an abdominal CT scan at PGIMS, Rohtak on Thursday.

Dalit woman pradhan abused in UP, made to sit on floor

MAHOBHA

A newly elected Dalit woman village pradhan in Uttar Pradesh has alleged that she was abused, forcefully evicted from her chair and made to sit on the floor by some local influential persons during her maiden meeting with the officials in Mahoba district.

The incident has been reported from Nathupura village under Kotwali police circle, where Savita Devi Ahirwar, 25, was elected as gram pradhan in the recently concluded panchayat polls. According to reports, Ahirwar was holding a meeting with officials in the Panchayat Bhawan on Wednesday in the presence of assistant development officer (ADO) Panchayat and block development officer (BDO) when a few influential persons of the village, including one Ramu Rajpoot, reached there and

started abusing her.

According to Savita, "I was having my first meeting with the officials when Ramu, Rupendra, Arjun, Ravindra and six unknown persons entered the room. Ramu soon started bullying me and asked me to follow his instructions instead of raising the problems of the villagers. When I refused to oblige, Ramu grabbed me by my hand and started using a casteist slur against me. He then forced me to leave the chair and sit on the floor." However, in the

FIR lodged by Savita, it is only mentioned she was forced to leave her chair by the accused, who grabbed her by her hand and hurled casteist abuses.

Additional SP Mahoba, R.K. Gautam, said, "The accused Ramu Rajpoot and his associates were booked for rioting, assault using criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty and under the SC/ST Act, Ramu has been arrested and further investigations are underway."



Main accused in Aligarh hooch tragedy held



ALIGARH

RISHI Sharma, the key accused in the Aligarh hooch tragedy which has claimed at least 35 lives, was arrested from near Bulandshahr border, early on Sunday morning.

Rishi Sharma carried a reward of Rs one lakh on his head.

Aligarh Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kalanidhi Naithani said, "In a major breakthrough in the hooch incident, key accused and Rs 1 lakh reward Rishi Sharma has been arrested from near Bulandshahr border. Earlier, the police had ar-

rested accused Vipin Yadav, who had Rs 50,000 reward on his head, and Rishi Sharma's brother Munish Sharma, carrying a bounty of Rs 25,000 on his head in this case."

The SSP said that so far, 17 FIRs have been lodged and 61 accused arrested in Aligarh over the deaths of people after consuming spurious liquor on May 28.

Multiple police teams have carried out investigation and searches in six states since the case came to light and a crackdown on the liquor mafia was also initiated.

Covid report mandatory for outpatients at SGPGIMS

LUCKNOW

THOUGH the Yogi Adityanath government allowed outpatient services to reopen at all government medical facilities from Friday, the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) will resume from Monday, but with a rider.

The SGPGIMS, in a statement, has said that consultation with the specialists will not be possible unless patients

and attendants come with a RTPCR/Trunat Covid-19 negative report.

OPD services will function from Monday to Saturday.

All patients and their attendants will have to maintain Covid-appropriate behaviour (wearing masks and maintaining social distancing) while visiting the OPD.

Officials said to cater to post-Covid complications of patients, a Post-Covid Clinic will also be started from Mon-

day in the SGPGIMS.

"The clinic will be run by a team of senior doctors who will give consultation to those post-Covid patients, who have been discharged from Rajdhani Corona Hospital, SGPGI and have been advised to consult in post-Covid clinic for related pulmonary, cardiac, endocrine or neurological problems. The clinic will also cater to post-Covid SGPGI healthcare workers and their family members who are referred by health care

workers surveillance committee," an official spokesperson said.

The post-Covid e-OPD will also function and patients can call at the dedicated number to consult the experts. Clinicians can also give an appointment to patients in case they feel the need.

Meanwhile, several patients waiting to avail OPD services, said that getting a Covid negative report was a cumbersome process and will further delay

outpatient consultations.

"Getting Covid negative report for the patient as well as the attendants will only add to inconvenience in the pandemic and make consultations even more difficult. If we are asked to report back for consultation after a fortnight, we will again require Covid negative reports," said Ram Kishore Agarwal, a septuagenarian who is an outpatient at the SGPGIMS and is being treated for a neurological disorder.



Vaccinating one-third of population only way to revive travel, tourism

It's time to come out of Covid gloom and see that the wheels of economy start moving again. This does not mean that the pandemic is over... things can change quickly and there are too many examples across the globe including our own country where things have gone wrong. We need to learn lessons and move ahead to put the economy back on track. All that is needed is to put policking even about vaccines and vaccination programme on back burner and speed up the process of ensuring that at least one third of the people are vaccinated in next couple of months.

US for example which had seen worst situation last year has vaccinated over one third of its population against COVID-19 and has reached a stage where pretty much people can give up wearing a mask under the latest guidelines from Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. Still large number of people there prefer to use

masks because of the benefits are too great to give up.

This is the lesson we need to learn so that we can have a successful live-in relationship with Corona without giving up on other things till it becomes endemic. This will help in reviving the travel and tourism sector which has been facing a tough time for over one year. Industry sources say that mandatory RT PCR test which is in force in many states and cities had led to cancellation of travel plans of many and most of the future bookings for flights and hotels have been cancelled. The rollout of vaccine gave some confidence to the industry that the situation may improve.

Even prior to vaccination, the travel economy was picking up slowly. People were preferring destinations like northern and eastern states and Maladives. The passenger demand on non metro routes was picking up. But the second

wave swept the country. Most of the states have imposed further lockdown and restrictions which has once again dampened the spirits of the traveller's.

If people follow COVID norms and go in for speedy vaccination, at least the domestic traffic can recover to pre COVID levels by the end of the year, industry experts say. As far as international traffic is concerned things will continue to witness a slump at least till early 2022.

This being the situation, it's time the Government of India pitches in and plays a crucial role to see that the domestic travel industry moves in the direction of revival. The GOI has of course announced Rs 15,000 crore refinance to encourage banks to lend to service sector and Rs 16,000 crore facility to MSMEs from SIDBI.

It said all contact services like hotels and restaurants; tourism-travel agents, tour operators and adventure heritage

facilities, aviation ancillary services, bus operators, etc are eligible to utilise this facility. The industry, however, wants the government to reduce GST on room tariffs which are over Rs 1,000 at least for a short period and lowering GST of 18% on the commission earned by tour operators and travel agents for providing certain services. Among other suggestions made by the industry are exemption of tax collection at source made while making payment to various hotels and airlines.

Hoteliers will have to come up with attractive schemes and offers to pull guests and increase occupancy levels. Increased usage of technology and reduction in human interface to ensure safety is also needed. While GOI should take all necessary measures to revive the industry, it is also important that the tourism sector focuses more on promoting hygienic and responsible form of tourism. Safety, health, hygiene and value for money should be watchwords.

If these measures are taken, the pent-up urge to travel will make people move out and explore the country with confidence and at least domestic tourism can be on path of revival.



IYR COLUMN
Krishna Rao IYR

For CS of a state, PM comes first, not CM

THE recent incident in West Bengal where the chief minister and chief secretary came late to a review of the Prime Minister and left in the middle and the subsequent action of government of India issuing notice to the chief secretary under the Disaster Management Act has drawn different opinions from some of the retired officers. There are a group of retired officers who find anything to do with Narendra Modi objectionable and question him on everything under the sun from Central Vista project to Lakshadweep administration. Naturally, here also they found fault with the Central government and its action subsequent to the incident. This group consists of retired officers of impeccable honesty, integrity and known for their high standards of administration, but have a strong left-leaning ideological thought process. Others part of this group are beneficiaries of previous regime both in terms of pre and post retirement assignments. So it is wrong to assume there are a group of neutral retired officers objectively reacting to these events and giving their opinions.

Having said that let me also disclose my own credentials before offering my views on the subject. I retired as chief secretary of Andhra Pradesh but I'm presently member of the Bharatiya Janata Party and am a believer in the ideology of the party.

It is not uncommon for collectors who hold their conferences to see some of the tahsildars turning up late for the meeting. Since he's already late and knows he committed a mistake, the tahsildar will be shivering, sweating and when questioned mumbles something to the affect that there was a traffic jam or some other problem somewhere because of which he got delayed. After a warning everything settles down and the review goes on. But when the Prime Minister of India comes to a state that too in the midst of a natural calamity for a review it's not like a collector's conference which happens once in a quarter or a month. He is visiting the state as the Prime Minister of the country and the appropriate protocols have to be followed both by the chief minister and the chief secretary. It is not a question of I got delayed because helicopter could not take off. It is expected that the concerned would be available well in advance so that the precious time of the Prime Minister is not wasted. Same is the case with the chief minister down the line and it is not expected of someone to keep the chief minister waiting either.

