





# Womenia

## Malaika Arora guides your yoga journey

THE ACTRESS SHARES A FEW BASIC YOGAASANAS TO KICK-START YOUR DAY WITH POSITIVITY AND TO HELP YOU STAY MOTIVATED

PUJA GUPTA

Yoga brings together physical and mental disciplines to achieve a peaceful body and mind and helps manage stress and anxiety while keeping one relaxed. It also helps to increase flexibility, muscle strength, tone the body and improves respiration, energy and vitality. Practicing yoga might seem like just stretching, but it can do much more for your body from the way you feel, look and move.

Bollywood actress and Reebok ambassador Malaika Arora who has been practicing yoga for long shares a few basic yoga asanas which you can practice at home and kick-start your day by filling in positivity and stay motivated. Each pose can be held for 3 to 5 long breaths. You can practice these twice a week and gradually make it a part of your daily routine.

She says, "I am mindful of the fact that I feel centered within myself. There may be a storm out there, but there is a calm within. I am grateful for the calm that I have experienced through my practice of Yoga, and I am mindful that my life has changed positively because of this."

### Work-out: Tadasana (Mountain Pose)

This pose teaches one to stand with majestic steadiness like a mountain. It involves a major group of muscles and improves focus and concentration.

Stand with your heels slightly apart and hang your arms besides the torso. Gently lift and spread your toes and the balls of your feet, then lay them softly down on the floor. Balance your body weight on your feet. Lift your ankles and firm your thigh muscles while rotating them inwards.

As you inhale, elongate your torso and when you exhale release your shoulder blades away from your head. Broaden your collarbone and elongate your neck. Your ears, shoulders, hips and ankles should all be in one line. You can check your alignment by standing against the wall initially. You can even raise your hands and stretch them. Breathe easy.

### Vrikshasana (Tree Pose)

This pose gives you a sense of grounding. It improves your balance and strengthens your legs and back. Place your right foot high up on your left thigh. The sole of the foot should be flat and placed firmly. Keep your left leg straight and find your balance.

While inhaling, raise your arms over your head and bring your palms together. Ensure that your spine is straight and take a few deep breaths. Slowly exhale, bring your hands down and release your right leg. Back in the stand-

ing position repeat the same with the other leg.

### Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward Facing Dog Pose)

This pose stretches hamstrings, chest and lengthens the spine, providing additional blood flow to the head. It will leave you feeling energized. Sit on your heels, stretch your arms forward on the mat and lower your head. Form a table, like pushing your hands, strengthening your legs and slowly raising your hips. Press your heels down, let your head hang freely and tighten your waist.

### Trikonasana (Triangle Pose)

It stretches the legs and torso, mobilises the hips and promotes deep breathing, leaving

one with enlivening effects.

Stand with your feet wide apart. Stretch your right foot out (90 degrees) while keeping the leg closer to the torso. Keep your feet pressed against the ground and balance your weight equally on both feet. Inhale and as you exhale bend your right arm and make it touch the ground while your left arm goes up. Keep your waist straight. Ensure that your body is bent sideways and not forward or backwards. Stretch as much as you can while taking long, deep breaths. Repeat on the other side.

### Kursiasana (Chair Pose)

An intensely powerful pose, this one strengthens the muscles of the legs and arms. It builds your willpower and has an energizing effect on the body and mind.

### Stand straight with your feet slightly apart

Stretch your arms but don't bend your elbow. Inhale and bend your knees, pushing your pelvis down like you are sitting on a chair. Keep your hands parallel to the ground and back straight. Take deep breaths. Bend gradually but make sure your knees don't go beyond your toes.

### A few things to note before you begin your journey

- Focus on the breath, right from the beginning.
- Do what you easily can. There is no competition. You are expected to move at your own pace. Listen to your body and do not push yourself.
- Don't get discouraged by the initial lack of flexibility or strength, it improves over time. Be patient and give your body the time to respond.
- Understand that everybody is unique. Everyone has different levels of strength, stamina, and flexibility. Your lifestyle and goals may also vary. Find a style of yoga that suits your needs.
- The best time to practice yoga is early in the morning and empty stomach. So, begin your day with yoga.

## Tahira Kashyap announces new book 'The 7 Sins of Being a Mother'

Author and filmmaker Tahira Kashyap Khurrana announced her next book "The 7 Sins of Being a Mother" on Father's Day on Sunday.

Tahira, who is married to actor Ayushmann Khurrana, took to Instagram to announce her fifth book.

Posting pictures of herself jumping with joy showcasing her laptop screen, Tahira revealed the title of her second book penned during the pandemic.

The author said, "I love dads (mine and my kids) but on Father's Day I want to share some special news about my new book!! It's sinful and hopefully delightful. It's called 'The 7 Sins Of Being A Mother.'"

Tahira had launched her fourth book "12 Commandments of Being A Woman" last year, which received an exceptional response from the audience.

Earlier, she has authored books like "Cracking The Code: My Journey in Bollywood", "Souled Out" and "The 12 Commandments of Being a woman".



## Superfoods to keep hypertension at bay

SIDDHI JAIN

Hypertension is one of India's most common lifestyle diseases and often termed as a "silent killer" disease. The condition exhibits no symptoms even if blood pressure reaches a dangerously high level, making a person prone to having a cardiac arrest or stroke.

With the fast-paced life and demanding work schedules, everyone is under a significant level of stress. The pandemic has further escalated the stress levels due to work from home, resulting in longer working hours.

Hypertension refers to a condition where the long-term force of the blood is unusually high against the artery walls leading to several other diseases over time, notes Sharanya S Shastri, a dietician at Apollo Spectra Hospital, Bangalore.

Regular headaches, nosebleeds, and shortness of breath are a few symptoms of high blood pressure, these are not specific to only hypertension and don't occur till the blood pressure is at a severely increased level, says the expert.

According to Shastri, including a few foods in the daily diet can help manage hypertension as these foods have medicinal properties. A few super foods for hypertension are:

### Pomegranate

This delicious fruit contains antioxidants and bioactive polyphenols, which possess many medicinal qualities bene-



ficial for hypertension. One can simply include a bowl of the fresh fruit as their mid-morning snack.

### Jamun fruit

High blood pressure can cause narrowing of the blood vessels, and this fruit contains potassium, which is good for the muscles. Besides being a wonder fruit for hypertension, jamun fruit is also good for managing elevated cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

### Beetroot

This has been a go-to super food for Olympians as it contains natural nitrates, which are converted into nitric oxide by the digestive system. A glass of raw beetroot juice or a cooked vegetarian dish of beetroot can significantly reduce high blood pressure levels in 2-3 hours of consumption.

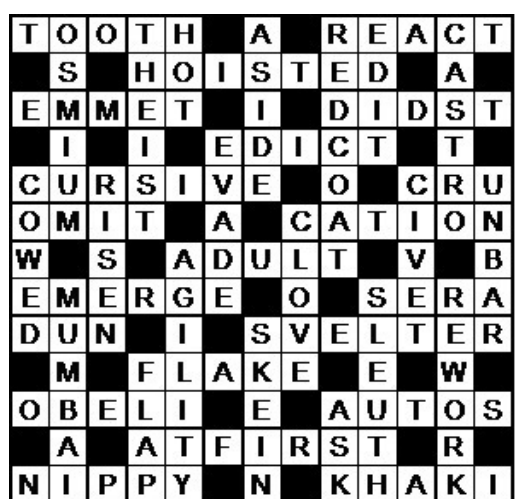
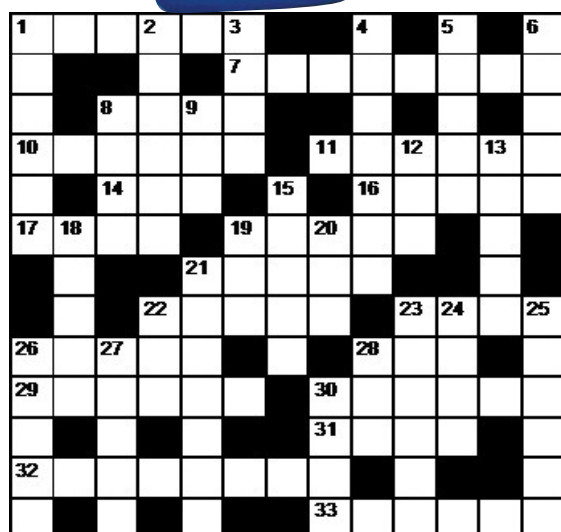
### Garlic

Garlic has been known to have medicinal properties for ages as

it produces a natural compound called allicin on being crushed or chopped. It can bring blood pressure down instantly and is an excellent option to be added to the everyday food intake of hypertension patients.

### Methi/fenugreek

Both leaves and seeds are rich in fibre, Calcium and they reduce the level of LDL/TG in the body resulting in bringing the blood pressure down. Hence include methi seeds in your tadka or a methi paratha in your diet. Foods that have a proven history of helping maintain a healthy blood pressure level. A combination of these and a moderate level of physical activity daily can significantly help manage hypertension. While working from home, try to create a sleep routine that gives the body ample time to reboot and reset. As we wait for this pandemic to pass, it is imperative that health becomes of prime importance in order to boost immunity and battle the consequences of the virus.



