





# Womenia

## Natural Skin Detox

Many theories abound, but its best to go nature's way and detox the system with minimal effort, to look and feel good. Skin detox is crucial to get rid of these contaminants

It's the beginning of summer. As the days lengthen and the weather becomes warmer environmental pollution, hectic lifestyle, unhealthy dietary habits and contaminated water make the skin lifeless, tired and extra dull. Pollutants and dirt from the environment clog your pores, and toxins from your diet can cause your complexion to darker especially those with olive, brown or black skin.

The skin is the body's largest organ which eliminates impurities and wastes from the body mainly through perspiration. It also plays a significant role in regulating body temperature, sensation, insulation, and vitamin D production. Many theories abound, but its best to go nature's way and detox the system with minimal effort, to look and feel good. Skin detox is crucial to get rid of these contaminants.

Glowing, radiant skin starts from within which is why you should consider forgoing some trigger foods like dairy, sugar, alcohol, processed food and coffee during your skin detox.

Bring about changes in your diet. Food's rich in fibre and antioxidants like dark leafy greens, cabbage, beets, apples, garlic and onions are known for their skin-cleansing properties. Include raw, natural foods and fresh fruit and vegetable juices. Not only do they detoxify the system by promoting the elimination of wastes, but also bring about a sense of well-being. Include fresh fruits and lightly cooked vegetables, unprocessed cereals, sprouted grains, nuts, seeds, yoghurt. Fresh juices of fruits and vegetables are the richest sources of vitamins, minerals, trace elements and enzymes.

Recently cold-pressed juices have become popular. Experts say that cold-pressed juices contain more nutrients. stay off congesting foods like animal fats, dairy products, white bread, fast foods, and sugar.

Drinking water or coconut wa-



Shahnaz Husain

ter, which is high in potassium and electrolytes, is the best detox for your skin. Beverages like alcohol, coffee, and sugary juices are dehydrating liquids. For a detoxing boost, sip plain hot water every 10-15 minutes through the day for the week.

Have the juice of a lemon with a glass of warm water first thing in the morning. They're packed with antioxidant vitamin C and have an alkaline effect on the body, so it can help restore the body's pH balance, benefiting the immune system. Lemons naturally promote healthy digestion.

For external skin detox, deep cleansing and exfoliation with scrubs help to cleanse the skin of dead cells. Look for cleansers containing sandalwood, eucalyptus, mint, neem, tulsi, aloe vera, lemon etc. Their anti-toxic and tonic properties help to clear skin congestion and eruptions. Mix raw honey with brown sugar. Apply the mixture on your face, neck and uncovered areas around the face. Let it settle on your skin for 30 minutes, then wash the mask off with lukewarm water.

Skin "brushing" helps the elimination of toxins. It is used in the treatment of cellulite, which is caused by deposits of water, fat and other wastes collecting in pockets beneath the skin. The entire surface is

brushed, using a rough cloth, or a natural bristle brush. Begin from the feet and go upwards. Then brush from lower to upper arms. Go across the shoulders and back. Brush gently on the chest and abdomen. Remember to exfoliate gently and not to overdo it to avoid a red, raw look.

Clay mask helps clean your skin of toxins. clay mask works by drawing all of the impurities to the surface, thus leaving your skin feeling cleansed.

Skin fasting will help detoxify your skin from the inside out. Let your skin breathe naturally and throw the toxins out by avoiding the dependency on the skin care aides. Without the overload of products, the pores will become healthier and the skin will retain its natural oils. You can do this every other weekend.

Nowadays, activated charcoal is used to detoxify the skin, because it purifies the skin similar to the clay one, drawing out toxins and impurities. It also refines

the pores and removes dead skin cells. This actually brightens the skin. Activated charcoal can be used in face masks. Mix activated charcoal with aloe vera gel and rose water. Apply a thin layer on the face, avoiding the lips and area around the eyes. For acne-prone skin, add 3 to 4 drops of Tea Tree Oil and rose water to activated charcoal, for a face mask. Wash off the masks after 20 minutes. Activated charcoal may be available at a chemist shop.

