



# THE HANS INDIA

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Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu plants a Rudraksh tree at Parliament House complex on completion of his three years in office as Vice President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, in New Delhi, on Thursday

## BJP's no-trust motion against Gehlot today

**Jaipur (IANS):** In a major twist to the ongoing political crisis in Rajasthan, which looked like coming to an end with rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot returning to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's camp, BJP's Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said on Thursday that his party will move a no-confidence motion against the state government in the special Assembly session starting Friday. The BJP convened a legislative party meeting on Thursday, which was attended by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, national General Secretary Muralidhar Rao, state BJP President Satish Poonia, national Vice Presidents Avinash Rai Khanna and Vamsundhara Raje. ► **P3**

## Transfer of Sushant's case to CBI illegal: Sena

**Mumbai:** Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday termed the transfer of the case related to Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as "illegal". He also said that the everyone, including the family of Rajput, should remain quiet for some time and let the Mumbai Police conclude their investigation in the actor's death case. Rajput was found hanging in his Bandra apartment on June 14. ► **P3**

## WOMENIA



## HOME MADE FACE PACKS FOR MONSOON GLOW

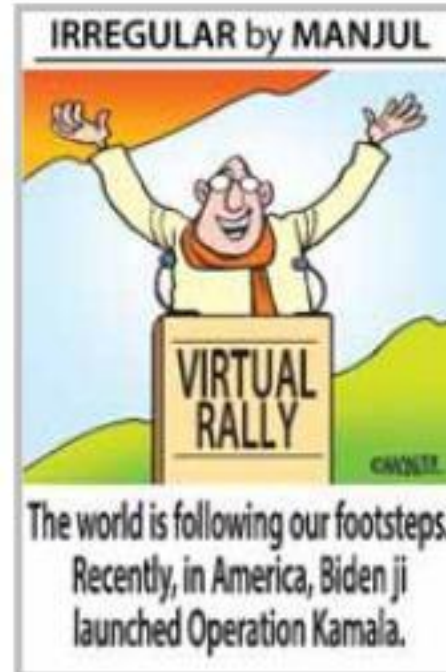
**P2**

## NATION



## 'TV PE THOKO', TOXIC DEBATE BLAMED FOR CONG SPOKESPERSON TYAGI'S DEMISE

**P3**



A big traffic jam on Delhi-Meerut Expressway during rain, in New Delhi, on Thursday

## Heavy rain lashes Delhi

### Flooding in many areas, big traffic jams

**New Delhi:** Heavy rain greeted Delhi residents to a pleasant morning on Thursday, helping the city bring down its rain deficiency for the monsoon season. The downpour, which was reportedly the heaviest spell of rains this monsoon, however led to water-logging in several parts of the national capital, throwing traffic out of gear at many places.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Ayanagar weather station recorded 99.2 mm rainfall, the maximum in the city. The Palam and Ridge weather stations gauged 93.6 mm and 84.6 mm precipitation, respectively.

The Safdarjung observatory, which provides representative figures for the city, recorded 68 mm rainfall, according to the IMD.

The showers inundated low-lying areas and threw traffic out of gear in several parts of the city. Pictures shared by news agency showed water-logging near New Delhi Railway Station and at an underpass in the Dwarka in South-West part of the city. The Delhi Traffic Police reported an incident of a tree being uprooted near the high court, which led to traffic snarls. The Raja Garden and Mayapuri flyovers also witnessed heavy water-logging.

The weather department has predicted 'generally cloudy sky with heavy rain' in the national capital on Thursday. Till Wednesday evening, the city had

recorded 72 per cent less rainfall than normal in August so far, the lowest in 10 years, according to the IMD. The national capital has recorded 35 per cent less rains in the monsoon season so far.

An official at the IMD's regional forecasting centre said the city witnessed "continuous rains overnight" and more rainfall is expected during the day. "The axis of monsoon remains close to Delhi-NCR. Also, there is a cyclonic circulation over southwest Uttar Pradesh. Southwesterly winds from the Arabian Sea and easterly winds from the Bay of Bengal also fed moisture," said Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre.

## SPICEJET OFFERS CHECK-IN FACILITY ON WHATSAPP

**New Delhi:** SpiceJet said on Thursday its automated customer service and check-in facility is available on WhatsApp in addition to its website and mobile app.

In May, the government had made it mandatory for all passengers to check-in online 48 hours to 60 min before flight departure in order to ensure social distancing amid the coronavirus pandemic.

SpiceJet's automated customer service agent called "Ms Pepper" can be accessed by passengers at mobile number 60000000006 anytime, it said in a press statement.

"WhatsApp 'Hi' to Ms Pepper on your way to the airport and she will help you with the mandatory web check-in process without the need to visit SpiceJet's website and deliver your boarding pass directly to your mobile phone," it stated.

The automated agent will also resolve customer's queries on WhatsApp, the airline said, adding that it is also available on its website and mobile app.

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## Pranab's condition remains unchanged



**New Delhi:** The condition of former president Pranab Mukherjee remains unchanged and he is deeply comatose, the Army's Research and Referral hospital said

Thursday in a medical bulletin. Mukherjee's vital parameters were stable and he continues to be on ventilator support, it said. Mukherjee was admitted to the hospital on 10 August and operated on for removal of a clot in the brain. He had also tested positive for covid-19. "The condition of Pranab Mukherjee remains unchanged this (Thursday) morning. He is deeply comatose with stable vital parameters and he continues to be on ventilatory support," the medical bulletin said.

## Family refutes death rumours

**New Delhi:** Dismissing 'speculation' and 'fake news' regarding the health of Pranab Mukherjee, his son Abhijit Mukherjee on Thursday said that the former president is still alive and 'haemodynamically' stable. He alleged that fake news is being circulated by reputed journalists on social media regarding his father's death.

"My father Shri Pranab Mukherjee is still alive & haemodynamically stable! Speculations & fake news being circulated by reputed Journalists on social media clearly reflects that Media in India has become a factory of Fake News (sic)," Abhijit Mukherjee tweeted. The former president's daughter Sharmistha Mukherjee also refuted the rumours about his father. "Rumours about my father is false. Continued on Page 5

## 'FACELESS, FAIR, FEARLESS'

# MODI'S BIG PUSH FOR TAX REFORMS

## PM unveils transparent taxation platform

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a platform to honour the honest taxpayers of the country. The unveiling took place at 11 am via video conferencing.

The "Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest" platform will initiate major tax reforms aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers, according to the government.

This is considered to be another step which will make the lives of the taxpayers easier. Over the years, the income tax department has carried out several major reforms, including reduction in the corporate tax. The de-



partment had also abolished the dividend tax.

It has also been focusing on simplification of direct tax laws and increasing transparency in communication. A major step in this regard was the introduction of Document Identification Number

(DIN) wherein every communication of the department would carry a computer generated unique document identification number.

Similarly, to increase the ease of compliance for taxpayers, the IT department has moved forward with the pre-

filing of income tax returns to make compliance more convenient for individual taxpayers. Compliance norms for startups have also been simplified. The Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020, was also introduced to settle tax disputes. Further, the Income Tax department has undertaken several measures to promote digital transactions and electronic modes of payment. The department is committed to take the initiatives forward and has also made efforts to ease compliances for taxpayers during Covid-19 time by extending statutory timeliness for filing returns as also releasing refunds expeditiously to increase liquidity in the hands of taxpayers.

## Cadila launches India's cheapest Remdesivir version ₹2,800/VIAL

**Mumbai:** Zydus Cadila on Thursday launched the cheapest generic version of Gilead Sciences' antiviral drug Remdesivir in India to treat Covid-19, following reports of shortages at hospitals in the world's third worst-hit country. Zydus has priced it at ₹2,800 per 100mg vial. It (Remdesivir version) will be sold under the brand name Remdact to government and private hospitals treating Covid-19 patients, the company said in a regulatory filing. Officials in some states had a few weeks ago complained of supply issues, but a top executive at drugmaker Cipla had earlier this week said the supplies were stabilising.

## BENGALURU RIOTS

# Probe reveals SDPI role in violence: K'taka HM

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said the ongoing police investigation into the Tuesday night rioting in the city had revealed the role of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), and four of its members were under arrest.

"The inquiry is underway and new aspects are coming out. I can't reveal much now. Things will be made known in the days to come. But with video footage and other evidence, the role of the SDPI has come to the fore. We're going deeper with the investigation. Several SDPI office



Security personnel carry out a flag march in the riot-hit area in Bengaluru on Thursday

bearers have been held," Bommai told reporters.

According to Bommai, the four SDPI members under

arrest include Muzammil Pasha, the party's district secretary.

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## Modi becomes longest serving Indian PM of non-Cong origin

**New Delhi:** Narendra Modi has become the longest serving Indian prime minister of non-Congress origin, surpassing the overall tenure of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday. "Today, PM @NarendraModi becomes the 4th longest serving Prime Minister in Indian history! He also becomes the longest serving Indian PM of non-Congress origin. Vajpayee ji served for 2268 days in all his terms combined. Today PM Modi has surpassed that tenure," Singh tweeted.

# Largest multi-level parking coming up at Chandni Chowk

PURNA SINGH

**New Delhi:** The multi-level parking, being built at Chandni Chowk, Asia's largest market, will be Delhi's largest parking lot. Apart from about 2400 cars, tourist buses can also be parked in five-storey multilevel parking. Senior officials of the Northern Corporation Engineering Department say the project is being developed on the PPP model. It is to be completed by February 2022. In order to reduce the

traffic problem at Chandni Chowk and to provide parking facilities to the people, the Northern Corporation had planned to develop multi-level parking on about four and a half acres of land in Chandni Chowk Gandhi Maidan. Senior officials of the engineering department said that the work of the five-storey multilevel parking project was started in September 2019. Due to pollution, the construction work was braided on the order of the Supreme

## Buses can also be parked at the facility



Court and thereafter the lockdown was interrupted for about six months.

It was told that the construction work of multi-level parking has started again after six months of obstruction.

The project has been awarded to Omex on the PPP model. This company has deposited Rs 250 crore to Northern Corporation. The Northern Corporation has to deposit revenue of about Rs 450 crore in four installments, out of which two installments have

been deposited. Paving vehicles is a major challenge for people coming to Chandni Chowk and its surrounding bullion markets for shopping. Officials of the engineering department say that around 2400 cars and 100 tourist buses will be able to park in this five-storey multilevel parking. It was told that the parking lot of Chandni Chowk will be Delhi's first largest multilevel parking, in which buses can be parked along with cars.



# Womenia

TWEET PATROL


**MEHREEN PIRZADA**  
**@MEHREENPIRZADA**

 Life is  
so endlessly  
beautiful


## Home made face packs for Monsoon glow

Monsoon is a time when our skin experiences host of skin problems like fungal infections and acne due to severe humidity, sweat, grime, heat as well as dampness and moisture. The muggy, moisture-laden climate brings a new set of skin problems due to constant change in temperature and weather.

However, going to the beauty parlour may not be a good idea at this pandemic time.

### Fruit face pack

Add one piece of any four five seasonal fruits of your choice and one tsp honey.

Put all the ingredients in a bowl and mash them using a fork. Mash all them using a fork or blend them in a blender. Make sure the paste is of a smooth consistency and does not have lumps. Apply this face pack on your face and uncovered areas for 30 minutes.

### Malai and turmeric face pack

To get radiant skin, take one tbsp of malai with 2 tsp of turmeric powder and add a few drops of rose oil. Mix all the ingredients and massage this face pack into your skin and after 15 minutes wash it with a mild face cleanser.

### Aloe vera face pack

Mix equal quantities of aloe vera gel and lemon juice. Apply the pack on your face for 15 minutes and allow it to dry in a natural environment for 15 minutes.

Wash and grind. Neem leaves in rose water and add aloe vera gel and some water to get a thick paste. Apply this paste onto your skin and let it dry for 10 minutes. Wash off with cool water for the best results. Apply



Shahnaz Husain

the pack on your face for 15 minutes.

### Vegetable face pack

Vegetables are considered an excellent option for making your skin glow. It keeps your skin moisturised and hydrated. Either eating them raw or applying them on the skin is beneficial as it provides decent care for all skin types.

### Onion face pack

Extract onion juice in a jar and then dip a cotton ball in the onion juice and apply it to your face and neck area and let it remain for a minimum of 30 minutes. Then, wash off your face with normal water. Using this pack twice a week can help you get the best results. Mix the onion juice with a few drops of almond oil, add one tsp of lemon juice and pinch of salt to make a mixture. Apply this mixture and rinse after 15 minutes.

### Tomato face pack

Take out the tomato pulp or grate the tomato along with lemon juice, 1 tablespoon of gram flour, and 1 tablespoon of orange peel powder. Add raw milk into the ingredients. Apply gently on your face and neck. And allow it to dry completely. Rub it smoothly and wash your face with plain water.