SOLUTION TO JUNE 19

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- Insults (6)
- Class (8)
- Facts and figures (4)
- Military commander of Japan (6)
- Cream cake (6)
- Another name for a young sheep (3)
- Stern (5)
- Bakery items (4)
- Sick and tired (3,2)
- Fable writer (5)
- Bottomless gulf (5)
- Leak through (4)
- Greek letter (5)
- By way of (3)
- Indehiscent fruit (6)
- Central points (6)
- Just the one (4)
- Lute-like instrument (8)
- Beginnings (6)

#### Down

- Excavates or unearths ? (4,2)

#### 2 Phases (6)

- Glance over (4)
- Tomato sauce (7)
- Echolocation (5)
- Sweet cicely (5)
- Over-nurse (4)
- Pull hard (3)
- One circuit (3)
- Point in dispute (5)
- "The Glass-Bead Game" author (5)
- Scientist Newton (5)
- Whimsical (3)
- Some parties (3)
- Forsake (7)
- Mimic (3)
- Moves sideways (6)
- Facile (4)
- Shoves or thrusts (6)
- Destiny (5)
- Fake (5)
- Wine (Fr.) (3)
- Not stereo (4)

### SUDOKU



## International Yoga Day

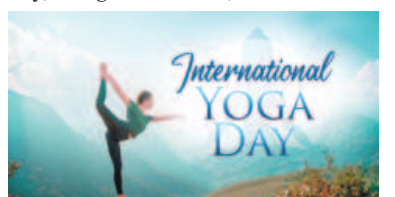
THIS DAY IN HISTORY  
BANSINGH

Yoga itself is a physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India about 6,000 years ago. Throughout the ages, yoga evolved and developed, along the way becoming a philosophy in itself. Then, in the 19th century, yoga came to the attention of the West, which had begun to take a general interest in Eastern culture and philosophy.

The United Nations General Assembly declared International Yoga Day official on December 11th, 2014. The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, had this to say about the decision to create this day.

"Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day." The date chosen on which to celebrate International Yoga Day, June 21st, is also of great significance, as it is Summer Solstice and marks the transition to Dakshinayana. So far, more than 170 countries worldwide have shown their support for this day.

Yoga is practiced all over the world and there is evidence of this as yoga continues to inspire and take over the world! Yoga classes are becoming more and more prevalent in our society today and there is a bigger demand than ever before. Yes, yoga has been well marketed you may say, it is an ancient practice that has stood the test of time but you do not need to be a yogi ninja to really be able to appreciate the beauty and benefits of the tradition.





# One of world's largest open modern art galleries coming up in Raj



ARCHANA SHARMA  
JAIPUR

RAJASTHAN will soon house one of the worlds largest open modern art galleries, the Mandawa Art Village, which will be speak the stories of desert, beautiful 'havelis', colourful dresses, camels, sands and much more. "The idea is to offer an alternative choice to the people who live in the village through creative economy," said Amita D'Alessandro, the French co-founder of Mandawa Art Village,

along with Virendra Singh Shekhawat, the director and founder of DPC, a Delhi-based photography club.

"Through art, art workshops, art experience, creation of open-air gallery, we are developing a new form of artistic tourism which will generate jobs in the village, offering a better life to the villagers," D'Alessandro added.

The Mandawa Art Village project aims to promote local art and culture and stop migration from the village.

"We want to transform it into an international art village to offer another attraction to the tourists who visit Mandawa. Restoring, preserving and promoting local old art forms is also one of our aims," Shekhawat said, adding that foreign tourists coming to the art village will be taught pottery making, photography and many more forms of art and craft.

One of the major attractions of the art village is the walls painted by international street artists, which will immediately

strike a chord with the tourists.

New street art in the art village and heritage frescos of Mandawa are perfect combinations for Indian and foreign tourists, Shekhawat said. Rocio Del Perez Solar, an artist from Peru, visited the village in the end of 2019 and painted four walls.

Eva Potacka is another artist from Morocco who painted the walls here and her style of painting is using colourful pastels and extensive use of stencils to give a Moroccan feel to the art works. One of her artworks is in-

spired by the cows in India, said Shekhawat.

Artists from across the globe will be invited for collaboration and they can even adopt the village and showcase their country in the village, he added.

The village, situated 4 km from Mandawa, is well known for its painted havelis and the project will ensure that the rural economy gets a boost, Shekhawat told IANS, adding that "reverse migration is the need of the hour and we are working in that direction".

## Haryana extends lockdown till June 28



CHANDIGARH

THE Haryana government on Sunday extended the COVID-19 lockdown in the state by another week till June 28, but eased restrictions imposed on weddings and funerals, and allowed corporate offices to operate with full attendance.

According to an order issued by Chief Secretary Vijay Vardhan, up to 50 guests can now attend weddings and funerals or cremations, up from 21 earlier, subject to strict observance of Covid-19-appropriate behaviour and social distancing. Corporate offices can now open with full attendance but there has to be strict observance of social distancing, COVID-19-appropriate behaviour and regular sanitisation, it said.

Weddings can now take place in courts but processions are not allowed, the order said. It, however, said swimming pools and spas in the state would continue to remain closed. Club houses, restaurants and bars of golf courses are allowed to open with 50 per cent seating capacity from 10 am to 10 pm, it added.

"Now after duly considering the fact that although Covid positivity rate and the number of new Covid positive cases have declined, so as to continue the preventive and precautionary measures to contain the Covid pandemic ... the 'Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana' is extended for another week from June 21 (5 am onwards) to June 28 (till 5 am) in the state," the order issued by Chief Secretary

Vardhan said. All shops can continue to operate from 9 am to 8 pm, and restaurants and bars, including those in hotels and malls, are allowed to open from 10 am to 10 pm with 50 per cent seating capacity.

The timings for shopping malls will continue to be from 10 am to 8 pm, the order stated. The state government has termed the lockdown "Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana (Epidemic Alert-Safe Haryana)". The number of daily COVID-19 cases, which had crossed the 15,000-mark last month, has now come down to under 300, while the count of fatalities has also registered a sharp fall. The Haryana government-imposed lockdown in the state has now been extended for the seventh time.

## Rajasthan: VHP leader held in 2018 Alwar lynching case

JAIPUR

A local Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader has been arrested for his alleged involvement in the lynching of Rakbar alias Akbar Khan on suspicion of cattle smuggling in Rajasthan's Alwar district in 2018, police said on Sunday.

This is the fifth arrest made by the Ramgarh Police in the case. Police had filed a charge sheet against four accused -- Paramjeet Singh, Naresh Sharma, Vijay Kumar and Dharmendra Yadav -- in 2019.

Final arguments in the case are yet to be heard by the court. Alwar SP Tejaswini Gautam said VHP leader Naval Kishore Sharma was arrested three-four days ago by the Ramgarh Police and the case was being investigated by an ASP-rank officer. Rakbar and his friend Aslam were beaten up severely by a group of people on suspicion of cow smuggling in Ramgarh on July 20, 2018.

Rakbar's family had accused Naval Kishore Sharma, the chief

of Gau Raksha cell in Ramgarh, of leading a mob to beat him to death. ASP (Rural) Shriman Meena, the investigating officer in the case, said the VHP leader was arrested on Thursday under IPC sections 302 (murder), 304 (culpable homicide) and others.

Naval Kishore Sharma has been taken under 10-day police remand, he said. Special Public Prosecutor Ashok Kumar Sharma said Naval Kishore Sharma's telephonic conversations were being examined for a long time after which his arrest was made.

He said the VHP leader gave an impression that he was helping the police in the case, but he was a part of the criminal conspiracy.

Rakbar and Aslam had allegedly purchased cows from Lad-pura village and were taking them to their village in Haryana through a forested area near Lalawandi village when they were attacked by the accused. Aslam had managed to escape, but Rakbar succumbed to injuries in a hospital.

## Former Punjab IPS officer likely to join AAP

CHANDIGARH

Former IPS officer Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh, who was part of the SIT probing the 2015 Kotkapura police firing incident in Punjab, is likely to join the Aam Aadmi Party on Monday, said sources.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will travel to Amritsar

where he is likely to induct the former Punjab inspector general of police in the AAP.

"Punjab wants change. The only hope is the Aam Aadmi Party. See you tomorrow at Amritsar," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Punjabi on Sunday without making any reference to the possible induction. Punjab AAP leaders also re-

mained tightlipped about the likely induction of Singh to the party at Amritsar.

Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh took premature retirement in April after the Punjab and Haryana High Court quashed a report by the earlier Punjab Police SIT into the firing at people protesting in Kotkapura in 2015 over the alleged

desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in Faridkot district.

Singh was part of the SIT which was probing the 2015 Kotkapura and Behlal Kalan policing firing incidents.

The court had then directed the state government to set up a new SIT without Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh.



## Gang running online sex racket busted, 2 held

NOIDA

THE Noida police have busted a gang running an alleged sex racket, supplying call girls through online booking. Two accused have been arrested in connection with the case.

The search for another accomplice, who is absconding, is on.

According to the information shared by the police, the accused have been arrested by the Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) of Noida police from near a guest house under Sector-58 police station.

The police have recovered a car, three mobile phones and Rs 24,930 in cash from the possession of the accused per-



sons. According to police officials, the accused have confessed that they used to talk to people through a WhatsApp number and after confirming the deal, used to send girls by car to hotels, houses, flats, bungalows etc. The accused used to collect money in cash from their customers.

Both the accused used to charge between Rs 5,000 and Rs 20,000 depending on the customers, of which the girls were given their share.

On Saturday, the AHTU team posed as a customer to get information of the sex racket while booking online for two girls for Sunday and called them in front of a guest house. At the same time, both the accused had come to drop the girls in their car. However, AHTU had already

laid a trap to nab the accused duo. As per the plan, both the accused were immediately arrested.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Women and Child Safety, Vrinda Shukla, said the police got information about a particular number a few days ago through which girls were supplied online for prostitution. On acquiring the requisite information our AHTU team laid a trap and after talking to the accused duo called them to a fixed location from where they were arrested.

The police have also detained two girls who are being questioned, she said. Among them one girl hails from Nepal while the other girl is a resident of Kolkata.

## 'Hate crime' increases when elections approach, says Jamiat chief

NEW DELHI

CITING alleged incidents of mob lynchings at Haryana's Mewat, UP's Loni and some other places, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind President Maulana Arshad Madani on Sunday said that cases of hate increase when elections are around.