It is especially recommended for those who live or work in metropolitan and big polluted cities, as it is highly effective at removing dirt from skin pores, and eliminate common signs of tiredness, such as dark circles under the eyes.

### Take up yoga

Exercising is an integral part of skin detoxification. When you exercise, your skin perspires and heart races. It helps flush out unwanted waste, toxins, and impurities.

Take a brisk walk, go for a morning jog, take up power yoga, exercise in your local gym, do whatever it takes to make sure you sweat to help release toxins from your body. Regular exercise and physical activity also help boost blood flow to the organs and keeps stress and mental health risks at bay.

TWEET PATROL



**HUMA S QURESHI**  
**@HUMASQURESHI**

Sibling fight to sibling love, you'll get it all along with a platter full of delicious food! Come, join me and my brother #SaqibSaleem on our unfiltered conversation only on #FitFabFeast with Huma Qureshi. Sat-Sun at 9 PM only on @ZeeZest\_ #UnlimitLife #FFFwithHumaQureshi



## Safari chic with Shantanu & Nikhil

Designer brand Shantanu and Nikhil's latest collection 'SNSafari' features a luxury getaway wardrobe for both men and women. It draws inspiration from "millennials on the move", while celebrating S&N's one year milestone creating celebration wear for millennials.

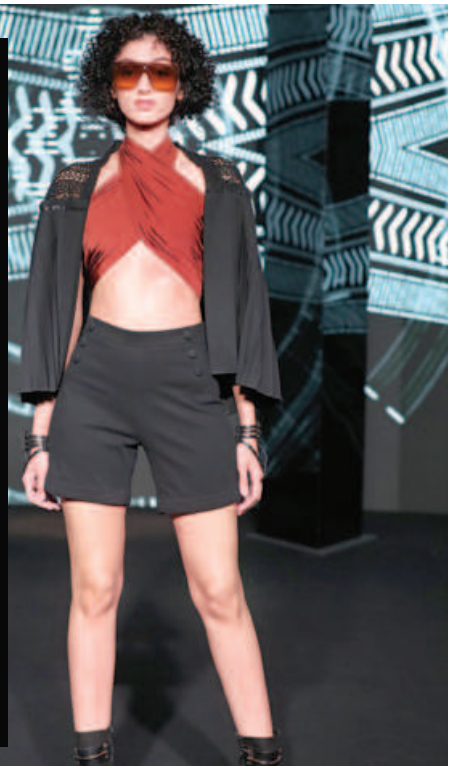
The collection was launched through a video presentation at the joint phygital fashion week by FDCI and Lakme Fashion Week on Day 1.

The designers reveal that the collection is inspired by the notion of "celebration on the move, with earthy tones and unconventional silhouettes".

The line comprises of asymmetric kurtas and cropped jacket shirts for women; open cut sherwanis and structured shirts with Nehruvian details for men, alongside casual-chic elements of T-shirts, sneakers and shorts, the brand offers a sartorial choice for our uber-cool millennial customers.

"Having completed one year in this enriching journey, S&N with much gusto now presents, #SNSafari a collection that reinforces the celebratory and blithe spirit of the brand," say brothers Shantanu and Nikhil. Signature S&N attributes like offbeat details, bold drapes against mini-

The designer duo presented a video that launched their collection on Day 1 of the ongoing FDCI x Lakme Fashion Week



malistic silhouettes and the oomph of contemporary India are all reinstated in #SNSafari.

"The post-pandemic landscape has left us reimagining newer ways to collaborate within the industry. We, for one, believe that fraternity collaboration is the future and what

better than the fraternity's two gigantic players like the FDCI & LFW coming together for a unique phygital fashion week. This not only sets a precedent for the fashion weeks to come, but opens up the market to newer and better opportunities," say the designers.