In this particular case it looks for political reasons the chief minister of West Bengal consciously decided to come late to the meeting and leave in between. But at least she could have been gracious enough to leave the chief secretary to be available on time and attend the meeting. When this grace is missing from the chief minister the chief secretary is presented with a difficult choice to make. After all administration is about making difficult choices some times. Here the first thing he has to remember is he is a member of the all India service. Even if he belongs to a particular cadre he still is an all India service officer and as per the protocol it is very clear the Prime Minister comes before the chief minister. He either should have persuaded the chief minister since it is being presented that he has the best of relations with the chief minister or if she persisted with her intransigence and requested her to give it in writing or should have made the decision of attending the Prime Minister's review and be prepared to face the consequences. It is here the chief secretary has definitely erred. That his presence with the chief minister was required to implement her decisions and follow them up is not an answer for his failure to attend the review meeting on a natural calamity in his own home state by the Prime Minister of the country.

The subsequent events of first notice under the service rules and then under the Disaster Management Act it would better be left to the competent courts to decide who alone have jurisdiction to adjudicate on these matters. Views of retired Cabinet secretary or secretary are neither here nor there. Let us not forget the Disaster Management Act came into play after a smart operation of retirement and re-employment done to prevent the operation of the service rules.

(The author is former chief secretary of Andhra Pradesh)

SOLAR WITH STANDALONE PUMP STORAGE IS THE WAY FORWARD



THE WAY AHEAD
Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala

THE entire world is facing increasing onslaught of hurricanes, floods, droughts and diseases like Covid-19. These appear to be a result of man's increasing intrusion upon the environment. One major source of this intrusion is the production of electricity. Large areas of forests are being cut for extracting coal; and flows of the rivers is being obstructed for the generation of hydropower. At the same time we need to generate electricity. Electricity consumption is often considered to be a measure of our standard of living. Therefore, we need to adopt an environment-friendly method of electricity generation.

The main sources of electricity generation in India are thermal power made from coal, hydro power made from the rivers and solar power mainly made in desert-like areas of Rajasthan and the Deccan. The difficulty with thermal is that we have limited sources of coal. Some estimates suggest it is sufficient only for 150 years. And the quality continued to deteriorate as more coal is extracted. We have to import coal in large quantities. In doing so we are transferring the negative impact of deforestation from India to Australia, but that is coming back to haunt us in the form of global warming. Further, about 900 grams of carbon is emitted in the production of one unit of electricity which adds hugely to global warming.

The second source of electricity is hydropower. It is generally considered to be clean because there is virtually nil carbon emission during production. However, the carbon emitted in the production of cement and steel used in the construction of hydropower projects is about 300 grams. Thus, the net saving of carbon emission is about 600 grams per unit which is substantial. However, hydropower leads to other environmental impacts such as drying of water sources and increased incidences of landslides due to the explosives used in making of tunnels; the harm to aquatic biodiversity because fishes are not able to migrate upstream because of the barrages;

the erosion of our coasts because large dams arrest the sediments being carried by our rivers and deprive our coastal areas of the sediments that hold the land mass against the sea; and the deterioration of water quality of the rivers because it hits the blades of the turbines and the beneficial life forms in the water are damaged. Thus both thermal and hydro have problems and cannot provide a sustainable source of electricity to us.

A possible path forward is to promote solar power. The government has taken steps to increase the production of solar electricity and the same is increasing rapidly. More importantly, the cost of solar electricity today is about Rs 3 per unit against Rs 6 per unit for thermal and Rs 8 per unit for hydropower. The environmental impacts of solar power are also less. However, solar electricity is made only during the day. It is also unstable due to the movement of clouds that affects the generation. Therefore, we are unable to meet our requirements of electricity during the morning, evening and night from solar power.

A way out is to make "standalone" Pump Storage Electricity Plants. Two reservoirs are made at a higher- and lower elevation in these. The water is pumped from the lower- to the higher reservoir during the daytime when solar power is available. The water is released from the higher- to the lower reservoir through the turbines in the night when the electricity is needed. In this way, daytime electricity is converted into night-time electricity.

The existing hydroelectric projects can be converted into pump storage schemes. For example, Koteswar hydroelectric project below Tehri Dam has been made to work as a pump storage. Water is pumped from the river to the Tehri Reservoir during the day and the same quantity of water is additionally released from the Tehri reservoir during the night. The cost of converting daytime electricity to night-time electricity from such hydropower-cum-pump storage projects is merely 40 paise per unit according to S D Dubey of Central Electricity Authority. Thus daytime solar power can be converted to night-time solar power and made available at a cost of about Rs 3.50 per unit which is much cheaper than thermal and hydro. However, we do not escape the environ-



A possible path forward is to promote solar power. The government has taken steps to increase the production of solar electricity and the same is increasing rapidly. More importantly, the cost of solar electricity today is about Rs 3 per unit against Rs 6 per unit for thermal and Rs 8 per unit for hydropower

mental effects of hydropower in this arrangement. The project continues to obstruct the path of the river leading to the effects mentioned above.

The environmentally benign alternative is to make standalone pump storage project. In such projects two reservoirs are made at a location where they do not obstruct the path of the river. Separate turbines are established. The infrastructure of the existing hydropower project is not used. As a result the cost of conversion of daytime electricity into nighttime electricity will be about Rs 3 per unit in my estimate. A combination of solar and standalone pump storage can then provide us daytime electricity at Rs 3 from solar plants directly and nighttime electricity at Rs 6 after conversion leading to an average cost of solar electricity of about Rs 4.50 per unit. That is till significantly lower than the thermal electricity at Rs 6 per unit and hydropower at Rs 8 per unit. We will also be saved from the carbon emissions from thermal and environmental impacts of hydropower.

This arrangement can also help us man-

age the fluctuations in the demand of electricity. The great advantage of hydropower is that it can be switched on and off at the press of a button. Thus, grid managers ask hydropower projects to shut down when there is a sudden reduction in demand; and to start production when there is sudden increase in the demand. Last year Prime Minister Modi had asked the countrymen to switch off the lights for 10 minutes. That led to a sudden drop in the demand for electricity. The grid cannot handle this. It leads to collapse if electricity continues to be produced but is not evacuated from the grid. In such situations the hydropower projects are asked to switch off. The solar-cum-standalone pumps storage combination can provide such grid stability also. We cannot escape the wrath of nature if we continue to promote thermal and hydropower. The need of the hour is to freeze the construction of all new thermal and hydropower projects and move to solar-cum-standalone pump storage projects.

(The author is former professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)

Believed to be Indians, 17 languishing in Pak jails

RAJNISH SINGH

BELIEVED to be Indian nationals, Gullo Jan, Naqaya, Hasina and Ajmeera are among 17 "mentally unsound persons" who are still lodged in Pakistani jails as they have not been able to give any other particulars about themselves except their names.

Of these 17 persons, four are women and the remaining are men aged between 25 to 60 years.

Due to their mentally unsound condition, the names of parents or relatives of these 17 persons as well as their address in India is yet to be ascertained, resulting in their incarceration in jails in Pakistan.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has released photographs of these individuals in an "important announcement". They have been shared with all states and Union Territories (UTs) to circulate in their regions to get inputs about these persons.

In the announcement, it is mentioned that the persons who can identify these 17 persons should give the information to Under Secretary (Foreigners) in the Ministry of Home Affairs; home department of state governments or UT administration concerned; or Director General of Police or Inspector General of Police or Commissioner of Police of state government and UT concerned.

"Photographs of 17 mentally unsound persons, believed to be Indian nationals, who are lodged in jails in Pakistan, are attached. These persons have not been able to disclose any other particulars about them including the names of their parents or relatives, address in India, etc. due to their mentally unsound condition," the announcement mentions.

Indians lodged in Pakistani jails and vice versa is not a new phenomenon, but the two countries share the list of their prisoners twice every year.

Pakistan in January this year handed over a list of 319 Indian prisoners including 49 civilians and 270 fishermen lodged in the country's jails to the High Commission of India as part of a bilateral agreement.

The 17 mentally unsound persons are in the list of those people who are believed to be Indians, said a source.