"People of a certain ideology started targeting unarmed Muslims on the basis of their religious identity. Even the elders are not being forgiven, their beards are being cut. It is unfortunate that the miscreants did this to the elders to spread religious hatred which is regret-

table," he said, in a statement.

"This truth has been fully exposed... the general opinion and tendency is that whenever an election is approaching, all of a sudden, a certain section of the society is engaged in fanning the flames of sectarianism and religious hatred," Maulana Madani said.

He said that some time ago, when the second wave of corona was killing humans, people were helping each other, irrespective of their religion, cast and creed. "Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians were all coming together to help the co-



rona victims. What our rulers and politicians could not do was fulfilled by the spirit of human

sympathy created due to corona," he said.

The Jamiat chief also said

that from the print and electronic media to social media, it was being said that the epidemic had united all Indians and "torn down the wall of hatred that sectarian parties and organisations had built between them for their political interests".

"Then every peace-loving citizen of the country breathed a sigh of relief but as the elections approached, the game of hatred started once again," he said.

Noting that the corona epidemic has exposed the "grim reality of development", he said: "When we could not provide

oxygen to the people, thousands of people died due to lack of oxygen. Many people did not get hospital beds, and some who got beds, they could not get the medicines they needed."

"If ours soul do not awake even after this, and if we continue to play the game of religious extremism and hatred, it is the sign of disappointment," he added.

He lamented that those who spread hatred and violence in the country are not caught, but some people sit on TV channels and defend them. "In the light of this, it is clear that these ex-

tremists have some kind of political backing. That is why the police are so nervous to arrest them. Therefore, the mischievous gangs who carry out mob lynchings commit fearless and dangerous acts of terror because they believe that their patrons are in power," he claimed.

Maulana Madani warned that still is the time to stop this nefarious chain of hatred, and instead of religious extremism and sectarian alignment, schools, colleges, hospitals and jobs should be discussed, and efforts should be made to save the country from destruction.



# Govt should rethink on reopening of schools

IS the State government being reckless, negligent and irresponsible as alleged by the opposition parties in permitting the schools to reopen? If the behaviour of the people in the State and the ruling party members on day one of unlock who accompanied the chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao during inaugurations of MLAs' camp office and new office complex of Superintendent of Police is any indication, it is clear that we have not learnt any lessons despite the havoc played by coronavirus during the two waves in last one and a half years.

The cabinet on Saturday made a fervent appeal to the people to maintain Covid protocols like wearing masks and maintaining social distance but it was nowhere to be seen during the inaugurations.

When this kind of Covid inappropriate behaviour is demonstrated by the leaders, how can we expect the common man to

ensure social distancing. This being the situation do we have the moral right to ask him to be a disciplined person? Cannot the political executive demonstrate more matured behaviour?

Experts are saying that third wave is knocking on the doors and if we are not cautious it would become a certainty. The new Delta plus variant they say poses high risk to unvaccinated segment of the society. The country is still struggling to provide vaccination to all. Vaccine for children is yet to come. This being the situation, the decision of the State government to reopen schools certainly appears to be a reckless decision.

Not just the opposition and parents, even the doctors and medical experts feel that time is not appropriate to reopen the schools. They feel that if schools are reopened, children would be at high risk. The Government should have first dis-

cussed the issue with experts from medical and education sector before taking a decision. It also wants to conduct carious common entrance examinations. This too is a risky affair, they feel. But the unfortunate trend that has emerged in the country is that all ruling parties look treat opposition as demons.

Despite the two waves which had shaken the people and the economy of the country, fortunately children by and large remained safe. Agreed that it has been nearly a year and a half since children across the country have had to shift their studies online, with schools closing in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, when the pandemic hit, everything was new and sudden, and schools were forced to begin their online classes without any time to prepare.

Now that is not the situation. Online classes certainly cannot be replacement

to physical classes but still one fails to understand the logic or reason in the decision taken by the government to reopen the schools. After the two waves of Covid, it is not difficult for schools to convert online classes into more of activity-based learning so that the children are more active and engaged during the classes. This system should be followed till the school going children too are vaccinated. But the administration seems to be succumbing to the pressure of schools.

What is worse is that teachers' organisations are demanding that schools be reopened saying that all teachers are vaccinated. It seems for them only their life is important not that of students. This is not what is expected of modern 'Gurus'. Even now nothing is lost. The government should rethink and take back its decision to reopen the schools. 'Safety First' should be the norm till all are vaccinated.

# Pandemic sees sharp decline in marriages in Kolkata

SUDIP Saha, an SIT employee working in a multinational company was supposed to get married to Sejuti Saha, a civil engineer working in a construction company, in May this year. But on April 20, Sudip developed Covid and a week later Sejuti had also tested positive. Naturally the couple had to postpone the marriage and it is now scheduled in December.



"We had planned for a simple wedding keeping the number of guests below 50. Everything was arranged but both of us had tested positive. Some of my family members were also infected and so we had to postpone our marriage. Presently the situation is not conducive and so we have to wait till December. Hope the pandemic situation will improve by then," Sudip, who stays in South Kolkata, said.

Besides Sudip and Sejuti, the ongoing pandemic has forced many Kolkata couples to either postpone or cancel their weddings, especially since the start of the devastating second wave.

The number of marriages registered with the office of the Marriage Registrar of West Bengal has declined sharply since the second week of April, when the second wave led to a sharp surge in cases, many of which turned critical.

While Sudip and Sejuti postponed their marriage due to compulsion, several other couples have decided to delay theirs so that they can celebrate the day with friends and family.

"At present there are only 50 invitees. I will only marry once and so I want to celebrate the day in a memorable way. So, I decided to postpone my marriage and get married in December or January. Hope things will become normal by then," Subhashis Chatterjee, a state government employee, said.

According to official figures, the number of registrations since end-February is only about 10 per cent of the weddings registered between November 2020 and February 2021.

While the marriage registrar's office has either registered or received applications for 95,000 marriages between November 1, 2020 and March 30, there have been only 3,000 weddings since the beginning of May.

The situation is even worse in June. Applications have to be filed at least a month before the wedding.

"From the second week of April since the number of cases surged sharply, there has been a big dip in registrations throughout the state. Compared with the beginning of the year, the numbers are less than 10 per cent now," a senior official of the Registrar General of Marriages said. There are several other reasons behind the postponement of marriages. A marriage registrar said a doctor couple cancelled their wedding in the last week of May because they did not want to expose their parents and grandparents.

"They were getting married at home in Kankurgachi in North Kolkata where members of both families, including parents and grandparents, were scheduled to attend. The couple cancelled the wedding because they did not want to risk the health of their family," the registrar said. According to marriage officers, only those for whom postponement isn't an option are now getting married. "In some cases, the groom has come to Kolkata from another city to get married and have planned to leave soon after the infections dip.

"In other cases, the couple who is scheduled to leave the city soon for some other countries are getting married to complete the visa formalities. Otherwise, almost all other weddings have been cancelled," said a marriage officer in Tollygunge. (ANS)

# Covid awareness campaign through puppetry

SUJIT CHAKRABORTY

THE Tripura Puppet Theatre (TPT) group, which has performed in many countries and in states in India, is educating people about Covid-19 through the traditional 'Putul Nach' (puppet dance), garnering peoples attention and appreciation.

The TPT, a 47-year-old folk cultural body, since March 21 last year, the World Puppet Day, has started a unique endeavour to make people aware about the danger of novel coronavirus and how to be protected from this disease.

Many videos of the puppet dance on novel coronavirus, prepared by the artists of TPT group, and uploaded on the YouTube platform and other social media are attracting people's attention and admiration. The Covid awareness puppet videos in Bengali, Hindi and other local languages are also being telecast on various channels in Tripura and other northeastern states.

One of the founders of TPT, Prabhantansu Das said that since the beginning of the Covid pandemic last year they are continuously undertaking a variety of performances and shows and these are being shown on various platforms to make the people aware.

"The themes of our puppetry programmes are focused on social distancing, preventive measures, Covid appropriate behaviour, useful food and immunity boosting diet and various other measures and actions announced by the government," Das told IANS.

"Our puppetry programmes also highlighted how the coronavirus spread among the people, the necessity of registration of names in the Aarogya Setu and the benefit of Covid inoculation.

"Since dance events due to the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions, we have chosen to go online through diverse social and electronic media to make people aware about the danger of the disease and protective measures," said Das, who is the programme director of the TPT.

In Bengali, Hindi and other languages, TPT's 17 seconds to 90 seconds awareness videos with English subtitles show a story where a government official coughs and shows flu-like symptoms and is advised by his wife and daughter to consult a doctor.

The doctor in his set of advisories explains to the worried family about the disease. The video, containing three puppet dolls, ends with a slogan, "Stay clean and hygienic" and highlights the messages of the World Health Organisation and other international bodies besides the advice of doctors. Das, son of TPT's founder Haripada Das, said that all the characters (puppets) of the video are made by their members and some of the performances are verbal and some others are non-verbal. The TPT members bear the entire expenses of these campaigns through puppetry.

"Puppetry is one of the powerful traditional folk cultural medium and it has numerous examples of efficacy in public health issues," said Das, who was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2016 besides many other awards in recognition of his contribution to contemporary puppetry. He said: "My father late Haripada Das started the puppet dance culture in the mountainous northeastern state of Tripura in 1956 to propagate social awareness messages through puppetry. "As an employee of the Social Welfare and Social Education Department of the Tripura government, my father through the puppet dance had started informing, educating, and entertaining people on diverse issues and making them aware about their social responsibilities and cultural heritage."

The TPT has participated in various international and national puppet festivals and workshops in India and abroad including Germany.

# Impose exit tax on fleeing rich and educated

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjhunwala

contribution of the Covid pandemic.