### Tomato and oatmeal face pack

Take 1 tomato, 1 tbsp. oatmeal and 1 tsp. yogurt. Blend the tomatoes and add oatmeal and yogurt to make a mixture. Apply the mixture on the skin with a cotton pad in a gentle way around the face and neck and wash off after 20 minutes with fresh clean water. You can apply it twice a week or as per your skin type.

## Masaba Gupta adds twist to WFH

While 'working from home' has become the new normal, home doesn't have to be the same place you have been cooped up in for the last few months. Taking inspiration from this, celebrated fashion designer Masaba Gupta packed her bags and moved to a quaint villa in Goa to work on her upcoming line.

Talking about her stay at the Airbnb home in Goa, Masaba Gupta said, "Personally, one of the most significant changes for me has been the way I work. As a designer, I find inspiration from nature, travel and the world around me.

While I was able to work on designs for House of Masaba virtually over the last few months, I was truly craving a change in scene to add a fresh perspective to my designs and work. As things have begun to open up, I am excited to venture beyond the confines of my own home to spend some time in a home in Goa & it has been a refreshing change for my creative spirit."

As she settles into her new workplace, Masaba shares some tips to 'Work From Any Home':

### Plan your day to maintain regular working hours

While you are working from home, you need to ensure that you are not living with your work too.

Plan your day in the morning in a manner that helps you wrap up in time. For me, this gives the perfect opportunity to relax and make the most of my new Airbnb home – whether it is chilling in the pool with some cocktails or reading a book out in the sun.

### Create a dedicated workspace

While change of scene is



definitely something you need, you also need to ensure that you form a dedicated workspace in your new home. Whether it is a table on the terrace, or a work desk in your room, find a corner that works best for you. It will help you focus better. I believe a clutter free workplace can help keep a clutter free mind.

### Stay connected – with colleagues and friends

Long working hours can often be draining, and personally staying connected with friends and family makes for a refreshing break. While meeting in person may be difficult in the foreseeable future, face to face interactions over video calls are a great way to stay connected.

### Be comfy in work casuals

While you may have been tempted to turn on your laptop in bed, and work in your pajamas, it is important to not give into the temptation. Change into comfortable and casual clothes, because dressing up, even if slightly, will help you get into 'work' mode. After all, if you continue to be dressed for bed, your brain will think it's okay to laze around too!

### All work and no play, makes for low productivity

With deadlines looming and projects to be completed, we often tend to lose track of time while working. Long working hours with no breaks result in reduced productivity and more distractions. So, reward yourself with planned breaks – take a short walk in your garden, breathe in some fresh air and relax before you jump from one virtual meeting to another.

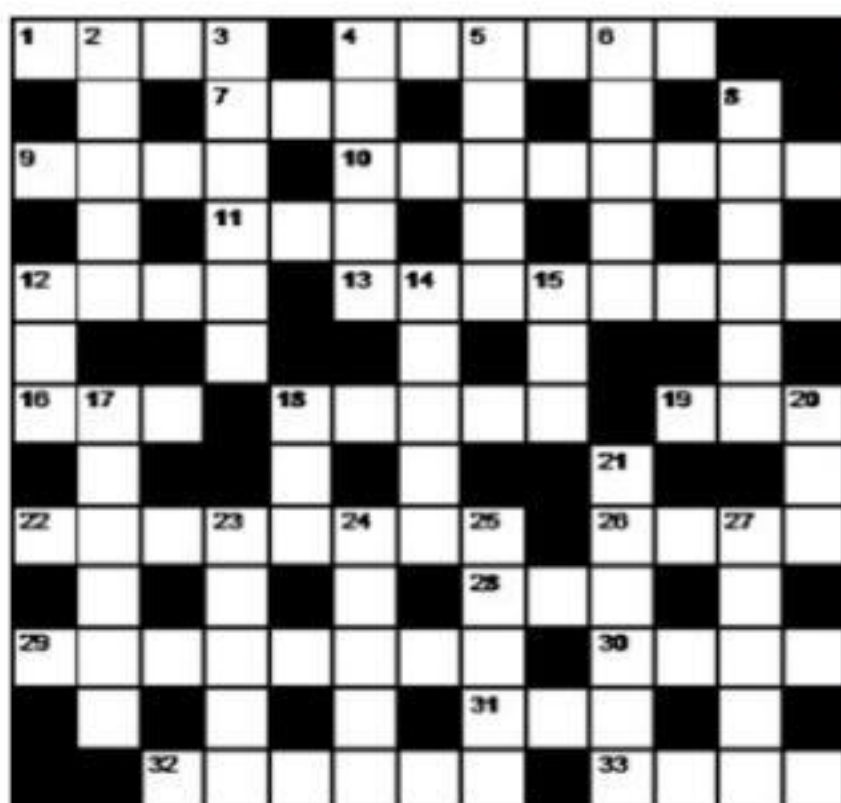
## No compromise on choosing bridegrooms, women have choice

Women today know what they want and would like to marry someone who meets their preferences

The age-old beliefs that in a marriage a woman must compromise and adjust no longer holds and women expect their partners to compromise and adjust as well. Compatibility ranks highest in their list of must-haves.

User data from the platform also showed that 65 per cent of the interests sent by women are to people who match their preferences and what they are looking for. In fact, women today know what they want and would like to marry someone that meets their preferences. 82 per cent women also said that they are willing to wait it out, as that they would like to give the matchmaking process its due time and avoid rushing into it.

Commenting on the findings of the survey, Adhish Zaveri, director – marketing, of one such matrimony service said, "The ground realities of Indian Matchmaking are a lot different from what meets the eye. Matchmakers cannot just bring matches that they think are right for them. Singles are deciding for themselves and the decision usually comes down to compatibility. Matchmaking in today's context is about empowering people with the right information & providing them with a platform to have meaningful conversations."



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 13

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- 1 Causes irritation (4)
- 4 Classify (6)
- 7 Dress up (3)
- 9 In short high fidelity (2-2)
- 10 Attacked physically or verbally (8)
- 11 Policeman (3)
- 12 Lie in sun (4)
- 13 Sending out (8)
- 16 Brief deviation from a straight course (3)
- 18 Red indian woman (5)
- 19 Rejections (3)
- 22 Date regularly (2,6)
- 26 Gentle; sort (4)
- 28 Black bird (3)
- 29 Majesty (8)
- 30 Pianist Hess (4)
- 31 Bean (3)
- 32 Scolds or reproves (6)
- 33 Cameo stone (4)

#### Down

- 2 Indian dish of cucumber in yoghurt (5)
- 3 Adhesive (6)
- 4 Wide open (5)
- 5 Japanese dish (5)
- 6 Destroys, mars or disfigures (5)
- 8 From the beginning (6)
- 12 \_\_ of Bengal (3)
- 14 Fungal deposit (5)
- 15 Attach by stitches (3)
- 17 French lovers (6)
- 18 Bring to court (3)
- 20 Causing sorrow (3)
- 21 With hands on hips (6)
- 23 Freshwater food fish (5)
- 24 In front (5)
- 25 Threads (5)
- 27 Twitching (5)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 13

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Preity hones shooting skills under 'John Wick' trainer

Actress Preity Zinta is honing her shooting skills, and she has roped in the best in business to train her.

In an Instagram video she posted on Thursday, Preity is seen firing guns at a range. She revealed that she is being trained by Aaron Cohen, who trained Hollywood actor Keanu Reeves for "John Wick".

"A dream does not become reality through magic. It takes sweat, determination, and hard work. So here I am trying to make my action dream come true," she wrote.

She added: "Training hard with the super tough @acohofficial. So no one can say that women cannot do Action in Hindi movies. Hope all the directors are watching."

Preity tagged her post with #Reinvention #Day3 #tactical#3gun #tacticalshooting #glock19 #actionmovies #gunjitsu#gunfu #ting and @cherriescounterterror.

Her video impressed friends in the film industry as well as fans.

"Aree P you will put all of us out of business," Arjun Ram-pal commented.

When a user called her "John Chick", Preity laughed and said: "that's funny... you are saying because Aaron who is training me trained Keanu Reeves for 'John Wick'."





# 'TV pe thoko', toxic debate blamed for Cong spokesperson Tyagi's demise

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Congress has blamed 'toxic' TV debate for the untimely demise of its spokesperson Rajiv Tyagi, who passed away on Wednesday after suffering a cardiac arrest.

The Congress leader had attended a television debate at 5 p.m. and complained of chest pain soon after the programme ended. He then fell unconscious and was rushed to the Yashoda Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted, "Till when will toxic debates and venomous spokespersons continue to kill sober and

simple people? Till when TV channels will continue to run the TRP business through such debates? Till when will divisive communal agenda continue to poison the soul of the country? Till when? #rajiv\_tyagi." The Congress urged Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javdekar to ensure media houses follow existing guidelines on live discussions.

"I appeal to the I&B Ministry to issue an advisory, in exercise of powers under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, to media houses to adhere to the Code of Conduct stipulated by the News Broadcasting



Standards Authority ('NBSA') Guidelines dated December 13, 2012, while conducting live dis-

cussions," Congress leader Jaiveer Shergill said in a letter to Javadekar.

"The 'TV pe Thoko' mentality has detrimental repercussions, and steps for its eradication must be sought out, and it is imperative to restore civility, through a code of conduct, in order to tame the slanderous beast that television debates have become.

Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and senior leader Priyanka Gandhi spoke to Tyagi's wife and extended their condolences.

Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet, "Congress has lost a lion. We will always remember his love for the party. My condolences are with the family."

Congress leader Jitin Prasada said, "I am shocked and deeply saddened by his untimely demise."

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "I can't believe that my friend Rajiv Tyagi is not with us any more. He was in a debate with me at 5 p.m. Life is uncertain."

"Constant interruptions, coupled with toxic and defamatory smears, impact the mental and physical well-being of all individuals on the panel. All the participants, including spokespersons across party lines, independent experts and the anchors, must respect the 'Lakshman Rekha' of mutual respect," said Shergill in

the letter.

"It is high time that we reinstate a civil, respectful and factual temperament of television debates for the sake of the well-being of spokespersons across party lines and most importantly, for the purpose of preserving the very basic ethos of Indian democracy i.e., 'we agree to respectfully disagree with each other'," he added.

Tyagi, 53, had attended a television debate at 5 p.m. on Wednesday and complained of chest pain soon after it ended. He then fell unconscious and was rushed to the Yashoda Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

## BJP to move no-confidence motion against Gehlot today

**Jaipur (IANS):** In a major twist to the ongoing political crisis in Rajasthan, which looked like coming to an end with rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot returning to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's camp, BJP's Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said on Thursday that his party will move a no-confidence motion against the state government in the special Assembly session starting Friday.

The BJP convened a legislative party meeting on Thursday, which was attended by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, national General Secretary Muralidhar Rao, state BJP President Satish Poonia, national Vice Presidents Avinash Rai Khanna and Vasundhara Raju, national Joint General Secretary (organisation) V. Satish, Gulab Chand Kataria and Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Singh Rathore, among others.

Before the start of the meeting, Satish Poonia said that the state government is struggling on many fronts and hence the party is expected to move a no-



confidence motion.

Kataria later said that for over a month, the Gehlot government has been camping in hotels, ignoring the ambitious Central government schemes for the state.

"This government is acting against what it is preaching," he added.

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raju also made a scathing attack on the Congress, saying the party has been ignoring the people and their problems ever since coming to power in the state over one-and-

a-half years ago.

"It changed the names of our schemes; now we want to take the benefits of the Central schemes to the people," she said.

It needs to be mentioned here that Vasundhara Raju has come to Jaipur for the first time during the ongoing political crisis in the state.

She has all through maintained a stoic silence on the issue, except making a few tweets, besides recently meeting BJP national President J.P. Nadda and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi.

### Smiles all around as Pilot, Gehlot meet

**Jaipur:** Congress leader Sachin Pilot was all smiles as he met Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot at his residence. The Congress Legislature Party meeting is to take place at Gehlot's residence, ahead of the special session of the Rajasthan Assembly.

The Congress has also re-

voked the suspension of MLAs Bhanwarlal Sharma and Vishvendra Singh, who were suspended from the party's primary membership last month over their alleged involvement in a conspiracy to topple the Congress government in the state. The assembly session in the state will begin on Friday. The BJP in Rajasthan earlier on Thursday said it will move a no-confidence motion against the Gehlot-led Congress government in the state assembly.

## Senior advocate smokes 'hookah' during HC hearing

**Jaipur:** During a virtual hearing of the Rajasthan High Court, senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan was caught on camera smoking hookah. Though he tried to hide his face with paper as he took drags from hookah, the smoke-filled screen gave it away easily.