Besides, the four women the 13 men lodged in the Pakistani jails have been identified as Sonu Singh, Surinder Mahto, Prahlad Singh, Silrof Salim, Birju, Raju, Bipla, Roopi Pal, Panwasi Lal, Raju, Shyam Sunder, Ramesh and Raju Roy. As per the Foreign Office (FO), the step is consistent with the provisions of the Consular Access Agreement between the two countries signed on May 21, 2008.

The two countries under the agreement are required to exchange lists of prisoners in each other's custody twice a year, on January 1 and July 1. Despite recurrent tension over the years, the two countries have been exchanging the lists of prisoners without any break.

The exchange of information comes despite the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan. The relationship dipped after India's war planes pounded a terrorist training camp deep inside Pakistan on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack carried out by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group in which 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers were killed.

Tensions between the two nations spiked further after New Delhi abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories.

Pakistan downgraded its diplomatic relations with India and expelled the Indian High Commissioner following the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

LETTERS

Free treatment offer to doctor by AP govt praiseworthy

IT'S heartening to know that Andhra Pradesh government has come forward to bear the entire treatment expenses of a doctor who had contracted Covid infection while he was on Covid duty and required lung transplantation, which costs one and a half crore rupees. The government has also stated that all the Covid warriors will get free treatment hereafter. The Central government should take a cue from this and extend fee treatment to all frontline workers if they fall victims to Covid while discharging their duties. Apart from a pat on their back, providing insurance coverage and the assurance of free treatment will boost the morale of healthcare workers. In the bleak scenario where more than thousand doctors succumbed to the virus and many more frontline warriors fell ill across India, all of them deserve better support, in addition to appreciation.

Dr. D.V.G.Sankararao,
Prof. Of Anaesthesiology, MIMS,
Nellimarla, Vizianagaram

Urgent need for US Consulate office in Bengaluru

Karnataka has witnessed a steady rise in number of people visiting the United States of America in recent years. The US visa applicants from the State are compelled to visit its Consulate General offices located in Chennai or Hyderabad. Travelling to Chennai and Hyderabad for US visas is a huge inconvenience to people of Karnataka. Several countries like Canada, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Surinam, Brazil, France,

Mexico, Finland, Ireland, Peru, Japan, UK, etc., have Consulate offices in Bengaluru. If the US considers setting up of its Consulate General office in Bengaluru, it would be a huge relief for a large number of business professionals, tourists and students from various parts of Karnataka.

Varun Dambal
Bangalore

Why Twitter is hurting India?

ON June 5, Twitter removed the blue badge from the account of India's Vice President. It had also removed the blue tick of some RSS leaders. Must the Vice President of the country be treated this way? This is a very serious issue and Twitter must answer for its action though it later restored the V-P's account.

It claims to be the protector of the right to freedom of speech. But it doesn't want to protect the privacy of its users according to the new social media rules. Why is not Twitter willing to do so? Will someone's privacy or constitutional rights be hurt? No, they will be taken care of. It terms a tweet as "manipulated" but doesn't answer to the Delhi Police the reason behind it. It removes all tweets which included the term "Singapore variant" or "Wuhan virus" when the respective governments tell it to do so. But when the Indian government does the same, why doesn't Twitter remove the tweets containing "Indian variant"? These double standards of Twitter can be harmful to the nation. Twitter is just a platform to express our thinking. Twitter should remember that it needs India, not the other way round.

Kartikey Upadhyay, Vadodara

Death of nine lions in TN zoo raises concerns

It was sad news that nine lions in the Vandalur Zoo on the outskirts of Chennai tested positive for SARS CoV-

Unfair judgment

Many credible voices have raised apprehensions of the effects of 5G on human and animal life. The Delhi HC could have dismissed the petition, if it did not find merit without the Rs. 20 lakh fine. It appears that the judges were peeved with the constant disruptions during the virtual hearing. But to call it a publicity stunt after imposing the fine was like adding insult to injury.

Anthony Henriques, Mumbai

thehansreader@gmail.com

Telangana's free corona vaccination likely to hit a roadblock

PATAN AFZAL BABU
HYDERABAD

FREE corona vaccination to all above 18 years announced by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is likely to hit a roadblock in Telangana as the government is grappling with severe shortage of vaccines.

Thanks to the Union government's mandated order to the vaccine production companies to supply only 25 per cent of the total manufactured vaccines to the States, the TS government was forced to take up the vaccination of targeted groups only with the available limited vaccine stocks.

While the private hospitals already intensified vaccination by collecting hefty fee from citizens, the TS government has been struggling hard to admin-

■ Vaccine stocks fast drying up in the State
■ Present stocks will only meet the demand of inoculating the high risk groups

■ It will take at least a year for the State to complete vaccination for its population of 4 crore people

ister second dose to more than 35 lakh citizens above 45 years who have already taken the first jab.

The officials of state Health Department told The Hans India that the available vaccine stocks would meet only the demand for the inoculation of high risk groups such as auto and cab drivers, street vendors etc.

Though the government launched vaccination for all with the high hopes of completing the task by September or October this year, the officials said

that it would take at least one year till June 2022, to cover 4 crore population if the issue of shortage of vaccines is not addressed.

"The Union government was procuring 50 per cent of total vaccine production and distributing to the States based on its own priority. The Telangana has been given a raw deal," a senior official said, informing that so far only 66.50 lakh doses were given to Telangana. The demand for vaccines is double in Telangana to cover the targeted

groups mainly frontline workers, high risk groups and health-care workers.

Officials said that it requires one crore vaccine doses to cover all targeted groups. Another 3 crore doses are required to complete the vaccination for all above 18 years. The private hospitals have been permitted to buy 25 per cent of the vaccine produced, which they have been administering by collecting more than Rs 1,000 per dose in the State.

"A four-member family will have to shell out Rs 10,000 to get the two doses of vaccine and it is huge burden for lower middle class families in the crisis time," the officials said, adding that unless the Centre increases vaccine quota, the States would not move fast in the corona vaccination programme.

'RBS to all farmers registered on Dharani portal, from June 15'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ALL eligible farmers, who got pattadar passbooks till June 10 and their names entered into Dharani Portal by the CCLA, will get the funds of Rythu Bandhu Scheme (RBS) into their accounts. And, the State government has decided to disburse the RBS funds into the farmers' accounts from June 15. Telangana State Agriculture Minister S Niranjana Reddy on Sunday said that steps have been taken to consider the IFSC Codes of the banks merged into other banks to ensure that the RBS funds are deposited into the farmers' accounts. For this, the Agriculture Extension Officers were asked to collect the details of the farmers, who got their pattadar passbooks for the first time before June 10. The farmers can contact the local Mandal Extension Officers and hand over the details of bank account, pattadar passbook, Aadhar card number.

The Minister asked the farmers not to worry about receiving RBS funds on account of a change in banks IFSC codes as steps were taken to address the issue.



AVOPA members distributing essential items to Covid affected people in Shadnagar constituency on Sunday

AVOPA distributes essentials to Covid affected people

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

AVOPA (Arya Vysya Officials and Professionals Association) of Shadnagar branch along with donors distributed essential items to poor people, who were affected with Covid-19, in Shadnagar constituency on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, AVOPA vice-president MVS Suresh said that they will always come forward to support and help people in need. "Covid pandemic has affected many families in the constituency and the poor were suffering without food and other essentials. After seeing their plight, we are distributing essential items to the needy," he added. Suresh urged the people to strictly follow lockdown norms and not to venture out of their house. AVOPA general secretary Kalva Manikam, treasurer Raghavendar, Arya Vysya Advisory Committee members Yamsani Srinivasulu, Peddi Rammohan, district AVOPA convener Pendyala Jagadishwar, AVOPA president Gudipally Venkataramana, Vasavi Club regional chairman V Kumar, Neela Ravinder, Ageeru Shekar and others were present.

12 kg heroin seized at RGIA

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) officials detained two women passengers at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport who were carrying heroin. The officials recovered about 12 kg the substance, worth Rs 78 crore, from their checked in baggage.