## Remedies that fade a tan

The summer season brings a lot of skin problems to everyone. Because of this a lot of people could not stand the scorching heat of the sun during this time of the year.

Skin tanning is one of the most common and severe problems during summer when the sun's heat is more intense. Prolonged sun exposure may lead to skin tanning. The risk rises if tanning leads to sunburn. It may increase the risk of skin cancer. Cancer is not the only problem associated with UV exposure. UVA damage is the main factor in premature aging too.

### Exfoliation

Gently exfoliating with a homemade or store-bought scrub can help lighten the tone of your skin by removing dead skin cells on the surface. Just be careful to avoid the sun once you exfoliate. Dead skin cells can help protect against the sun. Once you remove them, you're more susceptible to sunburn, tanning, and skin damage.



### Aloe

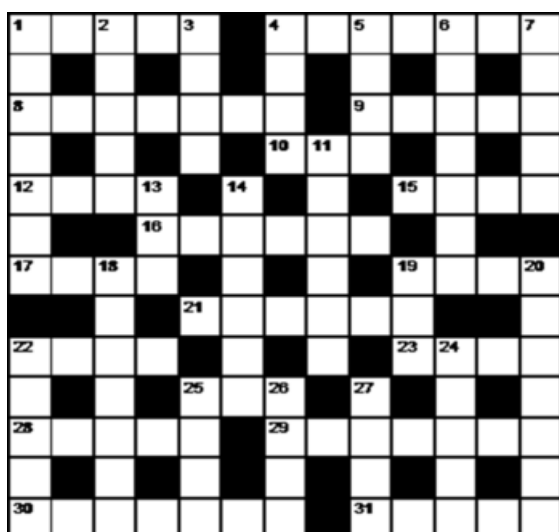
It turns out this sunburn salve is more than a powerful, anti-inflammatory skin soother. A small study found that aloe vera may suppress the release of melanin and reduce pigmentation. This bright yellow spice has traditionally been used in India as a skin lightener. While it has not been proven to visibly lighten the skin, one study found that turmeric may help protect against sun damage when included in a cream. The study also found that turmeric

may improve the skin's hydration and natural protective oils.

However, turmeric can stain your face yellow. Use face wash or makeup remover immediately after a turmeric mask or topical application to help remove residue and prevent staining.

### Black tea

Black tea extract can lighten a tan on guinea pigs, but more research needs to be done, especially on how homemade brews or topical products with black tea extracts affect humans.



SOLUTION TO MARCH 18

### CROSSWORD

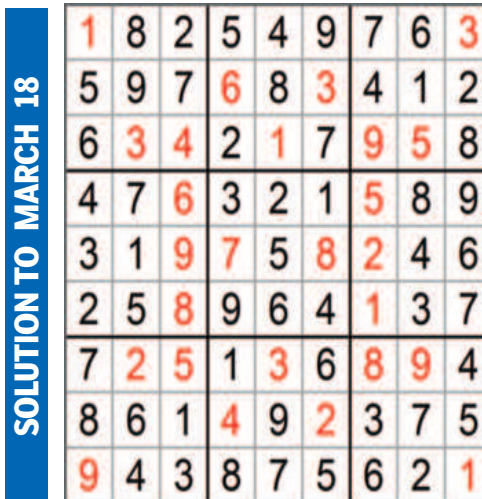
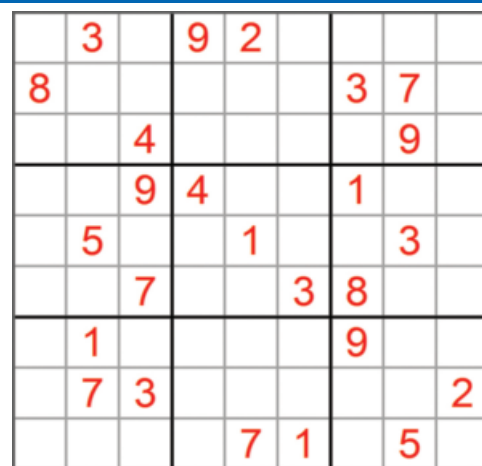
#### Across

