



# THE HANS INDIA

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## WINDOWS



Parliamentarians observe silence during an obituary reference to the late YSRC MP Balli Durga Prasad Rao in the Lok Sabha on Thursday

## Newly elected RS MP Gasti dies of Covid

**Bengaluru:** Rajya Sabha MP and Karnataka BJP leader Ashok Gasti passed away in Bengaluru on Thursday. He was admitted to the hospital on September 2 after testing positive to coronavirus. Gasti, who served as the chairman of Karnataka Backward Classes Commission, was sworn in Rajya Sabha MP on July 22. His ambition to go to Parliament remained incomplete.



## K'taka minister's letter to goddess to make him Dy CM

**Bengaluru:** Even as the debate on a possible Cabinet expansion in Karnataka is still raging, state Health Minister B Sriramulu on Thursday allegedly sought the blessings of famous deity Durga Devi or 'Gade Durgamma' to make him Deputy Chief Minister at the earliest by writing a letter to the deity. Sriramulu was in Yadgir to take part in Kalyana Karnataka Utsav in Kalaburagi. The famous Gonal Durga Devi temple is situated in Shahapur taluk of Yadgir district which is 500 kms from Bengaluru.



## Another defence employee held for passing info to Pak

**Rewari:** A civilian defence employee was arrested for passing on classified information to a Pakistani Military Intelligence (MI) unit after he had been honey-trapped on Facebook.



## GREEN CHALLENGE



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla planted a sapling of Rudraksha in the premises of Parliament house on Thursday and appreciated the efforts of Rajya Sabha MP J Santosh Kumar for taking up Green Challenge programme on a mission mode

## LATEST SERO SURVEY

## 33% Delhiites exposed to corona, have antibodies

**New Delhi:** A serological survey conducted between August and September has found that nearly 33% of residents in Delhi have developed Covid-19 antibodies. The figure was released after the preliminary analysis of the third survey of 17,000 samples. The final figures are yet to be released officially. **Continued on Page 5**

# No force can stop Army from patrolling: Rajnath

## DEFENCE MINISTER MAKES A STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT

**New Delhi:** No power on earth can stop the Indian Army from patrolling, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told Parliament on the dispute with China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. Responding to Opposition questions in the Rajya Sabha on the Chinese stopping Indian soldiers from patrolling traditional posts, he said: "That is the reason for our ladaai (fight) with China."

In an unscripted part of his speech, Rajnath Singh used the word "yuddh (war)", the first senior minister to do so in any context related to the standoff with China in eastern Ladakh. "Starting a war is in our hands but where that ends is not in our hands," he said. But the Defence Minister added that he was "astonished at times" that peace was being compromised. "We are very different from before, still we are committed towards a peaceful resolution...I want to tell our 130 crore countrymen that we will not let the country down. Neither will we bow before anyone, nor is it our intention to make anyone bow before us," he said.

As the Congress' AK Antony, a



We are committed towards a peaceful resolution...I want to tell our 130 crore countrymen that we will not let the country down. Neither will we bow before anyone, nor is it our intention to make anyone bow before us

## Army builds up arsenal to fight a long war

**New Delhi:** Faced with the prospect of a protracted stand-off with China on the LAC, the Union government has authorised an emergency military acquisition programme that could run to over \$1 billion, sources said.

The Army's crash acquisition programme, aimed at equipping it to fight a war with China that lasts up to a month, is focused on building stockpiles of critical war

material. These include fin-stabilised ammunition for India's T-72 and T-90 tanks, ordnance for various types of artillery, Israeli-built Spice air-to-air missiles, Heron drones, and SiG716 infantry rifles. The Chinese government has earlier insisted that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) will hold its existing positions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh through this winter. **Continued on Page 5**



former Defence Minister, questioned whether Indian soldiers were being blocked from patrolling by the Chinese, Singh said: "The patrolling pattern is traditional and well-defined. No power on earth can stop Indian soldiers from patrolling."

In early May, Chinese soldiers crossed the Line of Actual Control and did not return to their original positions even though Beijing is aware of the difference in interpretation of the LAC across the Ladakh frontier. Chinese People Liberation Army Troops (PLA) physically prevented Indian soldiers from patrolling in parts of the Dapsang Plains to the North, Galwan, Hot Springs, Gogra and the North Bank of the Pangong Lake. They were thwarted in their attempts to occupy disputed parts in the South Pangong region of Ladakh when Indian soldiers proactively occupied tactical heights which enable Indian soldiers to look down at Chinese positions, a significant advantage in mountain warfare.

The minister commented that what China said and what China did were very different. **Continued on Page 5**

## 'Dear Narendra...'



**New Delhi:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Russian President Vladimir Putin are among the prominent world leaders who wished Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 70th birthday on Thursday.

Addressing Modi as "Narendra", the German Chancellor said she had

"fond memories" of their meeting at the Indo-German intergovernmental consultations last year. "I wish you all the very best in the future - particularly, in these unusual times, health, happiness and fulfilment," she wrote in her message that was shared by PMO on its twitter handle. **Continued on Page 5**

## Merkel, other world leaders wish PM Modi

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he "values the friendly relations" developed with PM Modi and credited the Prime Minister for moving India along the path of socio-economic, scientific and technical development. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressed Modi as his "friend" and expressed hope to meet him soon. **Continued on Page 5**

## Modi devoted his life to service of nation: Shah

**President, Venkaiah greet PM**  
**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah extended birthday greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said the country's most popular leader was devoted to the service of the nation and welfare of the poor. **Continued on Page 5**



## INVESTIGATION INTO DELHI RIOTS

# Oppn leaders meet Prez, seek probe

**New Delhi:** Opposition leaders, including Congress' Ahmed Patel, CPI's D Raja, CPM's Sitaram Yechury, DMK's Kanimozhi and RJD's Manoj Jha, met President Ram Nath Kovind to share their concerns over the ongoing investigation into the Delhi riots. The leaders handed over a memorandum to the President, requesting him to order a probe into the investigation by a panel headed by sitting or retired judge (s) as the ongoing investigation by the Delhi Police "doesn't inspire confidence". The leaders said in



Opposition leaders hand over a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday

the memorandum that they wanted to express a "deep concern" about the manner in which the Delhi Police was investigating the communal violence that took

place in north-east Delhi earlier this year.

They said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Delhi Police and the Special Cell were investi-

gating the aspect of conspiracy behind the riots. "There are, however, serious questions about the role played by the Delhi Police itself during the violence and also the manner in which the police is harassing and attempting to falsely implicate activists and young people who took part in the anti-CAA-NCR-NPR movements as the perpetrators of violence," the memorandum said. Such a manufactured conspiracy theory has now begun to falsely implicate political leaders, the leaders said. **Continued on Page 5**

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# Womenia

TWEET PATROL


**KIARA ADVANI**  
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## Falguni Shane unveils 'Spectacle Prive' at India Couture Week 2020

The digital India Couture Week 20/21 kicks off today with a handful of India's leading designers presenting their couture collection. Designers Falguni Shane Peacock, for the first time will present a virtual Fashion Film titled "Spectacle Prive" given fashion and technology have taken on new meaning and a different turn during the pandemic.

"Given the rapid growth of visuals on social media, a powerful new format of communication and expression has emerged. The purpose of this fashion film is an artistic showcase to co-relate and recreate a reverie as the excitement from runway shows live to a new narrative form of showing couture via a fashion film," says Falguni Shane Peacock.

The idea behind is to take viewers behind the scenes to witness the intrinsic effort put in every creation presented in each look. They are using this platform to present our inspirations and to tell the stories of their design concepts and how couture comes to life for us.

To dramatise this, Falguni Shane Peacock will be directing the film. Digital is the way for-

ward and the need of the hour. The fashion industry has been quick to adapt to the new normal.

'Spectacle Prive' aims at taking the audience on goes on backstage as well as putting a collection out there. It's the need of the hour for audiences to see how a collection is put together, the challenges faced, the creative process.

Falguni shares, "We are an international label and we have our representatives in New York, LA, and London. We have showcased at various international fashion weeks, dressed up most of the stars there, and have re-tailed at most of the stores there. For any Indian brand to go international, we have to support the international brands. We have struck a balance between supporting international brands along with the local brands, artisans, and resources. We believe 'Vocal for Local' is a great initiative that takes care of the local artisans by encouraging and creating awareness for local crafts, artisans skills, and manufacturing. It is also about providing them employment opportunities."

## Keep your skin healthy while washing your hands

As the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 continues to spread globally, one of the cheapest, easiest, and most important ways to protect you and your loved ones is to wash your hands frequently properly with soap and lukewarm water to eliminate all traces of the virus on your hands.

Handwashing remains the best tip for preventing the spread of Coronavirus as it reduces the risk of infecting other people in your community homes, health care facilities, schools, and other public spaces.

Actually, the skin on the back of the hands is thin and lacks oil glands. That is why the hands are prone to wrinkles and lines. The nails also become dry and brittle, breaking or chipping easily. So along with protecting ourselves from the new disease, we also need to protect our hands.

Excessive hand washing can lead to and exacerbate skin issues like pain, redness, flaking and itching. Ironically, by over-washing our skin, we can develop dry cracks in the skin giving bacteria

**Among the many kinds of moisturisers, hand creams are better than body lotion because they are more nourishing. Lotions, which are primarily water-based, can further dry out skin because the water evaporates. Creams, which are often oil-based, are more effective after washing hands. Once your hands are dry, immediately use a hand cream to seal in the moisture**

an entry point into our bodies which lead to conditions such as eczema. The outermost layer of our skin is composed of oils and wax, and it acts as both a shield from the outside and a guard that maintains natural moisture in the skin. This natural barrier is broken down by the suds created by soap while washing hands.

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are often oil-based, are more effective after washing hands. Once your hands are dry, immediately use a hand cream to seal in the moisture.

Hand soap should also be gentle and fragrance-free. Take four teaspoon almond oil and mix one tablespoon rose water. Add half-teaspoon tincture benzoin, drop by drop. Mix together. Apply this on the hands. Wear loose cotton socks on the hands and leave on the preparation all night. Rinse off with plain water next morning.

Use hand ointment or cream instead of a lotion as these are



Shahnaz Husain

turmeric and milk into a paste and applied on the hands. Wash off after 20 minutes. This softens, cleanses and tightens the skin. Mix almond oil and honey in equal parts and massage into the nails and cuticles.

For dry nails, warm any vegetable oil and soak fingers in it for ten minutes. Wipe off with a moist towel. A few almonds eaten daily make the nails strong. Include whole grains, yogurt, leafy green vegetables, sprouts and fruits in your diet. If your skin is sensitive to harsh chemicals then you should handle cleaning supplies while wearing gloves.

### QUICK TIP

#### Use a spoon as a mascara shield

Nothing is more annoying than making your eye shadow look perfect, and then swiping on mascara and ruining the whole thing with smudges. The fix? Hold a spoon so it's hugging your eyelid, then apply your mascara like you normally would. As you sweep the mascara wand against your lashes and back of the spoon, the residue will coat the back of the utensil rather than your skin.



## How to conceal split ends

Hair masks are deep conditioning treatments that help restore moisture to hair and strengthen hair shafts. They're great for concealing split ends and improving your hair's overall appearance.

Leave-in conditioners are usually applied to clean, gently towel-dried hair. Sectioning your hair during application may help you apply the condi-

tioner correctly from roots to tips. You can find hair masks and leave-in conditioners at most drug stores and beauty supply stores, or you can make your own.

When preparing your own conditioner, opt for ingredients that help nourish your hair:

#### Sweet almond oil

Extracted from almonds,

sweet almond oil is hydrating and won't weigh hair down. It may be used neat as a leave-in conditioner or rubbed into damp hair. An added bonus? It smells terrific!

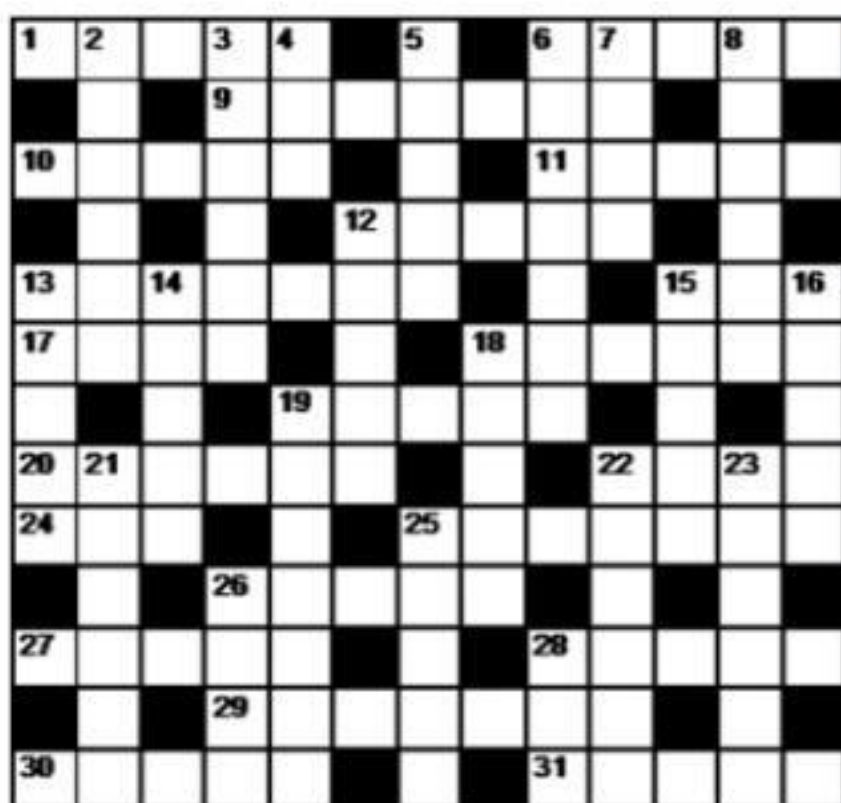
#### Panthenol

Panthenol is a byproduct of pantothenic acid (vitamin B-5). It helps strengthen hair, retain moisture, and improves the texture of damaged hair.