On Saturday, officers of DRI intercepted a Ugandan lady passenger when she came to RGIA to collect her missing baggage. She had come to Hyderabad from Zimbabwe via Johannesburg and Doha a few days before. The baggage was examined and found to have concealed on the sides. When the officials checked her baggage, they found the powder, recovered and tested. It tested positive for the presence of heroin. The drug was seized and the person was arrested under the provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Similarly on Sunday, the DRI officials intercepted a Zambian woman passenger identified as Makumba Karol. Karol flew from Zambia via Johannesburg and Doha. The detailed examination



The heroin seized at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad

■ The seized drug is worth Rs 78 crore
■ A Ugandan woman and another from Zambia are arrested and booked under NDPS Act

of her baggage resulted in recovery of white powder from beneath the piperolls which was brought in the baggage and the

substance tested positive for heroin. The drug was seized and she was arrested under the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985.

AICTE new academic calendar gives jitters to engg institutions

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has come up with a new academic schedule for the academic year 2021-22 amidst the ongoing uncertainties on the reopening of colleges and conducting examinations for the academic year 2020-21.

The AICTE new academic calendar says that the colleges have to complete the first round of counselling and admission of allotment of seats by August 31, and commence classes for the existing students from September 1.

Similarly, the second round of counselling for admission and allotment of seats have to be completed by September 9, cancellation of seats of technical courses with full fee refund by September 10, and the last date for admission of students in the first year against vacant seats shall be September 15, besides, the commencement of classes for the newly-admitted

- The colleges are yet to complete the academic year works of 2020-21
- JNTU-H to use summer holidays for completion of final year examinations by the first week of July

first-year students of the technical courses.

That apart, the last date for the lateral entry admissions into the second year should be completed by September 20.

Against this backdrop, the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTU-H), and other state universities with affiliated engineering and management colleges have only two months to complete the academic year 2020-21. This includes completion of the syllabus and completion of year-end semester examinations.

Speaking to The Hans India, a senior official from the JNTU-H said that earlier the university had announced the examination schedules. But, the same along with the academic activity has been postponed following the State government's di-

rections on account of the second wave of Covid.

This had a compounding effect on the universities academic activity. Because, the last academic year was started with delay due to the Covid. The closure of the university and colleges in February had further caused the disruption.

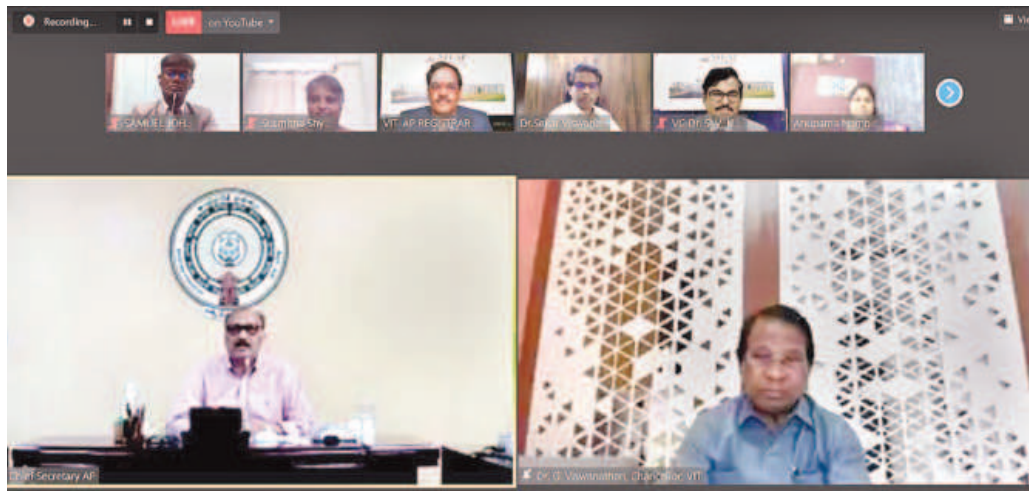
"However, currently, our target is to complete the syllabus and conduct the final year examinations of all the courses maximum by the first week of July and issue certificate for the same by the end of July. Because, any delay would hurt the final year students going for higher education," the official said.

For this, as the students are already attending online classes, there are no summer holidays announced by the university this year. Instead, this

time would be used to make up for the loss of time caused and to ensure that the final year students complete their examinations on time.

"Further, We hope that the State government is expected to take a decision on June 9 on the issue. The university wishes to complete the final year examinations by the end of June or the first week of July." Similarly, reports received suggest that the autonomous colleges have also been completed the process within a couple of weeks difference from that of the JNTU-H schedule.

When contacted sources in the Telangana State Technical Education Department said, the issue of commencement of the academic year 2021-22 and conducting the TS EAMCET-2021 will be reviewed at a high-level meeting scheduled within next week and a decision will be taken considering the current Covid situation and other inputs from the medical and health department.



Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das taking part in the University Day celebrations of VIT-AP university

Students told to work hard to become technopreneurs

- VIT-AP varsity celebrates University Day
- Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das lauds VIT for its quality teaching and innovative technologies to make future generation knowledgeable and competent enough to face global competition

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das stressed that students should come up with new ideas and become technopreneurs with start-up companies.

Addressing as chief guest at the VIT-AP University celebrated its fourth University Day on a colourful note virtually on Sunday, he appreciated the VIT for its quality teaching and innovative techniques to make future generation knowledgeable and competent enough to face global competition.

He pointed out that despite the ongoing pandemic,

unhindered education has been imparted to the extent that the first graduating batch of students achieved a total of 527 placements offer with 219 Super Dream and Dream offers. Dr G Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor VIT, said that students are the future of the country and expressed his happiness that in a short span VIT-AP has provided world-class infrastructure for the 4,728 students from 28 States and six countries and faculty from 17 States and foreign countries along with 65 clubs and chapters to keep students thoughtful and resourceful in attaining the practical knowledge and creating holistic education even though the last year was done virtually. Sekar Viswanathan, Vice-President, VIT-AP University, said that skilled youth with ethics and values is important for the development and the progress of the nation. Students, researchers, professors and staff were awarded for their performances. In all, 71 academic awards, 13 student achievement awards, 17 awards

to faculty, six awards to staff and appreciation certificates in academic, research, co-curricular and special achievements were given. Dr Sandhya Pentareddy, Executive Director, VIT-AP University, called upon the students, staff and faculty to work with heart and soul to achieve happiness in work and life as well. This takes them to excellence in whatever they do, she said. Dr SV Kota Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, VIT-AP University, said that during the last four years the university has been able to expand connections through 20 MoUs with a foreign university and Industry tie-ups along with best in class infrastructure. "These collaborations from all the schools with various partners help us understand the need of the industry and also give students the required exposure to subjects that are the need of the present and immediate future," he said. Dr C L V Sivakumar, Registrar, Dr Anupama Namburu, Asst. Director-Student Welfare, Faculty, students and staff were also virtually present.

AP logs 8,976 cases, 90 deaths in 24 hrs

Active cases go down to 1,23,466

Death toll rises to 11,466

AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh reported 8,976 fresh cases of coronavirus, 13,568 recoveries and 90 deaths in 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday.

Chittoor district crossed the two-lakh total cases mark, the second behind East Godavari in the State. The latest bulletin said the total positive cases in the State rose to 17.58 lakh, recoveries to 16,23,447 and toll 11,466 so far.

The number of active cases declined further to 1,23,426, it said.

In 24 hours East Godavari added 1,669, Chittoor 1,232 and Anantapur 995 fresh infections. Chittoor's total Covid-19 case count now stood at 2,00,368, second to East Godavari's 2,38,702. Chittoor, however, has the highest toll of 1,376 in the State. Its active caseload is now 16,979 after 1,82,013 recoveries.

The remaining 10 districts reported less than 800 new cases each, with Vizianagaram contributing the lowest 298 in a day.

Chittoor had 12 fresh Covid-19 fatalities, West Godavari nine, Anantapur, Guntur, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram eight each, Prakasam seven, East Godavari, Kurnool and SPS Nellore six each, Visakhapatnam and Krishna five each and Kadapa two in 24 hours.

ANANDAIAH'S CONCOCTION

Sesritha Technologies lodges complaint against Somireddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

A police case has been registered at Krishnapatnam police station on Sunday on the comments made by senior TDP leader and former Minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy against Nellore-based Sesritha Technologies which allegedly developed a website for distribution of Anandaiah's herbal medicine. Managing Director of Sesritha Technologies, Narmada Reddy, addressing the media in the city on Sunday said that they had

lodged a complaint on Saturday with the police against Somireddy for misinterpretation of facts, stealing data from the website and propagating false information to the people. Police booked cases under 379, 468 IPC and also under IT Act against Somireddy.