However, in 2018, before the pandemic, the Afro Asian Bank in its Global Wealth Migration Review reported that 15,000 rich persons migrated out of China, 7,000 from Russia, 5,000 from India and 4,000 from Turkey. Three of these four countries—namely, China, Russia and Turkey—are dictatorial in their political setup. We may speculate that the out migration from these countries could be due to political suffocation. The inclusion of democratic India in this list is ringing a danger bell for us.

On the other hand, the destination of the rich was 12,000 to Australia, 10,000 to the United States, 4,000 to Canada and more importantly 100-plus migrated to a developing country like Mauritius. We lost the rich while Mauritius gained. The out migration of rich from India is, therefore, not merely due to the Covid pandemic but has deeper causes.

Contrary to this assessment, Aventus Wealth Management, which too helps the rich to migrate, has said that India need not worry about this out migration because India is creating more numbers of rich than those that are going away. This much is true that the numbers of rich in India is increasing despite this out migration.

However, if we have to become a developed country and have ourselves included in the countries in the forefront of the world, then we will have to develop the capacity to attract the rich from other countries just as Australia, United States and Canada are doing.

Let us first dismiss three alleged reasons for this out migration. The rates of income tax in Australia are high yet the rich are migrating to that country in hordes. This establishes that allegedly high tax rates are not the cause of the out migration. The availability of good quality education and opportunities in hi-tech finance and technology sectors is also plentiful in India. Therefore, these cannot be held to be the causes of outmigration.

The report of Afro Asian Bank says that

one main reason for outmigration from a country is safety. Rich like to migrate if they find that their families are not safe. Religious disturbances are said to be the second reason. The presence of religious disputes leads to agitations and endangers the security. The third reason is freedom of media and entertainment.

This is important because the rich may want to live in a "free" environment. They do not like that they may be prevented from obtaining information freely. They may themselves like to express themselves freely. Fourth reason is the low rate of economic growth. We may understand this to indicate the less availability of opportunities which again translates into social disturbances.

The government must deal with these issues. The Indian economy has become like an inverted funnel that is sucking out the wealth and sending it to foreign countries. No wonder our GDP growth rate has been declining in the last six years. The Government must consider the following steps to manage these reasons of out migration.

First, the government must institute external evaluation of all senior police officers. The Fifth Pay Commission had recommended that external evaluation be got done of all Class A Officers of the Government. However this was put in cold storage at the behest of the bureaucrats. Implementation of such evaluation would provide the government with better information regarding the police officials that are more efficient in controlling crime.

Second, the Prime Minister had expressed his resolve to make Varanasi the global spiritual capital. Followers of different religions live together peacefully in countries like Malaysia and states like Kerala in our country. One reason is that the followers are more aware about the beliefs of the other religions and do not consider them antagonistic to their beliefs. The Government must establish "Indian Institute of Religions" on the lines of IITs and IIMs in each state. Departments of different religions may be established in these institutes so that a constructive dialogue takes place and better understanding is created between the religions.

Three, Kabir had said "Keep the critics near yourself. They clean up your temperament without soap and water." The Government must give special advertisements to those print media and TV channels that engage in constructive criticism of the Government. Such would create an atmosphere of freedom in the minds of the rich. The rich will then not be afraid and not want to



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migrate for this reason. Four, our GDP growth rate has been declining in the last six years. At the same time the share markets have been rising and rising. The reason of these contradictory movements is that our economic policies are supporting large businesses and making it difficult for the small businesses to survive. This policy of killing the small businesses and handing over their market to large business on a platter was supposedly made to make it attractive for the rich to stay in India. It is having exactly the opposite effect, however.

The killing of small businesses is leading to less demand in the economy, lower growth rate and less opportunities for the rich even though they may be making more profits immediately. This is like the plentiful availability of chocolates but no bread. In the end, the rich are leaving despite making profits because they do not see the econ-

omy growing.

Lastly, the government must impose an "Exit Tax" of those rich and educated who want to surrender their Indian citizenship. The United States has the provision that any person surrendering the US citizenship has to pay a huge "exit tax." The idea is that the person has benefitted from the public services of the United States and she must repay to the United States the monies spent by the US on her welfare. Large numbers of rich along with graduates of IITs and IIMs are migrating to greener pastures in foreign countries. They must be required to pay a huge exit tax. Perhaps that will dissuade some. In any event, it may provide good revenues to India to compensate for their outmigration.

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

# LETTERS

## Re-opening schools is risky

TELANGANA government's sudden and unanticipated decision to reopen schools and colleges from July 1 has created too much fuss among the parents and teaching community. The decision has come like a bolt out of the blue. The decision seems to be unwise considering the ongoing covid-19 pandemic. In the present situation following the Covid appropriate behaviour such as maintaining physical distance in schools, wearing mask is not easy for children and staff. Moreover many families across the state have been undergoing intense emotional imbalance, physical discomfort and further financial crisis incurred due to the sudden and unexpected surge of Covid cases. Government has to wait and assess the situation for a couple of weeks or more and should take an appropriate decision only if the situation is under complete control. A haste and imbecile decision may ruin the future of the students and the staff. In view of the possible third wave of the pandemic, the government concerned of the States should be bound to take strict and stringent measures to prevent any untoward situation. If a sudden and unexpected surge of cases happens after the physical reopening of the educational institutions, either the government or the people many not be able to prevent the casualties.

Prabhakaran Vallath, Vadakara (Kerala)

## Don't insist on wearing of uniforms

NOW that the big decision about reopening of schools has been made by the State govt., students must not be compelled to wear school uniform as most parents are not in a position to buy new uniforms. And also, the clothes worn by students at school will have to be washed on a regular basis to minimise the spread of virus which may not be feasible in the case of 'Uniform'. An appeal must be made to the authorities about the same.

Mohd Bilal Mehdi, Hyderabad

## Continue to adopt safety measures

THE third wave is reported to be inevitable from reliable sources and lockdown is being lifted, the danger of corona attacking is very severe to all and therefore everybody must take the necessary precautions like wearing of mask, social distance must be followed voluntarily. The life of individual is in his or in her own hands. The new variant may require some advanced medication. Nobody knows how many will be left after two months when the third wave declines. Hence, this unlock period must be utilized to the maximum to do best things and unfinished and half finished personal works that were pending and complete them at the earliest.

V Vijayakumar, Hyderabad

## Impose night curfew at least

THE Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao has taken the bold step by lifting complete lockdown from the State. The third wave of Covid still looming and despite the warning from the doctors the decision of lifting the lockdown is unjustifiable. There was a need to take step by step and impose night lockdown restrictions till the end of June, but hasty decisions to open schools, colleges, markets can take a toll and more people can be affected with the virus. There is a need for the CM KCR to rethink on the lockdown decision and to control the Covid by reimposing the night lockdown again otherwise in the coming days more virus cases can be registered in Telangana state. Actually our CM has given the importance to generate more economy by opening the markets and other establishments but for the sake of economy you cannot sacrifice the people's health. To avoid any danger, it will be wise to take doctors' warnings seriously and impose night curfew as long as possible.

Syed Nissar, Hyderabad

## Resume inter-state movement

THE T S CM has taken a very bold, calculated and correct decision in unlocking the lockdown in many parts of Telangana. But the CM also should have initiated discussions with his counterpart in A P for allowing plying of inter-state bus services. This is very important so as to allow

free movement of people / goods etc in the two Telugu states especially which is badly required these days. Any symptomatic people on the border can always be disallowed by each government. It is not an issue at all. Not only this the CM should also immediately advise the Railway department to resume train services to different places after giving wide publicity in the media. At the same time the decision to reopen schools and colleges should be deferred to some more time as the children are more prone for infection and it is just impossible to restrict their movements when once schools etc get reopened.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad

## NSDL should simplify procedures

A retail investor can trade online in the stock market through Aa Trading Account and a Demat account registered with a Depository Participant (or a broker). The shares bought in the stock market through online trading are credited to the investor's Demat account and can be viewed under Statement of Holdings. Thus an investor can do hassle-free online trading of shares without any interference from a broker. The two depositories in India namely NSDL and CDSL allot Demat accounts to the retail investors. If an investor intends to transfer shares between these two depositories, the same can be done only through the offline method by approaching the respective broker. Though an online mechanism to transfer shares between the depositories exists through the E-DIS facility under NSDL, but it otherwise involves the installation of a Digital Signature Certificate or a DSC token to execute a share transfer online. Share transfer within the CDSL is however made simple with the execution of a PIN-based facility. NSDL thus should do away with the process of installing a Digital Signature Certificate or DSC token which is an additional cost to the retail investor. NSDL should otherwise implement a simple password or pin-based online share transfer process for the benefit of retail investors, similar to the facility offered by CDSL. The positive move will benefit retail investors with seamless online trading and offer a hassle-free online share transfer process.

Varun Dambal, Bengaluru

thehansreader@gmail.com



# Lockdown curbs hamper labourers return to State

● With lockdown curbs still in effect in Odisha, the return of labourers to State is likely to take some more time

ESA BIN ABDUL REHMAN  
HYDERABAD

WITH the lifting of lockdown curbs after more than a month, the industries in and around the city are yet to begin the production that was stalled ever since the Covid-19 induced curbs were imposed in the State. However, the comeback of labour force that returned to their native places early in the month of April fearing the previous wrought was not yet set into motion as several northern States are still under the grip of Covid curbs.

States like Odisha, Jharkhand and a few others are yet to lift the lockdown curbs making it difficult for most of the labourers to travel to Telangana State.. Though the South Central Railways has begun rail services to some destinations, the number of migrant labourers returning to city is still very less and an embargo over the movement of



buses from the State also affecting the pace of labourers' arrival in city.