Panthenol is often the main ingredient in many hair masks and conditioners.

#### Argan oil

Rich argan oil comes from the kernels of argan trees native to Morocco. Argan oil is deeply moisturising and adds shine to hair. To use argan oil on split ends, rub several drops into damp or dry hair and comb through.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 17

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- 1 Small light boat (5)
- 6 Aromatic herb (5)
- 9 Crude stone artifacts (7)
- 10 Precipitous or excessive ? (5)
- 11 Flood preceder (5)
- 12 Holy-water basin (5)
- 13 Howl with grief (7)
- 15 Cured pork (3)
- 17 Pop in Paris (4)
- 18 Stable (6)
- 19 Flying pests (5)
- 20 Obtain with difficulty (3,3)
- 22 Corn Belt state (4)
- 24 Pops (3)
- 25 Sufferings or pains (7)
- 26 Russian autocrats: Var. (5)
- 27 Fill with consternation and horror (5)
- 28 Vice-presidents (5)
- 29 Photocopies (7)
- 30 Egg-shaped (5)
- 31 Anaesthetic (5)

#### Down

- 2 Water boiler (6)
- 3 Be lacking strength; weak (6)
- 4 Dandy, popinjay (3)
- 5 Ski trail (5)
- 6 Forces, impels or nudges (7)
- 7 Letters of urgency (4)
- 8 Sailor of the Arabian Nights (6)
- 12 Unusual performance of skill (5)
- 13 Raised (5)
- 14 Exhorted (5)
- 15 Asian city (5)
- 16 Imitative birds (5)
- 18 Male deer (5)
- 19 Drank greedily (7)
- 21 Chess champion Anatoly \_\_\_ (6)
- 22 Take in as food (6)
- 23 Tearjerker (6)
- 25 Pointer; bolt (5)
- 26 Cab (4)
- 28 Geese formation (3)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 17

### NEWS ROUNDUP

#### How Bhumi plans to celebrate sisterhood with her new film

Actress Bhumi Pednekar plans to watch her new film, Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare, with her sister Samiksha Pednekar, and calls it a special sister screening.

"Samiksha and I will watch 'Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare' together once it releases this week. We watched the film together at Busan the first time and for me the film's journey literally started with my sister by my side. We had the best time together in Busan. We've now made a plan to watch the movie again and it will be our special sister screening!" she said.

The film is directed by Alankrita Srivastava and also stars Konkona Sen Sharma. The two actresses play sisters in the film.

"The film celebrates womanhood and sisterhood and I couldn't think of a better way to watch the movie. Samiksha and I are similar yet poles apart just like Dolly and Kitty and it would be amazing to get her feedback for this special gem of a film of ours. It will be a true-blue sister screening and I'm really excited to have this moment with her," said Bhumi.





# As lease expires, Jat king's kin seek return of AMU land



**Aligarh (IANS):** With the land lease given to the Aligarh Muslim University in Uttar Pradesh having expired last year, the descendants of the Jat king, late Mahendra Pratap Singh (1886-1979), a freedom fighter and social reformer who donated land to various educational institutes, including the AMU, have demanded that the land be returned to them.

The family of the Raja also wants the university's city school to be renamed after him.

They have also said that the rest of the land that Singh had given to the AMU on a 90-year lease, which expired last year, be returned to them.

The AMU executive council has set up a committee to look into the

matter and submit its report.

The officials said that Mahendra Pratap Singh, who was an alumnus of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, which later became the AMU, had given 3.04 acres of land to the university on lease for constructing a school in 1929. Singh's great grandson, Charat Pratap Singh, said that they had served a legal notice to the university in 2018 about the expiry of lease.

He said, "There were two pieces of land given by my great grandfather to the AMU for promoting education. We are donating the bigger chunk of land on which AMU's city school is constructed and, in return, the school should be named after him."

The former Jat king's family has asked for another small piece of land measuring 1.2 hectare to be returned to them. "They can return the land or compensate us at the current market price of the land," Charat said.

In 2014, a controversy had erupted, when BJP MP Satish Gautam had asked the AMU to celebrate the 128th birth anniversary of the Jat king on December 1.

The BJP had organised a small programme at its office in Aligarh and had got an assurance from the then vice-chancellor to hold a seminar on Singh later.

Last year, the state cabinet had cleared a proposal to set up a new university in Aligarh, named after

the Jat freedom fighter.

"He had given land for the purpose of establishing the university, but his name has not been mentioned on any plaque," Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said during his election campaign in 2017 while promising to set up another university in Singh's name.

Mahendra Pratap Singh, who set up a provisional government in exile in Afghanistan during World War I, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1932. He was also elected to the second Lok Sabha (1957-62) as an independent candidate from Mathura defeating Bharatiya Jan Sangh's Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who later became the Prime Minister.

## Did people recover by eating bhabhi ji ke papad?

**New Delhi:** The fight against coronavirus was not a political fight but a fight to save the lives of people, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said in parliament as he defended the Maharashtra government's efforts to contain the pandemic which has affected over 10 lakh people in the state. The state government had managed to control the spread of the pandemic in slum clusters like Dharavi, an effort which had drawn appreciation from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Raut said.

These recoveries didn't happen by eating "Bhabhi ji papad", the Sena leader sarcastically remarked, apparently referring to Union Minister and BJP leader Arjun Ram Meghwal's claim in July that the papad brand had the capacity to develop antibodies against coronavirus in the body. Meghwal had later tested positive for the virus.

The Shiv Sena MP said that though the confirmed cases from the state were the highest, it had managed to successfully cure majority of those infected with the deadly virus.

"My mother and my brother are infected with Covid. More than 30,000 people have recovered from COVID in Maharashtra. How did it happen? Today, the situation in Dharavi is under control. WHO has appreciated the efforts of BMC," Raut said in the Rajya Sabha.

Despite these effort, Raut said, the opposition was only concerned in criticising the state government. "I want to ask the members how did so many people recover? Kya log bhabhi ji ke papad kha karke theek ho gaye? (Did they recover by eating Bhabhiji's papad (snack)? This isn't a political fight but a fight to save the lives of people," he said referring to Meghwal.

## Several WH staffers test positive

**Washington (IANS):** Several White House staffers have reportedly tested positive for the novel coronavirus, but Chief of Staff Mark Meadows has refused to confirm the news. According to tweets by Brazilian journalist Raquel Krahenbuhl, routine Covid-19 tests for White House reporters were delayed by some 30 minutes on Wednesday because they were told by staff members that "we had a couple of positives today", reports Xinhua news agency. Krahenbuhl, joined by press pool reporters on the driveway at the White House complex, later asked Meadows if he had information about those positive tests.

## 100-yr-old Assamese woman recovers

**Guwahati:** Her age may have posed a challenge but 100-year-old Mai Handique's battle against COVID-19 was won by her positivity, doctors said on Thursday. Handique, Assam's oldest COVID-19 patient, was discharged from the Mahendra Mohan Chowdhury Hospital (MMCH) in Guwahati on Wednesday. A resident of the Mothers' Old Age Home, she was admitted to the hospital ten days ago after testing COVID-19 positive. The doctors and nurses who were treating her held a small celebration before she was discharged.

# INDIA SENDS CHINESE 'RESEARCH' SHIP HOME

**New Delhi:** In a significant development, Indian Navy warships constantly tracked a Chinese research vessel which entered the Indian Ocean Region last month at a time when tensions rose on the land borders in Ladakh between the two nations.

The Yuan Wang class research vessel had entered the Indian Ocean Region from Malacca straits last month. It was constantly tracked by Indian Navy warships deployed there in the region, Government Sources told ANI.

The Chinese research vessel returned to China a few days ago after being under constant watch of Indian Navy vessels, the sources said.

Such research vessels have been coming regularly from China and they try to gain sensitive information about Indian maritime territory.

In December last year, the Chinese research vessel Shi Yan 1 was carrying out research activities in the Indian waters near Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and was detected by maritime surveillance aircraft operating there.

Such vessels could have also been used by the Chinese to spy



on the Indian activities in the island territory from where India can keep a close eye on the maritime movements in the Indian Ocean Region and South-East Asian region.

Since laws do not allow foreign countries to carry out any research or exploration activities in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the Indian Navy warship at that time had asked the Chinese research vessel to move out of Indian waters.

## 'India wants normal ties with Pakistan'

**New Delhi:** India on Thursday said it desires to have normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and issues, if any, between the two countries should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence. At the same time, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said the onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere, including by taking "credible, verifiable and irreversible" action to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross-border terrorism against India. The Minister was replying to a question in Rajya Sabha on India's policy towards Pakistan, and its foreign policy initiatives to counter that country on the issue of terrorism.

## Active cases cross 10 lakh

**New Delhi:** A record single-day increase of 97,894 infections pushed India's Covid-19 tally to over 51 lakh, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 40 lakh on Thursday, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

Total coronavirus cases in the country mounted to 51,18,253, while the death toll climbed to 83,198 with the virus claiming 1,132 lives in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed. The total recoveries surged to 40,25,079 while the active cases of COVID-19 crossed 10 lakh for the first time.

The Covid-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection



was recorded at 1.63 percent. There are 10,09,976 active cases of COVID-19 in the country which comprises 19.73 percent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30-lakh on August 23, 40-

lakh on September 5 and it went past 50-lakh on September 16.

According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 6,05,65,728 samples have been tested up to September 16 with 11,36,613 samples being tested on Wednesday.

## Pak freezes over 900 assets of JuD, JeM

**Islamabad (IANS):** The Pakistan government has frozen a total of 964 assets of proscribed organisations Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) as it takes action against elements involved in terror financing and money laundering as part of efforts towards fulfilling requirements of the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) 27-point action plan.

As per the the Interior Ministry, 907 of the frozen assets belonged to the JuD and 57 to the JeM.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan said that the provincial home departments had taken the



action to freeze assets of the JuD and the JeM under the United Nations Security Council (Freezing and Seizure) Order 2019, is-

sued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

"A total of 611 properties of the JuD were frozen in Punjab, 108 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 80 in Sindh, 61 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir), 30 in Balochistan and 17 in the Islamabad Capital Territory," he told the Senate, the upper house of the Pakistani legislature, about the government's progress against proscribed outfits.

"Eight properties of the JeM were frozen in Punjab, 29 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 12 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, four in the Islamabad Capital Territory, three in Sindh and one in

Balochistan," he added.

Giving details, Khan said: "The frozen properties of the JuD include 75 schools, four colleges, 330 mosques and seminaries, 186 dispensaries, 15 hospitals, 62 ambulances, a funeral bus (hearse), three disaster management offices, 10 boats, 17 buildings, a plot, agricultural land and two motorcycles."

The frozen assets of JeM, Khan said, include "53 mosques and seminaries, two dispensaries and two ambulances".

The steps come at a time when Pakistan is working hard to comply with all the 27 points of the Action Plan given by FATF to see itself out of the 'grey list'.

## Kangana calls Urmila a 'soft porn star'

**Mumbai:** Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut who has been in the news for her comments on the presence of an alleged "drug mafia" in Bollywood and her statement equating Mumbai to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, has courted fresh controversy again. This time, Ranaut's recent comment on fellow actress Urmila Matondkar has received criticism from numerous celebrities on social media.

In a television interview, Kangana Ranaut called Urmila Matondkar a "soft porn star." Claiming that it wouldn't be very difficult for her to get a ticket to contest in politics if she so wished, Ranaut said, "Even Urmila, she is a soft porn star. I know it's very blatant. But she isn't known for her acting for sure. What is she known for? For doing soft porn right? If she can get a ticket, why won't I get a ticket?"

Both Ranaut and Matondkar have been engaged in a war of words. Reacting to Ranaut's earlier comments about the existence of a "drug mafia" in Bollywood, Matondkar had said that "the entire country is facing the menace of drugs. Does she (Kangana) know Himachal is the origin of drugs? She should start from her own state." Film director and producer Anubhav Sinha posted an appreciation tweet for Urmila Matondkar. "Just felt like saying this to one of the most beautiful, elegant, evocative, expressive actresses ever. Sending you love @UrmilaMatondkar," Sinha tweeted.



## Sudarshan TV case: Centre opposes SC call to regulate TV channels

### Modi government tells top court to regulate digital media first

**New Delhi:** The Centre has said that if the Supreme Court decides on the issue of media regulation then such an exercise should be undertaken with the digital media first as it has faster reach and information has the potential to go viral due to applications like WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook.

The government told the apex court that sufficient framework and judicial pronouncements exist for the electronic and the print media. "Considering the serious impact and the potential, it is desirable that if this court decides to undertake the exercise, it should first be undertaken with regard to digital media as there already exists sufficient framework and judicial pronouncements with regard to electronic media and print media," said the counter affidavit, filed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

"It is submitted that while in a mainstream media (whether electronic or print), the publication /telecast is a one-time act, the digital media has faster reach from wider range of viewer-



ship/ readership and has the potential to become viral because of several electronic applications like Whatsapp, Twitter, Facebook," it said. The affidavit was filed in a pending matter in which the top court is hearing a petition which has raised grievance over Sudarshan TV's 'Bindas Bol' programme whose promo had claimed that channel would show the 'big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service'. A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud had on September 15 restrained the channel from telecasting its episodes of programme for two days, saying "the intent" of aired episodes "prima facie" appears to "vilify" the community. The bench had suggested that a committee of apolitical experts of distinguished citizens or former judges

may be appointed to help in self-regulating the electronic media specially.