Narmada Reddy admitted that they had developed a website for supporting the efforts of Anandaiah for distributing the medicine online and were planning to gift it to him. But opposition TDP leader Chandramohan Reddy resorted to false propaganda on the

Alleges that the senior TDP leader has stolen data from their website and was spreading false information to people



Narmada Reddy, MD of Sesritha Technologies

issue tarnishing the image of their company, he added. He also said there has been no relationship between Sarvepalli legislator Govardhan Reddy and Sesritha Technologies.

Seer takes part in Hanuman Jayanti celebrations

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

THE pontiff of Pushpagiri Mutt Vidya Shankara Bharati Swami said the worship of Lord Anjaneya with abhishekam and pujas brings peace, health and prosperity to people.

He participated in the third day festivities of Hanuman Jayanti being organised at Akashaganga and lauded the TTD for its Akhanda Sundarakanda Parayanam for the welfare of humanity during the Covid pandemic.

Speaking to the media later, he said puranic evidence had conclusively displayed that Anjana Devi had performed penance at Anjanadri and begotten Anjaneya.

TTD Additional EO A V Dharma Reddy, Vice-Chancel-

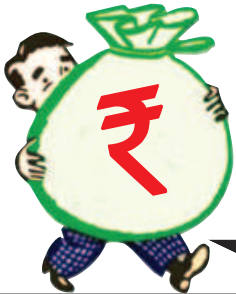


Pontiff of Pushpagiri Mutt Vidya Shankara Bharati Swami along with TTD Additional EO A V Dharma Reddy, National Sanskrit University (NSU) V-C Prof V Muralidhara Sharma and others at the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations in Tirumala on Sunday

lor of National Sanskrit University (NSU) Prof V Muralidhara Sharma, TTD Vaikhanasa

Agama advisor Mohana Rangacharyulu and others were present.

“You get recessions, you have stock market declines. If you don’t understand that’s going to happen, then you’re not ready, you won’t do well in the markets”
- Peter Lynch



HANS INVEST

Stocks.MFs.Bonds.Commodities



Vijaya Diagnostic Centre to raise funds via IPO

NEW DELHI: Vijaya Diagnostic Centre, a healthcare chain, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial share-sale.

The initial public offer (IPO) is entirely an offer for sale of 35,688,064 equity shares by the promoters, Dr S Surendranath Reddy and investors Karakoram Ltd and Kedaara Capital Alternative Investment Fund, according to its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

The initial share-sale will see stake dilution of 35 per cent by promoter and existing shareholders.

Kedaara Capital-backed Vijaya Diagnostic Centre offers one-stop solution for pathology and radiology testing services to customers through its extensive network, which consists of 80 diagnostic centres and 11 reference laboratories across 13 cities and towns in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and the National Capital Region and Kolkata.

For the financial year ended March 2021, the company posted a profit of Rs 84.91 crore compared to Rs 62.5 crore in the preceding fiscal. Its total income rose to Rs 388.59 crore from Rs 354.18 crore.

ICICI Securities, Edelweiss Financial Services and Kotak Mahindra Capital Company have been appointed as investment bankers for advising the company on its IPO.



Covid trend, monsoon progress to drive mkt

On the global front, weaker-than-expected US jobs data released on Friday to ease concerns over money tightening by Fed Reserve

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

buoyed by the RBI’s continued accommodative stance, positive global cues, declining Covid cases and reopening of the economy; markets ended in the green for the third consecutive week. Benchmark indices are at all-time highs. Top-10 most valued companies are Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

The Sensex closed the week above 52,000 mark for the first time, rising 677.17 points or 1.32 percent to 52,100.05, while the Nifty rallied 234.60 points or 1.52 percent to 15,670.25. The broader markets outperformed the benchmark indices with the BSE Midcap index gaining nearly 4 percent and Smallcap index up by 3.3 percent. The rally between the years 2018 and 2020 was largely driven by largecaps and the fall was ferocious among smallcaps, which were down by 80-90 percent. Fast forward to 2021 - small & midcaps are playing catch-up.

FIIIs have infused close to Rs 8,000 crore into Indian equities in the first four trading sessions of June as risk-on sentiment improved amid rapidly falling new Covid cases and robust corporate earnings. The inflow comes following a net withdrawal of Rs 2,954 crore in May and Rs 9,659 crore in April. Change of FIIIs mood clearly visible, say observers. With the announcement of unlocking in a staggered manner by the various States, there is the hope of an increase in pent-up demand in some pockets of the economy. Unlocked trade in the markets to gain further momentum, say observers.

The Reserve Bank of India on June 4 kept key policy rates unchanged citing persisting uncertainties on the economic front due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The

RBI also downgraded the GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 9.5 percent compared with 10.5 percent earlier. GST revenue in May amounted to Rs 1,02,709 crore as several States imposed curbs due to the second wave of the pandemic, down from April’s record Rs 1.41 lakh crore. It was 65 per cent higher than Rs 62,009 crore in the year earlier, when the lockdown was in place. Observers say that the numbers were higher than expected and pointed to the economy getting back on track. The data signals that the effect of the curbs hasn’t been as harsh as estimated.

IMD has predicted a normal monsoon this year. GAIL India, Union Bank of India, Central Bank of India, MRF, Engineers India, Petronet LNG, Bata India, SAIL, BHEL, DLF, Sun TV Network, CARE Ratings, JK Cement, and Sobha will release their quarterly

■ **Moschip Technologies Limited**, formerly Moschip Semiconductor Technology Limited, is a fabless semiconductor company and Internet of Things/Everything (IoT/E) focused company. The company’s principal activity includes software development and designing. The Company is engaged in the business of development and manufacturing of System on Chip (SOC) technologies.

The company focuses on providing value added services in very-large-scale integration (VLSI) design, application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), software development and development system on a chip (SOC)



earnings next week. A prolonged period of low volatility is often followed by highly volatile periods. This may cause the market to either consolidate or see measured corrective move at higher lev-

STOCK PICKS

for aerospace and defense, consumer and industrial applications and Internet of Things/Everything (IoT/E) products and services across various industries.

Why we are recommending

1. MosChip’s indigenous asset monitoring platform – GeoHEMS for real time monitoring and control of moving and non-moving assets is being adopted by multiple global OEMs. It is a solution for performance, condition, anomaly detection, preventive / predictive maintenance and analysis. With larger adoptions in IoT segment security

els. This is one of the major things that market participants will need to guard against in the coming weeks. Near term direction of the market will be guided by Covid-19 trends, pace of vaccination, progress of monsoon, macroeconomic data like IIP numbers and global factors.

On the global front, weaker-than-expected US jobs data released on Friday would ease concerns over money tightening by the US Federal Reserve. A cautiously positive view is advised for the week ahead.

Futures & options /sector watch

With the benchmark index Nifty moving into uncharted territory, surge in speculative volumes was seen in the derivative segment. The first week of the new series witnessed maximum Call open interest at 15,700 strike, followed by 16,000 and 15,800

vulnerabilities are expected to grow and the solution is future proof with highest level of security of TLS 1.2 implementations.

2. Equity Shares were allotted pursuant to conversion of Equal Number of warrants on preferential basis at a price of Rs.45 in 2019. Market players expect the share price to cross this level in next few months.

Buy between Rs30-32 for target price of Rs60-65 in twelve months. Stop loss should be at Rs27. Risk / Reward Ratio is 1:9. Management restructuring. Possible very good performance in next couple of quarters. Good high risk high reward counter.

strike; and the maximum Put open interest at 15,500 strike, followed by 15,000 and 15,600 strikes. Call writing was seen at 15,800 strike, followed by 15,700 and 16,300 strikes with Call unwinding at 15,600, 15,200 and 15,400 strikes. Put writing was seen at 15,500, 14,900 and 15,400 strikes with hardly any Put unwinding. The Implied Volatility (IV) of calls closed at 13.45 per cent while that for put options closed at 14.85 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 15.75 per cent, a 17 month low. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.67.

The volatility has consistently been declining, hitting the lowest levels since February 2020, largely due to declining Covid risk with significant fall in daily infections. Experts feel this is positive sign for bulls but also sends some caution signal given the significant fall in volatility. Option data indicated that the Nifty could see a trading range of 15,000 to 16,000 levels in coming sessions. Punters expect stock specific action rather than any sharp upside in index. Sectorally, some profit booking was seen in Banking, IT, Pharma and Metal counters.