According to multiple media reports, the incident took place on Wednesday when Rajasthan High Court was hearing the petitions filed by BJP MLA Madan Dilawar and the BSP challenging the merger of six MLAs with the Congress. In the video clip that is being widely shared on social media shows senior advocate and Congress leader Kapil Sibal arguing while

Dhavan puffs on his hookah, filling the screen with smoke.

There are no reports yet on whether any action has been taken by the Rajasthan High Court in this matter.

The virtual hearings were necessitated after courts were locked due to the Coronavirus pandemic. In June, a lawyer was lying on his bed, donning a T-shirt during the virtual hearing. Taking a strong note of the incident, the Supreme Court had observed that lawyers should be presentable during video-conferencing and "avoid showing images which are not appropriate."



### Frozen chicken wings from Brazil test + ve for virus

**Shenzhen:** Consumers in the Chinese city of Shenzhen have been urged to exercise caution when buying imported frozen food after a surface sample of chicken wings from Brazil tested positive for coronavirus, according to a statement from the local government.

The positive sample appears to have been taken from the surface of the meat, while previously reported positive cases from other Chinese cities have been from the surface of packaging on imported frozen seafood.

The chicken came from an Aurora Alimentos plant in the southern state of Santa Catarina, according to a registration number given in the statement.

Virus tests of people who have possibly come into contact with the product, and tests of related products, all came back negative, the statement said.

## Transfer of Sushant's case to CBI illegal: Sena

**Mumbai:** Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday termed the transfer of the case related to Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as "illegal". He also said that the everyone, including the family of Rajput, should remain quiet for some time and let the Mumbai Police conclude their investigation in the actor's death case. Rajput was found hanging in his Bandra apartment on June 14. The Mumbai Police had registered an Accidental Death Report and a probe is underway in the case. Rajput's father K.K. Singh had on July 25 lodged a complaint with the Bihar police against his son's rumoured girlfriend and actress Rhea Chakraborty and her family members accusing them of abetting the late actor's suicide.

The CBI recently took over investigation into the case and re-registered the Patna police FIR related to alleged criminal conspiracy and abetment to sui-



cide against Chakraborty and her family members. Talking to reporters, Raut said, "The incident (Rajput's death) took place in Mumbai. The FIR was filed in Patna and the Bihar government recommended a CBI probe. The Centre immediately agreed. This is illegal. The case is now technically with the CBI." "The Mumbai Police is investigating the case and if there is anything else to probe, the CBI can do it," he said.

Raut said, "Bring Mossad and KGB too. There is nothing to hide. We are not opposing the CBI. When the Mumbai Police is already on the job, what will the CBI do?"

## TN govt bans Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations

**Chennai:** Ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, Government of Tamil Nadu has prohibited the installation of idols in public places and rallies to immerse idols in water bodies in view of the Covid pandemic. Further, the state government has advised people to celebrate Vinayaka Chaturthi at their homes to curtail the further spread of coronavirus.

"Ganesh Chaturthi in Tamil Nadu will be celebrated on 22nd August. People are advised to cel-



ebate Vinayaka Chaturthi at their home to curtail COVID-19 spread. No installation of idols in public and no rallies to immerse idols in water bodies will be allowed," read an official directive.

Meanwhile, in Maharashtra, the Ganeshotsav Mandals, and people in containment zones will have to immerse idols in a metallic tank inside the containment zone on the occasion of Ganeshotsav and Ganapati Visarjan, said the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

## Son kills dad for snoring

**Pilibhit (IANS):** Did all work and no sleep lead to a case of patricide? A 28-year-old man in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district has killed his father for disturbing his peaceful slumber with his snoring.

Naveen, the elder son of Ram Swarup, apparently bludgeoned his father's head in with a club when he began snoring. The 65-year-old victim was rushed to the Puranpur community health centre where doctors declared him brought dead. His body was sent for post mortem.

Naveen has been arrested by the police after Manoj filed a written complaint against his elder brother. The accused has been booked under Section 302 (murder) of IPC.

According to reports, the incident took place in Sondha village on Tuesday night. Manoj was at his maternal uncle's house with his mother on the night of the incident.

Serama North SHO Pushkar Singh said that the accused was known to abuse and physically assault his father for his snoring habit.

## Charge sheet read out to rape accused Catholic bishop

**Kottayam (IANS):** A court here on Thursday read out the charge sheet to rape accused former Jalandhar bishop Franco Mulakkal and set the date for commencement of trial on September 16. It was last week that Kottayam Additional Sessions Court ordered him not to leave the city till the charge sheet is read out, after the Supreme Court dismissed the petition filed by him seeking to discharge him in the Kerala

nun rape case. The important points in the charge sheet that runs over a thousand pages was read out to him, which he flatly denied. Mulakkal was arrested on September 21, 2018 on rape charges, and he secured bail on October 16, 2018.

The charge sheet names 83 witnesses, including the Cardinal of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Mar George Alencherry, three bishops, 11 priests and 22 nuns.

## Civilian dies in Pak ceasefire violation

**Srinagar (IANS):** A civilian injured last week in Pakistan ceasefire violation on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district succumbed in the hospital on Thursday.

Police said 60-year-old civilian, identified as Mohammed Yaqoob Mir of Kachadia Bagh Bella village in the Karnah sector of Kupwara district, succumbed in Srinagar on Thursday morning.

"The deceased had been injured in Pakistan firing and shelling in the Karnah sector last Friday. "Another civilian injured in the same incident had expired last week", police said. A total of 24 civilians have been killed and over 100 injured in more than 2,720 ceasefire violations by Pakistan on the LoC so far this year

**Kaushambhi (IANS):** A mob attacked a police team in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambhi district that had gone to arrest a person accused of theft.

Sub-inspector K.R. Singh and constable Dilip Singh were seriously injured in the attack in Kachua village on Wednes-

day night and both have been admitted to the district hospital. The attackers snatched the sub-inspector's service revolver. According to reports, as soon as the team caught the accused Raju, the mob of local residents, led by women, tried to stop the police team. They

started pelting stones at the police team and attacked them with rods and sticks in which the police personnel were injured. SP Abhinandan said that matter was under investigation and those who had attacked the police would be severely punished.

## A 'Mercedes nest,' thanks to Dubai Crown Prince

**Riyadh:** The Crown Prince of Dubai has earned praise for refusing to use his Mercedes after spotting a bird's nest on it. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum is a nature lover, according to Esquire, and his reputation as an environmentalist was further boosted by his decision to cordon off his Mercedes-AMG G63 SUV.

According to Khaleej Times, Sheikh Hamdan had recently posted an Instagram story which showed his Mercedes cordoned off with red and white tape inside his Dubai residence. He reportedly also told his staff to stay away from the area so as not to disturb the bird. The video, filmed from a distance, showed the bird sitting on her nest on the SUV's windshield.

The Crown Prince of Dubai, who is popularly known as Fazza, took to Instagram again with an update



for his 10 million followers. This time, he shared a video showing the chicks that hatched from the eggs. "Sometimes the little things in life are more than enough," he wrote while sharing the clip, which shows the mama bird taking care of her babies on top of the luxury vehicle.

The video has gone viral on Instagram, collecting a whopping 1.5

million views in less than 24 hours. Many Instagram users were delighted with the video and praised Sheikh Hamdan.

"So beautiful and touching," wrote one Instagram user.

"I really appreciate your kindness," said another, while a third added: "Lucky bird".

What do you think? Let us know using the comments section.

## Ram Temple Trust head tests positive

**Lucknow:** The head of the Ram temple trust, Mahant Nritya Gopal Das (80), has tested positive for COVID-19, officials said on Thursday. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken detailed information on the health condition of Das, a senior government official said here.

The Chief Minister has spoken to the Mathura district magistrate (DM) as also to Dr Trehan of the Medanta hospital and requested for immediate medical attention to Das at the facility, the official said.

He has also directed the DM to provide all possible support for extending the best possible medical attention. Das had recently shared the dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the groundbreaking cer-

### Seer shared stage with Modi during bhoomi puja



emony for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Others who were present at the stage with the Ram temple trust head were Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Anandiben Patel and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.



### Recovery rate from Covid crosses 70%

**New Delhi (IANS):** The government on Thursday stated that 70.77 per cent people infected of deadly coronavirus have recovered and left hospital and quarantine centres. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that 66,999 new Covid-19 cases have been detected in the last 24 hours taking the total tally of the cases to 23,36,637.

The Ministry stated that there are 6,53,622 active cases. It also stated that 16,95,982 people were discharged so far. In the last 24 hours, a total of 56,383 people left hospitals and quarantine centres after recovering from the deadly virus. The government recorded a recovery rate of 70.77 per cent.

The authorities also stated that 47,033 people succumbed to deadly virus so far. In the last 24 hours, 942 people lost their lives after getting infected with the virus.

Maharashtra remained the worst-hit state with 1,47,820 active cases. In the state, a total of 3,81,843 people have recovered from the virus infection and 18,650 lost their lives. In Karnataka, there are 80,351 active cases to the date and 1,12,633 people have recovered from the virus. A total of 3,510 people have succumbed to the virus. In Andhra Pradesh, a total of 90,425 active cases have been reported from across the states. A total of 1,61,425 people have recovered. A total of 2,296 people have succumbed to Covid-19. Delhi has 10,946 active cases and 1,33,405 people have recovered from the virus. So far and 1,021 people have lost their lives.



## Will Kamala act as catalyst in US politics?

A domino effect is the cumulative effect produced when one event sets off a chain of similar events. The term is best known as a mechanical effect and is used as an analogy to a falling row of dominoes. The domino effect states that when you make a change to one behaviour, it will activate a chain reaction and cause a shift in related behaviours as well. When presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden picked Sen. Kamala D Harris as his running mate last Tuesday, Indian American family WhatsApp groups exploded with joy that one of their own might make history as the first woman Vice President, American media reported. Indian Americans forwarded the New York Post's frontpage calling Harris "President-in-Waiting." They sent photos of Harris with her sari-clad relatives, along with videos of the senator from California cooking South India's dish of choice – masala

dosa. Indian Americans voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump in 2016, 77 percent to 16 percent, according to the National Asian American Survey, which was conducted soon after the election. Asian American Voters Survey said it expected Harris to help increase the number of votes Biden receives from Indian Americans, especially among independents. Of those Indian Americans who are registered to vote, 46 percent said they thought of themselves as Democrats and 19 percent as Republicans, while 35 percent identified with neither party, according to the post-election National Asian American Survey. Now comes the question - how much does race or racism matter in the US elections? Particularly, at this point of time? Donald Trump always trusted in his supremacist roots and thrived on the same during his elections. After John Floyd's killing, America's down under hit the streets and Democrats, of course, were into it fully. The anger against the Trump rule over his failure to contain coronavirus cases and his daily prattle and the continued killings of blacks for no reason at all has reworked the social equations to a good extent

in the US. However, whether the Biden-Harris combo could convert this into votes is to be seen. In fact, though there is a deja vu, it is more confined to Democrats. Even after the nomination of Kamala as the running mate of Biden, there are doubts among the people over her contribution because she has always minimised her Indian identity herself more as a black which makes her constituency and that of the Democrats now, the very same. As for the Indians, Kamala's identity could also prove to be a dividing force. Indians are a rising political force in the country, but they are always fluid with wide ranging preferences. A good segment of Indians is still a neutral block. Trump is banking on them... thanks to Modi. There is another schism - of the North and the South, among Indians - that is going to be crucial (after all Indians!). Who has more money power? American elections are all about money. The supremacists and the Republicans are a monolith block, racially speaking. Will the rest of the US raise against Trump? Racism is a factor in the US election now, but it is not the only factor. Can Kamala create the required domino effect?



## Of walls, borders and the Chinese

G PRAKASH

It is easy to associate the Chinese with walls. Not just their famous wall. The opaqueness in their thoughts and intentions too, are walls. Walls, whether of brick and mortar or of the mind, are borders and borders essentially become 'us and them things. So, what is it about the Chinese and their borders?

### The Great Wall?

The Great Wall isn't a homogenous entity. Temporally, it is a collective term for many walls built over 2,400 years, from six centuries before Christ, till 19 after. Spatially, these walls have extended across China, from Korea, to across Manchuria, Mongolia, Xinjiang and Tibet. Directionally, they haven't run East - West alone. They have also run North - South. Structurally, they weren't always brick and mortar. Since they were meant to defend, at times, rivers, mountains and ditches were also incorporated into the 'wall'. Functionally, they weren't meant only to stop 'marauding barbarians' from the North, but were also meant to protect against rivals from the Chinese mainland, who could move East - West. With military garrisons strung along, the East - West trade, as well as immigration and emigration could also be monitored.