The apex court is scheduled to hear the matter today.

In its affidavit, the Centre has said that "subject matter of the present petition namely balancing between the journalist freedom and responsible journalism is a field already occupied either by the statutory provisions made by the Parliament or by the judgments of this court". "It is respectfully submitted that in view of the issue having already received attention of the Parliament, as well as, of this court, the present petition be confined to only one channel namely Sudarshan TV and this court may not undertake the exercise of laying down any further guidelines with or without appointment of an amicus or a committee of persons as amicus," the affidavit said.

It said that situation in each case shall have to be decided on a case-to-case basis and a broader exercise "which is too general in nature is neither warranted nor permissible".

## India major illicit drug producing nation: Trump



**Washington:** US President Donald Trump has identified India along with 20 other nations as major drug transit or illicit drug-producing countries and asserted that his administration is taking the fight to criminal organisations engaged in narcotics substances and their enablers on an unprecedented scale.

In his presidential determination, Trump also designated Bolivia and the regime of Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela as having failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to their obligations under international counter-narcotics agreements.

"A country's presence on the foregoing list is not necessarily a reflection of its government's counter-narcotics efforts or level of cooperation with the United States," Trump said.

He said countries such as Afghanistan, India, The Bahamas, Belize, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic among others are a major drug transit or illicit drug producing nations.

Trump alleged that the most complicit kingpin in this Hemisphere is the Venezuelan dictator, Nicolas Maduro.

"In Colombia, President Ivan Duque and his government remain strong partners of the United States, and Colombian police and military forces have shown great bravery and commitment by targeting high-level drug traffickers, interdicting drug shipments, and manually eradicating coca," he said.



## Will the Palestinian State ever be a reality?

The UAE-Israel accord speaks of a “negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that meets the legitimate needs and aspirations of both peoples.” No one could explain what this means. It is so because it does not speak of Palestinian State or Palestina. It only speaks of a solution to the Palestinian conflict with Israel.

The words sound right, but are missing one essential and obvious phrase, a Palestinian state. After all, what solution is sought for the Palestinians if not that, so why not just state it? The omission of any reference to Palestinian statehood is particularly strange at this stage in the game. The Trump administration had already committed to a two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in its January peace plan.

If Palestinian statehood can be put it in writing in January, why not do so in September? Netanyahu already

pledged his support for a two-state resolution to the conflict in his famous 2009 Bar-Ilan speech. Just in case there was any room for doubt Netanyahu has also committed to the Trump peace plan. One speculative possibility is that the documents were designed to avoid any controversial topics, so they could easily be ratified by the Israeli government and Knesset, where there is strong opposition to Palestinian statehood.

Whatever the reason, without a specific reference to a Palestinian state, a door is left open to the possibility that a resolution to the conflict might not involve such Palestinian sovereignty, even the demilitarised one that Netanyahu has envisioned. To underscore this point, Netanyahu did not reference Palestinian statehood at the White House ceremony. Also absent from Netanyahu’s rhetoric of a former soldier seeking to lay down the guns of war, was any mention of his extended hand to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas or in fact any plea for Palestinian peace.

Instead, Netanyahu spoke of ending the Israeli-Arab conflict, as if to swallow the suddenly silent Palestinian issue, within the larger regional unrest. Trump

spoke of Palestinians coming to the negotiating table, but ignored Palestinian statehood. The closest they came was a reference made by bin Zayed, in which he thanked Netanyahu for “halting the annexation of Palestinian territories.” In other words, the very territory that Israel has planned to annex and to which the Right already believes must be an integral part of sovereign Israel, remains in their eyes, Palestinian territory.

In reality they reflect a dramatic regional change that involve a new Israeli-Gulf alliance against Iran and a complex upgrade of military equipment for Gulf states that could threaten Israel’s ‘Qualitative Military Edge’. This includes the possible US sale to the sophisticated F-35 fighter jets to the UAE. During Oslo accord of 1993 too, it seemed as if peace and Palestinian statehood were just around the corner.

No party to these Accords has any incentive to abide by it in the long run. The best they can manage is to hold on to it till November 3. Any accord should have the consent of all parties involved, directly or indirectly. Just because Trump wants a Nobel Peace Prize, two warring countries in a region cannot sustain an accord.

## THE GREEN WORLD ORDER

# India vs China – who can lead?

SATISH KUMAR

There has been much talk about the shifting of power from the West to the East. The rise of China, along with India and Japan, indicates that 21st century is destined to be an Asian century. There are, however, disruptions.

Will China become as much of a super power as the United Kingdom and the United States?

One of the thinkers of world politics, Richard Haass, explained that a super power needs to have economic and military powers apart from the ability to intervene politically in any part of the world. Another qualification is the use of nuclear weapons. China fails flatly on both the parameters.

The second disruption against the ‘rising China’ theory is that there are more than two powers emerging on the landscape of the international system. The concept of middle powers such as India, Germany, Japan, South Africa among others is inching up to shape the world system together.

Chinese aggressions in many parts of Asia are showing its utter desperation to become the unparalleled power in the region. If there is a world order that could be developed beyond the conventional theory of the world system, then that is the ‘Green World Order’ – one that creates a pitch for fossil fuel-free energy system. It appears more promising.

The world is sitting on the brink of a catastrophe. Neither the US nor China is keen to safeguard the world through its roadmap of the Green World Order.

We have heard of the Panchtantra story: In the extreme exigencies of flood, a tree becomes a shelter for a tiger, a human being, a serpent and a peacock. None of them harm each other; they hang on calmly and mutually. Reason is apprehension of existence and it lurks on each of its head. The disruptions in climate have pushed different countries to take shelter under the same tree.

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is a harsh reminder of the ongoing change. The beginning of industrial revolutions in the early 19th century in Europe, along with the political ideology of an unchallenged charter of individualism, created a world order that was based on ‘more consumption, better development’. It was highly racial with geographical superiority.

One after another geo-political theories – from Heartland to Rim Land – were postulated to justify the western interventions and shaping the world system on western interests.

This is how the 200 years of history of the world is with us: It has created a threat of existence, not only for Asian and Africans, but for European and American as well. Now the larger question is: Which country has the ability to provide shelter? The United States is absolutely an odd-man out. It has been the biggest disrupter of the Green World. It did not sign the Kyoto Protocol and withdrew from Paris Climate Agreement as well.

China is developing a huge green-energy infrastructure. It produced almost 170 Giga Watt of solar energy in 2018 when India was struggling in double digit. But it has a dubious character. It wants to keep its house clean, but litters other parts of the world with fossil fuels.

The Chinese system does not

each country in its fold. India has displayed its commitment for the resolutions of Paris Agreement. The eight-fold jump in solar energy in the last six years has proved the point. India is touted to generate more than 450 GW of energy through renewable sources by 2030.

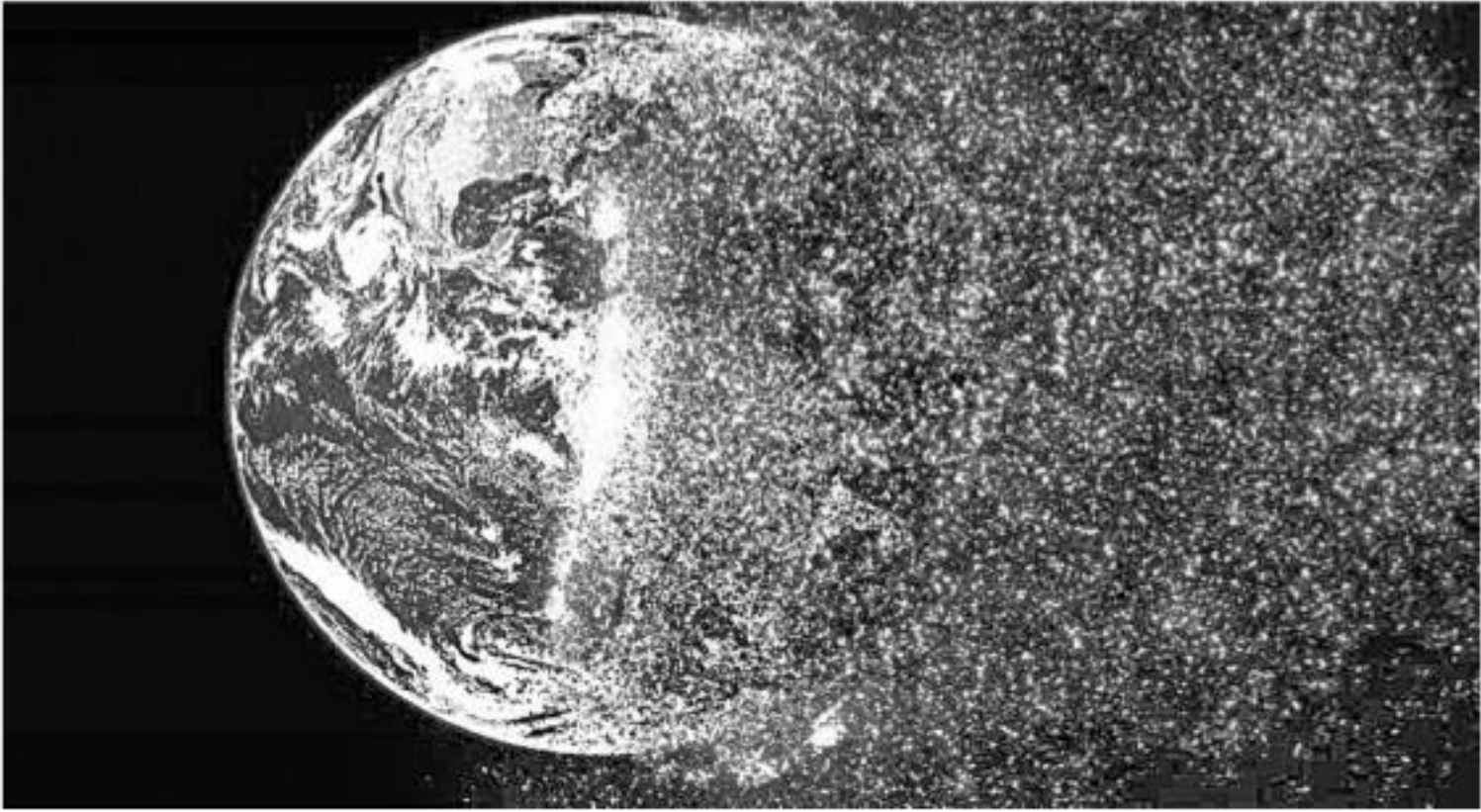
The world is sitting on the brink of a catastrophe. Neither the US nor China is keen to safeguard the world through their roadmaps on the Green World Order

force of world politics. Geo-Politics of oil embargos are common. Oil and gas have not only been used as ‘sticks’ to hurt or deter foes, but also as ‘carrots’ to reward allies and ensure their allegiance.

The 25th UN climate conference in Madrid to switch over from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy served as a reminder to the bigger economies. But things have not moved as much. The US president Donald Trump, meeting with chief officers of the companies during the pandemic, assured them of carbon-led economic development in future.

The impact of fossil-fuel economy is visible. The trade war between the US and China is pitching for carbon-led energy system. Climate disruption has reached to the tipping point.

The whole world is severely under its grip. But certain parts of the world are more prone to climate change: Southeast Asia and South Asia will potentially face more severe consequences



think magnanimously to safeguard the planet through its inclusive approach. The COVID-19 pandemic has completely eclipsed the Chinese credentials in the international system. The way China has manipulated the World Health Organization in view of the pandemic, its ‘green and humanitarian’ face has been unmasked.

Rest of the countries are not as big to shape the Green World Order. The only country which shines out in the crisis is India.

India will have the largest population in the world by 2024. It has tested democratic credentials and strong constitutional framework. The ancient Indian wisdom is based on *Vashudhaiva Kutumbkam* (the world in one family), which encapsulates

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the ‘Champion of Earth’ by the United Nations Secretary General in 2018. India has made important progress towards meeting the United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals, notably Goal-7, on delivering energy access.

India’s per capita emissions today are 1.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide – well below the global average of 4.4 tonnes.

Need for Green World Order

The world politics has been driven by the greed of oil and gas so far. Churchill, after the end of World War I, ventured to use imported oil in place of coal for British fleets. Since then, oil has been the driving

of climate change than other parts of the world.

Why can China not become a Global Green World Power?

The climate action tracker gives China a very poor grade, for the country has continued reliance on coal. China has failed to stop new coal-fired plants and is financing them outside of the country, increasing emissions elsewhere.

It remains the world’s largest producer of carbon emissions. It plans to finance and build roads, railways, bridges, ports, and industrial parks abroad, beginning with its neighbours in Central, South, and Southeast Asia and eventually reaching Western Europe and across the Pacific to Latin America.

While China has imposed a cap on coal consumption at home, its coal and energy companies are on a building spree overseas. Chinese companies are involved in at least 240 coal projects in 25 Belt and Road countries, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Serbia, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

It had been eyeing the coal resources of South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the Russian Far East. Second, the Chinese political system is not transparent. Its next move is unpredictable.

Third, China is very keen to settle its historical scores. Therefore, its intentions are based on self-interests that would generate more conflicts in the international system.