With IMD predicting a good to better monsoon, companies from specialty chemicals or fertilisers related sectors, tractors, consumer names like auto are expected to do well this year say industry watchers. Tractor and two-wheeler manufacturers like Mahindra & Mahindra, Escorts, Hero Motocorp and Bajaj Auto will be big beneficiaries. Stock futures looking good are BHEL, HDFC Bank, Hero Motocorp, Tata Motors, Voltas and Zee Entertainment. Stock futures looking weak are Aurbindo Pharma, ITC, CUB, ICICIGI, Powergrid and Mphasis.

(The author is a stock market expert. He is former vice chairman of AP Planning Board)



K Naresh Kumar

RIGHT INVESTMENTS KEY TO YOUR WEALTH’S IMMUNITY

The pandemic has impacted most of us directly or indirectly, especially during the second wave. We’ve scrambled our resources to get ourselves, our loved ones or known people to ensure get a treatment for the infection through whichever possible ways.

It’s said that the only way to face this virus outbreak is through immunity. So, the best way now is to be inoculated with any of the available vaccines or the other extreme is through infection itself, a rather painful option.

The genesis of this article is a discussion with a friend about the lesson this episode has taught us on life and investing. Let’s dwell a little further: How do we maintain good health; would that guarantee against contracting any diseases and ultimately dodging death? Let’s investigate the aspects of what defines a good health. Most of the times, its relative. For instance, an elderly person of say age 70 taking care of his chores without any external support could be considered healthy in comparison to someone being monitored constantly.

Drawing parallel in investing, a good investment isn’t always the one which provides with great returns but the one which helps one achieve the defined goals or objectives. So,

for someone looking at preserving the capital in a falling interest rate scenario manages to beat a bank return then the vehicle chosen is certainly a good one.

What else constitutes a sound health. A decent appetite, good digestion, receptive motor & sensory system and free of any diseases. As the age progresses, very few people manage to maintain the above qualities either due to wear & tear or due to accumulated bad actions (chronic issues). The only insurance is the consistent habits with regularity, moderation and discipline in all aspects of the life.

Likewise in investing, once a goal is defined, one needs to have a decent asset allocation with a desired level of diversification that suits the risk tolerance. Also, the prominent factor that governs the success is to derive a philosophy or style of investing, the discipline to stick to it while remaining open to adjust the portfolio for any change in externalities. Another important factor is the desire to over-concentrate and exercise moderation i.e., diversification along with systematic investing.

We’ve been hearing about immunity enhancers by taking certain foods or drugs (supplements) to fight against the virus. It could possibly work now but for long term benefits, the earlier mentioned behavior is mandatory. Also, in the rush to safe-



guard ourselves, we may attempt to consume unconventional food or drug to achieve the goal. Such situations could be avoided if we adhere a balanced diet, physical exercise and mental upkeep. The binge, abstain, binge, abstain regime would do more harm than good.

Coincidentally, in investing, we might be tempted to participate in a rally where we understand less about an investment. These moves must be calculated with a portion of the ‘mad’ money be contributed i.e., a portion of which one would find comfort to speculate than inculcating that into the original plan. Any speculation or trading in an asset or investment could have mixed results or even unproven outcomes. Such moves could be avoided by following a well-intended plan with actionable items and points for revision. This is where a systematic investing helps makes us more disciplined and coherent.

And with the advent of social media, we find so many remedies (of multiple practitioners) for the recovery from the infection or avoiding the infection. How or Who do we trust? It’s very difficult to judge particularly when we turn emotional about the wellbeing of ourself or our known members. This is where we need to exercise caution and check for the credentials. This is same even in investing where 60-sec click video boasts about raking gains but with no accountability over the outcomes.

At these uncertain times, we prefer to have a qualified or knowledgeable professional (ideally a physician or a doctor) for assistance. We could reach them for any help regarding our health or changes in the conditions so that we’re well directed to overcome these testing times. Equally, while investing it does great for an individual to seek help of a professional or advisor who would be able to guide in times of market turmoil or otherwise from our goal perspective. So, investor immunity is achieved by not accessing more info but by cutting the noise and adhering to the discipline.

(The author is a co-founder of “Wealcity”, a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealcity.com)

Mkt correction likely in near future

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

Dalal Street continued its winning streak for the third consecutive week with the help of broader market and PSU banks. The decline in Covid cases, neutral RBI policy and encouraging US no-farm payroll data are the positive outcomes last week. Nifty scaled record high. It gained by 234.6 points or 1.52 per cent. BSE Sensex closed 1.3 percent higher. The broader indices Nifty Midcap-100 up by 3.3 per cent and Smallcap-100 index advanced by 2.4 per cent. Barrington Nifty IT index, which is down by 0.5 per cent, all other sectoral indices performed well. The Realty index advanced by 6.7 per cent, Metal up by 5.6 per cent. FIIs bought Rs 3049.81 crore, and the DIIs sold Rs 981.73 crore worth of equities.

Nifty has formed another bull candle above the previous pivot on the weekly chart. As the benchmark index is placed in uncharted territory, there is no visible resistance. It has traded in 359 points range during the last week and closed with 235 points net gain. The Nifty gained over 990 points in the last three weeks. As expected, the cup breakout made the strong moves. The handle formation may not be a possible one now, as the price structures suggest. Nifty may touch 15,968 in the short term. Now the support levels pushed up to 15464 and 15297. Only below these levels, the corrective con-



The current upswing from 17th May taking support at 5EMA, is currently placed at 15596. This level is very critical for Monday, for a beginning of a correction. The lower VIX will result in a high volatile move. Suggestion is to maintain strict risk management practices to safeguard the profits and capital

solidations will be of longer duration. Touching the 15297 means a retest of cup breakout. The entire current upswing from May 17, taking support at 5EMA, is currently placed at 15596. This level is very critical for Monday, for a beginning of a correction. A close below this level means the Nifty is going test the 15464 initially. The histogram shows that the momentum is declining for the last five days, though the index is moving higher. The positive directional indicator +DMI is also flattened last week. At the same time, the identical hanging man candles on the daily chart,

indicating exhaustion of bullish strength. These are not bearish signs. With smaller corrections of two to three days, market may move higher toward 15,968. Before this, the Nifty may experience a subdued trajectory around 15750 and 15820 levels.

The weekly RSI is at 67.99, entering into an overbought zone. The MACD is about to give a buy signal. The histogram may turn greener next week. There are no negative divergences on the longer-term charts. Still, there are concerns, which the market is ignoring. The VIX fell below 15 levels during the last week. The inverse relationship with the index will have an impulse impact in the near future. Historically, lower VIX will result in a high volatile move. I have suspicions that a down move that will have sharply one or two declines is possible in near future. I suggest maintaining strict risk management practices to safeguard the profits and capital.

(The author is a financial journalist and technical analyst. He can be reached at tbchary@gmail.com)

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

As the key indices hovering at record highs, the options data after trading hours on last Friday points to declining resistance level by 300 points to 5,700 strike, while support level remains at the previous level of 15,500 strike as it has the highest base of Put Open Interest (OI). Coming to the index futures, the net short positions from FIIs fell to one of the lowest levels ever and derivatives analysts forecast moderate short accumulation at higher levels, while expecting restricted upsides for the Nifty in short-term.

The 15,700 strike has highest Call OI followed by 16,000/15,800/16,500/16,300/16,100 strikes, while

reasonable addition of Call OI was seen at 15,800/ 15,700/ 15,750/ 16,000/ 16,400 strikes. The highest Put OI is seen at 15,500 strike followed by 15,000/ 15,200/ 15,600/15,700 strikes. Further, 14,900/ 15,400/ 15,500/15,000 strikes recorded moderate Put OI. Dhirendra Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: “From derivatives front, Call writers were seen adding Open Interest at 15,700 & 15,800 strikes, while Put writers hold highest Open Interest concentration at 15,500 strike.”

“Nifty indices almost ended flat in Friday’s session after hitting all time high on local bourses as traders booked some profit in Banking, IT, pharma and metal

counters. Although some support was seen coming through leaders like Tata motors, L&T and Bajaj Finance,” remarked Bisht.

According to the data from ICICI Direct.com, the highest Call option concentration, on the options front, is at ATM 15,700 Call strike with almost 42 lakh shares, which is the highest OI base among Call and Put strikes. Among Put strikes, the highest Put base is placed at the 15,500 strike.