### Perceptions

However, internationally, the enduring image of the Great Wall, is of a huge, impregnable monolith that protected the Chinese. Though factually wrong, this is a useful perception to have in one's favour. A perception of wealth, technological skills, strategic outlook, and above all, of a resolve that could sustain such a crazy dream for many centuries, despite power changing hands among warring dynasties.

Whatever the period, form or purpose, one paradox about the wall is its rigidity. Walls are expected to be rigid and rigidity symbolises a non-revisionist approach, a lack of aspirations, and a love for status quo. Expansionism is not associated with walls. However, while walls that faced north were rigid, walls to the south weren't. Chinese down the ages have looked to expand their influence Southwards, towards the coast, for the associated economic gains.

### Hated walls

That the Chinese people have not been proud of their walls, is less known. As they built their walls to over 21000 km with the hard work of millions of soldiers and a larger number of conscripted labour, about 400000 died. Walls continued to be built over their remains. Walls left deep scars in more ways. The common Chinese were always treated as non-entities, who could be enslaved, employed and sacrificed as the 'distant emperor' wished. A professional bureaucracy ensured this. Further, the normal Chinese on the street has never had the opportunity to express their desires, beliefs or fears strongly enough to influence policy. They were always slaves, at the disposal of their distant master 'with the mandate of heaven', safe inside his forbidden abode, protected by more walls.

### Principles, not Gods

Walling in of intellect and thought among the population is also an old Chinese tradition. It started with Emperor Huang Di (259 - 210 BCE), who burned books hoping to narrow intellectual development and to take the people on a prescribed path of discipline. The Han dynasty that followed Huang Di's Qin dynasty, did the opposite. They promoted intellect. However, the Tang dynasty which followed a few centuries later, though continuing Han policies in education, administration, science and law making, pushed back on the political power that Buddhism had come to facilitate.

By the time Buddhism arrived, Confucianism and Taoism had already endowed the society with their essence. As Paul H Clyde and Burton F Beers put it, 'educated Chinese have always been more concerned with the world of nature and of man, than with the elusive world of the supernatural. The church and the priesthood played a lesser role in China than in most great civilisations'. Further, they say that 'Chinese were not enticed by proffered rewards in heaven or tormented by threats of everlasting punishment in hell'. Chinese society therefore evolved with less gods and more principles. So, having marched through the centuries disciplined by their unique understanding of rights and wrongs, landing up within the walls of state atheism under the Communists, was just natural progress. Being mostly devoid of superstitions was one positive for the society though.

### Mao's China & after

Nature has ordained certain strains of life for every part of earth. Mao appears to have happened to China conforming to this rule. The place was readymade for his self-centred, ruthless quest for power, which brought misery, torture, hunger, pain and death to millions of Chinese. The peaceful Chinese society just couldn't resist. Long used to being a slave pool for distant emperors ruling from behind walls, they suffered, but complied.

The walls remained. But China now underwent some change. The borders were no more rigid. Expansionism became an entity that could erupt unpredictably. The rigidity of the walls was gone. Communist ideology, which started as pristine thought that brought succour to millions enslaved by industrialisation and capitalism, now assumed an unidentifiable form. A population long used to limiting their intellect and thoughts within walls, fell in line. Successes that followed reinforced the perceptions the world had, of great wealth, technological skills, strategic outlook, and perseverance.

### Inevitable Pushback

But success has pitfalls. History shows many empires that rose to dizzy heights, then crashed down, and got replaced by competing entities. A pushback is inevitable. It is best done by breaching the physical and mental walls, crossing the borders, and getting inside them. This requires knowledge about the Chinese, freedom of thought and action, and inclusivity. Rhetoric, mass hysteria and divisiveness are no use. Internal walls, are worse than external walls.

Is the great wall under strain? Is quest for freedom from a long enslaved population straining the walls? Does the distant emperor trust the walls that protect him? Are enemies gathering around the outer walls with battering rams?

China's political system, which has evolved from their unique circumstances, allows long term planning and focused implementation. We could take a lesson from them. 'Biding our time' and growing our strengths, casting aside wrong perceptions of the great wall, getting into their minds, and getting a lot of 'us' into them, is a great set of options.

(The writer served the Indian Navy for 35 years. A specialist in aviation and anti-submarine warfare, he has held several Command and Staff appointments at sea and ashore)

### SURGICAL STRIKE



KRISHNA  
SAAGAR RAO

Recently the puppet Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, has unveiled a new geographical map of his nation, that day irony has died million deaths. PM Imran's new map of Pakistan had all Jammu & Kashmir, some parts of Gujarat within its national borders. If redrawing national boundaries were to be so easy, no nation would need well trained armed forces, just some cheap printing press in Karachi by-lanes should be good enough, as Imran Khan thought.

Pakistan is a failed state. It is a nation run by a rogue army which trains and arms militants and exports terrorism to the world. Democracy in Pakistan is a horrendous comedy. This word is neither functional nor applicable to Pakistan since 1947. If not for regular alms from USA for its own strategic geo-political interests, Pakistan would have by now disintegrated into bits and pieces with internal strife & economic bankruptcy.

As Pakistan celebrates its 73rd Independence Day today, people of that nation should reflect on the sole purpose of its creation. They should think of all the failed objectives, which were presented as agenda for its separation from India. People of Pakistan should introspect and question, what kind of a nation they have eventually become in 73 years? And is it ever possible to transform their nation from the vicious path it has taken in all these decades, and the ruins it has made of its own people, institutions, culture and economy? People of Pakistan have become migrants in their own nation, there is neither a national identity for its nationals within Pakistan nor anywhere outside in the world.

After 73 years, Pakistan stands dwarfed in the world and is rated number one amongst the most hated nations in the world, and for strategic geo-political reasons, its infamous global reputation is all hushed.

India by nature, after the unwarranted and unnecessary partition never looked back. India never regressed and com-

peted with Pakistan in any field, with an exception of Cricket, which I personally feel was very much avoidable.

However, for decades under Congress regime, few policies were Pakistan centric, as the blood brother of India continued to be its own worst enemy. India did what it had to with East Pakistan. However, successive Congress regimes did not do, what they had to with Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. That certainly is a historic mistake and a regret, especially when India had won 1947, 1965 and 1971 wars and still chose to continue the status-quo at the international border with Pakistan.

Indians have no reason to deny the credit due to PM Indira Gandhi for the 1971 war to break Pakistan into two and carve out Bangladesh. However, she has also made a historic and inexplicable, monumental blunder in gifting back to Pakistan on a platter all the territorial gains Indian armed forces have made in that war.

Pakistan Occupied Kashmir would have been free of the occupation, if PM Indira Gandhi had a better sense of post-war negotiations. The Shimla Agreement of 1972 was a juvenile exercise of a Prime Minister who was seemingly start-struck by her counterpart in Pakistan. There is no other explanation to a mindless, nimble surrender of acquired enemy territory to a loser nation, after a bloody war fought sacrificing thousands of Indian soldiers from tri-forces.

Congress party should certainly explain one day, the reasons behind PM Indira Gandhi's irresponsible & suspicious act of gifting back Pakistan, the Indian army acquired 15,010 square kilometers (5,795 square miles) of Pakistan territory in the 1971 war. In the words of one Pakistani author, after the 1971 war "Pakistan lost half of its navy, a quarter of its air force and a third of its army" - such was the massive defeat. However, India surprisingly gained nothing after the war. Congress should also explain why over 1,00,000 Pakistani prisoners of war were released, with nothing in return.

India has no necessity to regress into past. However, strong and powerful nations can navigate their future path by undoing few mistakes of the past. Especially, when they can do so. Under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, India must re-acquire the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

The decision in 1947 to partition India raises serious questions, even till today. The bloody partition and the death of over a million Indians during this



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historic exodus has not been forgotten. However, it is clearly sad that the partition with all the death and mayhem has served no purpose, even after 73 years. Pakistan was never a destination for all Indian Muslims, so dividing India on religious lines failed right on the day of

partition in 1947, as majority of Muslims stayed back in India.

Since 1947, Muslims in India lived with more respect, freedom, social, economic and political opportunities, than anywhere in the world. The charade of religious discrimination in India, is a divisive political

agenda by Congress party and Communists.

I personally feel there's nothing wrong for Pakistani nationals, the people of a failed and mistaken experiment, to demand a re-merger of their country with their parent nation, a prosperous, tolerant and a progressive India.

Over three generations of Pakistani nationals are suffering and bearing the brunt of ruthless, corrupt, militia run puppet government in Pakistan. The Pakistanis have neither demanded separation from India nor were they party to the decision made by power greedy politicians on both sides. Pakistanis were mute spectators in the ruthless, political power game played by Mohammed Ali Jinnah and his stooges in 1947.

Pakistanis should rise and demand a re-merger with India. It is the only solution for an empowered next generation. Puppet PM Imran Khan might have to one day witness a newly redrawn India's map, with Pakistan inside its national borders.

(The author is the chief spokesperson of the BJP, an organisational strategist and a global leadership coach)

## EIA will lead to environmental imbalance

The Central government's new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) seems to violate basic principles of environment management. In a rush to attract new investments, the government has virtually done away with public consultation in the assessment process and also the use of expert opinion. Even reports of violations of environmental laws made by affected parties can now be ignored by the government. Penalties in the form of remedial action can be levied by a government agency or a regulator on the basis of a suo moto admission by the project developer that a law has been violated. It is not clear why developers would like to bring penalties upon themselves. There is a long list of industries exempted from EIA clearance altogether: coal, oil, methane and shale oil to name a few. All these can create heavy pollution and natural destruction. National parks, roads and highway construction have also been given a large leeway to encroach upon the environment. Ex-post facto clearances can be given by the government in such cases. The document is open to many ambiguities and different interpretations. This can only encourage opportunistic behaviour by business and government alike. In the last few years, more than 4,000 hectares of forest land have been diverted for coal mining.

## LETTERS

In a grim finding, a World Bank study stated that almost 23 per cent of mortality among children under five is due to environmental factors - of which 12.6 per cent of children pass away due to concerns with water supply, sanitation and hygiene while indoor air pollution claims 9.8 per cent of the children. Unsurprisingly, the report noted that the damage caused by environmental degradation affects the poor population more. Rich and powerful businessmen will be happy with the new EIA notification. The poor will hardly know what its implications are to their lives. It will improve the ease of doing business, but it will also cause irreparable harm to the nation's future.

Narayan Rao A, Hyderabad

## True Muslims follow path of peace, not violence

It was appalling to read the report 'Three killed as police open fire on rioters' (THI, August 13). Violence can never be a means to achieve anything in life. The Quran asks believers to follow the path of peace and non-confrontation under all circumstances. And it is impossible

for a peaceful society to thrive in an environment of malice and instigation. The present-day Muslims must realise that when the Prophet of Islam never adopted the policy of retaliation, under any provocation, it is incumbent on the adherents of Islam to do the same. Meeting expression of views with violent retaliation is completely contrary to the teachings of Islam. In case someone feels very deeply about an issue, he or she may respond in writing to clarify the misunderstanding. Instead of equipping oneself with weapons and hatred, one should get equipped with logic and reasons to explain the correct perspective. Arabia during the time of the Prophet of Islam was a harsh place - not just geographically but also given the kind of opposition that Prophet and his companions faced. But none of this deterred the Prophet of Islam from practising forgiveness and compassion. He never followed the policy of reaction or resentment against any form of opposition. The present-day Muslims must imbibe this trait of patience and foster a non-reactionary temperament, for nothing should be allowed to disrupt peace and harmony in the society. There is no cause greater than maintaining peace and this is what is expected of a true believer of any religion, including Islam.

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# Disha patrols, cyber kiosks soon

- CM says 900 scooters will be deployed with at least one vehicle for each police station to curb crimes against women
- Cyber kiosks will be set up to help in checking safety of smart phones and computers
- Directs officials to speed up the setting up of special courts for trying cases of crime against women and children

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The state government would soon introduce Disha patrols in all police stations, kiosks for cyber safety. Disha app downloads have logged 11 lakh and 390 cases were registered under Disha Act.

During a review on the implementation of Disha Act held here on Thursday, it was decided that Disha patrol vehicles will be introduced soon with 900 scooters working as patrol vehicles and every police station having one vehicle to check the crime against



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy holding a review on Disha Act in Tadepalli on Thursday

women. The cyber kiosks will help in checking the safety of smart phones and laptops.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said that quality service should be provided in all Disha cases and there should be constant monitoring of the functioning. There should be a monthly review and Disha Act should be implemented strictly besides creating awareness by displaying hoardings at all village and ward secretariats and at public places.

He told the officials to expedite the setting up of special courts for trying the cases of crime against women and children and the officials said that 11 Public Prosecutors were appointed for Disha cases and eight Public Prosecu-

tors were appointed to try cases under POSCO.