Inequality and climate change are two sides of the same coin: Climate change is also related with lifestyle.

Western economist Thorstein Veblen, who coined the terms ‘conspicuous consumption and invidious comparisons’, pointed out how individuals use luxury goods to show off their status. Adam Smith, the father of economics, explained in his path-breaking book *The Wealth of Nations* that it is the industry that makes a country rich.

But ancient Indian wisdom contradicts the view. Gandhi once said that India cannot afford to follow the British economic policy of greed. If two-thirds of the planet failed to satisfy the UK’s greed, India – with four times the UK’s population – would need four planets to fulfil the greed.

Unfortunately, independent India copied the western pattern of development. That is why this government is working on to reintroduce the ancient wisdom of its own. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar stated that climate change is not merely a fuel issue but has a larger context.

Unsustainable consumption is the fundamental cause of pollution and ecological destruction. India has increased its solar energy capacity 12-fold since 2014. Indian stands are not contradictory. It says what it does.

The democratic credentials are well-respected. This government has prepared a blue print of Green World Order. It is secure, sure and pure.

Views expressed are the author’s own and don’t necessarily reflect those of Down To Earth



# DUPLICITOUS DRAGON AT THE DOOR

AIR MARSHAL (RETD)  
HARISH MASAND

More than four months have gone by since the PLA upped the ante on the borders with India resulting in an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation. The confrontation has also been unprecedented with the largest loss of lives since the Nathu La confrontation of 1967 with 17 Div of Maj Gen Sagat Singh. The clash at PP 14 in the Galwan area resulted in the loss of Colonel Santosh Babu, the CO of 16 Bihar and 19 other ranks on the night of 15/16 June 2020 in a most barbaric and treacherous attack by the PLA despite the consensus on disengagement reached in the Corps level talks on June 6.

Though the brave Indian troops inflicted a much larger number of casualties on the PLA, this tragic incident on the LAC is being recounted to remind everyone of China’s duplicity and the resultant trust deficit on the Indian side on the value of China’s words, particularly since China has been playing such a game ever since the Panchsheel agreement of 1954.

While the Indian media has been covering the details of the day-to-day developments in these four months of confrontation, sometimes excessively so, the Chinese media, all officially controlled, has been reticent but continues with its propaganda on trying to put the blame on India for the current situation on the LAC. India put out the number of casualties on 15/16 June almost immediately and gave a widely publicised last salute to its 20 martyrs while China has kept a lid on the number of casualties on its side and almost buried the details thus disowning its losses on the lines of the Pakistanis during the Kargil War of 1999 when India had to finally give a decent burial to the Pakistani dead.

Fortunately, with Chinese aggressive moves all across on various fronts in its wolf warrior diplomacy, the international community has seen through the propaganda with many other nations having suffered its salami slicing tactics, particularly in the South and East China Seas. Due to this, world opinion has rallied behind India as evident from the US moves and exercises in the South China Sea and the recent call of the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to all nations to stand up against Chinese aggression in the recently-concluded ASEAN meeting.

Fortunately also, this time India has decided to stand up to Chinese designs and aggression no matter what the costs, unlike previous instances

when we let China continue with its nibbling. It’s nobody case that India is looking for war, with its focus on economic development and poverty alleviation in a peaceful environment and co-existence with all its neighbors. Despite the betrayal of the 1950s culminating in the war of 1962, India has continued to work towards peace on the existing borders despite its legitimate claim to the Aksai Chin and other areas illegally ceded territories by Pakistan to China.

This resulted in a number of agreements since 1993, including 22 rounds of talks between the Special Representatives and two summits between the two heads of state. All of these were violated in a jiffy by the PLA in the current standoff by moving almost 50,000 troops from its so-called exercise in Tibet earlier this year and attempting to alter the status quo on the LAC. Despite these provocations from China, India has kept the door of diplomacy open. Accordingly, the two Foreign Ministers met on September 10 on the sidelines of the SCO in Moscow in an effort to find a peaceful resolution to the current imbroglio, as of writing this piece.

Details of the agreement reached between the two Foreign Ministers are slowly emerging, with some hopeful indications of maintaining peace and tranquillity on the existing borders and abiding by the existing protocols and understandings on disengagement to avoid further escalation. However, lest one gets optimistic about this being an end to the stalemate, it needs to be remembered that such platitudes have been mouthed many times earlier. In a press conference on September 11, Zhao Lijian, the spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, still talked of India’s provocations.

Therefore, while India awaits the words to be converted to deeds and visible action on the ground by the PLA to disengage and withdraw to its peacetime locations, it must continue to counter Chinese moves on all fronts, economic as well as military, without letting its guard down. Economically, while China may be far ahead of India, India has sufficient military might to give more than a bloody nose to China should push come to shove. China would be making a grave error if it underestimates India’s resolve and its capacity to fight when national honour and sovereignty are at stake. China certainly has taken on more than it can chew.

(Air Marshal (Retd) Harish Masand served in the Indian Air Force)

## Local professors as V-Cs for TS universities

The government has expedited the recruitment process of vice-chancellors of 10 universities in the State of Telangana. Especially in the case of appointing vice-chancellors of universities, selecting professors working in the same University can be fruitful.

Professors from a different university as vice-chancellor will take time to get a grip on the university administration to understand the local issues. Time will be wasted on administrative, academic, research-related topics. Unable to make qualitative decisions, the development of universities has faltered over the past three years

Some universities have faced similar problems so only local professors have the opportunity to have a full understanding and make decisions. Under pressure from local politicians without giving in and exhibiting commitment with teaching experience is only available to professors with an excellent academic profile. The government is in this regard requested that they will develop the University if it appoints as vice-chancellors only professors who are highly experienced and committed. Especially for Osmania and Kakatiya universities, It is better to appoint VCs from the professors of the same university.

Kandagatla Sravan Kumar,  
Kakatiya University, Warangal



## LETTERS

### A big relief for India

The agreement between the Russia and India comes as an oasis in the desert at a time when the country’s coronavirus positive cases have crossed 50 lakh mark and that hospitals are struggling a lot to treat ever increasing patients (Dr. Reddy’s inks deal with Russia to vaccinate India, September 17). It is a good news that India will receive the vaccination by year end, if clinical trials and permissions from the medical authorities come smoothly without any hitch. One wonders where Modi government’s Aatmanirbhar Bharat really mean when India gets vaccine from Russia, fighter planes from France and job opportunities from US?

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

### Lawmakers seem more valuable than us

TS State Assembly Speaker’s decision to end the session in fear of Covid virus reflects the continuous growing of the pandemic. But the state government is over confident to conduct exams and giving explanation to High Court on conducting various exams risking students’ lives. The Speaker’s view to protect 1200 lives who are at risk and wanted to end the Assembly session is a partiality

comparing with thousands of students who are going to attend the exams in future. At the time of Covid, universities are blindly following the directions of state government even circulated exams schedule. Common man life is nothing and exploited at every level.

D Kishan Prasad, Thimmapur, Karimnagar

### Thought-provoking piece

“A question of life and death” by A.Amarender Reddy is thought-provoking. Why should anyone have painful death? Death is inevitable but should it come only after prolonged suffering? Can’t medical science intervene? As for extending life at any cost is concerned, we should remember hope springs eternal in the human breast. And is it fair to view it only from cost point? It is not easy to give up and say, “You are supposed to die. So no treatment for you.” It is a good idea and a welcome thought to decrease depression and anxiety and reduce pain. Who does not want feel- good medicines? Who opts for prolonged and painful death? Is it time to think of euthanasia? It should be left to the choice of a patient if he is in a position to choose. Yes, there is a fear of misuse. But sufficient safeguards will be able to save the situation.

Dr J Bhagyalakshmi, Madanapalle

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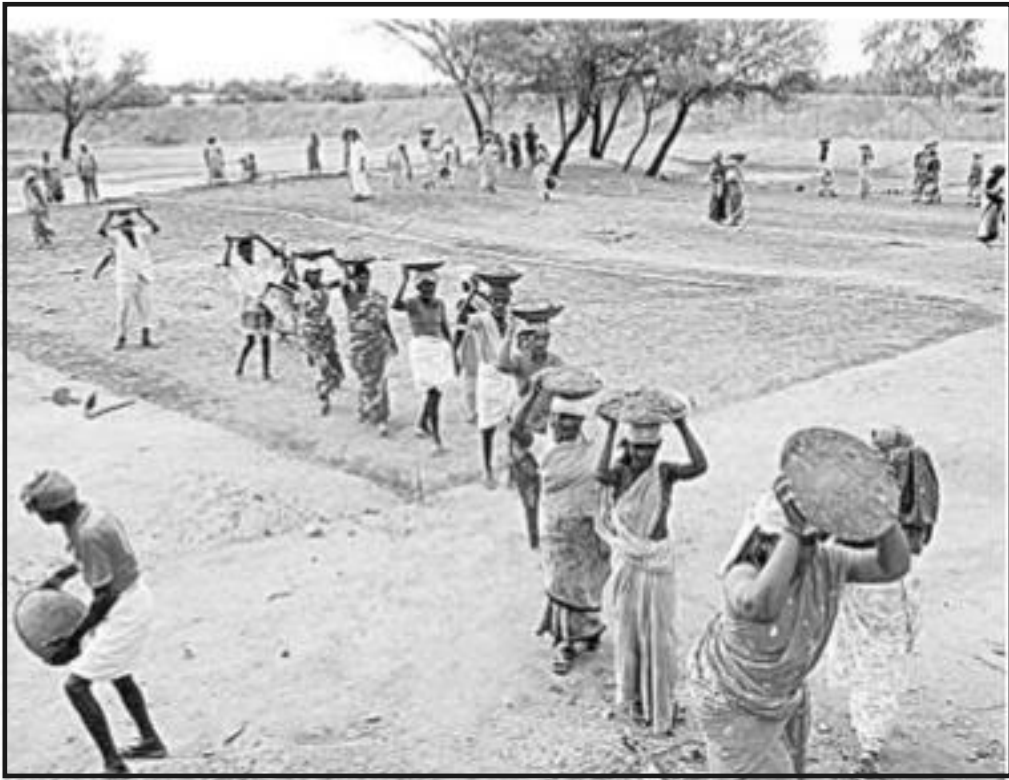


# Govt targets ₹ 10,572 cr spending under NREGS

- Panchayat Raj Minister says Rs 5,518 cr has been spent so far during this financial year
- Plans to provide at least 25.25 cr working days
- Ramachandra Reddy says construction of 10,861 village secretariat buildings has started out of the total 10,864 buildings

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**Amaravati:** The state government aims at spending at least Rs 10,572 crore under MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) in the current financial year, said panchayat raj and rural development minister Peddiredy Ramachandra. Speaking at a State Employment Guarantee Council meeting at Tadepalli here on Thursday, the minister said the government was targeting to provide at least 25.25 crore working days during this year under the scheme. He said that the government



provided 20 crore working days and spent at least Rs 4084 crore material component during 2019-20. In 2020-21, more than Rs 5,817 crore has been spent so far out of the total targeted Rs 10,572 crore, he added. He suggested that the council members work along with the government officials to solve any problems while executing the projects under the MGNREGS. He observed that the scheme would play a crucial role in the development of the state and all the officials concerned must keep

this in mind and work effectively. Ramachandra Reddy said that if the projects were completed within the stipulated time, then the government will give Rs 5 crore additional funds as an incentive to each Assembly constituency. The state government proposed construction of 10,864 buildings for village secretariats. Out of them, the government started construction works of 10,861. Of the total 9,050 Anganwadi centres proposed to be constructed, works for 3,097 buildings have already started.

## 33% Delhiites exposed to corona, have antibodies

**Continued from P1**  
To put it into perspective, the survey implies that 66 lakh people out of the two crore residents in Delhi may have been exposed to the virus and are now carrying antibodies. "The report has been submitted to the health department and it is currently being reviewed. The final report could have minor variations in the final seroprevalence since data from some wards are also being re-checked," a senior government official said. The figure rose from 29.1% in the second survey conducted in the first week of August. The first serological study found 23.4% people carrying antibodies. While 15,000 samples were collected for the second survey, over 21,000 samples were gathered in the first one. The survey's third report said that the samples taken from containment zones in Delhi had a "significantly higher sero-prevalence" than those who had never lived in one. "A sero survey is necessary to find out the true burden of the infection in the city or state. More importantly it helps identify the number of asymptomatic people who had the disease and recovered from it. Such people, in most cases, are not even aware that they are infected," Dr Lalit Kant, former head of epidemiology and infectious disease at Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said.

## Oppn leaders meet Prez, seek probe

**Continued from P1**  
In a recent supplementary charge sheet, the Delhi Police, citing statements of those arrested, had named Sitaram Yechury along with other activists in the case. "The name of CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, a parliamentarian of long-standing repute and also names of well-known intellectuals, academicians and activists have now surfaced in material put out in the public domain. This is a disturbing trend that raises serious questions over the manner of such investigations," the memorandum said, blaming the Delhi Police for turning blind eye towards the alleged role of its own personnel and BJP leaders in the violence. "We therefore urge you to call upon the Government of India to institute an inquiry into this investigation under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952, headed by sitting/retired judge(s)," the memorandum read.