For the week ended June 5, 2021, BSE Sensex closed at 52,100.05 points, a further net recovery of 677.17 points or 1.31 per cent, from 51,422.88 points. NSE Nifty too rebounded by 234.6 points or 1.51 per cent to 15,670.25 points from 15,435.65 points. Bisht forecasts: “On the technical front, the higher

F&O TRADING

Product	Contracts	Turnover (Rs/cr)	Premium (Rs/cr)
Index Futures	2,43,269	23,834.20	--
Stock Futures	8,28,266	69,976.72	--
Index Options	2,39,34,467	23,81,322.25	14,361.71
Stock Options	23,19,057	2,02,699.69	4,958.30
F&O Total	2,73,25,059	26,77,832.86	19,320.01

NSE / As on June 04, 2021

highs and higher bottom formation on charts suggest a continuation of the uptrend in coming sessions as well. Although at current juncture, it is expected stock-specific action rather than any sharp upside will be seen in the index. However, we are expecting the banking index to be on a volatile path from here on as a tug of war among bulls and bears can keep the markets on a shaky path.” The NSE Nifty continued to trade higher and gained

another 1.5 per cent last week without any major participation from index heavyweights. Broader markets continued to perform well and both mid-cap, small-cap indices registered gains of more than 2.5 per cent each. Going ahead, analysts predict some consolidation in the index with support near 15300 in the coming week.

The volatility index declined to 16.43, its lowest level since February 2020 and is trading near 16

levels. Such low levels also suggest some caution in the market and a rise in volatility can’t be ruled out, which may result in the Nifty moving towards 15,500 in the short-term range. “The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 13.45 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 14.85 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 15.75 per cent. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.67,” adds Bisht.

In the F&O space, FII activity was significantly low as they were net sellers in the index futures segment worth Rs386 crore, stock futures to the tune of Rs1,750 crore and index options worth Rs1,115 crore during the week.

Bank Nifty

NSE’s banking index Bank Nifty

recouped by 150.20 points or 0.42 per cent to 35,291.65 points from 35,141.45 points. “For Bank Nifty, the 35,000 will act as strong support with bias likely to remain in favour of bulls with buy on dips strategy,” said Bisht. Call writing activity remained higher in ATM and OTM strike Calls. Major Call OI base for the week is well distributed from 35,500 to 36,500 strikes whereas again this week combined OI is higher in ATM strike Straddle of 35500, which is likely to keep index move in range.

Major indices started the June series with higher OI base at ATM strikes. Even though supportive buying was seen there is no closure in ATM strike Calls. For the week, banking stocks remained almost flat with stock specific activity. Last week we saw an addition in 35500 strike straddle. On the back of that the index ended almost flat.

World Cup Qualifying Round

India eye win against B'desh to keep Asian Cup hope alive

DOHA

A winless India desperately need a positive result against neighbours Bangladesh in their joint World Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers match here on Monday, if they want to avoid the ignominy of playing in the qualifying play-off round of the continental showpiece.

India are already out of contention for a World Cup berth but still in the reckoning for a place in the 2023 Asian Cup. But with just three points from six matches, India are at the fourth spot in Group E and are not yet guaranteed an automatic berth in the third round of the Asian Cup qualifiers.

Only the best four fourth-place finishers in each of the eight groups directly qualify for the third round of the Asian Cup qualifiers. The other four fourth-place finishers and all the bottom place finishers of the eight groups will play in a play-off round from which eight will re-enter the qualifying process again.

Among the fourth-place finishers, six teams have more points than India currently.

That would mean that Igor Stimac's men will have to beat Bangladesh to have any chance of an automatic berth in the third qualifying round of the Asian Cup.

A win on Monday will also be India's first in six years in the World Cup qualifiers. The last win for India had come in November 2015 in a 1-0 result against Guam in a 2018 World Cup qualifying round match in Bangalore.

Stimac's men would not have been too disappointed with the 0-1 defeat to Asian champions Qatar on Thursday as they played with 10 men from the 18th minute onwards. The show against Qatar must have regained some of the lost confidence after their 0-6 drubbing against UAE in an international friendly in March.

Historically also, 105th-ranked India have the edge over Bangladesh (184th). India had beaten Bangladesh twice in the World Cup qualifying round, though the wins were registered way back in 1985 (2-1 result in both double-legged matches).

"We still haven't opened our account in Doha. We need to focus (against Bangladesh) and then the next one (against Afghanistan)," said senior defender Sandesh Jhingan, who took the captain's armband in the second half

of the Qatar match from Sunil Chhetri, who played only the first 45 minutes.

But India cannot be complacent as Bangladesh can be tough opponents as they had shown in the first leg of this qualifiers in 2019 in Kolkata where they had taken an early lead. An 88th minute header from defender Adil Khan helped India to draw that match in front of a huge crowd at the Salt Lake Stadium.

At the bottom of the group with two points, Bangladesh are coming into Monday's match after a 1-1 draw against Afghanistan and they would also be desperately looking for a win. Bangladesh captain Jamal Bhuyan, who had played for Mohammedan Sporting in the I-League, said

the tie would be an intense affair. "Last time in Kolkata, we were disappointed not to get three points as India scored very late in the game. We have that hunger in us, and we know we can do some damage," he said.

Monday's match against Bangladesh would also be crucial for Stimac as he would also want to open his account in this World Cup qualifiers. The former Croatian World Cupper has this match against Bangladesh and the one against Afghanistan on June 15 to make a mark in an otherwise disappointing campaign so far. (PTI)

Canada rout Aruba 7-0

Bradenton: Lucas Cavallini scored twice and Alphonso Davies, Cyle Larin and Jonathan David added late goals to lead Canada over Aruba 7-0 in a World Cup qualifier, setting up a matchup against Suriname for a berth in the second round. In a game moved to the IMG Academy, Canada coach John Herdman rested his front-line players for Tuesday's match against Suriname at Bridgeview, Illinois. No. 70 Canada (3-0 with a plus-22 goal difference) needs only to draw No. 136 Suriname (3-0 and plus-15) to win Group B and advance to the second round on June 12 and 15 against the Group E winner, Nicaragua, Haiti or Belize. The second-round winner advances to the eight-team final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region, which includes the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras and Jamaica. (AP)

INDIAN TEAM

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Dheeraj Singh, Pritam Kotal, Rahul Bheke, Narender Gehlot, Chinglensana Singh, Sandesh Jhingan, Adil Khan, Akash Mishra, Subhashish Bose, Udanta Singh, Brandon Fernandes, Liston Colaco, Rowlin Borges, Glan Martins, Pronoy Halder, Suresh Singh, Lalengmawia Ralte, Abdul Sahal, Yasir Mohammad, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Bipin Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan, Ishan Pandita, Sunil Chhetri, Manvir Singh.



Conflict-of-interest more widespread, deep-rooted than fixing in Indian sports

NEW DELHI

TURNING to senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, who was representing then Indian cricket board president N. Srinivasan, Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur said bias in a conflict of interest situation happens in a "subtle way".

Thakur said that on December 8, 2014, while hearing the 2013 IPL betting-fixing scandal in which Srinivasan, whose son-in-law Gurunath Meiyappan and others were central figures in the scandal, was battling to come out of the conflicted zone.

Thakur had made the "subtle way" comment when Srinivasan was trying to constitute a committee to probe the 2013 IPL betting-fixing scandal. Some members of that committee were also conflicted and the panel was eventually not accepted by the Supreme Court that had to approve or reject it. Also, as secretary and later president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Srinivasan would attend Indian Premier League (IPL) governing council meetings, and was thus aware of the decisions the BCCI was taking.

It's difficult to believe that he never shared discussions, or decisions, within the BCCI with his own IPL franchise, Chennai Super Kings (CSK), and took advantage of that.

More than six years later, Srinivasan's daughter, Rupa, finds herself in a similar position — in the conflict of interest zone. The person who spotted her there is a retired Supreme Court judge, D.K. Jain. He pronounced his judgment as the BCCI Ethics Officer on June 3.

Rupa Gurunath was elected TNCA president, succeeding her father, in September 2019. Her husband, Gurunath Meiyappan, has been banned for life by the Supreme Court for his role in the same 2013 IPL betting-fixing scandal. Rupa holds two posts --

of TNCA president and a Whole Time Director of India Cements Limited (ICL), which runs the Chennai Super Kings Cricket Ltd (CSKCL) that owns IPL franchise CSK.