"Returning of labourers is not set into motion in the city as much as we are aware as several northeastern States, from where the most of the workforce comes to the city, have not lifted the curbs yet. Whatever the meager number of labourers are marking into the city are mainly through trains as nobody wants to pay more for the journey through buses as they are already hit hard with the pandemic. Already, they went to their native places two months ago through busses by paying huge amounts given the

emergency like situation," informed Jahangir, a tourist operator.

Thousands of labourers from Maharashtra to Odisha are working in several industries in and around the city. The industries in Katedan under Rajendranagar area carries a chunk of around 20,000 labourers to say the least out of which half of them are employed in biscuit factories in this particular area. Most of the labourers are from Odisha and West Bengal working in several factories located at Katedan, Shadnagar, Kothur, Gaganpahad, Jeedimetla and Balanagar areas. These labourers began their

journey, some along with their family, to their native places from Amma Garden at Mailardevpally even before the night curfew was imposed in the State on April 20. The labourers paid huge amounts to private tourist operators to secure seats in the buses and reach their native places.

"Offlate the lockdown was revoked in Telangana and there is a possibility of arrival of labourers. Majority of them employed in Hyderabad and surrounding areas are from Odisha where the lockdown is still enforced. As the permits are not been issued for the States still having lockdown, no busses will carry ply to the restricted areas. However, we heard that the labourers are coming back to the city through availing rail services. But the concerning point is that the majority of the labourers are still wary of a possible third wave of pandemic that would land them into trouble again. This makes them move cautiously before boarding to Telangana. However, the workers will surely return to work as they and the industries together don't have an option better than to make a team," argued Hari, a labour contractor.

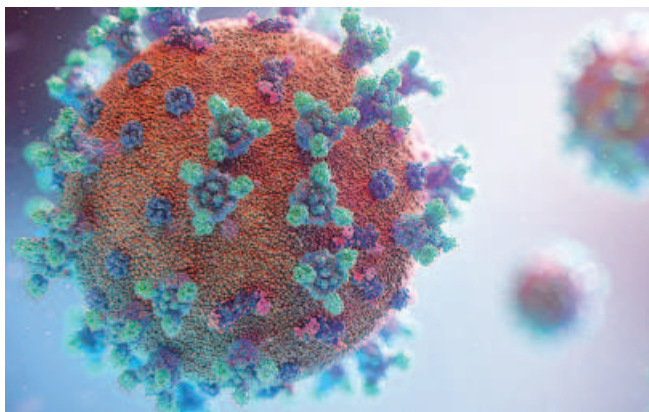
# Unlock would upsurge Covid, warn doctors

MOHAMMED HUSSAIN  
HYDERABAD

AFTER the Telangana government on Saturday lifted lockdown restrictions from Sunday, doctors came forward to warn on violation of Covid-19 norms that can lead to resurgence in Covid-19 cases.

However, major cities in India have begun lifting lockdowns as the nationwide tally of infection has dropped to its lowest level in over two months. Even Telangana is witnessing decrease in number of corona virus cases and low positive percentage. Meanwhile, Covid-19 experts and doctors have cautioned that defying Covid-19 norms may lead to increase in infections.

Doctors say that complete reopening is concerning. The state authorities have said that department would re-impose strict curbs if cases rise. Moreover, the latest GO (Government Order) stated that wearing of face mask shall be mandatory in public places, work places and in means of transport. Any deviation in this regard shall attract prosecution under section 50 to 60 of Disaster Management Act, 2005 and section 188 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) as well as other applicable



laws. The GO further states that failure to wear face mask as mandated shall attract a penalty of Rs 1000 and social distancing norms must be strictly followed. "All commercial establishments shall ensure that all Covid norms including wearing of face masks, ensuring physical distancing and sanitisation are scrupulously followed, failure to observe these norms will attract action under relevant acts and orders issued under Disaster Management Act, 2005," the GO stated.

Thousands had died in the State in May, due to shortage of oxygen and families were seen pleading on social media over scarcity of ICU, ventilator and

oxygen beds. Dr Mohan Gupta said, "Covid norms include some rules such as wearing face masks, practising physical distancing and large gatherings should be avoided or banned norms should be strictly enforced at public places to contain the spread of corona virus."

Another Dr Krishna Reddy said that no spitting should be practised at public places and work places and elderly people. And to stay well people should stay at home and work from home should be encouraged and daily temperature screening as well as use of sanitisers and spraying disinfectant chemical should be made mandatory."

## Governor greets people on eve of International Yoga Day

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
SAIFABAD

GOVERNOR Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Sunday greeted people of the State on the occasion of 'the International Yoga day' on June 21. In a message, she said, "I extend heartiest wishes to all on the occasion of the International Day of Yoga-2021 celebrated all over the world on June 21. "Yoga is an integral part of our rich ancient Indian heritage. Yoga has immense potential in enhancing the physical, psychological, and emotional wellbeing of the practitioners. Yoga helps in achieving the balance of mind, body, and the soul," it said. The Governor stated that regular practice of yoga helps in perfect union of body and mind and contributes positively to the physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of the practitioners. "The Covid pandemic situa-



tion has once again highlighted the need for developing better immunity to fight infections, so as to keep ourselves healthy. This immunity can be easily achieved by regular practice of yoga and helps in fight against infections".

"The theme for the International Day of Yoga-2021 "Yoga for Wellbeing" aptly highlights the role of yoga in ensuring the wellbeing of people". Dr Tamilisai appealed to all to celebrate the Interna-

tional Yoga Day by duly following the Covid-appropriate behaviour and continue to practice yoga daily to keep themselves as active and agile. The message said "I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his efforts in making this national tradition as an international event by his initiative to get the United Nations General Assembly's unanimous resolution to declare June 21st as the International Day of Yoga".

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
GACHIBOWLI

THE University of Hyderabad (UoH) is inviting online application forms for its entrance examinations and admissions to various courses for the Academic Year 2021-22 from June 21 to July 20. The entrance exams will be held online/offline at 39 centres across the country during August/ September. However, the University will not conduct its entrance exam at those centres where the number of applications received is less than 300.

As many as 2,328 seats being offered for admissions to 117 courses. They include 17 integrated, 46 PG,



10 MTech and 44 Ph.D. programmes. The new courses being offered this year are MTech (Model-

ling and Simulation), MPA (Music) and a certificate course in publishing.

The admission to MCA course will be based on NIMCET scores, conducted by NIT Common Entrance Test. The admission to 9 MTech courses will be through Centralized Counselling of MTech (CCMT) of GATE. The admission to five-year Integrated MTech (Computer Science) will be through the Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) of JEE.

The admission to MBA is through CAT, MSc Biotechnology is through GAT-B, conducted by the RCB, Faridabad, and MTech (Modeling and Simulation) through GATE scores. For details candidates could refer to website <http://acad.uohyd.ac.in>.

## State has become 'Annapoorna' because of KCR: Agri Minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

AGRICULTURE Minister S Niranjan Reddy stated on Sunday that as the result of Rythu Bandhu, free power supply and irrigation projects, the area under cultivation has registered a steep increase in the State. "The State has become 'Annapoorna' (food provider) of the country," he said.

Addressing the media on Sunday, the Agriculture Minister said that the godown capacity, which was only 4 lakh metric tonnes at the time of State formation was now increased to 29.26 lakh metric tonnes.

"Apart from godowns, paddy is being stored at Rythu Vedikas, mills and other

available places. This achievement was possible only because of importance given to agriculture by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao," he said.

The Minister stated that the Opposition leaders who were flaying the government on the issue of paddy procurement should first think as to how the production had gone up so high. He pointed out that while 24.29 lakh metric tonnes of paddy was purchased during 2014-15 (two seasons), in 2021, 90.04 metric tonnes was purchased only during one season. "It is a rare record," he said, adding that under Rythu Bandhu scheme, Rs. 1,050.10 crore was credited to the accounts of 4.9 lakh farmers on Sunday.



## Justice Kanagaraj to head Police Complaints Authority

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

FORMER Judge of Madras High Court Justice Kanagaraj has been appointed chairman of the AP State Police Complaints Authority on Sunday. It may be recalled that Justice Kanagaraj was appointed as the State Election Commissioner (SEC) replacing the then SEC Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar. However, the Andhra Pradesh High Court reversed and allowed Ramesh Kumar to continue in the post till he retired.

According to the Andhra Pradesh State-level Police Complaints Authority (Administration and Procedures) Rules, 2020, only those persons below the age of 65 years

are eligible for appointment as the authority chairman. However, Justice Kanagaraj is at least 20 years past that age. Hence, the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy administration relaxed the rules to enable his appointment. Home Department's Principal Secretary Kumar Viswajeet issued an order on the appointment of the retired judge. Three other members of the Authority would be appointed later, the order said.

The Authority will look into complaints against the officers of the rank of additional superintendent of police and above. It shall take cognizance of allegations of serious misconduct by the police personnel, which would include incidents involving death, grievous hurt, or rape in police custody.

## INS Sahyadri adjudged best capital ship of ENC

Most spirited ship award bagged by INS Kamorta

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

INS Sahyadri was adjudged as the best ship of the Eastern Fleet amongst capital ships, INS Kamorta as the most spirited ship for displaying indomitable spirit and grit in undertaking a plethora of challenging missions and best corvette trophy was won by INS Kiltan and Khukri, amongst corvettes and similar classes of ships.

At the Fleet Awards Function 2021 held to celebrate the operational achievements of the Eastern Fleet during the last year on Saturday, marking the culmination of the operational cycle of the Eastern Fleet and recognising accomplishments of the 'Sword Arm' of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), the ships were adjudged as the best ships.

Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief ENC Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur

Singh was the chief guest at the event hosted by Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti. The event culminated with the distribution of 16 coveted trophies covering the overall spectrum of maritime operations.