He also enquired about the forensic labs and instructed the officials to expedite the work. The Disha Act (amendment) Bill which is pending with the Centre should be followed up, he said.

The officials told the Chief Minister that so far 11 lakh people had downloaded Disha app and 502 calls have come from the app on the basis of which 107 FIRs were registered.

Under Disha Act, 390 cases were registered and charge sheets were filed within seven days and there were 74 convictions with three death penalties, life imprisonment for five, 20 year imprisonment for 2, ten year imprison-

ment for 5, seven year or above term for 10.

Through Cyber Mitra, 265 FIRs were registered, 27,000 complaints were received for cyber bullying through social media and 780 habitual offenders were identified and cases were registered against them. E-Rakshabandhan has been creating awareness on cyber bullying, they said.

Disha one-stop centres in all the district headquarters are functioning well and 2,285 cases were registered from January to August, they said.

Home minister M Sucharita, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, DGP Goutham Sawang and other officials were among those present at the meeting.

# Rebel MP seeks action on I&PR official

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** YSRCP rebel MP K Raghu Ramakrishna Raju gave 48 hour deadline to the party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to take action against Devendra Reddy Gurrampati, chief digital director, information and public relations department, on Thursday.

Raju warned that if Jagan fails to act, he would take the matter to Parliamentary Privilege Committee and Lokayukta. He said that Devendra Reddy was drawing salary from government and working as YSRCP cadre. Raju already objected to the criticism made by Devendra Reddy on social media earlier and wrote a letter to chief secretary Nilam Sawhney demanding action for that.

# Distribution of house sites turned farce: Congress

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** The ambitious project of distribution of house sites to the 30 lakh poor people by the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government has turned into a farce making the government a laughingstock, said N Tulasi Reddy, working president of Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee.

He recalled in a statement here on Thursday that the Congress governments since the rule of Indira Gandhi distributed house sites and even constructed houses in them in a planned manner.

The YSRCP government which could not plan for house distribution made a mess of the programme. "It is like three steps forward and six steps backward," he ridiculed.

Recalling a series of postponements, Dr Tulasi Reddy said that the government had postponed the distribution of house sites so far five times, March 25, April 14, July 8, August 15 and now October 2. However, it is not sure how far the government would stick to that date. "It is a clear indication of poor administration and incompetence," he said.

# CM playing 3 cards with capital, alleges Lokesh

- Says 82 Amaravati agitators lost their lives, holds Jagan responsible for deaths
- Accuses the govt and ruling party leaders of making it a point to realise their earlier comments describing Amaravati a 'graveyard'

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Holding Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy responsible for the deaths of 82 farmers during the Amaravati agitation, TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh criticised that Jagan was playing three cards with the capital.

Lokesh slammed the YSRCP government, in a statement on Thursday for adopting a repressive policy of reducing Amaravati capital city to a 'graveyard'.

He said the government's unlawful policy had so far caused

the death of over 82 farmers who have been waging a relentless struggle in Amaravati villages against the capital shifting. Now, another woman farmer Nagen-dramma, who has been taking part in the agitation, passed away, Lokesh added.

The TDP leader deplored that the Chief Minister was playing a cruel 3 cards game with the lives of Amaravati farmers. They had given thousands acre of their ancestral land for the cause of developing a good capital city for all the people of the state. With his adamant and vengeful attitude, the Chief Minister was causing the death of the farmers, Lokesh criticised.

He said that farmer Nagen-dramma had given 95 cents of her land for Amaravati construction. She has been participating in protest programmes for the last 240 days. The YSRCP leaders took a sadistic pleasure in describing Amaravati as a 'graveyard' in the beginning. Now, they seemed to have made it their single point agenda to reduce Amaravati into a graveyard, he said.

# FLOODWATER SURGES AT COTTON BRIDGE

- Gadavari tributaries Sabari and Kinnerasani also see rising water levels due to heavy rains in catchment areas
- Polavaram project displaced are worried over rising flood level because of past experience
- Currently, 5 lakh cusecs of water is being discharged into the sea from Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage

## HANS NEWS SERVICE,

**Rajamahendravaram:** The floodwater level is increasing in River Godavari due to heavy rains in its catchment area. Its tributaries Sabari and Kinnerasani are witnessing heavy floods with the widespread rains.

Water is surging into many villages in Devipatnam mandal and in some other parts in the Agency area. The evacuees of Polavaram project are expressing concern as the floodwater is entering into



River Godavari in spate at Pushkar Ghat in Rajamahendravaram on Thursday

their villages.

Meanwhile, Vasista and Vynateya rivers are also full of floodwater and people in lanka (island) areas in Konaseema are in the grip of fear over flood, because of the past experiences.

According to flood control room officials, at present 5 lakh cusecs of water is being discharged into the sea from Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage and all the 175 barrage gates in Dowleswaram, Ryali, Madduru and Vijjeswaram arms were lifted to a height of one metre.

The water level at the barrage is 8 feet and it may increase further in the night. The floodwater level at Kaleswaram is 8.66 metre, Perur 9.70 metre, Dummugudem 9.97 metre, Bhadrachalam 35 feet, Kunavaram 14 metre, Kunta 11 feet, Koyida 18.50 metre, Polavaram 11 metre and at old railway bridge 25 feet.

Speaking to The Hans India, Eastern division executive engineer Satyanarayana said first warning need not be given, as the floodwater is being releasing into the sea.

Officials were instructed to check the flood level from time to time and also take care of the barrage, he said.

# Probe ordered into 'plot' behind death of HC Registrar

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nelapadu (Amaravati):** In a sensational order, the Division Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court comprising Justice M Satyanarayana Murthy and Justice Lalita Kanneganti on Thursday entrusted the responsibility of conducting inquiry to former Supreme Court judge Justice R V Ravindran into allegations of conspiracy behind the death of AP High Court Registrar Rajasekhara who died of coronavirus recently.

It may be recalled that Lakshminarasiah, member of BC,SC,ST and Minorities Students Federation, filed a writ petition in the High Court demanding declaration of the High Court area as red zone and thorough inquiry into the death of the HC Registrar Rajasekhara.

Suspended district judge Ramakrishna filed an implead petition in the same writ petition which alleged that there was a larger conspiracy to malign the reputation of justices of the High Court and the Supreme Court and he had sufficient evi-

- High Court entrusts the enquiry to former Supreme Court judge R V Ravindran
- Member of BC, SC, ST and Minorities Students Federation Lakshminarasiah filed a petition alleging conspiracy behind death of HC Registrar Rajasekhara recently
- Suspended judge Ramakrishna who filed implead petition in the same case alleges that there has been a larger conspiracy to malign HC judges



dence to prove his allegations.

After hearing the arguments of the counsel for the petitioners, the Division Bench ordered the former Supreme Court judge Justice Ravindran to probe into the allegations with the support of the CBI, and the Central Intelligence agencies. Justice Ravindran was also asked to find out the veracity of the conversations recorded in a pen drive submitted by Judge Ramakrishna.

Former judge Ramakrishna also stated in his plaint that

there was conspiracy as some people tried to induce him to hurl the allegations against the justices of the High Court and the Supreme Court. He also alleged that there were very bigshots behind the former high court judge Justice Eswaraiah.

It may be recalled that the former judge already released the tapes of his conversation with Justice Eswaraiah to the media.

The further hearing of the writ petition was posted to after four weeks.



# Atchannaidu tests corona positive

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** Former minister and TDP leader Kinjarapu Atchannaidu who is undergoing treatment at Ramesh Hospital at Guntur, was tested positive for coronavirus, said advocate Maguluri Haribabu.

It may be recalled that Atchannaidu was arrested on the charges of misappropriation of funds in the ESI hospital recently and subsequently the High Court sent him to the hospital for recuperation.

Recently, the doctors conducted tests on Atchannaidu for coronavirus and he tested positive, the advocate said.

The Ramesh hospital authorities said that the condition of the former minister was stable.

# SpiceJet offers check-in facility on WhatsApp

## Continued from P1

"As WhatsApp works well over slow and intermittent internet connections, customers can chat with Ms Pepper without worrying about being in a good network area," it noted.

Domestic flights resumed in

India on May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus-triggered lockdown. However, passengers have been asked to follow various rules such as mandatory online check-in in order to ensure social distancing and avoid coronavirus transmission.

# Family refutes death rumours

## Continued from P1

Request, esp'ly to media, NOT to call me as I need to keep my phone free for any updates from the hospital (sic)," Sharmistha tweeted. Meanwhile, Army Research & Referral Hospital also clarified that the condition of former president Pranab Mukherjee remains unchanged on Thursday morning. 'He is deeply comatose with stable vital parameters and continues to be on ventilatory support,' the hospital said in a statement.

# Probe reveals SDPI role in violence: K'taka HM

## Continued from P1

"We have also seen from some video footage that SDPI workers came into KG Halli and DJ Halli from neighbouring areas. This also we're investigating," Bommai said, adding that authorities were also culling out details on cases against the SDPI in Mysuru and Mangaluru.

The SDPI has denied any role in the violence. In fact, SDPI Karnataka president Elyas Muhammad Thumbe said Pasha was helping the police calm the mob. "As always, the SDPI is being dragged just to cover-up police inaction against blasphemy and failure of intelligence," he said. The minister vowed that the government "will not rest" till the case is cracked. "We will go deep into this conspiracy regardless of who is behind it," he said. "At the local level, we're looking at all angles such as ri-

valry between and within political parties...everything that led to this incident, we will investigate. Whoever is at fault, we will take action even if it is an elected representative," he added.

Three people died and five injured in police firing late on Tuesday night when an angry mob ran amok because of an inflammatory social media post concerning Prophet Mohammed. The post was made by Pulakeshinagar MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy's nephew P Naveen. Murthy's house was torched and the KG Halli police station attacked during the rioting. Over 140 people have been arrested so far.

In a public appeal, Bommai asked citizens to maintain law and order. "The police are risking their lives to control the situation coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

# Complaint filed against Speaker's PA

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Srikakulam:** A person submitted a petition to district collector J Nivas against the personal assistant (PA) to the Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram on Thursday. In the complaint lodged online due to Covid-19, alleged that the PA was using the name of Speaker to settle land disputes.

One Peda Hemasunda, in his complaint, said that Tammineni Sitaram's PA Tammineni Venu had been interfering in land disputes mainly in Srikakulam city as the land prices have increased considerably in recent times there. He is allegedly assuring the parties in the dispute that he would manage the officials and ensure decisions in their favour. He is collecting money from parties promising to change names in revenue records and website.

According to the complainant, Speaker's PA collected huge amounts from individuals in Seepannaiduapeta, Byrivipineta in and around Srikakulam city. It has also been alleged that he had been helping the people who were occupying irrigation tanks, canals, government lands and assigned lands.

"Earlier, I have registered a complaint with the Speaker Tammineni Sitaram on involvement of his PA Tammineni Venu in land related disputes and threatening people, management of revenue officials and staff but the Speaker is yet to take action," said Pedada Hemasundar. He said he was forced to approach district collector against the Speaker's PA as no action had been taken thus far.

# Govt staff 'reject' interest on back wages

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amravati:** The Andhra Pradesh Government Employees Federation said that the government employees never demanded the 50 per cent of the salaries that were cut in the months of March and April along with 12 per cent interest.

K Venkatarami Reddy, chairman and Arava Paul, secretary general of the federation said in a statement here on Thursday that they would discuss the issue in the committee meeting before preferring appeal in the High Court.

Venkatarmi Reddy said that

- AP Government Employees Federation chairman Venkatrami Reddy says they have nothing to do with the petition in High Court
- Claims that the State govt took the decision to slash salaries by 50% after discussing with them

the government took the decision to slash the wages after holding talks with the government employees associations. "May be some people experienced financial problems to some extent and they might have approached the judiciary for redressal. But we did not entrust the responsibility to

any person to file a writ petition on our behalf," he said.

He recalled that the armed forces personnel donated 11 days salary to tackle Covid-19 for the PM Cares Fund. Likewise, the Central government revenue employees also donated one day salary every month from April, 2020 to

March 2021. "Under such circumstances, when the government was paying salaries though we are not working due to the pandemic, can we demand 12 per cent interest from the government? Don't we have social responsibility?" He wondered.

Venkatarami Reddy said that people would have very bad opinion on employees because of such writ petitions.

He said that the employees requested the government last month to pay the back wages and the government was considering the payment in three or four instalments.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Need to move beyond knee-jerk reactions

“Country needs to move beyond knee-jerk reactions and put in place long-term and time-bound strategies for domestic industry to grow and become major player in global supply chain at a time when businesses are looking at shifting base from China.”