## No secrecy in declaring capital, asserts TDP

- Says Jagan is destroying Amaravati only due to greed and selfishness
- Alleges that the ruling party leaders are shifting capital to Vizag only to benefit from increased prices of 30,00 acre lands they have secretly acquired in the port city



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**Amaravati:** The YSRCP government has been destroying Amaravati out of greed and selfishness, said TDP national spokesman and former MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao. He demanded the ministers and YSRCP MPs to explain as to why their party had not objected to the declaration of Amaravati as capital city when the decision was taken by the previous government. Addressing a press conference at party state office in Mangalagiri on Thursday, he asserted that there was no secrecy when the TDP declared Amaravati as the capital city when it was in power. "There was no secrecy about the declaration of Amaravati capital during the TDP government but now the YSRCP government has taken a U-turn and is bent on de-

stroying it out of sheer greed and political vendetta," he said. He said that Amaravati was chosen with openness, transparency and after giving due consideration to the suggestions made by the Sivaramakrishnan Committee at that time, as per the conditions laid down by the Central government. According to him, even the media houses affiliated to the ruling YSRCP had reported at that time that Vijayawada was the best place as capital. He said the national media too carried reports on the selection of a place between Vijayawada and Guntur. "They were planning to shift the capital to Visakhapatnam only to make sure that the values of their land already acquired there go up multiple times. The YSRCP top leaders have acquired over 30,000 acre in the surroundings of the port city," he alleged.

# Army builds up arsenal to fight a long war

**Continued from P1**  
With the need to equip more than 50,000 troops in Ladakh — five times the normal deployment — the Indian Army is also purchasing large stocks of extreme weather clothing, shoes, portable heaters and tents, as reported by News18 earlier this month. "The Chinese strategy is to lock India into a ruinous confrontation that runs for months or even years, but without actual war-fighting," said strategic affairs expert Manoj Joshi. "Given the huge difference of scale between the two economies, this will obviously impose unequal costs on India," Joshi said. Last year, Chief of Defence

Staff General Bipin Rawat warned that it "benefits China to compel India to maintain troops in forward locations, since such a large deployment involves a lot of money and logistics. Experts have long raised concerns over large-scale deficits in critical military equipment, with the Comptroller and Auditor General reporting that, in 2016, stocks of 55% of all types of ammunition were not sufficient to last 20 days of war-fighting, and 40% inadequate to last for 10 days. The delays, some analysts believe, were the consequence of former Defence Minister AK Antony's refusal to fast-track acquisitions, for fear of corruption

allegations. In a 2019 interview, General Rawat revealed that the Army had made progress in addressing those deficits, building up reserves adequate for an intense but brief war with Pakistan. "If we can't win a war with Pakistan in 10 days, there is no point of a war", he said. The then-Army chief said, however, that the Army had also begun the process of building a stockpile that could enable a longer, 30-day war with China. "You won't believe the amount of visits the officers have undertaken in markets across the world," General Rawat added. Little information is available on how much progress had been

made on expanding India's reserves to meet the demands of a 30 day war, but a senior Government official said troops on the LAC were "well-equipped to face any situation that might arise". "Emergency acquisitions have had to be made every time there has been a crisis, from the Siachen build-up to the Kargil war and on", notes Joshi. "Vendors know we are desperate and charge ridiculous prices. Worse, our adversaries get insights into our weaknesses from our own shopping-lists". "The Government and the Army need to ask themselves some very hard questions about why we keep getting into this mess", Joshi said.

## 'Dear Narendra...'

**Continued from P1**  
In her birthday wishes to the Prime Minister, Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin said there is much potential to deepen even further the relations between the two countries. Nepal PM Oli has also extended greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 70th birthday and said that the two leaders will continue to work closely together to further strengthen relations between India and Nepal.

# Southern States' water dispute meet today

**Continued from P1**  
Irrked over this, the TS Government has decided to raise strong objections over the project. The government's argument is that the State would be deprived of its share of water from Godavari which happens to be a lifeline source for water to meet the growing irrigation and drinking water requirements of Telangana. Top officials of state Irrigation department have prepared a

strong counter to oppose the central move during the video conference with Jal Shakti officials on Friday. The officials will submit a report to the Union ministry of Jal Shakti raising strong objections to the proposal to link Godavari - Cauvery by lifting water from the Telangana region. Sources said that under the river linking project, the Centre wanted to lift 247 tmc feet of 'surplus' water from Godavari under the inter-

state river linking project. Out of 247 tmc feet, Tamil Nadu will be provided 85 tmc water for drinking needs and the remaining water will be supplied to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh from Sagar reservoir. "TS Government stand is very clear. There is no surplus water in Godavari. Whatever water is available in Godavari is just sufficient to fulfil the requirements of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh only," a Telangana official said.

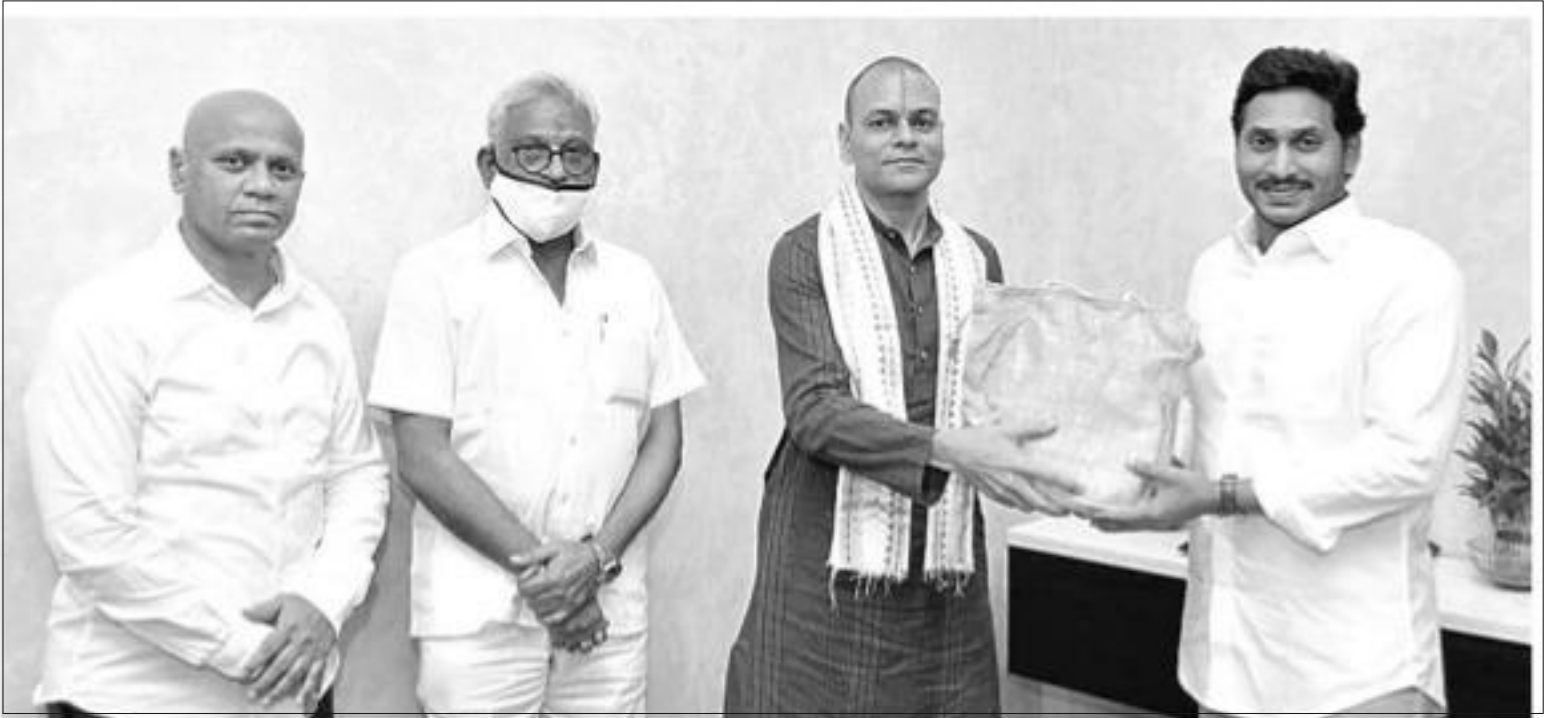
## PRESENTING SILK VASTHRAMS

# TTD chief, officials invite CM for Brahmotsavams

- He will visit Tirumala on Sept 23 on Garuda Seva day to present silk robes to the deity as per tradition
- Though CM visit takes place on the first day of Brahmotsavam normally, this year it is slated for Garuda Seva day as there will not be rush of devotees in view of TTD's decision to celebrate the fete without devotees owing to Covid

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**Tirumala:** TTD Trust Board chairman Y V Subba Reddy along with EO Anil Kumar Singhal and additional EO AV Dharma Reddy met Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy in his camp office at Tadepalli on Thursday and invited him for the annual Brahmotsavams at Tirumala which will be held from September 19 to 27. They also presented the



TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal along with TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy and Addl EO AV Dharma Reddy presenting Theertha Prasads of Lord Venkateswara to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy after extending invitation for Tirumala Brahmotsavam, at CM camp office in Tadepalli on Thursday

Theertha Prasadam of Lord Venkateswara to the Chief Minister. Sources said the Chief Minister will arrive at Tirumala on a two-day visit for the presentation silk vasthrams to the Lord on the occasion of Garuda Seva on September 23. He is following the age old practice of state government presenting the silk vasthrams.

Normally, the presentation of vasthrams will be on the first day of Brahmotsavam instead of Garuda Seva day to avoid inconvenience to devotees that gather in large numbers to witness Garuda Seva. Since the TTD has decided to conduct the nine-day annual Brahmotsavam in Ekantham, confining it within the shrine this

year, the Chief Minister's programme is slated for Garuda Seva day. Source also revealed that Jagan along with his Karnataka counterpart B S Yeddyurappa will lay the foundation stone for the construction of Rs 200 crore choultry taken up by Karnataka endowments department at Tirumala on 24.

# Centre vows support to 8 fishing harbours in State

- Industries Minister Goutham Reddy says Union Minister for Industries Piyush Goyal promised him that Centre will either invest directly or extend indirect support to the development of fishing harbours
- According to him, a bulk drug park to be set up by the Centre is most likely to come up in East Godavari

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The Central government assured that it would support the eight fishing harbours proposed to be built in the state, according to industries minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy. Addressing a press conference at Mangalagiri on Thursday, Goutham Reddy said Union minister for industries Piyush Goyal had assured that the Centre would either invest directly or support indirectly for the development of these fishing harbours. He said that during his recent visit to New Delhi, he met Goyal and requested the Centre's support for the development of these harbours. Apart from constructing fishing harbours, the government also



Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy addressing media at Mangalagiri on Thursday

prepared plans for developing infrastructure for connectivity. The state government is expecting support from the Central government on connectivity too. He said tenders would be called for construction of two ports on December 15, 2020 and the Detailed Project Reports were completed for them. Apart from that, another proposal for construction of a third port is in progress, he added. Goutham Reddy said that the Union government was planning to establish two petrochemical corridors and AP has the advantage to get them. He said a bulk drug park proposed by the Union government is likely to come up at East Go-

davari district. The state government has experience in handling the pharma industries, and the manufacturing companies have also been evincing interest on AP, he added. The minister said NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar would visit the state to see himself development of school infrastructure under the Naadu Nedu programme in October. "He expressed interest on the programme after knowing about it. He will visit at least one school in Visakhapatnam district," he said. The minister, who also holds IT portfolio, said the government was planning to develop Vizag as the world's cloud computing centre.

## No force can stop Army from patrolling: Rajnath

**Continued from P1**  
The Chinese engaged in provocative military manoeuvres on the night of August 29 and 30 while the two sides were engaged in diplomatic and military dialogue. Unki kathani aur karni alag hai (their words and actions are different)," he said. The Defence Minister said he would not be able to share much more because these were sensitive operational issues. "I hope the House will understand the sensitivity of the matter," he said. Rajya Sabha Chairperson Venkaiah Naidu urged the minister to call select leaders for a separate meeting to address deeper issues and answer their questions. Several Opposition leaders expressed solidarity with the armed forces. "Two words, Jai Hind!" - said Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien. Congress members asked the government to clarify the end-game strategy. "The government said it will do everything to protect sovereignty - what does it mean - you have to clarify. Is there status quo ante as on April," asked Antony. The former Defence Minister added: "Galwan Valley was never a disputed site. But even there our soldiers are not being allowed to patrol."

# Modi devoted his life to service of nation: Shah

**Continued from P1**  
Shah said that under Modi's leadership, the poor and deprived sections of society have been given a respectable life. "In the form of Modi ji, the country has got a leader who has connected the deprived class with the mainstream of development and laid the foundation of a strong India," he said in a series of tweets in Hindi. President Ram Nath Kovind also greeted Modi on his 70th birthday. The President took to Twitter and said, "Happy birthday to you Narendra Modi ji. You have set an example of Indian life values and democratic tradition. I pray to God that he always keeps you healthy and happy and the nation continues to receive your invaluable services." Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu also extended best wishes to Modi on his birthday. In a letter addressed to the PM in Hindi, the Vice President said, "Best wishes on your birthday. On this occasion, I congratulate you on your hard work in taking the country to new heights." Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Thursday greeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 70th birthday and ex-

pressed his gratitude for the warm and considerate hospitality to his people living in exile. In a letter to Modi, the Dalai Lama extended his greetings to the PM and prayed for his continued good health.