Sustaining high operational tempo, the fleet ships participated in numerous operations, bilateral and multilateral exercises, and humanitarian assistance missions.



Commanding Officer INS Sahyadri, Captain CP Sanga, receiving the Best Ship Trophy from Flag Officer, Commanding in Chief, ENC Vice-Admiral AB Singh

## Oxygen plants to be set up at all 100-bed hospitals

- A sum of Rs 350 cr earmarked for the purpose
- Principal Secretary (Health) Anil Kumar Singhal says a State-level panel including senior paediatricians as members has been constituted to tackle Covid third wave
- So far treatment has been provided to 770 black fungus patients in State
- The State has completed administering 96.69 lakh first doses of Covid vaccine

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

PRINCIPAL Secretary of Health Anil Kumar Singhal visited a few vaccination centres in Tirupati on Sunday and interacted with vaccine beneficiaries who took the jab on the mega vaccination day. Singhal said that the Chief Minister has been reviewing Covid situation thrice a week. The State has successfully com-



Principal Secretary (Health) Anil Kumar Singhal speaking to an aged woman who received a Covid jab at the PHC at Nehru Nagar in Tirupati on Sunday

pleted 6.29 lakh doses of vaccination on a single day earlier. The Chief Minister has earlier brought the issue to the notice of the Prime Minister.

The State has completed 96.69 lakh first doses till now. Referring to the Covid cases, Singhal said that there was a significant drop in the new infections in the State which have come down to below

6,000 now from around 24,000 earlier. There are only 65,000 active cases in the State now.

The curfew restrictions have helped in bringing down the cases. With the improvement in the situation, it was decided to relax curfew from 6 am to 6 pm and will be imposed from 6 pm to 6 am from Monday.

He added that everyone wishes

that the third wave should not come. But even if it is inevitable, the State is all set to face it. Already a State-level committee was constituted in which paediatric senior doctors are also appointed as members. Required beds, medicines and staff are being made available and staff will be trained too. So far 770 patients were given black fungus treatment and Remdesivir, Amphotericin B injections are now available in the State. Efforts were on to ensure that there should be no shortage of oxygen in hospitals by August and to set up oxygen plants in 100-bed hospitals, tenders were called for with an estimated cost of Rs 350 crore. Apart from liquid oxygen, oxygen concentrators are also made available. Chittoor Collector M Hari Narayanan told the Principal Secretary that arrangements were made to vaccinate 1.05 lakh doses on Sunday and the target will be reached by evening. Corporation Commissioner PS Girisha, DM&HO Dr U Sreehari, RDO V Kanaka Narasa Reddy, Corporation health officer Dr DT Sudha Rani, Ruia hospital superintendent Dr T Bharathi and others were present during the visit.



# Jammu & Kashmir’s statehood may be restored

Restore statehood, says Cong ahead of PM’s meeting with People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration



NEW DELHI

The all-party meeting called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 24 is a major step towards the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir’s statehood, a report said on June 20. Among those invited for the meeting include former J&K chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Ghulam Nabi Azad, according to CNN-News 18 report

The media report cited official sources, claimed that Modi would be discussing the roadmap for restoring J&K’s statehood with the representatives of all political parties to be present at the meeting.

Discussions, however, have been ruled out

on restoring Article 370 - the now-abrogated law which granted J&K special status. The law was struck down on August 5, 2019, and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the two union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The status of Ladakh as a union territory will remain unchanged, the report said.

J&K’s main regional parties, National Conference (NC) and People’s Democratic Party (PDP), along with some of the smaller outfits, had last year formed an amalgam - the People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) - which seeks the restoration of Article 370.

The PAGD leaders have, however, indicated that they may hold talks with the Centre even if the discussion on Article 370 is not on the

charts for now.

A formal decision to attend the June 24 meeting was yet to be announced by the NC and PDP leadership. A party meeting was called by Mehbooba Mufti, the PDP chief, earlier in the day to finalise their response to the Centre’s invite. The blueprint for restoring J&K’s statehood, which Modi is expected to share at the all-party meeting, would likely revolve around the delimitation exercise. A report which would be submitted by the delimitation commission, set up last year, is awaited.

The Congress on Sunday said the Centre should accept the demand for restoration of statehood to J-K in the interest of the Constitution and democracy.

## WINDOWS

### Monkey travels in Delhi Metro

NEW DELHI: A video showing a monkey travelling in the Delhi Metro along with other commuters has gone viral on social media.

The two-minute-long video attracted over 1,500 views till Sunday afternoon since it was uploaded on Twitter.

The monkey, seen in the video, was roaming inside a coach of a Delhi Metro train. The video surfaced on Twitter on Saturday. The video clip showed the monkey first roaming around in the carriage and eventually settling on a seat next to a commuter.

In the video of the purported incident, a person can be heard saying Yamuna Bank Station, which falls on the Blue Line of the Delhi Metro.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) could not immediately confirm the incident, but in response to the video shared on Twitter, the authorities have asked to furnish coach details.

### Doctor held for forging papers

MUMBAI: A doctor from Shivaji Nagar in Mumbai was arrested for allegedly making fake documents of a baby boy earlier to facilitate an illegal adoption, Crime Branch officials said on Sunday.

"One of the kin of the family that adopted the infant boy approached Mumbai police claiming the papers, including birth certificate, seem to be fake. A probe zeroed in on a Shivaji Nagar based doctor, who had told the couple the child was born in his hospital, despite the birth taking place in Rajasthan," the official said. "The accused, by forging documents showing that the child was born here, managed to get a Mumbai-based family to adopt him. The child is over two years old now and the complaint on the illegal adoption that was filed recently seems to be the fallout of a dispute between the family that adopted the child and their kin," the official said.

While the doctor has managed to get bail, efforts are on to question the parents who adopted the child, the official added.

# Can’t pay ₹4L to Covid victims: Govt to SC

Nearly 4 lakh people died in India; free vaccines to everyone above 18 from today

NEW DELHI

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that Rs 4 lakh compensation cannot be paid to all those who died due to Covid-19 as it would exhaust the disaster relief funds. The Centres affidavit came in response to a PIL seeking "minimum standards of relief" and ex-gratia payment to Covid-19 deceased.

The Centre has said that compensation of Rs 4 lakh cannot be paid to victims of Covid-19 as the disaster management law mandating compensation applies only to natural disasters like earthquake, floods etc.

Nearly 4 lakh people have died in India since the beginning of the pandemic, according to the official Covid-19 figures released by the health ministry.

"If ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh is given for every person who loses life due to Covid-19, the entire amount of SDRF may possibly be spent on this item alone, and indeed the total expenditure may go up further," said the Centre.

If the entire SDRF funds get consumed on ex-gratia for Covid-19 victims, the States may not have sufficient funds for organizing Covid-19 response, for provision of various essential medical and other supplies, or to take care of other disasters like cyclones, floods, etc. Hence, the prayer of the petitioner for payment of ex-gratia to all deceased persons due to Covid-19, is beyond the fiscal affordability of the State governments, said the Centre.

The next phase of vaccination drive in which the Central government will provide free vaccines to everyone above the age of 18 years will begin from Monday, marking a significant shift from its earlier 'liberalised and accelerated' vaccination policy.

India recorded less than 60,000 new infections after 81 days taking the total tally of cases to 2,98,81,965, while the active cases further reduced to 7,29,243, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

A total of 58,419 fresh infections were reported in a day. The death toll climbed to 3,86,713 with 1,576 fresh fatalities, the lowest in 63 days.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin on Sunday announced fresh relaxations in 27 districts.

The government, however, continued the extension of Covid lockdown till 6 a.m. on June 28.



A beneficiary waits to receive a dose of a vaccine during a vaccination drive for transgender community in Mumbai; (Right) a worker sprays sanitiser inside a metro coach after lockdown was eased, in Bengaluru on Sunday



## India records less than 60,000 cases after 81 days TN announces fresh relaxations in 27 districts

### Green fungus case found in Punjab

AMRITSAR: Punjab reported its first case of green fungus from Jalandhar, becoming the second state after Madhya Pradesh to record the infection.

According to the District Epidemiologist at Civil Hospital, Dr Paramvir Singh, this is the first confirmed case of green fungus or aspergillosis in Punjab.

"The patient is around 60-years in age and has suffered from the COVID-19 infection. He is under observation. There was another case before, but it was unconfirmed," Dr Singh said.

The epidemiologist further said, "The person diagnosed with green fungus has the same symptoms as the Black fungus." "We do not need to panic but we should take precautions," he added.

### Sputnik V roll out delayed in Delhi

NEW DELHI: The roll out of Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V at Indraprastha Apollo and Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital in Delhi has been delayed for some days, officials said on Sunday. A spokesperson of Apollo Hospitals said the facility in Delhi will tentatively start administering the two-dose vaccine by June 25. An official had earlier said the hospital would start giving Sputnik V jabs by June 20. According to an official of Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital, there is a delay on the part of the suppliers. "We are expecting (roll out) next week," he said. Fortis Healthcare, which had said it would make Sputnik V available at its Gurgaon and Mohali hospitals from Saturday, also has not started administering the Russian vaccine so far.

### This DM treks to vaccinate people

ALIPURDUAR: IAS officer Surendra Kumar Meena, District Magistrate of the Alipurduar district, received a big round of applause for conducting a vaccination drive across several villages in North Bengal in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. In fact, Surendra Kumar Meena walked all the way by trekking through forests and hills to reach these remote villages. Meena said that along with his team, he trekked around 11kms to reach Adma, a remote village in the Buxa hills near the India-Bhutan border. Adma was their last stop. "We visited Adma, which is the most remote village of the district to vaccinate people. We walked all the way to Adma, covering 16-18 kms, from the nearby villages Pokhari, Toribari, Shegaon and Fulbati.