- 1 Computing supply (5)
- 4 Laid waste (7)
- 8 Wage (7)
- 9 Step (5)
- 10 Tokyo's former name (3)
- 12 Luxurious (4)
- 15 Remain; prop (4)
- 16 Growing old (6)
- 17 Sketch (4)
- 19 Edge (4)
- 21 Book size (6)
- 22 Greek love-god (4)
- 23 Jerk (4)
- 25 Chinese principle (3)
- 28 India's first P.M. (5)
- 29 In an unexplained manner (7)
- 30 Hurricane or twister (7)
- 31 Rather feminine and girlish (5)

#### Down

- 1 Tasteless (7)
- 2 Is nosy (5)
- 3 Bound (4)
- 4 Ill-mannered (4)
- 5 Ban (4)
- 6 Larger or bigger (7)
- 7 Chancy (5)
- 11 Givers as of blood (6)
- 13 Hesitation (3)
- 14 Gorgon with snakes for hair (6)
- 18 Additional, one more ? (7)
- 19 Lad (3)
- 20 Stand aside - to build a road ! (4,3)
- 22 German painter Max (5)
- 24 Fire residue (5)
- 25 Large brass instrument (4)
- 26 Scandinavian city (4)
- 27 Devilish ones (4)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO MARCH 18

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Michelle Obama excited about Viola Davis portraying her in new series

Michelle Obama has given actress Viola Davis her stamp of approval, after it was reported that the latter will portray the ex-First Lady of America in a limited series titled "The First Lady".

"I feel that I'm not worthy. I wish I could be better to live up to the character that Viola has to play, but it's exciting," said Obama, 57, during an interview with Entertainment Tonight. "Anything Viola does, she does it with passion and vigour, and I know she will do no less for this role," she added.

The show will see the Oscar-winning actress opposite actor O-T Fagbenle, who will be playing former President Barack Obama in the series. According to a release by the makers, the show will provide "a revelatory reframing of American leadership, told through the lens of the women at the heart of the White House".

"In the East Wing of the White House, many of history's most impactful and world-changing decisions have been hidden from view, made by America's charismatic, complex and dynamic First Ladies. This series will peel back the curtain on the personal and political lives of three unique, enigmatic women, tracing their journeys to Washington through an enlightening intimacy," the release said.





# No definite opinion on cause of Sunanda’s death: Tharoor

NEW DELHI

CONGRESS leader Shashi Tharoor, accused in a case related to his wife Sunanda Pushkar’s death, has told a Delhi court that he should be discharged as various investigations have been conducted by experts but they have not given a “definite opinion on the cause of death”.

Tharoor, represented by Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa, sought discharge in the case, saying there was no evidence against him to prove the offence punishable under either section 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) or 306 (abetment of suicide) of IPC.

Pahwa said her death should be treated as accidental. Pushkar was

found dead in a suite of a luxury hotel in the city on the night of January 17, 2014. The couple was staying in the hotel, as the official bungalow of Tharoor was being renovated at that time. Pahwa told special judge Geetanjali Goel on Wednesday that during the course of the investigation there have been a plethora of reports by experts before the investigating officer (IO) but there was ‘no definite opinion on the cause of death’.

“These reports have been drafted by some of the nation’s most renowned doctors & forensic experts. Furthermore, a psychological autopsy was conducted in this investigation. “All of these reports have one thing in common that is ‘no definite opinion on the cause of death’.