- L&T Chairman **AM Naik**



## GREEN POWER

### Wind, solar power share spikes in 5 yrs

India's wind and solar share rose from 3% of the total generation in 2015 to 10% in the first half of 2020 and at the same time coal's share fell from 77 to 68%. Thermal plants ran at less than half of their capacity this year, said a report

## FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	79.33	South	
Euro	93.03	African Rand	4.93
UAE Dirham	22.41	Hong Kong Dollar	11.1
Thai Baht	2.77	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	101.93	New Zealand Dollar	51.53
Australian Dollar	56.27	Saudi Riyal	21.95
Canadian Dollar	59.44	Swedish Krona	9.92
Swiss Franc	85.43	Singapore Dollar	57.3

DELHI FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2020

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Kaveri reports ₹295 cr net

**Hyderabad:** City-based Kaveri Seeds Company Limited reported Rs 295.29 crore net profit for the second quarter ended June this year, up 28.62 per cent from Rs 229.57 crore in the same period a year ago. The company's revenues increased by 17.62 per cent to Rs 742.99 crore during the second quarter of current fiscal year from Rs 631.71 crore a year ago. It posted EPS of Rs 49.67 for the period ended June 30, 2020 as compared to Rs 36.37 for the period ended June 30, 2019, registering a growth of 36.57 per cent. GV Bhaskar Rao, Chairman & MD, Kaveri Seeds, said "Even as business activity in most economies is gradually resuming, we, at Kaveri Seeds, have fully adapted to the "new normal", and have seamlessly executed our operations in the last few months".

### FTCCI elects vice president

**Hyderabad:** Members of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) have unanimously elected Anil Agarwal, Managing Director, Jeevaka Industries Private Limited as vice-president for the year 2020-21. Anil Agarwal served as managing committee member and as Chairman of various committees of the federation for several years. A commerce graduate from Osmania University, he has joined family business of iron and steel in the year 1988. He served as a Director in Dhanlaxmi Iron Industries which is into manufacturing of TMT bars. Subsequently, he became Managing Director of Jeevaka Industries, which makes structural steels.

### Yamaha's online sales platform

**Hyderabad:** Japanese two-wheeler major Yamaha said it launched its online sales in India responding to changes in customer behaviour in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. In the current scenario, customers prefer staying indoors and wish to minimise their visit to the showroom. Considering the convenience of the customers, India Yamaha Motor has introduced the online sales on its website with "Virtual Store" to enhance the buying experiences of its customers, the company said. Yamaha Motor India Group Chairman Motofumi Shitara said, "Digital is the future, and our new website with Virtual Store is ready to offer an enhanced buying experience and personalised customer services to the two-wheeler customers in India." He said the company is accelerating digital transformation of Yamaha's retail operations through a safe, reliable and engaging online portal.

### Reliance Jewels unveils collection

**Hyderabad:** Reliance Jewels, a part of Reliance Group, has added a new collection, Aabhar, to its existing bouquet of exclusive jewellery. Celebrating its anniversary, the jewellery brand through its new collection is extending its gratitude to the customers who have been associated with the brand over the years. This year's new collection is inspired by the lanterns, which symbolizes a ray of hope and positivity for new beginnings. The Aabhar collection consists 54 unique designs of handcrafted gold and diamond earrings including an eclectic mix of danglers, fringes, top & drops, chandeliers, jhumkis, studs, needles, and chandball starting from three to 15 grams.

# Indian techies to benefit as US relaxes H-1B curbs

People who continue employment with same employer will be exempted from H-1B, L-1 travel ban

**Washington:** In a move that could help Indian IT professionals and those working in the healthcare sector, the Trump Administration has announced certain exemptions in H-1B and L-1 travel ban for those continuing employment with the same employer. The exemptions to the June 22 Presidential Proclamation 10052, commonly referred to as the H-1B or L-1 Travel Ban, also includes the family members of the H-1B, L-1 and certain categories of J1 visas.

President Donald Trump, in his June proclamation, banned the entry into the US of workers in several key non-immigrant visa categories, including the H-1B, arguing that they eat into American jobs during the Covid-19 pandemic. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. The State Department, which issued the revised travel advisory, on Wednesday said that the exemptions have been given under national interest category.

In its advisory, the State Department said that H-1B and L-1 visas can now be issued for employees who are "seeking to resume ongoing employment in the United States in the same position with the same employer and visa classification." Forcing employers to replace existing employees may cause financial



**H-1B and L-1 visas can now be issued for employees who are seeking to resume ongoing employment in the United States in the same position with the same employer and visa classification**

- US State Department

hardship, it said. All those on H-1B visas working in the healthcare sector, especially those related to the Covid-19 pandemic, or to conduct ongoing medical research in an area with a substantial public health benefit (e.g. cancer or communicable disease research) are also exempted from the July 22 travel ban. Notably in the last few weeks, several lawmakers have written to the Secretary of State to exempt the healthcare sector from the travel ban on H-1B, L1 and J1 visas. Further new factors have

been set forth to also allow H-1B visas to be issued when at least two of the five indicators are met, the State Department said. First indicator is that the petitioning employer has a continued need for the services or labour to be performed by the H-1B nonimmigrant in the United States. Cases where Labour Condition Applications (LCAs) was approved during or after July 2020 OR if the LCA was approved before July 2020, the consular officer must be able to determine from the visa application

the continuing need of the employee with the US employer.

Secondly, the applicant's proposed job duties or position within the petitioning company indicate the individual will provide significant and unique contributions to an employer meeting a critical infrastructure need. Third, the wage rate paid to the H-1B applicant meaningfully exceeds the prevailing wage rate by at least 15 per cent. When an H-1B applicant will receive a wage that meaningfully exceeds the prevailing wage, it suggests that the employee fills an important business need where an American worker is not available, the State Department said.

Fourth, the H-1B applicant's education, training and/or experience demonstrate unusual expertise in the speciality occupation in which the applicant will be employed. And finally, the denial of the visa will cause financial hardship to the US employer.

## Nasscom cautiously optimistic

**New Delhi:** Nasscom on Thursday said it is cautiously optimistic about the exemptions offered in the H-1B and L-1 travel ban and the development will help US businesses access talent critical for economic recovery in the post-Covid-19 world. The industry body said there are caveats in the US Department of State's (DoS) guidance about seniority, unique

and significant contributions and other factors that go along with the exceptions that allow leeway in interpretation of the new guidance. Its impact can only be gauged in course of time, it added. On Wednesday, the DoS issued guidance on 'National Interest Exemptions' to the Presidential Proclamations that had suspended entry of certain immigrant and

non-immigrant (H-1B, H-2B, and L-1) visa holders into the US. "The National Interest Exceptions include potential carve-outs/ exemptions for technology workers on H-1B/L-1 visas providing critical infrastructure services, as per the DHS CISA guidance; a key ask by Nasscom and the Indian tech industry," Nasscom said in a statement on Thursday.

## Markets end lower as investors turn cautious

**Mumbai:** Domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended with marginal losses on Thursday as uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic kept investors cautious amid lack of directional cues.

After opening on a positive note, the BSE Sensex pared all gains to end 59.14 points or 0.15 per cent lower at 38,310.49. The NSE Nifty slipped 7.95 points or 0.07 per cent to finish at 11,300.45. Bharti Airtel was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding over 2 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, ITC, SBI, Axis Bank, HDFC twins and Nestle India.

On the other hand, L&T rallied over 4 per cent. Titan, HCL Tech, NTPC and UltraTech Cement were also among the gainers. Indian markets opened on a positive note amid a mixed trend in Asian peers, but profit-book- ing emerged in the afternoon session, said Narendra Solanki,



Head- Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi.

According to traders, lack of directional cues from global markets amid spiking COVID-19 cases kept investors on edge. Bourses in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains, while Hong Kong closed in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a negative note in early deals. Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.20 per cent lower at \$45.34 per barrel. On the currency front, the rupee settled on a flat note, edging just 1 paise lower to 74.84 against the US dollar.

### Will RIL invest in TikTok's Indian business?

**New Delh:** China's Byte Dance is in early talks with Reliance Industries Ltd for investment in its video-based app TikTok's business in India, TechCrunch reported on Thursday, citing sources. The two companies began conversations late last month and have not reached a deal yet, according to the report.

Reliance, ByteDance and TikTok did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment. The Indian government in June banned 59 Chinese apps, including TikTok and WeChat, for threatening its "sovereignty and integrity" after border tensions with China. Last week, US President Donald Trump unveiled bans on US transactions with the China-based owners of messaging app WeChat and TikTok, escalating tensions between the two countries.

## Retail Inflation rises to 6.93% on higher food prices in july

Retail inflation in rural India was 7.04%, while in urban areas it was 6.84%

**New Delhi:** Retail inflation rose to 6.93 per cent in July, mainly driven by rising prices of food items like vegetables, pulses, meat and fish, government data showed on Thursday.

The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 3.15 per cent in July 2019. Retail inflation for June has been revised upwards to 6.23 per cent from the earlier estimate of 6.09 per cent, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The Reserve Bank of India has been mandated by the government to keep the CPI-based inflation at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent). Retail inflation has remained above the 4 per cent mark since October 2019.

Last week, the Reserve Bank had kept interest rates on hold to contain elevated inflation. The



central bank mainly factors in retail inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy.

As per the NSO data, inflation in rural India was 7.04 per cent, while in urban areas it was 6.84 per cent during July, translating into a combined rate of price rise of 6.93 per cent. The rate of price rise in "meat and fish" segment was 18.81 per cent in July over the same month last year.

Similarly, the annual inflation was 12.41 per cent in "oils and fats" and 11.29 per cent in vegetables.

The annual inflation in the food basket was 9.62 per cent, the data showed. In the "fuel and light" segment, the CPI-based inflation stood at 2.8 per cent.

As the various Covid-19-related restrictions were gradually lifted and non-essential activities started resuming operations, availability of price data has also improved.

NSO collected prices from 1,054 (95 per cent) urban markets and 1,089 (92 per cent) villages during the month of July 2020, an official release said. The price data are usually collected from selected 1,114 urban markets and selected 1,181 villages through personal visits by field staff of the Field Operations Division of NSO, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, on a weekly roster.

## PFC posts ₹3,557 cr net in Q1

HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** State-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on Thursday reported a 23 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,557.23 crore during the quarter ended June 30, helped by a rise in income.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 2,899.74 crore during the same quarter a year ago, PFC said in a statement.

Its total income rose to Rs 16,932.24 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 14,605.12 crore a year ago. Total expenses stood at Rs 12,311.18 crore as against Rs 10,553.42 crore in April-June 2019. The company's net NPA dropped by 124 bps from Q1FY20 due to resolution of two stressed assets i.e. Essar Power Transmission Ltd and Suzlon Energy Ltd.

## NITI Aayog selects Oracle Cloud to transform Aspirational Districts

**New Delhi:** Niti Aayog on Thursday announced it has selected Oracle to help it modernise vital IT infrastructure in 112 most backward districts as part of its Aspirational Districts Programme. These 112 districts constitute 28 per cent of population and the new cloud solution aims to aid district magistrates to improve overall performance and transform the quality of life of citizens.

"Data-driven decisions will help identify the strengths and weaknesses of these districts and pave the way for their progress. By using a range of Oracle Cloud services, we are looking to fast-track their transformation by providing simplified data access, increased process automation and real-time data governance," said NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. The programme uses data to identify top performing districts. These could be Dantewada in Chhattisgarh, Nandurbar in Maharashtra, Dahod in Gujarat,



**These 112 districts constitute 28 per cent of population and the new cloud solution aims to aid district magistrates to improve overall performance and transform the quality of life of citizens**

Kupwara in Jammu & Kashmir, Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh, or Godda in Jharkhand, among others.

The weaker performing districts are encouraged to catch-

up with top performers, by competing with, and learning from them in the spirit of competitive and cooperative collaboration.

Oracle Autonomous Database, the world's first and only true autonomous database, is at the heart of data management in this programme.

Being self-driving, self-securing and self-repairing it requires a minimal IT team and resources to support it.

"Oracle has committed nearly 30 years in India, serving its people, the government and enterprise firms. With a range of Oracle Cloud services, we look forward to support this programme's success and facilitate the creation of a new India," said Shailender Kumar, Regional Managing Director, Oracle India.

Highly secure by nature, the system and the data the Oracle Autonomous Database manages are protected from system failure and attack by machine learning (ML) and automation.

## MedGenome develops genetic CAD risk score

HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** MedGenome Labs, a diagnostics and research company, has conducted a first-ever study on Indian population that validates a novel coronary artery disease-genome-wide polygenic risk score (CAD-PRS) to precisely predict the risk of developing a coronary artery disease/myocardial infarction (MI) using a person's genetic makeup. MedGenome Labs collaborated with researchers from Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard; Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston; Narayana Health, Bengaluru; Eternal Hospital, Jaipur; Madras Medical Mission, Chennai; KMCH, Coimbatore and a few other institutes to conduct this first-ever research capturing the PRS of disease for South Asia populations and its findings are now published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC).