### AGRA ADMIN UNDER FIRE FOR COVID DEATH FIGURES

ARIJ KHADELWAL  
AGRA

The report of the two-member probe into alleged death of 22 Covid-19 patients in a private hospital in Agra due to a "mock drill" to assess the need for Oxygen, has invited the ire of opposition leaders and local health activists.

Largely dismissed by the locals as an insensitive report of the district administration relating to a "mock drill" to cut Oxygen supply by Paras Hospital management, resulting in alleged death of 22 Covid-19 patients in April, social activists and social media warriors in Agra have accused the government agencies of a cover up to salvage the image of the state government.

The DM of Agra, P.N. Singh, is being trolled and targeted. The local branch of the IMA had already given a clean chit to the Paras Hospital, sealed by the district administration, after a hue and cry was raised when a video chat went viral. The video allegedly showed the director of the hospital Dr Ajinkya Jain, telling someone about a mock drill to assess Oxygen need for patients.

The administration had responded by clarifying that the figure of 22 deaths and shortage of Oxygen on the said dates was incorrect.

While no one in the city except the doctors believes the official report, the administration maintains that the campaign being orchestrated to tarnish the image of the medical fraternity, will not be helpful in the battle against the pandemic. Perhaps the truth would never be known, though half a dozen complaints by family members of the deceased who died due to Oxygen shortage on the said dates, are still being investigated. The glaring skewing of the fatality data in general has raised many eyebrows. While the official figure of Covid-19 deaths in the district remains around 425, the number of applicants for death certificates and figures made available by the crematoriums, add up to around 4,000.

## Three lynched on suspicion of cattle theft

AGARTALA: Three men were allegedly lynched to death in the Khowai district of Tripura on suspicion of cattle theft in the early hours of Sunday, police said. Those killed were identified as Jayed Hossain (30), Billal Miah (28) and Saiful Islam (18), all residents of Sonamura subdivision in the Sepahijala district.

Villagers of Namanjoypara spotted a mini-truck heading towards Agartala, carrying five cattle, around 4.30 am, Superintendent of Police Kiran Kumar said. They chased it and managed to stop the vehicle near North Maharanipur village, he said.

The villagers started thrashing the three people on the mini-truck with "lethal weapons", and lynched two of them, while the other managed to flee, he said.

The mob got hold of the other person at Mungiakami, a tribal hamlet near North Maharanipur, and he was lynched there, the officer added.

Police reached the two locations immediately and took them first to a nearby hospital and then to the Agartala Government Medical College where the attending doctors declared that they were brought dead, Kumar said.

## Techie stabbed to death by wife

GURUGRAM: A 39-year-old engineer was stabbed to death with a kitchen knife allegedly by his wife at their Gurugram home, said the police, adding that the couple's two children were present in the house at the time of the incident.

The children, say police, are under emotional stress.

A domestic quarrel between the two, said the police, was the reason behind Sachin's death. The victim was stabbed in the chest, the police said.

"The incident was reported from Jyoti Park colony. A domestic quarrel between a couple escalated; the wife stabbed the man with a knife that resulted in his death. We have filed a case under relevant sections of the IPC. The investigation is underway," said Preetpal Singh, SP, Crime, Gurugram Police.

An FIR has been registered after Sachin's brother, Neeraj, filed a complaint against his sis-



ter-in-law, Gunjan. Sachin's sisters -Reshma and Shipili - have appealed for justice and pressed for immediate arrest of Gunjan.

"We demand that the woman be arrested and punished for what she did. We demand justice," said Reshma, Sachin's sister.

## Man declared dead in 2010 rail mishap found alive

Kolkata: A 38-year-old man, declared dead in the Jnaneswari train accident in 2010, has been found alive after 11 years. The mystery was unravelled when the CBI detained a man, namely Amritavan Chowdhury, from Jorabagan in North Kolkata on Saturday evening. The man was 27 years old at the time of the accident.

Chowdhury was listed among the passengers who died in Jnaneswari train accident -- one of the most dreadful accidents allegedly conducted by the Maoists on May 28, 2010 in West Midnapore when the Mumbai-bound Jnaneswari Express derailed and had a head-on collision with a goods train killing 148 passengers. Based on prelimi-

nary findings, the CBI officers said they had reason to believe that the train accident victim declared dead on May 28, 2010 and whose identity was established through DNA profiling was still alive. The family in return managed a compensation of Rs 4 lakh and a Central government job as announced by the Railways at the time of the accident. All these years, his sister Mahua Pathak, who is presently posted as "assistant signal" in Sealdah division of South Eastern Railways had allegedly been engaged in a Central government job that she received as part of the compensation for her brother's death. His parents are said to have accepted ex-gratia as part of the compensation package.

# Sena MLA under ED scanner asks Uddhav to reconcile with BJP

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik, who is under the Enforcement Directorate's scanner for alleged money laundering, has written a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray appealing to him to reconcile with the Bharatiya Janata Party "before it is too late".

In the letter dated June 10, Sarnaik said even though the alliance with the BJP has broken, personal and harmonious relations between leaders of the 'yuti' (Shiv Sena-BJP) remain.

"It is better to reconcile before it is too late," the MLA said in the letter.

Notably, the Sena forged an alliance with the NCP and Congress and formed the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra in 2019 after

the Uddhav Thackeray-led party fell out with the BJP. In November last year, the Enforcement Directorate raided premises linked to Sarnaik in Maharashtra in connection with a money laundering case being probed against a security service provider company and others.

The Shiv Sena had called the raids a "political vendetta" and said the Maharashtra government or its leaders will not surrender to pressure from anyone.

Noting that municipal corporation polls are due soon in several Maharashtra cities, including Mumbai, Sarnaik in his letter to the CM said, "I believe fighting a war like Arjun, instead of sacrificing oneself like Abhimanyu or Karna. This is the reason that I have been fighting my legal battle for the last seven months alone without



getting any help from our leaders or our government." Sarnaik, who is an MLA from neighbouring Thane district, also alleged that the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party were creating divisions in the Shiv Sena ranks.

"It is better to join hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi again as Shiv Sainiks feel that would save the Sena leaders like me, Anil Parab and Ravindra Waikar from problems," he said.

Notably, former BJP MP Kirit Somaia had accused the three Sena leaders of indulging in corrupt practices. Sarnaik, in his letter, did not name Somaia, but said a leader "who has become a 'former MP' because of the Sena" is maligning the party. Sarnaik also claimed that Shiv Sena MLAs feel only the work of Congress and NCP legislators is being done and not of those

from his party. "Shiv Sena MLAs wonder whether the MVA has been formed, by breaking the alliance with the BJP, to help the Congress and NCP grow," he said.

Sarnaik also said in the letter that while CM Thackeray was focusing only on COVID-19 eradication, the Congress was talking of going alone in next elections and the NCP was busy "breaking" Shiv Sena workers and inducting them into the Sharad Pawar-led party.

Meanwhile, reacting to Sarnaik's letter, Somaia said the Sena MLA seems to be worried about jail now and so, he has asked CM Thackeray to join hands with PM Modi and the BJP.

"All corrupt leaders of the Shiv Sena -- Pratap Sarnaik, Anil Parab, Ravindra Waikar -- will have to be in jail," the BJP leader said in a statement.



THE HANS INDIA  
DELHI MONDAY 21 JUNE 2021



# Jamieson scalps 5 to bowl out India for 217, NZ 36 for no loss

SOUTHAMPTON

KYLE Jamieson continued his love affair with the Indian team, tormenting the star-studded line-up with disconcerting bounce and swing as New Zealand bowled out the opposition for 217 on day three of the World Test Championship final here.

Jamieson decimated India with marvellous figures of 22-12-31-5 as New Zealand took control of the Test match by reaching 36 for no loss at tea. Openers Devon Conway (18 batting) and Tom Latham (17 batting) negotiated the Indian pace attack pretty well.

However, it was 6 feet 8 inch tall Jamieson, who after last year's series in New Zealand, has once again turned into a nightmare for the Indian batsmen. Having removed Rohit Sharma on Saturday morning, Jamieson was relentless with his length and the bounce did the rest with clever traps laid for skipper Virat Kohli and the dangerous Rishabh Pant.

Kohli and his deputy Ajinkya Rahane walked into a nicely laid traps as India failed to reach 250, a good total in the prevailing conditions as per batting coach Vikram Rathour.

The overcast conditions made batting difficult and the likes of

BRIEF SCORES  
(TEA, DAY 3)

**India:** 217 all out i92.1 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 49, V Kohli 44, Rohit Sharma 34, Kyle Jamieson 5/31, Neil Wagner 2/40, Trent Boult 2/47).

**New Zealand:** 36/0 wkt in 21 overs (Tom Latham batting 17, Devon Conway batting 18)

Jamieson, Trent Boult (21.1-4-47-2) and Neil Wagner (15-5-40-2) indulged in a 'who blinks first' game with the Indian batters and came out trumps with some incisive seam, swing and short pitched bowling.

Kohli (44, 132 balls) couldn't add a single run to his overnight score as his RCB teammate Jamieson made life difficult for him. Kohli, who had shown admirable patience in leaving every delivery outside the off-stump on day two, was ready to dig deep but the Black Caps resorted to the tactics that worked wonderfully against the India captain in their home conditions

Rishabh Pant (4) didn't score a run for 19 balls and then got a boundary with a flick through mid-wicket. Two balls later, he took the b a i t when

A New Zealand player ties shoe laces of India's Ajinkya Rahane during the third day of the World Test Championship final at the Rose Bowl in Southampton, England on Sunday

Sindhu will be under pressure in Tokyo, winning medal won't be easy: Jwala

NEW DELHI

RIO Games silver medallist PV Sindhu will be under a lot more pressure at the Tokyo Olympics and it will be tough to repeat her medal-winning performance given the lack of match practice in the run-up to the show-piece event, reckons former doubles player Jwala Gutta.