These two are high profile cases that have caught the eye. In reality, there are any number of

conflicted persons at a lower level whose unethical deeds never come to light, they do it in such a "subtle way". Usually, powerful people back these conflicted persons.

These powerful persons are mostly politicians and businessmen across sports in India. So, that brings us to the question: Who has harmed cricket -- or sports in general -- the most in India? Many people would say that it is the people involved in match-fixing/betting.

However, I feel the conflict of interest is the biggest curse and misfortune of Indian cricket, rather Indian sports. Match-fixing is probably not as deep rooted and as widespread as conflict of interest, if seen across all sports, not just cricket, played in the country. But conflict of interest is everywhere; only the degree that it influences varies. Sometimes it is blatant, as in the case of Srinivasan and Rupa. At other times, it happens in a "subtle way". Match-fixing may not be found in all competitive sports. But conflict of interest is present across the spectrum; no Indian sport can claim it is not influenced by conflicted people. Be it the election of sports bodies or selection of athletes/teams, conflict of interest is found in different forms at different levels.

Most of the conflicted persons are sports administrators, selectors, or coaches. If their brothers/sisters/sons/daughters/nephews/nieces are also playing cricket -- or play any other sport -- in which their elders hold positions, the conflict-of-interest becomes obvious and blatant. It will be rare to find selectors, sports administrators, coaches clear of the conflict.

India midfielder Anirudh Thapa rejoins team

DOHA

INDIA midfielder Anirudh Thapa, who tested positive for COVID-19 a few days back, on Sunday rejoined the team after being cleared by the organising committee doctor ahead of the World Cup qualifiers match against Bangladesh.

The 23-year-old Thapa had tested positive for Covid-19 on June 3 and had been under quarantine in a separate room in the team hotel here since then. "Anirudh Thapa who was in isolation on advice of LOC medical team since June 3 has been cleared by the LOC Doctor to rejoin the team after subsequent tests, and being under observation," the All India Football Federation said in on its Twitter handle.

Thapa had missed India's match against Asian champions Qatar on Thursday which they lost 0-1 in the joint World Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers. He had featured in the Indian team that lost 0-6 to the UAE in the international friendly in March.

Earlier, the AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das had said that Thapa has been kept in isolation after testing positive for the virus. "Yes, Anirudh Thapa tested positive (for Covid) and he is isolated (from other team members)," Das told PTI on Saturday.

The Chennaiyin FC player has played more than 20 matches for India. (PTI)

Perez wins Azerbaijan GP Verstappen falls from lead

BAKU (AZERBAIJAN): Sergio Perez won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in a two-lap shootout after championship leader Max Verstappen crashed while leading with a tire failure and Lewis Hamilton went off course trying to seize the win on the standing restart.

Verstappen was four laps away from a second consecutive victory Sunday when his Red Bull suddenly slammed hard into the wall with a puncture to his left rear tire. The Dutchman climbed from his car, inspected the tire and kicked it in anger before stomping off in disgust over the race-changing failure. "Is he OK?" radioed rival and seven-time champion Hamilton.

Verstappen was fine but Red Bull was furious over a second failure of a Pirelli tire in the race and asked for a stoppage to allow tire changes for safety reasons. Lance Stroll had crashed earlier in the race after his own unexpected tire failure.

Formula One red-flagged the race and brought the field to pit lane before deciding to resume with a standing start for a two-lap sprint to the finish. Perez was the leader but Hamilton shot past him in his attempt to win the race and reclaim the points lead from Verstappen.

Milkha showing 'continuous improvement', wife battling Covid 'bravely'

CHANDIGARH

INDIAN sprint icon Milkha Singh is showing "continuous improvement" as he battles Covid-19 in the Intensive Care Unit of PGIMER hospital, the facility's spokesperson said on Sunday. The 91-year-old is being closely monitored by a team at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER).

Legendary sprinter Shri Milkha Singh ji, who has been admitted in the ICU of NHE Block of PGIMER since June 3 and getting treatment for Covid, is showing continuous improvement," hospital spokesperson Prof Ashok Kumar stated.

"On the basis of all the medical parameters today, that is June 6, his condition has been observed better than previous days," he added. Milkha's family also issued a statement through a spokesperson stating that the iconic athlete is improving and his condition is stable. His Covid positive wife Nirmal Kaur (82), however, "continues to battle it out bravely," according to the spokesperson.

Kaur is currently admitted at the Fortis hospital in Mohali. Milkha was also admitted at the same hospital earlier but was discharged on Sunday last on the request of his family. He, however, continued to be on oxygen support at home and was admitted to PGIMER after his oxygen levels began to dip. Milkha is suspected to have contracted the infection from a house help.

The legendary athlete is a four-time Asian Games gold medalist and 1958 Commonwealth Games champion but his greatest performance remains the fourth-place finish in the 400m final of the 1960 Rome Olympics. His timing at the Italian capital was a national record for 38 years till Paramjeet Singh broke it in 1998. He also represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics and was bestowed the Padma Shri in 1959. (PTI)

Federer chooses rest, pulls out of French Open

PARIS

ROGER Federer withdrew from the French Open on Sunday to give himself a chance to recover after emerging from a tight third-round victory that lasted about 3 1/2 hours.

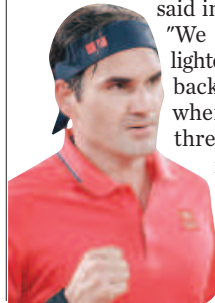
"After two knee surgeries and over a year of rehabilitation it's important that I listen to my body and make sure I don't push myself too quickly on my road to recovery," the 20-time Grand Slam champion said in a statement released by the French tennis federation. "I am thrilled to have gotten 3 matches under my belt. There is no greater feeling than being back on court." Federer, who turns 40 on Aug. 8, was competing in his first major tournament since the 2020 Australian Open. Shortly after that event, he had the first of a pair of operations on his right knee. He had played just three matches this season before arriving in Paris for the clay-court Slam, which he won in 2009.

Federer had made clear last month that he did not see himself as ready to contend for the French Open title this time and instead had his sights on Wimbledon, the grass-court major he has won a men's-record eight times. Play begins at the All England Club on June 28.

Federer edged 59th-ranked Dominik Koepfer 7-6 (5), 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), 7-5 in the third round, a match that began Saturday night and ended at 1 a.m. approached Sunday. The No. 8-seeded Federer was supposed to play No. 9 seed Matteo Berrettini of Italy in the fourth round on Monday. The winner of the match will face either No. 1 Novak Djokovic or unseeded Lorenzo Musetti in the quarterfinals.

"The Roland Garros tournament is sorry about the withdrawal of Roger Federer, who put up an incredible fight last night," tournament director Guy Forget said in a statement.

"We were all delighted to see Roger back in Paris, where he played three high-level matches. We wish him all the best for the rest of the season." (AP)



Pavlyuchenkova's back in French quarters, 10 yrs on

PARIS: Ten years later, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova is back in the quarters of the French Open after beating 2013 semifinalist Victoria Azarenka 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday.

Former Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli, who was doing the courtside interview, congratulated her. "I've known you for a long time. We're friends off the court," Bartoli said.

"I can see the joy on your face." Indeed, it was hard for Pavlyuchenkova to stop smiling. "It's just incredible, even that I'm still playing tennis such a long time after and I'm very happy to win," she said. The 29-year-old Russian has reached the quarters at the Australian Open and Wimbledon, but has never reached the semifinals at any major. She might face 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams next.

The seventh-seeded American was playing No. 21 Elena Rybakina in the fourth round later Sunday, with the winner facing Pavlyuchenkova.

Bopanna-Skugor duo enters quarters

PARIS: India's Rohan Bopanna and his Croatian partner Franko Skugor advanced to the quarterfinals of the French Open after receiving a walkover from their opponents here on Sunday.

The Indo-Croat duo got a walkover in its men's doubles pre-quarterfinal clash against Netherlands' Matwe Middelkoop and Marcelo Arevalo of El Salvador. Bopanna and Skugor will now face the Spanish pairing of Pablo Andujar and Pedro Martinez in the quarterfinals. The unseeded Bopanna and Skugor had notched up a straight set win over Americans Frances Tiafo and Nicholas Monroe in the second round earlier this week. The 41-year-old Bopanna, ranked 40 in the world, is not defending any points this year at the Roland Garros.

The Indian needs to earn points since this is his last chance to improve his ranking. The rankings on June 10 will be considered for entry into the Tokyo Olympics. (PTI)

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