As experts have failed to establish death by suicide or homicide, one must conclude that the death would fall into the only remaining category which is accidental death,” Pahwa told. He added that even after years of investigation by the police, the prosecution has failed to conclusively identify the cause of death. Pahwa further submitted before the court that Pushkar was grappling with

various medical ailments at the time of her death. “In January 2014, she was not a healthy person. A lady who can’t talk, who was on a wheelchair, who had autoimmune disease, they say such a lady is fit,” he told the court, adding that “when suicide is not established how could the question of abetment to suicide arise”.

Pahwa added that “the Investigating Officer erroneously formed an opinion vis-a-vis the commission of an offence”. “However, reports and other material relied upon in fact exonerates Tharoor from all charges. “Such a case has never been seen before, nobody (friends or relatives) filed any complaint or made any statement alleging mental cruelty against Sunanda Pushkar by Tharoor,” he told the court. In the absence of any

of the essential ingredients of 498A or 306 of IPC it would be absurd to frame such charges, he said.

“The opinion of the Autopsy Board took into consideration circumstantial evidence beyond the four corners of the autopsy room which is not permissible. “The Board has failed to substantiate their opinion during the course of the investigation due to which the IO decided to move onto seeking opinion from another Medical Board,” Pahwa told the court. The arguments on charge remained inconclusive and the court will resume the hearing on March 23. Tharoor has been charged under sections 498A and 306 of the Indian Penal Code, but was not arrested in the case. He was granted bail on July 5, 2018.

# Online sex racket spread over 150 WhatsApp groups busted

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi police has busted an online sex racket which was operated through 150 WhatsApp groups in Delhi and NCR. The gang used to kidnap girls and later sell them to pimps who supplied the girls in 5-star hotels in the Capital. Four pimps including two women have been arrested and a minor kidnapped girl rescued from Delhi’s Majnu ka Tila.

Working on a kidnapping case of a minor girl who was abducted on January 22, the Delhi police busted the online sex racket after it rescued the girl. Four persons including two women have been arrested.

During investigation by West Delhi’s Rajouri Garden



police it surfaced that the minor girl had been pushed into prostitution by a gang of ‘escort’ suppliers. “The examination of the rescued girl has unearthed a wide prostitution syndicate which was being operated by the accused persons on several WhatsApp groups where they used to circulate

her photographs. They used to torture her and she was also forcefully given drugs,” said Urvija Goel, DCP West Delhi.

The rescued girl said that she was kidnapped by two unknown people when she went to a shop to purchase a chips packet. They invited her to have some birthday cake at their home.

“The girl went with them to their residence where after eating the birthday cake, she fainted,” the officer added.

Thereafter, they forcibly took her to Majnu Ka Tila where she was handed over to their associates Sanjay, Anshu Sharma, Sapna Goyal and Kanika Roy. All of them have been arrested.

Police are also probing to learn how many more people are involved in the racket.

# Delhi’s own school edn board registered

NEW DELHI

DELHI’S own school education board DBSE has been registered and an official notification detailing its modalities is expected soon, according to officials at the Directorate of Education (DoE).

The Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE), which was approved by the Cabinet on March 6, was registered. “The board was officially registered and is expected to bring a most-awaited reform in the school assessment system.

“To start with, 20 to 25 Delhi government schools will be affiliated to DBSE from the 2021-22 academic session. Consultations are on with principals, teachers and parents concerned to decide upon which schools will be affiliated with the board in the first phase,” a senior DoE official said. Ac-



cording to the official, the modalities are being worked out and a notification detailing everything is expected soon. The board will have a governing body chaired by the education minister. It will also have an executive body for day-to-day functions and will be headed by a CEO.

Both bodies will have experts from industries, the education sector, principals of government and private schools, and bureaucrats, the official added.

At present, there are about 1,000 government and 1,700 private schools in Delhi, nearly all of which are affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). In July last year, the Delhi government had constituted two committees to prepare the scheme and framework for the formation of the state education board and for curriculum reforms.