## Rahul, Kejriwal others wish PM on his 70th birthday

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal wished Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 70th birthday. "Wishing Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji a happy birthday," the Congress leader tweeted. While wishing Modi, Kejriwal prayed for his long and healthy life. "Narendra Modi wishing you a very happy birthday sir. I pray for your long and healthy life," said Kejriwal.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Civil aviation on steady growth path

“ Civil aviation sector is on a steady growth trajectory. The sector is all set to emerge stronger in a post-Covid world as more routes are opening up. We expect a bulk of pre-Covid domestic air passengers' traffic to be back by Diwali  
- Civil Aviation Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri**



## DEFAULT

### ONGC exits from Sudanese oilfield

After facing years of payment default, the country's largest oil and gas explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has finally exited from Sudanese oilfields, relieving itself of yet another toxic overseas asset. The OVL had a 25 per cent stake in Block 2A & 4 in Sudan.

## FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.12	South	
Euro	91.27	African Rand	5.18
UAE Dirham	22.07	Hong Kong Dollar	10.94
Thai Baht	2.72	Japanese Yen	0.81
British Pound	99.18	New Zealand Dollar	51.89
Australian Dollar	56.38	Saudi Riyal	21.61
Canadian Dollar	58.54	Swedish Krona	9.6
Swiss Franc	84.04	Singapore Dollar	56.89

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## BIZ BRIEFS

### Hysea rolls out new portal

**Hyderabad:** Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (Hysea), Hyderabad's IT/ITes industry association, launched a volunteering portal that promotes CSR among IT company associates. The portal was formally launched by Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Department of IT, E&C in the presence of Hysea executive committee members and CSR leaders. The user-friendly portal is a one stop platform to learn and participate in the CSR events and projects being conducted in Telangana and volunteers can participate in any event according to one's areas of interest. Hysea president Bharani Arolli said: "This portal is the platform Hysea is providing for IT corporates in Hyderabad to encourage and support volunteering among their associates. We strongly believe this portal will make volunteering easy and transparent and help in contributing to society".

### Avalara unveils e-invoicing

**Hyderabad:** Avalara, Inc a provider of cloud-based tax compliance automation for businesses, has launched Avalara India GST e-invoicing, an end-to-end solution that helps companies manage e-invoicing requirements and comply with India's e-invoicing reform. The new offering builds on Avalara's range of technological solutions available to improve the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compliance experience for businesses in India by validating, storing, and managing invoices, and providing the option to automate GST returns and e-way bills. New e-invoicing mandate in India places increased challenges on businesses. The latest announcement on e-invoicing enforcement, beginning October 1, 2020, has created urgency among businesses to conform with the new legislative reform and has increased the compliance and technological challenges on businesses.

### PhonePe, Yahoo Cricket in pact

**Hyderabad:** Yahoo Cricket, a one-stop destination for cricket fans, has partnered with digital payments platform PhonePe to exclusively power the content for PhonePe's cricket hub 'Switch Gully' through the cricket season ahead. Users of PhonePe can now catch all the live action while they transact, with live scores, real-time cricket news updates, and ball-by-ball commentary from Yahoo Cricket on 'Switch Gully', available on the PhonePe homepage. Rituraj Rautela, Head of PhonePe Switch, said, "Yahoo Cricket will also be an important offering for our users on 'Switch Gully', our dedicated hub for cricket this season, where we have partnered with multiple brands for a variety of services across food, gaming and shopping. With this partnership, our 230 million users can now catch all the live cricketing action on the PhonePe app itself".

### Johnson's new product

**Hyderabad:** Johnson's has unveiled Cottontouch range that is blended with natural cotton to provide the perfect way to care for a newborn's sensitive skin. Exclusively launched on e-commerce, the new range of products comprises of a wash, lotion, cream and oil and is available on major online platforms. This launch during these unprecedented times is an effort to address the increasing demand for efficacious products, based on science from trustworthy baby care brands in India. Manoj Gadgil, VP Marketing, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Division, India said, "Cottontouch range provides mothers with softness they have never experienced before."

# Markets plunge on negative global cues

**Mumbai:** The BSE Sensex tumbled 323 points on Thursday, weighed by losses in index heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC twins amid negative cues from global markets after the US Fed highlighted the uncertainty surrounding economic recovery.

The 30-share BSE index ended 323 points or 0.82 per cent lower at 38,979.85. The NSE Nifty fell 88.45 points or 0.76 per cent to 11,516.10.

Bajaj Finserv was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding over 2 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, L&T, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, TCS and Sun Pharma. On the other hand, HCL Tech, Infosys and Maruti finished higher.

According to traders, domestic equities traded on a negative note tracking weak cues from global markets after the US Federal Reserve hinted at key policy interest rate staying close to zero at least through 2023 without unveiling any additional stimulus plans.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with significant losses. Stock exchanges in Europe too opened on a negative note.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.26 per cent lower at \$42.11 per barrel.

## P-note investments

Investment through participatory notes (P-notes) in the



domestic capital market surged to over Rs 74,000 crore till August-end, making it the highest level in 10 months. This marks the fifth consecutive monthly rise in the investment through the route, also signaling at growing confidence of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in the local market.

P-notes are issued by registered FPIs to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

According to Sebi data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets equity, debt, hybrid securities and derivatives stood at Rs 74,027 crore till August-end, while the same was at Rs 63,228 crore at the end of July.

The figure at August-end was the highest level of investment since October 2019, when the total value of P-note investments in the Indian markets stood at Rs 76,773 crore.

## Vigocare rolls out Covid monitoring platform

HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** Vigocare, a city-based health-tech company, on Thursday launched Covid-19 patient monitoring platform that empowers healthcare providers and doctors to monitor Covid-19 patients remotely.

"This solution through a small device connected to mobile phone monitors all the patient's vitals like heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation, ECG, skin temperature and ensures transmission of the data to cloud. Once on cloud, we have an AI solution which continuously monitors, recognises any alarming deviations in parameters and immediately alerts the treating physician," said Dr Sekhar Chennupati, CEO & founder, Vigocare. Our objective is to take healthcare closer to the customer.

# Advance tax collection falls 25% in Q2

**Mumbai:** Advance tax collections fell 25.5 per cent to Rs 1,59,057 crore in the second quarter of the fiscal, an income tax official said on Thursday.

However, there was improvement over the first quarter ended June, when advance tax revenue had plunged 76 per cent to a tepid Rs 11,714 crore as the whole economy was under a stringent lockdown. During the year-ago period to September 15, 2019, total advance tax collection had stood at Rs 2,12,889 crore, down from Rs 3,70,652 crore a year ago.

"Total advance tax collection in the second quarter fell by 25.5 per cent to Rs 1,59,057 crore from Rs 2,12,889 crore y-o-y. While corporates paid only Rs 1,29,619.6 crore in advance tax, down by 27.3 per cent in



the reporting quarter, personal income tax collection stood at Rs 29,437.5 crore, down 15 per cent from Rs 34,632.9 crore.

"However, TDS (tax deducted at source) fared better at Rs 1,38,605.2 crore, down by 5.6 per cent from Rs 1,46,792.4 crore," a senior income tax official from the Mumbai zone said. As against this, advance corporate tax mop-up had plummeted by 79 per cent to Rs 8,286 crore in the June quarter, from Rs 39,405 crore in the June 2019 quarter. (PTI)

## Ajio Business holding online trade show

**Hyderabad:** Ajio Business is hosting its annual mega trade show, Sambandam - Digital Festival 2020, virtually. This on-line mega trade show is kicked off on September 17 and will be open till the 19th of this month. For those uninitiated, Ajio Business, a wing of the Reliance Retail of the widely diversified Reliance Group, is a B2B e-commerce platform that deals with garments and footwear. The on-line mega trade show enables Indian retailers to procure what all they want to stock up and showcase to their valuable customers, keeping in view the ensuing festive season that includes important festivals like Dussehra, Durga Puja and Garba. "The things they can source from the safety and luxury of their offices, homes and retail shops include a wide variety of apparels and attractive footwear with the help of digital catalogue which contains over a lakh styles from around 1,300 plus brands," the company said.

# Smartphone parts imports from China at 45% in FY20

**New Delhi:** As the government pushes for self-reliance in the mobile phone and electronics industry with the clarification call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', data shows that over 45 per cent imports of smartphone components in the last financial year (FY20) came from China. Citing data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Thursday said that the total imports of smartphone components in the country in FY20 were worth Rs 56,039 crore, out of which imports from China were to the tune of Rs 25,441 crore, which amounts to about 45 per cent.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the Ministry also said that the total electronic component imports in the country in FY2019-20 was of Rs 1,15,558



crore, out of which the import from China was of Rs 42,983 crore, which amounts to about 37 per cent of the total imports.

On the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on the supplies to India, the ministry said that the outbreak in China coincided with the Chinese New Year festivities which extended till mid-February 2020 and Indian electronics companies had already stocked raw material or components till end-February 2020.

# Relief for Anil Ambani as SC dismisses SBI plea

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea by the State Bank of India (SBI) seeking a vacation of the stay granted by Delhi High Court on personal bankruptcy proceedings against Anil Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Group.

The Supreme Court bench, headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao, directed the Delhi High Court to consider the issue on October 6.

The bench, also comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and S. Ravindra Bhat, gave liberty to SBI to seek modification of the stay order passed by the High Court on August 27. The three-judge bench said, "Why don't you go back to high court to argue the Anil Ambani case?"

On August 27, the High Court's division bench had passed an interim order staying the Mumbai bankruptcy tribunal's order. The bench had said proceedings against corporate debtors will continue and



issued notice to the central government, SBI and others. The bench had also restrained Ambani from selling or transferring any of his personal assets and listed the matter for hearing on October 6.

The SBI in its petition before the apex court last week, had submitted that the high court did not grant the bank an opportunity to file a counter affidavit and was not justified in passing an interim order staying insolvency proceedings against Ambani 'who owes to the bank public money to the tune of Rs 1,707 crore'.

# Divesting majority stake in PSBs will be 'credit negative'

Ratings agency Crisil says banking sector and its stability important for govt

**Mumbai:** Divesting majority stake in state-run lenders by the government will be 'credit negative' for such public sector banks (PSBs), a domestic ratings agency warned on Thursday. Many of the entities where the government is mulling selling off majority stake as per reports have a weak credit profile, Icria Ratings said, adding a move to reduce the public ownership will be hurtful.

These six lenders are primarily supported by sovereign ownership and the ensuing stable deposit base, the agency said.

It said there are media reports suggesting a possible divestment of majority stakes in few PSBs that were left out of consolidation exercise last year. It can be noted that some banks like UCO Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and Punjab and Sind Bank have been left out of the consolidation process. There have also been suggestions to make



these banks operate as limited-area small finance banks, while employee unions have been opposing any such moves.

A stake sale can help the government meet its ambitious divestment targets and also save it from future capital infusions, it said. The banking sector and its stability will continue to remain important to government, and the need is to identify strong candidates while identifying the new shareholders, it said. "The financial profile of these PSBs is very weak and the standalone profiles of these banks could be low within investment grades rating given their weak asset

quality, profitability, capital and solvency profile," the agency's group head for financial sector ratings Karthik Srinivasan said.

He added that the liability profile for these banks will become a key monitorable in immediate term as the agency feels that the deposits could be 'highly sensitive' to the banks' ownership. The existing ratings are notched up from the standalone credit profile and going forward, the ratings on these PSBs would reflect their standalone credit profile depending on their new ownership of these banks, the agency said.

As per the agency's estimates, cumulatively these banks reported losses of Rs 1.08 lakh crore during FY 2016-2020 and the government had to infuse Rs 76,600 crore in capital during this period, and the gross non-performing assets ratio for these banks stood at a high 15.5 per cent as on March 31, 2020.

## APMSIDC appoints REPL as consultant

**Hyderabad:** The Andhra Pradesh Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation (APMSIDC), an AP Govt undertaking, appointed infrastructure consultancy firm Rudrabhishek Enterprises Limited (REPL) for rendering architectural and engineering services for its upcoming new medical college at Madanapalli in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.

Agreement was signed by Nehru Pothuri, Executive Engineer, APMSIDC, and Zulquer Nain, VP, Real Estate Advisory, REPL. The project is being spearheaded by Srinivas Rao, Chief Engineer, APMSIDC.

As a consultant, REPL will provide master plan for the project area of 73 acres, survey and investigation, comprehensive designing with elevations, infrastructure developments, landscaping, sanitary and water supply design services, interior design, prepare detailed estimates, among others.



# Cong takes credit for Hyd merger with India

TRS, MIM and BJP are trying to distort history, says TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N Uttam Kumar Reddy has alleged that the BJP, TRS and MIM were trying to distort and communalise the history of Hyderabad's merger with the Indian Union.

Speaking after hosting the national flag at Gandhi Bhavan on the 72nd anniversary of Hyderabad Merger Day at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that only Congress and Communist parties struggled for Hyderabad's merger with Indian Union. He said BJP or its predecessors did not participate in the struggle against Nizam's rule.

In fact, BJP did not even exist when Congress leaders were struggling against the Nizam's rule. However, today BJP leaders are trying to communalise Hyderabad's merger with Indian Union by calling it a 'liberation' by distorting the history, the Congress



Congress leaders led by TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy paying tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Thursday

leader said.

Similarly, he said, TRS and MIM too are trying to communalise the history for political gains. "They are trying to make an issue out of Hyderabad Merger

Day's celebration while the fact is the Congress party has been celebrating the occasion since 1949 without any hue and cry," he said.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the last Nizam Mir Osman Ali

Khan had refused to join Hyderabad State with the Indian Union and wanted to either join Pakistan or stay independent. But his plans were foiled when the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

and Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel merged Hyderabad State with Indian Union through Operation Polo.

"Several Congress leaders and Communist leaders made several sacrifices in the struggle against Nizam's rule. The Congress party not only recognised their struggle, but also honoured them by extending all the benefits of freedom fighters. BJP leaders are not even aware of the real history. But they are trying to distort the history to draw political mileage," he said.

CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka, MLC T Jeevan Reddy, TPCC working president J Kusum Kumar, former PCC presidents V Hanumantha Rao and Ponnala Lakshmaiah and other senior leaders were also present on the occasion. Later, Uttam Kumar Reddy participated in the Hyderabad Merger's Day celebrations at Ashoka Pillar, Koti, and paid rich tributes to the martyrs of Hyderabad Struggle.

## Govt issues amended GO for LRS with less rate

According to amended GO:

The regularisation charge for below 3,000 sq yards would be 20 per cent of the market value	For 3,001 to 5,000 sq yards the charges would be 30 per cent	For 5,001 to 10,000 sq yard it would be 40 per cent
For 10,001 to 20,000 sq yards it would be 50 per cent		
For 20,001 to 30,000 it would be 60 per cent		

**Hyderabad:** The State government on Thursday issued orders making amendment to Telangana Regularisation of Unapproved and Illegal Layouts Rules, 2020 by allowing the same rate as was provided in the previous LRS scheme 2015.

After several representations received from MLAs, the Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao had announced in the Assembly on Wednesday that an amended GO would be issued for decreasing the LRS fee. The government had issued GO 135 on Thursday. As per the amended government order, the market value of the plot as on August 26, 2020 (Sub Registrar Value) for below 3,000 sq yards the regularisation charges would be 20 per cent. For the plot above 3,001 to 5,000 sq yards the

regularization charges would be 30 per cent, for 5,001 to 10,000 sq yard it would be 40 per cent, for 10001 to 20,000 sq yards it would be 50 per cent, for 20001 to 30000 it would be 60 per cent, for 30001 to 50000 it would be 80 per cent and for above 50000 sq yards it would be 100 per cent.

The Rule substitute 8 (a) (ii) of Telangana Regularisation of Unapproved and Illegal Layout Rules, 2020 has been substituted with 'pro-rata open space charges'. If 10 per cent open space is not available in the unapproved layout, pro-rata open space charges at Rs 14 per cent of the plot value prevailing as on the date of registration of such plot should be paid. The regularisation charges include NALA charges and no separate NALA charges should be paid.

## BJP leader from city meets Union Minister for Minority

Mir Firasath Ali Baqri appeals to government to initiate talks with Saudi Ambassador for rebuilding Jannat-ul-Baqee

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** With the appeal that Indian government initiate talks with the Saudi Arabian authorities and Ambassador for rebuilding of Jannat-ul-Baqee in Medina City, city BJP leader Mir Firasath Ali Baqri met the Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi at his office in New Delhi on Thursday.

Speaking to The Hans India, the leader who is also heading, Hyderi Educational and Social Welfare Society as its general

secretary said that earlier this year, a signature campaign was also launched in Hyderabad towards achieving this goal. "We are putting all our efforts for a good cause and hope the government would take up the matter with Saudi authorities," he added.

The representation addressed to the Prime Minister was handed over to the Union Minister, who was informed about the importance of the graveyard, where 7,000 important religious personalities including the family of Prophet Mohammed are

buried. "Jannat-ul-Baqee was demolished by Wahabi Saudi rulers in 1926. Through this campaign, we are requesting the government to initiate talks with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia and take this matter of rebuilding Jannat-ul-Baqee up with the United Nations Organisation (UNO). We want the UNO to make all the historical Islamic sites as World Heritage sites," he said.

Syed Ali Hussain Zaidi, co-ordinator Hyderabad chapter, Syed Mohd Raza Abedi, coordinator Delhi chapter were also present.

## NRI thanks CM for new Revenue Act

**Hyderabad:** Telangana NRI and social activist J Sudheer thanked Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for accepting the request to upload the lands owned by Non Resident Indians (NRIs) based on their passport details in the newly launched Dharani website which provides all details of the land ownership in Telangana state. Sudheer has brought to the notice of the Chief Minister that majority of NRIs did not possess the Aadhaar card which is required to upload the land details of every person and pleaded with K Chandrashekar Rao to consider passport as official personal document of the NRIs. The government had recently adopted new Revenue Bill which ensured the land rights of NRIs.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Taking offence to the way the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its affiliates celebrated the Telangana Liberation Day, some Muslim groups held parallel meetings in the city recalling the events that transformed the political landscape forever.

While some termed Telangana liberation movement a 'false narrative' as the Razakars did not belong to a particular community, others questioned the narrative if the Nizam was ruthless then why was he made the 'Rajpramukh' (Governor) of the State?

"In fact, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is now enjoying the infrastructure and official buildings constructed by the Nizam. He should announce an award in

**"The role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the last Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan, is being communalised by saffron brigade to suit their fascist agenda intoxicating people with hate, which not only binds but also blinds people, which is no less than a treason," says Amjed Ullah Khan, spokesperson of Majlis Bachao Tehreek**

Nizam's name to prove that he is secular," said Mushtaq Malik, president of Tehreek Muslim Shaban and former president of Telangana Muslim JAC, during a programme organised at his office in Malakpet. Similarly, leaders of Majlis

Bachao Tehreek (MBT), who announced their decision to contest the upcoming elections to Greater Hyderabad municipality, termed the movement a false narrative of history and called it malicious and arbitrary.

"The role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the last Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan, is being communalised by saffron brigade to suit their fascist agenda intoxicating people with hate, which not only binds but also blinds people, which is no less than a treason. Ironically, Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which never allowed tricolour to be hoisted on Hedgewar Bhavan till 2001, wants to hoist it on September 17, to mark the day as Hyderabad Liberation Day," wondered, Amjed Ullah Khan, spokesperson of MBT.

## Two held in connection with ATM robbery case

Police have recovered Rs 8.75 lakh from the possession of the accused

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Hayathnagar police on Thursday arrested two persons for stealing cash amount for Rs 9 lakh from HDFC bank's ATM at Rajeshwari Colony in Hayathnagar. The accused were identified as, Cheedarla Vinay and Konda Raghavendar Goud and also the amount of Rs 8,75,000 was recovered from their possession.

The accused no. 1, Vinay worked as a cash custodian in Secure Value India Ltd, and his friend, accused no. 2, was a former employee of another cash replenishment service company. Due to lockdown, the accused no. 2 lost his job, but as both the accused still maintained good friendship they hatched a conspiracy to steal the money from the ATM centre as they were well versed with the techniques of loading and unloading the amount at ATM centre, said the police. So, according to their plan, the accused no.1 who was still working with Secure

Value India Ltd, travelled to the HDFC bank's ATM on September 11 to load the amount along with one, Linga Swamy and loaded the amount for Rs 13 lakh. But, the person Swamy did not know the intentions of Vinay and shared the ATM combination (password to deposit cash cassettes) with him. The accused then shared the ATM combination with his friend and in the wee hours on September 13, both the accused entered the ATM centre and stole the money without breaking the ATM machine, said Sunpreet Singh, DCP of LB Nagar.

He said, "Based on the complaint filed by Secure Value India Ltd. The investigation began and it was known that a person with knowledge of the ATM machines might have committed the theft. So we narrowed down our search and traced out the accused persons. Later, on they confessed to their crime and also the stolen money was recovered from their possession. Both the accused were produced before the court."

## Five students injured in car accident

**Hyderabad:** In an unfortunate incident, five degree students who were traveling from Mahbubnagar to Nalgonda met with an accident at Pedda Golconda, Shamsabad on Thursday as their car hit a median and turned upside down resulting in severe injuries to three students and other two are believed to be critical.

The students were identified as Karthik, Bal Ganesh, Achyuta, Sai Teja and Shiva. All the students were natives of Mahbubnagar.

According to police, it is known that the students were from Chaitanya Degree College in Nalgonda and were traveling to their college to collect certificates. However, as they were over speeding they could not control the car while taking a turn and met with an accident. All the students were then immediately shifted to a nearby private hospital and are undergoing treatment. Two students were severely injured and their parents have been informed about the incident, said the police.

## MONSOON BLUES



A woman and her son removing rainwater that entered into their house near Durgam Cheruvu in the upscale Hyderabad suburb on Thursday. Continuous heavy downpours have thrown life out of gear in the capital for the past two days. Photo: Adula Krishna

## City born e-bike ready for drive in Nepal

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IITH) incubated startup PURE EV has hit the international market launching its premium model 'EPluto7G' electric bike in Nepal.

According to the statement issued by the company, the launch will be in October this year as part of its international expansion plans.

A unique point of this vehicle is that the battery and the vehicle have been designed and developed factoring in the gradient requirements of Nepal. PURE EV has developed state-of-the-art 'power train' capabilities and efficiency in its vehicles to enhance the user experience in rough terrains.

PURE EV's expansion into Nepal is part of a larger strategy to export to international

- IITH-incubated startup PURE EV to launch its bike in the neighboring country next month
- PURE EV has developed state-of-the-art 'power train' capabilities and efficiency in its vehicles to enhance the user experience in rough terrains

markets having predominantly two-wheeler mode of transportation for personal mobility.

The startup is partnering with White Lotus Motors (WLM) for distribution of its EV two-wheelers in Nepal. WLM will establish two outlets in the capital city of Kathmandu. PURE EV plans to launch more models shortly.

Rohit Vadera, chief executive officer, PURE EV, said, "This is one of the most significant milestones in the journey of PURE EV. We look forward to catering to the esteemed customers in Nepal through our partnership with White Lotus Motors. Further, all the new

range of products launched in the future will also be made available in the Nepal market in the due course of time. We will be expanding to other international markets as well over the course of next year with particular focus on South Asia, South East Asia and East African countries."

The IITH-incubated startup intends to start off with an annual sales of 1,000 scooters and have wider coverage in the top five cities of the country within a year, he added.

Ashok Khadgi, MD, White Lotus Motors Private Ltd, said "partnership with Pure Energy, India will enable it to launch

world-class, new generation 2 wheeler EV products in Nepal. "We see value creation for Nepalese consumers with Pure EV products due to better product quality, high-class R&D capability and suitability for Nepalese road conditions. We see a bright future for Pure EV products in Nepal," he said.

PURE EV has received International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) certification for faster homologation in Nepal and has targeted gaining 10 per cent of the market share in the two-wheeler electric vehicle sector by end of 2022.

'EPluto7G' is a high-speed premium model of PURE EV. The vehicle offers affordability, long-range, top speed of 60 kmph and battery warranty for 40,000 kilometres. The model comes with a 2.5 kWh portable battery that can travel 100 kilometres on a single charge.

## Guv calls for end to child labour, human trafficking

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday said that offering selfless service to the underprivileged and other down-trodden sections was a noble activity, and those who dedicate their life for such selfless service of others were real great people.

On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday celebrations, the Governor conducted a virtual felicitation to five eminent social activists including Prof Shanthi Sinha of MV Foundation, Dr Mamatha Raghuvver of Tharuni Organisation, Sunitha Krishnan of Prajwala Foundation, Dr Anitha of Gandhi Hospital and Dr Vijay Kumar Goud of Disabled Foundation Trust and Ravi Helios Hospital, in appreciation of their services.



Tamilisai said that it takes courage and positive attitude to serve the needy sometimes even risking one's life and well-being. Expressing concern over the plight of children and exploitation of women in some areas, the Governor pointed out that poverty was the root cause of the problem and every person must do concerted efforts to end the vicious circle of poverty, unemployment, backwardness and exploitation.

"When I was pursuing my PG

House Surgeonship at Tanjavur Medical College, I was moved by the plight of people who used to bring their ailing children in bullock carts due to poverty and lose the Golden Hour advantage in some cases. During my further studies in Canada, I found ailing kids being shifted in helicopters. That was one of the motivating factors for me to enter into politics to serve the underprivileged," she added. The Governor stated that everyone must continue to serve and serve in a bigger way to better the conditions of the underprivileged and end trafficking of women and also the practice of child labour and child marriages. She assured the activists that she would take up the issues of child marriages, child labour and trafficking of women with the government for their improved efforts in this direction.



# 80% physios once ruled me out of 2017 WC: Mandhana

**New Delhi (IANS):** Star Indian batswoman Smriti Mandhana has revealed that she was all but out of the 2017 Women's World Cup because of an injury she had suffered during the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) in January that year. Mandhana had suffered an ACL injury (ligament tear) during the WBBL in Australia and had to undergo surgery and strenuous rehab. "It was quite funny, tearing my ACL while bowling. When I fell during the Big Bash match, I knew that it was a major injury. When I incurred the injury, the first thing I thought about was the World Cup," said Mandhana while speaking on the fourth episode of 'The Finish Line' hosted by Saurav Ghoshal.

"80 per cent of the physios had ruled me out of the World Cup, but there were a few physios and trainers at NCA (National Cricket Academy), who thought that I will be able to make it because I am a batter. "I am lucky that I am a left-



hander and I put a lot of weight on my right leg and not on my left leg, so all these factors gave the trainers confidence that I can make it to the World Cup," she added.

Mandhana's 2017 World Cup campaign can be divided into

two diametrically opposite parts: The first two matches where she scored 196 runs and the next seven where she managed only a total of 36 runs. In total, she scored 232 runs in nine matches in the tournament where India had finished

runners-up, losing to England in a pulsating final at the Lord's. In June 2018, the Board of Control for Cricket in India named her as the Best Women's International Cricketer. She is also the recipient of the prestigious Arjuna Award.