All the focus was on London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal in the run-up to the Rio Games but it was Sindhu who stunned the world with her silver medal winning feat five years back.

However, this time Sindhu will carry a billion hopes as she remains one of the favourites to claim a medal at the delayed Tokyo Games, beginning July 23. "I hope that she gets a medal. There is definitely going to be more pressure than last time on Sindhu,"

Jwala said during a discussion on 'Indian badminton Prospect' in bakstage app.

"In Rio, the circumstance were completely different for Sindhu, now the situation has completely changed, the focus is more on her and it depends on her how she takes this pressure. I hope she takes it positively. Rio wasn't easy but Tokyo will definitely won't be easy. Everybody knows her game, everybody watched her." Jwala also said, the fact that players have not been able to play a lot of tournaments this time due to Covid is also a concern.

"Even before the second wave, situation wasn't favourable for Indians, while in Europe few tournaments happened. The problem with the Indian system is that Sindhu is one of a kind. When she is sparring with somebody, it is not of the same level, while the Chinese, Koreans are a team of 20-30 players. Whether it is Tai Tzu Ying or the Chinese, I am definitely sure they are working really hard. Koreans are also playing well. Thai girls are playing well. The Japanese too.

"Sindhu was going through a personal thing with the confusion of coaches, so there has been no consistency in the way things should be before the Olympics.

"Our players didn't get enough match practice also because Indians were black-listed from travelling due to Covid, that is the biggest disadvantage for Indians."

Jwala says Sindhu should scan through all the videos of her past matches and work on her strategy. "Every tournament, the strategy keeps changing and I hope she is sitting back and watching her matches with big players against whom she has won and lost. If I were Sindhu I will work on my strategy and mind-strength because in top-20, everybody is at the same level physically." (PTI)

Belgrade swimming

Indians win three gold, miss Olympic qualification

**BELGRADE**

INDIA'S Sajjan Prakash won gold in the men's 200 meters butterfly event in the Belgrade Open Swimming competition, but narrowly missed qualifying for the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Prakash, 27, clocked one minute 56.96 seconds, but fell short of the 'A' qualification time of 1 minute 56.48 seconds late on Saturday.

Teenage Srihari Nataraj won gold in men's 100m backstroke with a time of 54.45 seconds. His timing was, however, slower than the 'A' qualification time of 53.85 seconds. He has achieved the 'B' qualification time, but on Saturday he failed to get into a good rhythm and missed the qualification mark.

Shoan Ganguli won the third gold medal for India, in the men's 400m medley with a time of four minutes 37.70 seconds. However, he has so far not overcome the 'B' qualification time.

Maana Patel clocked 29.79 seconds to clinch silver in the women's 50m backstroke while Tanish Mathew settled for bronze in the men's 200m butterfly.

Six Indian swimmers, including Prakash, have achieved the 'B' qualification time in the 2019-2020 Olympic qualification cycle. 'A' qualification time guarantees an automatic berth.

Indian swimmers, particularly Nataraj and Prakash, will get one last chance to crack the 'A' qualification time next week in Rome. (IANS)

Tendulkar pips Sangakkara to be greatest Test batsman in 21<sup>st</sup> century

NEW DELHI

FORMER India batsman Sachin Tendulkar, who holds the record for most Test and ODI runs as well as most centuries across the two formats, pipped former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara as the greatest men's Test batsman of the 21st century in a poll.

"This was a tight one. Both Kumar Sangakkara and Sachin Tendulkar are icons of the game but the vote, the winner of the greatest Test batsman of the 21st century, is my fellow Mumbaier Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar," Gavaskar said in a video uploaded by Star Sports, who organised the poll in which cricket commentators and fans voted.

Tendulkar's 15,921 runs and 51 centuries are the most in Test cricket history. The man nearest to him in the run-getters' list is former Australia captain Ricky Ponting who is 2,543 runs behind.

In terms of centuries, he is six clear of Jacques Kallis who has 45 Test tons.

Sangakkara, who has scored 12,400 runs and 38 centuries in Tests, is sixth in the list of all-time run-getters and fourth in the list of centurions.

The commentators who voted included VVS Laxman, Irfan Pathan, Aakash Chopra among others.

Tendulkar, who made his Test debut at the age of 16, captivated the world of cricket. He was the only Indian in an all-time Test World XI which was announced in 2013 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

In 2002, the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack ranked him as the second greatest Test batsman of all time behind Don Bradman and the second greatest ODI batsman behind Viv Richards. (IANS)

Athletics GP IV: Only seven, including Dutee, to race in 100m

PATIALA

ACE sprinter Dutee Chand and Daneshwari A.T. will battle it out for supremacy in women's 100 meters in the Indian Grand Prix IV scheduled to be held here on Monday.

As per entry list posted by Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on its website, only seven sprinters, including Dutee, Dhanalakshmi and Himashree Roy, have registered for the 100m race.

In the Federation Cup Athletics meet held in March, Dhanalakshmi had upset Dutee to win gold in 100m. Dutee won silver.

Dhanalakshmi will also compete in the 200m in the IGP IV.

Promising Assam sprinter Hima Das, whose prolonged low back injury prevented her from competing in the women's 400m race, will be seen in action in the 200m event on Monday.

Only five sprinters, including Dutee, have entered the 200m.

Leading 400m sprinter Anjali Devi will skip the IGP IV as she is yet to recover from a leg injury she had sustained in February.

Jisna Mathew, Vismaya V.K., and M.R. Poovama are favourites in the women's 400m.

The women's 1500m race will see only two competitors -- P.U. Chitra and Harmilan Bains - who are chasing the Olympic qualification mark of four minutes 04.20 seconds.

The women's 5000m race too has also attracted only two athletes -- Sudha Singh and Parul Chaudhary.

In javelin, Annu Rani will be the main attraction. She is yet to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games, starting on July 23. (IANS)

Euro 2020

## Germany stun Portugal 4-2 to keep last-16 hopes alive

BERLIN

GERMANY bounced back in style and overpowered defending champions Portugal in a six-goal thriller in Euro 2020 Group F at the Football Arena Munich.

The Germans came out flying on home soil on Saturday and thought they got rewarded for their powerful start, but Robin Gosens' goal from a tight angle was flagged offside in the fifth minute, Xinhua news agency reported.

Even though Germany were dominating, it was Portugal who broke the deadlock as Cristiano Ronaldo showed no mercy and tapped home a counter-attack 10 minutes later.

Despite Portugal's opener, Germany remained unimpressed and hit back with great assistance from the Portuguese, who couldn't put up a resistance in the 35th minute when Ruben Dias cleared Gosens' dangerous low cross into the wrong goal to level the scores.

Germany were menacing with every attack while Portugal's defence had its hands full as the clock ticked. The hosts eventually got rewarded for their efforts as Raphael Guerreiro accidentally diverted Joshua Kimmich's shot across the goal into the wrong target six minutes before the break.

Low's men could have scored more goals, but Portugal goalkeeper Rui Patricio was on guard twice to deny Gosens and Gnabry.

However, Ruiz Patricio was helpless after the restart as Germany picked up from where they had left off and made it 3-1 through Kai Havertz, who tapped in Gosens' cutback pass from close range in the 51st minute.

Portugal weren't able to hold the pace and had to concede another goal after Kimmich's pinpoint cross to the far post allowed an unmarked Gosens to get his name on the scoreboards at the hour mark. The visitors' resistance seemed broken, but Fernando Santos' side halved the deficit out of thin air in the 67th minute when Ronaldo curled the ball into the path of Diogo Jota, who poked home from close range.

Portugal came to life again but couldn't do more damage as Renato Sanches'

Poland's goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny makes a safe during the Euro 2020 group E match against Spain at the La Cartuja stadium in Seville, Spain late on Saturday

Spain, Poland in danger of early exit

SEVILLE: Both Spain and Poland are in danger of failing to qualify for the knockout stage of the European Championships after drawing their second Group E game 1-1.

The result on Saturday leaves Spain with two points from their first two matches and the Poles with just one and both probably need to win their last group games to avoid an early exit. Spain coach Luis Enrique made only one change to the side that drew 0-0 with Sweden, bringing striker Gerard Moreno into the starting 11 and pairing him with the much-criticised Alvaro Morata, reports Xinhua news agency.

Meanwhile Poland played a 5-3-2 formation, with Robert Lewandowski the most advanced of their players. Poland began looking to take the game to Spain with Mateusz Klich firing just over from distance before Spain began to take control, with Morata's attempted chip headed clear.

Although Spain were gaining terrain as the half progressed, the Poles were keeping their shape and Jordi Alba had to use his pace to stop Lewandowski's surging run forward.

Spain took the lead with a moment of suspense in the 27th minute when Moreno crossed for Morata to slip the ball past Wojciech Szczesny. The flag went up for offside, but after being reviewed by VAR the goal was given as legal.

Moreno hit a free kick just wide soon after as Spain continued to dominate, but Poland nearly equalised in the 43rd minute when Karol Swiderski's left-foot effort bounced off the post to Lewandowski, whose powerful shot was well blocked by Unai Simon. (IANS)

thunder strike to the bar remained only a warning in the closing stages.

"At half time, I tried to change it, but we ended up conceding the third and fourth goals. We reduced it to 4-2; we had a ball against the post, one or two chances, but Germany also created danger. It was a fair victory for Germany," said Portugal head coach Santos.

"Overall, a great performance by my team despite our situation. The team

showed great will, we created a lot of chances and I think it is a deserved 4-2 victory," said Germany head coach Low.

With the result, France (4 points) remain atop the standings in Group F followed by Germany (3 points), Portugal (3 points) and Hungary (1 point).

With a win over Hungary on June 23, Germany can secure their progression, while holders Portugal face a tough task with France. (IANS)

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