Announcing the cabinet approval, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said the present education system focuses only on learning by rote that needs to be changed. He added that high-end technique will be used to teach students of the new education board. He had said that all schools in the national capital will not be brought under the new education board in one go and private schools will have an option to choose from. PTI GJS

## Gurugram Police Chief inaugurates hi-tech post

GURUGRAM

GIVING a major boost to upgrade and strengthen security, Gurugram Police Commissioner K K Rao, on Thursday inaugurated a hi-tech and fully functional police station at Vatika India Next Township, Sector 83 in Gurugram. “The Vatika group has handed over this fully-operational police station to us. Before this, We were running the ‘Kheri Daula police station’ operations through a rented private building as the construction of this building was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This building is equipped with all the necessary and modern amenities and will give a huge relief to the residents of the nearby areas,” said K K Rao, Commissioner of Gurugram Police. The double-storeyed police station is spread over an area of 10k sq ft and offers a modern set-up with a reception area, reporting area along with fully furnished and dedicated rooms for SHO, MHC, duty officers, women & children, IT, storage, library, kitchen and pantry. This fully functional building equipped with modern furniture, fittings and fixtures.

# 4 held for duping people on pretext of getting them jobs

NEW DELHI

A gang of four men have been arrested for allegedly duping people on the pretext of getting them government jobs, police said on Thursday. The accused have been identified as Mudassir Habib (43), Saurabh Kumar Shukla, Sandeep Sood (35) and Ashok Kumar (45), they said. Police said Sandeep was the kingpin of the gang while Saurabh forged joining letters and ID cards, and along with Sandeep also met the candidates and promised them government jobs. Mudassir received the cheated amount and



distributed the money to his associates, police said.

A total amount of Rs 1.25 crore was transferred into the accounts of the accused from approximately 50 job aspirants, who are mostly residents of Hamirpur, Mandi and Bilaspur districts of Himachal Pradesh, a police officer said.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Shibesh Singh said during the investigation, documents and bank transaction receipts provided by the complainant were verified and based on technical surveillance, raids were conducted at various places in Lucknow, Mohali, Ratlam and Hamirpur following which all the

four accused were apprehended. Investigations revealed that Ashok had started a coaching academy at Mohali, Punjab and another at Nadaun, Himachal Pradesh following which Mudassir, Sandeep and Saurabh started sending job aspirants to him, police said. Mudassir started luring the aspirants by assuring them government jobs, including in railways and banks, the officer said. Police said Saurabh and Sandeep used to call the candidates for interviews in Delhi, Patna and other places and provided them fake joining letters with forged stamps.

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## BJP MP Ram Swaroop Sharma cremated with State honours

SHIMLA

BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh Ram Swaroop Sharma, who was found hanging from the ceiling in his official residence in New Delhi, was cremated with full state honours at Machhayal village in Mandi district on Thursday.

His son Shanti Swaroop Sharma lit the pyre. A number of people, including Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, attended the funeral. Thakur also visited Sharma’s native village Jalpehar near Jogindernagar in Mandi district to express his condolences with his family members.

He prayed to the almighty to give peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss. Former chief minister Prem Kumar Dhummal, Jal Shakti Minister Mahender Singh Thakur, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Sarveen Chaudhary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Rajinder Garg, MP and BJP State President Suresh Kashyap, MP Kishan Kapoor, MLA Vinod Kumar, Hira Lal, Jawahar Thakur and Prakash Rana and Vice Chairman of the State Finance Commission Satpal Singh Satti also attended the funeral.

## Sarpanch contender's daughter gang raped in UP

BARABANKI

A minor girl in Uttar Pradesh was allegedly gang raped by four youths from her village in Barabanki district. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Manoj Kumar Pandey, said that the incident in Zaidpur took place on Wednesday and the matter was reported on Thursday. “The girl has filed a complaint accusing four youths of the village of abducting and raping her. The FIR has been filed and the girl has been sent for medical examination,” he said. The victim said in her complaint that she was



on her way to her school when the four accused kidnapped her and took her to a deserted place and took turns raping her. She further stated that after reaching home she narrated her ordeal to her family members after which a complaint was lodged with the police.