"Looking at all the available scientific evidence and our study results we are convinced that there exists a good opportunity to combine both clinical and genetic risks (polygenic risk score based) and significantly improve the primary prevention of coronary artery disease (CAD). We firmly believe that incorporating validated genetic risk scores would help in better stratification of high-risk individuals if implemented at population level," said Dr Vedam Ramprasad, CEO, MedGenome Labs.

This study is based on the principle of genome-wide polygenic risk score (PRS) which uses a genome-wide analysis of an individual to quantify the risk of developing heart disease.



# Mantri assures all help to shield TSRTC staff from Covid attack

- ▶ Transport Minister assures all medical facilities for RTC staff
- ▶ Staff with Covid symptoms would be provided with corona kits
- ▶ All facilities are available for the treatment of RTC employees in government hospitals apart from Gandhi Hospital and TIMS in Gachibowli, Minister Puvada Ajay Kumar says
- ▶ The Minister also assures to take care of the families of the employees succumbed to Covid-19
- ▶ RTC unions demand lockdown as more employees fall prey to the deadly virus

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Expressing concern over the incidents of TSRTC employees getting infected by coronavirus, Transport Minister P Ajay Kumar has assured all help to them including taking care of the families of the families of the staff dies of the deadly virus.



As an immediate measure the corona kits will be given to the employees who have Covid symptoms. Hundreds of the TSRTC employees including conductors, drivers and others have tested positive for coronavirus.

According to the RTC union leaders as many as 250 employees have tested positive and 20 employees have succumbed during the last two months. The minister said that all facilities are

available for the treatment of the RTC employees in government hospitals apart from Gandhi Hospital and TIMS in Gachibowli.

The Minister said that the employees would be provided all types of assistance on behalf of the Corporation. The employees who have Covid-19 symptoms would be immediately provided with corona kits. Also, the Corporation would provide all kinds of support to the employees as

per the rules. He said that already orders were issued to the Corporation officials to ensure medical facilities are provided to the employees.

The TRC unions have demanded lockdown in RTC after hundreds of the employees got positive and reported deaths in double digits. The employees have been demanding the government to take up treatment of the Corona patients in the Taraka Hospital belonging to the Corporation.

The Minister called upon the TRC workers to take all precautions in wake of the corona pandemic like wearing face mask, applying sanitizers all the time while on duty, insisting the passengers to wear masks while entering into the buses, which would allow them to avoid getting positive.

The minister also assured of taking care of the families of the employees who have succumbed to Covid-19.

## ISB online portal to provide real-time indicators of India's economic recovery

Will provide journalists, citizens, and policymakers direct visual insights into important indicators

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Indian School of Business (ISB) launched an online portal 'https://indiadata-portal.com/jsi' as part of its prestigious project JumpStartIndia@ISB. Explaining the initiatives at a virtual meeting on Thursday, Prof Ashwini Chhatre, Executive Director, Bharti Institute of Public Policy at the Indian School of Business said that the portal brings together several high-frequency indicators (HFIs) of India's economic recovery to a common platform to enable meaningful and real-time analysis of patterns of economic recovery.

He said that it will provide journalists, citizens, and policymakers direct visual insights into important indicators at a daily or monthly frequency in near-real-time and district or state-level.

"As the economy recovers from the pandemic-induced lockdown, we are identifying and monitoring selected parameters that indicate

a change in the level of economic activity on the ground at a high spatial resolution. This would help governments and policymakers in their plans and decision making to get India back on track of economic growth in post Covid scenario," he added.

The HFIs of the portal provides a range of data on multiple aspects of the economy, including fertilizer sales, trade in agricultural commodities, registration of new businesses, registration of different types of vehicles, digital transactions and payments and demand for wage labour under MGNREGA. Besides, it also facilitates the comparison of different high-frequency indicators for the current year (2020) with similar data for last year (2019), to provide clear evaluation and estimate of recovery. It is interesting to note that some of the important indicators of economic activity like new company registrations and quantity of fertilizers sold are performing better than last year

within a month of relaxation of the lockdown norms, he said.

These HFIs are sourced from public agencies to the extent possible and are accessible on the portal. They are segregated into two groups - daily and monthly - based on their availability on the source sites.

The HFIs of JumpStartIndia@ISB initiative is hosted on the India Data Portal - one-stop open-access portal for journalists and citizens to access. Also, to interact with, and visualise public data related to agriculture and financial inclusion, besides other domains of national interest. India Data Portal brings this data on a common portal which allows ease of access and comparison.

He said that the JumpStartIndia@ISB is aiming to tie-up with state governments and agencies, to help and support them in their mission towards the recovery of economic growth across various sectors through the data made available on the portal.

## TS BJP welcomes Centre's tax reforms

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Telangana BJP chief spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao welcomed the new tax reform announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a statement on Thursday, he said that the massive reforms being undertaken by the Centre during the current challenging times shows the BJP government at the Centre and its national governance agenda of 'reform, perform and transform'.

He said that the spirit of the newly-unveiled tax reform aims at honouring the honest. It ensures honest taxpayers to stay fearless from possible harassment of enforcement agencies. It also enables more compliance and rewards honest taxpayers.



That apart, the taxpayers' charter ensures faceless enquiry & faceless appeal to remove human intervention during the dispute.

These tax reforms coming into force with immediate effect are an extension of already lowered corporate tax rates and removal of dividend distribution tax, he added.

Ex-OU Prof appointed VC of Central University in Kerala

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Prof H Venkateswarlu, who was retired after extending his services at Department of Commerce, Osmania University has been appointed as the new vice-chancellor of the Central University of Kerala.

Prof Venkateswarlu served at Osmania University in different academic and administrative positions. He served as special officer for Osmania University centenary celebrations and is also the president of All India Commerce Association.

## Farmers happy in TRS regime, says Jagadish

While the whole world is tormented by coronavirus, farmers in Telangana are leading a comfortable life due to the measures being taken by the State government, says Energy Minister Jagadish Reddy

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Suryapet / Nalgonda:** Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy said that while the whole world is tormented by the coronavirus, farmers in Telangana are leading a comfortable life due to the measures being taken by the State government

The Energy Minister along with Tungaturthi MLA Gadari Kishore Kumar participated in swearing in ceremony of governing bodies of Agriculture Markets of Tirumalgi in Suryapet district and Shaligowarm of Nalgonda district on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, he



said that no other Chief Minister in the country is taking bold decisions like CM KCR in the interest of farmers.

Credit of buying of farm produce by setting up a purchasing

center in every village to rescue the farmers during the present corona pandemic goes to CM KCR, he asserted. Combined Nalgonda district has set a record for the bumper crop in

the State, he added. Nalgonda district, which looked like desert and was destroyed by fluoride before 2014 by Andhra rulers, has been developed in all aspects in the past six years, the Minister said.

The district which was known for clashes and political violence earlier has become a new centre of development in the TRS rule, he added.

In this programme, ZP Chairperson Gujja Deepika, Oil Federation Chairman Ramakrishna Reddy, Rythu Bandhu Samithi district president Razak, officials of the Marketing department and TRS local leaders were present.

## MONSOON READY



Vegetable vendors use polythene sheets to protect themselves from monsoon showers in Secunderabad on Thursday.

Photo: Ch. Prabhu Das

## Over 10,000 public toilets to be launched tomorrow

50 per cent toilets will be for women; 400 mobile toilets will be launched on October 2

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Around 10,500 public toilets will be launched on Independence Day (August 15) in Telangana, State Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar informed the Union Government.

Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra held a video conference on Thursday with Telangana and Andhra Pradesh States officials and reviewed the progress achieved in Swachh Bharat Mission, Amrut, Smart City Projects, PMAY (U), Street Vendors, implementation of RERA and day NULM centres.

Speaking on the occasion, the Telangana Chief Secretary said that 10,500 public toilets are being built in the State and

will be launched on 15th August. While the idea is to have one seat for every 1000 population, it was ensured that 50 percent are reserved for women. He apprised that Faecal Sludge Sewage Treatment Plant model is being developed in the State which will help address the health and sanitation issues.

Further, the official stated that 400 mobile toilets will be launched on October 2 in the State. The state has floated RFP for Bio Mining Projects in 132 towns which will be operational in a couple of months.

Referring to the issue of enrolment of street vendors, Somesh stated that the State government has targetted enrolling five lakh street vendors by involving local public representatives and constituting ward level teams.

## Murder accused deported from Dubai

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Dubai government deported one accused, Afzal Hussain, who was booked for a murder in the year 2003 and was hiding in Dubai. But he was arrested and sent to Delhi from where he was brought to Hyderabad and the II ACMM court in Hyderabad sent the accused to Chanchalguda prison.

According to police, the accused person committed a murder in the year 2003 along with three other persons and all of

them were sentenced to life imprisonment by the court in 2006. On April 27, 2007, the accused was brought to Osmania General Hospital for treatment, but he escaped from the hospital and since then a non-bailable warrant had been pending against him.

The city police then persuaded the Interpol to issue a red corner notice against the accused and he was marked as wanted on the list. After a lot of efforts, he was nabbed by the Interpol from Dubai and was brought to India.

## Chinese companies running online gaming business under lens: CP

- ▶ These companies loot gullible persons, who sometime commit suicide Initially, the admin shells out a few bucks to make the player believe that it is a genuine game, but over a period of time when the person gets addicted to the game, he starts losing the money because the sole intention of the gaming companies is to loot money from gullible persons especially college going students, says CP Anjani Kumar
- ▶ The total earnings of these companies in 2020 was around ₹1100 crore and in India it was being managed by 4 persons, of whom 3 were Indian and 1 was Chinese

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, Anjani Kumar, on Thursday held a press conference and highlighted the role of growing influence of Chinese companies in the online gaming sector.

The CP said, "the online gaming is booming in the country and Telangana is the first State to implement the

Telangana Gaming Act in order to prohibit online gaming. The issue came to light when two cases were filed with the CCS by the victims who alleged that they were cheated by the online gamers to the tune of Rs. 97,000/and Rs1, 64,000 respectively. The victims further alleged that they were lured into the gaming through the Telegram app and it was only through recommendations."

He further added, "Due to the online gaming many of the gullible persons also committed suicide. The game was famous for its predictions of colours and a clue is given by the admin, if the person guesses the correct colour then the person is rewarded," Anjani Kumar said.

"Initially, the admin shells out a few bucks to make believe that it is a genuine game, but over a period of time when the person gets addicted to the game he starts losing the money because the sole intention of the gaming companies is to loot money from gullible persons especially college going students," he added.

"During investigation it was revealed that a firm called Beijing T Power company based out in China was the mastermind behind the devel-

opment of online games and the company further created many subsidiary companies, such as, Growing Infotech Pvt Ltd, Sily Consulting Services Pvt Ltd, Pan Yun Technology Services, Linkyun Technology Pvt Ltd, Dokypay Technology Pvt Ltd, SpotPay Technology India Pvt Ltd, Daisylink Financial Pvt Ltd, Huahuo Financial Pvt Ltd," stated the officer.

He further explained, "the total earnings of these companies in 2020 was around Rs. 1100 crore and in India it was being managed by 4 persons, of whom 3 were Indian and 1 was Chinese.

The accused persons, Dheeraj Kumar, Ankit Kapoor, Neeraj Turali and Yah Hao were arrested by the Noida police as they were the directors of the subsidiary companies and their bank accounts were also frozen."

"The city police along with the cybercrime department are working round the clock to monitor the growing influence of Chinese companies in the gaming sector and we are seeking cooperation from various agencies such as Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax, Registrar of Companies, to curb the menace of the growing online gaming," said Anjani Kumar.

## New toilet works expedited to make municipalities open-defecation free

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nalgonda:** Construction of public toilets is in full swing in all the municipalities of Nalgonda district.

Following the directions of the municipal administration and urban development minister KT Rama Rao that asked for the construction of atleast one toilet for every thousand people by August 15, the construction works of toilets have been accelerated in all the urban local bodies in the district.

In addition to the 223 existing toilets in 7 municipal towns in the district, the Collector Prashant Jeevan Patil issued administrative sanctions for the construction of 146 new public toilets to provide one toilet per thousand people and the works are in progress.

State government took up the urban development as an agenda to make all the Municipalities in the State clean and open defecation-free cities, he added

Government has directed all municipalities to construct large-scale toilets so that people in towns and people from different villages do not face any difficulties for nature calls and added that clean toilets have also been given priority under Swachh



Bharat programme launched by the Central government.

Orders have been issued to ensure that 50 per cent of the toilets constructed in each municipal area are allocated to women. The construction of the toilets is in full swing in the municipalities of Nalgonda district, as per chief secretary orders and works are being supervised by the District Collector Prashant Jeevan Patil and Additional Collector Rahul Sharma.