## Shane Jurgensen set to become NZ's most experienced coach

**Auckland (IANS):** Shane Jurgensen has signed on as New Zealand bowling coach for another two years, extending his second tenure with the side after re-joining in 2016. Jurgensen's new deal with New Zealand Cricket (NZC) will take him through to the end of 2022, by which time he will have been in charge of the bowlers for a total of nine years, including an earlier stint from 2008-2010.

The 44-year-old said it was a straight forward decision to stay on as Black Caps bowling coach. "It's a huge honour to continue my coaching journey with New Zealand Cricket," he said as per an NZC media release. "I love my job and feel lucky to have been involved with such a special group of players and support staff for the past five years.

"We've had some amazing experiences as a team and I'm looking forward to working alongside Gary (Stead) and Kane (Williamson) as we prepare for an exciting summer," he added.



## FIFA RANKINGS

# India drop by a spot to 109

**Zurich (IANS):** The Indian men's football team have dropped by one place and are placed at the 109th position in the latest FIFA rankings, which got updated on Thursday. India have 1187 points and have not lost or gained any since the last update which took place in July.

India, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, were ranked 108 from the November 2019 to July 2020 editions. However, there was no release of FIFA rankings in August this year.

India's last international match was against Oman in Muscat in November last year, when they lost 0-1. They are slated to play an away friendly match against Tajikistan on March 31 next year, the venue for which has not been announced yet.

Meanwhile, Belgium remain at the summit ahead of France and Brazil, who complete the podium, while England continue to occupy fourth place. Portugal (5th,+2) have moved into the top five thanks to victories over Croatia (8th,-2) and Sweden (18th,-1).

Other countries moving in the right direction were Spain (7th,+1), Italy (12th,+1), the Netherlands (13th,+1), and Germany (14th,+1), with each gaining one place in the global classification. Wales (21st,+2) climbed two rungs but remain just outside the top 20. Russia, hosts of the last FIFA World Cup, are further back in 32nd but had the biggest gain in this edition, ascending six places courtesy of wins over Serbia (31st,-2) and Hungary (52nd, unchanged).

# Hyderabad FC bolster attack with Aridane signing

**Hyderabad:** Strengthening their attack ahead of the upcoming season of the Indian Super League, Hyderabad FC have completed the signing of experienced Spanish striker Aridane Santana. The 33-year-old joins after a successful season with fellow ISL side Odisha FC and has penned a one-year deal till the end of the 2020-21 season.

Standing tall at over 1.9 meters, Aridane becomes the fourth foreign signing for the season and is set to play a crucial role in the squad.

"Aridane will be an important player for us in the season. He is the typical striker - strong, a good header of the ball, holds up possession, someone with a good shot, and a hard worker. He has

shown all these things last season at Odisha and we've all seen how important he was for them. The good thing is that he knows Indian football and the ISL, so settling in won't be a hassle. His experience in Thailand will also help us, with the League set to take place in Goa, and we're very excited to have him," said Hyderabad FC Head Coach Manolo Marquez. The striker was in fine form for Odisha FC during their first season in the ISL during 2019-20, netting nine goals and bagging two assists in his 14 appearances, before an injury cut short his time in India. Having recovered, Aridane returns to India with a renewed vigour hungry for more.

"I'm very happy to sign for Hyderabad FC. I have known

Manolo Marquez from his previous clubs in Spain, and he is definitely one of the top coaches. I am excited to come down to India and meet up with my new teammates and get ready for the season," said Aridane.

The Vecindario-born striker came through the ranks at Deportivo La Coruna and has spent most of his career in the Spanish league system. Having turned out for the likes of Deportivo B, Zaragoza B, Universidad de Las Palmas (2010-11), Leganes (2011-12), Tenerife (2011-15), Mirandes (2015-16), Albacete (2016-18) and Cultural Leonesa (2018-19) in the Segunda and Segunda B, Aridane had his first overseas stint with Thai Premier League side Bangkok Glass in 2015.

# Virat, Rohit continue to lead ICC ODI rankings for batsmen

**Manchester (IANS):** Star Indian batsmen Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have maintained their top two positions in the latest ICC rankings for ODI batters which got updated following the completion of the three-match series between England and Australia. While Kohli is at the numero uno spot with 871 rating points, Rohit has 855 rating points and is currently placed at the second spot.

Meanwhile, England opener Jonny Bairstow and the Australia pair of Glenn Maxwell and Alex Carey, all of whom slammed centuries in the final match of the series at the Old Trafford on Wednesday, have made remarkable gains in the rankings. Bairstow topped the three-match series aggregate with 196 runs after his 126-ball 112 in the final match to make a return to the top 10. The previous best for the 30-year-old was ninth position in October 2018. He is now within 23 points of his career-best rating points of 777. Maxwell and Carey, who were involved



in a 212-run fifth-wicket stand that helped Australia complete a thrilling three-wicket victory and take the series 2-1, are next to each other in the rankings table led by Kohli and Rohit.

Maxwell has gained five places to take joint 26th position along with Paul Stirling of Ireland after scoring 186 runs in the series, while Carey comes in next after his total of 152 runs elevated him 11 places to a career-best 28th position.

Others to move up in the list include Australia's Marnus Labuschagne (up 20 places to a career-best 63rd) and Sam Billings of England, who scored 118 in the first match to finish with 183 runs in the series, only behind Bairstow and Maxwell, making it to the top 100 for the first time. England all-rounder Chris Woakes is a major gainer in the rankings for bowlers, advancing three places to a career-best fourth position after finishing with six wickets in the series. Woakes is now second in the list of all-rounders after also notching 89 runs in the series. His compatriot Ben Stokes is among those he has overtaken to reach within 20 points of Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi.

Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood has returned to the top 10 for the first time in nearly two years, his player of the match performance of 3/34 in the first match the highlight of a four-wicket tally. He has moved up from 15th to eighth position.

# RRI look for turnaround in search for 2<sup>nd</sup> IPL trophy

**New Delhi (IANS):** Rajasthan Royals, who had won the inaugural Indian Premier League (IPL) edition, have reconstructed their team and will be looking to step up their game, after a forgettable outing last year, in IPL 13 beginning Saturday. The Royals had released as many as 11 players after they ended at the seventh spot last season. Ajinkya Rahane led them for half of the IPL 12 and Steve Smith was handed over the captaincy by the team management in the middle of the tournament.

However, the players forming the crux of the team -- Smith, Jofra Archer, Jos Buttler, Shreyas Gopal, Varun Aaron, Sanju Samson, Ben Stokes, Riyan Parag, Shashank Singh, Mahipal Lomror, and Manan Vohra -- will be there when they begin their tournament campaign against Chennai Super Kings on September 22 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The franchise has brought in Shane Warne as their brand ambassador and mentor, which in turn could provide a lot of motivation to the players considering the fact that they had won their maiden IPL title under the legendary Australian leg-spinner's captaincy in 2008.

"This season I am looking forward to working as a team mentor and joining up with an excellent backroom staff in Zubin Bharucha and Andrew McDonald," Warne had said recently. "Hopefully, we can have a successful season and achieve big things in the coming months."

## Strengths:

One of the biggest strengths of the Royals is having batsmen like Jos Buttler and Steve Smith. Buttler scored 311 runs in 11 matches at a phenomenal strike rate of 151.70 last year while Smith scored 319 runs. The team's batting will certainly revolve around these two. The franchise also has skilled batsmen in Sanju Samson and Robin Uthappa who have a good IPL record.

Besides, they also have Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer who both were instrumental in England's World Cup-winning campaign in 2019. Both are potential match-winners and team's biggest strengths, not to forget David Miller, who on his day can turn a match on its head. The Jaipur-based franchise will also have young batsman Yashasvi Jaiswal who has been in the news ever since the U-19 World Cup where India reached the finals.

## Weaknesses:

One of the things which can go against the Royals is their inability to get their combination right, considering they have made many new additions. Uthappa's form of late hasn't been that great and another under-par performance could add pressure on the likes of Smith and Buttler. The fast bowling department is heavily dependent on Archer for breakthroughs. The Barbados-born bowler could suffer from fatigue considering he has been playing consistently for England ever since international cricket resumed after the Covid-19 hiatus. Jaydev Unadkat, despite being criticised for his poor performances, has been able to keep his spot in the Royals and he would definitely feel the pressure to deliver. Also, not having a top-class spinner who could find purchase on the slow UAE wickets could go against the Royals.




Rajasthan Royals players in their new jersey

**Squad:** Mahipal Lomror, Manan Vohra, Riyan Parag, Steve Smith (captain), Robin Uthappa (wicket-keeper), David Miller, Ankit Rajpoot, Mayank Markande, Jofra Archer, Shreyas Gopal, Varun Aaron, Jaydev Unadkat, Kartik Tyagi, Akash Singh, Shane Thomas, Andrew Tye, Ben Stokes, Rahul Tewatia, Shashank Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Anirudha Joshi, Tom Curran, Jos Buttler (wicket-keeper), Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Anuj Rawat

**Support staff:** Andrew McDonald (head coach), Amol Mazumdar (batting coach), Sairaj Bahutale (spin bowling coach), Ish Sodhi (spin consultant and operations executive), Rob Cassell (fast bowling coach), Steffan Jones (fast bowling consultant), Dishant Yagnik (fielding coach), John Gloster (physiotherapist).

## ‘MI TO STICK WITH ROHIT, DE KOCK AS OPENERS’

**Dubai (IANS):** Captain Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock will be opening the batting for Mumbai Indians despite the franchise recruiting explosive Australian opener Chris Lynn for this season, coach Mahela Jayawardene said on Thursday. Rohit and De Kock made a formidable opening pair last season as MI won their fourth title. "Having options is always great, Lynn is a great addition to the squad. But the combination of Rohit and Quinton has been phenomenal, they complement each other very well," said Jayawardene in a virtual press conference ahead of the team's first match of the season, against Chennai Super Kings, to be played on Saturday in Abu Dhabi.



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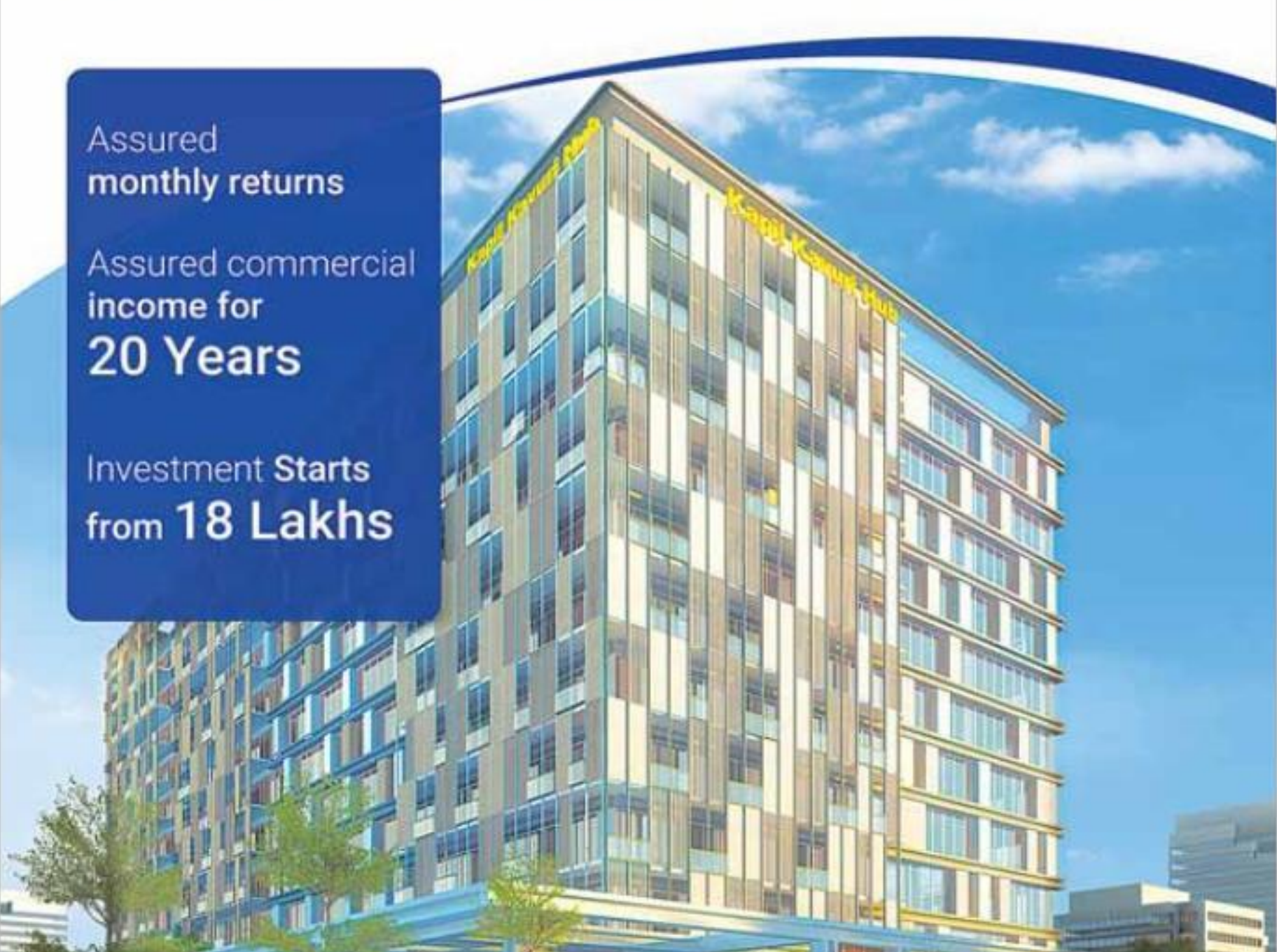
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