# Two late goals help PSG oust Atalanta in Champions League quarters

**Lisbon (IANS):** With two stunning goals in injury time, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) rallied to beat Atalanta 2-1, roaring into the UEFA Champions League semi-finals for the first time in 25 years.

At the Estadio da Luz stadium on Wednesday night, Atalanta, in their debut Champions League campaign, took the lead in the 27th minute when Mario Pasalic made a beautiful shot on a spilled ball at the entrance of the area, reports Xinhua news agency.

PSG only managed to survive in the last minutes with decisive actions by strikers Kylian-Mbappe and Neymar, although they were not the scorers.

The first half had the supremacy of offensive actions on the part of Atalanta, which pressed for ball possession in the opponents' field even after scoring.

PSG's response came through well-articulated speedy counterattacks, which created at least three clear chances for Neymar who unfortunately missed all.

However, the Brazilian star maintained his resilience until the end despite opponents' harsh marking.

The game became tougher in the second half, triggering a string of yellow cards for both sides.

The tiredness of a totally atypical season weighed on the players' physical conditioning, which forced the two coaches to make many substitutions.



Even PSG's experienced goalkeeper KeylorNavas felt muscle problems and needed to be replaced.

PSG saw a ray of hope after 60 minutes as Mbappe came from the bench to replace Pablo Sarabia, which led to the appearance of various quality plays in the combination of

passes with Neymar.

Atalanta's dream collapsed in the stoppage time on a 90th-minute deviation from Marquinhos. Neymar unleashed the shot which also touched a defender.

When everything seemed to be heading for extra time, Eric Choupo-Moting took advan-

tage of a combination between Neymar and Mbappe to turn the score around in the 93rd minute.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all the four quarter-final matches of the Champions League are not being played home and away as usual but as single games in Lisbon.

## I was confident in myself, says Choupo-Moting

**Lisbon (IANS):** Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting has said he always believed that Paris Saint-Germain could win despite being a goal down against Atalanta for most parts of the Champions League one-legged quarter-final tie.

Choupo-Moting emerged as the club's unlikely quarter-final hero as he scored the winner after coming on as a late substitute at the Estadio da Luz on Wednesday.

The former Stoke City forward was involved in Marquinhos' 90th-minute equaliser, before netting the winner three minutes into stoppage time to secure a dramatic 2-1 win.

"When I came on, I thought to myself, 'We can't lose, we can't go home like that.' I was confident in myself, confident in the team and then the rest is the history of Paris. We had a good feeling in the team. We're enjoying good moments on and off the pitch," he was quoted as saying by Sky Sports.

"It was a crazy game, a tough game and opponents. I think we showed till the last moment that we believed in ourselves. It wasn't easy because we had some good occasions that unfortunately we couldn't score.

"We've already won four titles this season but the most important is this one. We really believe in ourselves and we did it today. Everybody knows we have top quality individuals, but we wanted to show it also as a team. It's a big step today against a very good opponent. Respect to Atalanta, but I'm very happy we did it."

PSG head coach Thomas Tuchel said: "Imagine what I would have done (with my celebration) if I had two legs! Maybe today would be the day you would see me sprint for 40 metres. But it's the club's birthday today, exactly 50 years, so we will not forget this birthday."



## National camp for archers in Pune from August 25: SAI

**New Delhi (IANS):** A team of 16 recurve archers, alongwith four coaches and two support staff, will report to the Army Sports Institute in Pune for a national camp on August 25, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) announced on Thursday. The campers will be tested for COVID-19 and undergo mandatory quarantine inside the campus before the start of sporting activities.

Archers who will be joining the camp include Tarundeep-Rai, Atanu Das, B Dhiraj, Prav-inJadhav, JayantaTalukdar, SukhmanuBabrekar, Kapil, Vishwas, DeepikaKumari, AnkitaBhakat, L Bombayla Devi, Ridhi, MadhuVedwan, Himani, PramilaBaria and TishaSancheti.

With Tarundeep, Atanu and Pravin through to the Tokyo Olympics next year, India's male archers have clinched the full quota for qualification while DeepikaKumari is presently the only woman archer from the country to have earned a quota.

"The guidelines of the health ministry as well as the SOP released by SAI, along with guidelines of the state government will be implemented on campus, while training is on," said SAI in its statement.

This follows news of return to training for India's badminton players in Hyderabad and the men's and women's hockey probables in Bengaluru. The men's hockey camp returned six positive tests for the COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted sporting activities around the world. This includes captain Manpreet Singh and the players have been shifted to a nearby hospital after originally being quarantined in the SAI campus itself.

# Yuvraj pays tribute to 'greatest left-handed legends'

**New Delhi (IANS):** Former India batsman Yuvraj Singh on Thursday paid tribute to "the greatest left-handed legends" of cricket on the occasion of International Left Handers' Day.

Yuvraj tweeted a collage consisting of former West Indies captain Brian Lara, his former skipper SouravGanguly and Australian duo of Matthew Hayden and Adam Gilchrist.

"Here's a tribute to some of the greatest left-handed legends the game has produced. Add on to



this golden list and share with me your favourite left-handed batsmen #InternationalLeftHandersDay," said Yuvraj in his caption to the post. Yuvraj himself was a left-hander and starred in some of India's greatest victories in limited-overs cricket during his illustrious career.

He made his international debut in an ODI against Kenya in 2000 and his last international appearance also came in an ODI, against West Indies in June 2017. He eventually retired from

professional cricket in June 2019.

The 38-year-old spearheaded India's victories in the 2007 World T20 and 2011 World Cup with his performances. Apart from his prowess with the bat, Yuvraj was also a handy left-arm spinner and his bowling played almost as big a role as his batting in the 2011 World Cup. He scored 8,701 runs and took 111 wickets in his ODI career in addition to 1,900 runs in Tests and 1,177 runs in T20Is.



## Hyderabad FC sign Halicharan Narzary in 2-year deal

**Hyderabad:** Building up to the new season, Indian Super League side Hyderabad FC have confirmed the arrival of experienced winger Halicharan Narzary. The 26-year-old Assamese speedster joins from Kerala Blasters and has penned a two-year deal with the club till the end of the 2021-22 season.

Narzary, who joins Subrata Paul as the second new arrival at Hyderabad FC this season, brings in tremendous experience to the squad. The winger has played at the top level for seven teams in the last decade, with four of them in the Indian Super League. He has made a total of 59 appearances in the competition so far and is among the top-30 in the competition's appearance list.

"I am very happy to join Hyderabad FC. It's a new team and personally an exciting challenge for me. I am eager to regroup

with my new teammates soon, hopefully once the situation is better, and get down to playing football. I have known Albert Roca for some time now since his first stint in India and working with his philosophy is something that motivates me. I have loved how his teams used to play and I think these are exciting times for the club," said Narzary after completing formalities.

Hyderabad FC Head Coach Albert Roca expressed his joy of having a hard-working player on the squad as he said, "Narzary is an exciting player and has been a valuable asset for both club and country over the last few years. His experience and work rate coupled with his skill set, and the ability to play on either flank and in attack will be important for us as a team this season. We're very happy to have him and hope he will have a significant impact for us in the ISL."

## Eng vs Pak, 2nd Test - Lunch

# ABID, AZHAR HELP PAK OFF TO STEADY START

**Southampton (IANS):** Skipper Azhar Ali and opener Abid Ali knuckled down against some sharp pace bowling and helped Pakistan reach 62/1 at Lunch on a rain affected Day 1 here against England on Thursday.

At Lunch which was taken early down to showers, Azhar was batting on 20 and Abid was on 33 after the visitors decided to bat first. Shan Masood, centurion in the first test, was trapped in front in just the third over of the day by England's pace spearhead James Anderson for one run. Azhar then joined hands with Abid and the pair dug deep to see the threat of

England's veteran new ball bowlers Stuart Broad and Anderson. England dropped two presentable chances in the slips, and saw a couple of other edges fall short. The hosts are missing star allrounder Ben Stokes in the second Test. Stokes will fly out to New Zealand and will therefore miss England's final two Tests.

England had earlier dramatically won the first Test on Saturday to go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

**Brief scores:** Pakistan 62/1 (Abid Ali 33 batting, Azhar Ali 20 batting; James Anderson 1/15) vs England

## IDCA to organise cricket c'ship league for deaf in March 2021

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA), affiliated & recognised by the Deaf International Cricket Council (DICC), will organise the 2nd ODI National Zone Cricket Championship league for the deaf from March 1 to 5 next year. The 50-over tournament, to be held in the national capital, will witness deaf cricketing talent from across the country competing for the championship title. Besides victory, the tournament will also be of extreme importance to the players as their performance during the tournament would also provide them with a chance to be part of the Deaf ICC ODI World Cup 2021 to be held in UAE between October-November 2021. IDCA President Sumit Jain said: "We are really excited to be hosting this tournament. This will be the best platform for all cricketing talent in India to come and showcase themselves. This tournament will definitely encourage the Indian players and give them confidence to play at the international level."

## England's Laura Marsh retires from all forms of cricket

**London (IANS):** England off-spinner Laura Marsh has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket. Marsh had decided to retire from international cricket last December and now she has taken the call to bid adieu to all forms

of the sport following the cancellation of the inaugural season of The Hundred due to COVID-19 pandemic. "I have made the decision to retire from all forms of cricket. With the cancellation of The Hundred competition this year, I feel that it is the right time to hang up the boots. I want to say a huge thank you to all the teams and organisations I have represented over the years," she said in a Twitter post. "I owe a huge amount to both Kent & Sussex for the role they played in my development as a player. Big



thanks also to The Surrey Stars, Sydney Sixers, NSW Breakers and Otago Sparks. Marsh had made her debut in 2006 in Tests as a fast bowler but switched to spin bowling later in her career. She was part of the England squad that won the Women's World Cup in 2009 and in 2017. She was also part of the T20 World Cup title-winning side in 2009. The 33-year-old played nine Tests, 103 ODIs and 67 T20Is for England, picking up 217 wickets across formats.

## Injured Sanchez doubtful for Europa League semi-final

**Milan (IANS):** Chilean forward Alexis Sanchez's participation in Inter Milan's Europa League semi-final clash against Shakhtar Donetsk to be played on August 18 is in doubt after the SerieA side confirmed he has a hamstring strain.

Sanchez picked up the injury in the 2-1 quarter-final win over Bayer Leverkusen earlier this week. "Alexis Sanchez underwent medical tests this morning in Duisburg after suffering an injury during our match against Bayer Leverkusen," the club said in a statement on Wednesday. "The tests confirmed that he has suffered a strain in his right hamstring. His condition will continue to be reassessed over the next few days," it added. The Chilean forward, who only last week completed a permanent move to Inter from Manchester United, has contributed four goals and 11 assists in 31 appearances for Inter this season.



## Russia pays fine to World Athletics to avoid expulsion

**Moscow (IANS):** Russian Athletics Federation, known as RusAF, has confirmed that they have paid the \$6.3 million fine with the help from country's sports ministry in order to avoid expulsion from the World Athletics. RusAF said in a statement on Wednesday that it had paid the World Athletics the fine "in the full amount" and they agree with a policy of "zero tolerance on doping", and they are looking for "an opportunity to begin the process of reinstating membership in World Athletics", reports Xinhua news agency. '

# Was quite disappointed that I couldn't play in 2018 World T20 semis: Mithali

**New Delhi (IANS):** Former India captain Mithali Raj has admitted that she was disappointed to have not played in the semi-final of the 2018 Women's World T20 against England. The decision to axe Mithali from the team came as a surprise and the subsequent defeat led to a series of events that eventually ended in the sacking of then-coach Ramesh Powar.

"Honestly, I was quite disappointed that I couldn't play. But it is something that has happened with every player," said Mithali while speaking on Star Sports 1 Telugu show 'Girl Power - SarileruManakevaru.' "I am not the first person with whom this has happened. It is about the team composition and may be captain and coach felt that they had a bet-



ter player to feed in to the eleven. "But I always had hopes that if we win that match, I may have

the chance in final, I will be able to contribute, and we have a better chance to win the Cup. That

was my intention of reaching out to the players in the huddle to pep them up, 'give your best you, might not get such chances time and again', she added.

Mithali, who is India's highest run-scorer in T20I cricket, subsequently accused Powar of bias after which the latter said that she had threatened to retire if she was made to bat lower down the order. There were also reports of her strained relationship with team captain Harmanpreet Kaur. Mithali eventually retired from T20I cricket in September 2019.

The 37-year-old recently said that she is "definitely looking" at the ICC Women's World Cup, which has been postponed to 2022 and added that her eyes are firmly fixed on the trophy.