The victim’s father said that he is a candidate for the village head

in the upcoming panchayat elections and he was being pressurized not to contest the polls. He said that he was offered money and when he refused, his daughter was kidnapped by four youths. He named Akash Verma, Lalji Verma, Sachin Verma and Shivam Verma as the four accused. He further said that after committing the crime, they left his daughter near their house. The ASP said, “The victim’s statement has been recorded and a complaint hainvestigation and will take appropriate action against the accused after the medical report is received.”

# 3,500 couples tie knot at mass marriage

LUCKNOW

OVER 3,500 couples tied the knot at a mass marriage function held here on Thursday. UP Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya said it was a world record of sorts. The mass marriage was one of the welfare schemes run by the Yogi Adityanath government for economically weaker sections of society. The couples wearing clothes in bright hues, sat on the carpets laid on the sprawling grounds, waiting for priests to perform the rituals. Some Muslim couples too



tied the knot at the venue.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who completed four years in office, was present to bless the couples at the event organised by the Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

Speaking on the occasion, he listed the various welfare schemes for labourers and said the government will soon ensure payment of Rs 2 lakh to any worker who dies while working.

He also asked those present in the gathering to maintain social distancing and wear masks to prevent Corona virus from spreading as fresh cases were being reported.

Swami Prasad Maurya said that as part of the mass wedding scheme, financial assistance is given under different heads.



# China under US scanner

THE warmth at the first high-level meeting between the U.S. and China under the Biden administration which has begun in Alaska is just as good as the venue's temperature. It is being dubbed a one-off event by the Americans where discussions would be confined to 'pulse-reading' rather than to thaw the relations between the two countries.

It is so much because of the distrust between the two over Chinese lies. A wide range of security and human rights issues are on cards which Beijing needs to address with honesty. Improving relations with Washington comes much later and only after several rounds of such 'ice-breaking' meetings to build the right thaw. Chinese propaganda machinery, its media, is on an overdrive already to give

the right spin to the stories. They see this as a wonderful opportunity to reset their equations.

But going by the indications, the advent of the Biden regime has not changed anything between the two and if any, it has only worsened the relations. The two powers too have no hopes of salvaging anything out of the debris of their relationship immediately. The Americans have already claimed that it was not a strategic dialogue. Of course, the Chinese are yet again up to their familiar tricks.

The China's Foreign Ministry has stated that his country will have a high-level strategic dialogue with the US in the coming days. The distrust is of such an extent that the representatives of the two sides are not even having their dinner together. Sounds

strange for such meetings! The Chinese delegation, in addition, has been asked to submit itself to coronavirus testing before the meeting. It could be said that the previous Trump administration had been lenient with the Chinese.

The present government in the U.S. is laying emphasis on more democratic processes in countries. With the repression unleashed against the Uighur Muslims, Beijing could never expect a warm approach towards it from the Biden administration. The US has already held strategic meetings with its allies in the Indo-Pacific region including Australia, India, Japan and South Korea. The sequential order of the meetings and the statements regarding Chinese aggression in the region around it are all pointers of the importance that the Biden government is giving to its allies over China.

So, in all probability China will be

heard. But every word that the Chinese say will be taken with a tonne of salt. There is little to suggest anything else as the Alaska rendezvous is being planned close on the heels of Tokyo and Seoul meetings. The US media has already reported the U.S. officials as saying "this is not only about choreography. Sequencing is part of the equation, but we are working to strengthen our hand as well, adding that the overall goal is to enhance our leverage and the quality of life in the region in meaningful ways".

The official emphasised that the Anchorage meeting "really is a one-off." In addition, it has also been emphasised that it is not a resumption of a particular dialogue mechanism or the beginning of a dialogue process and that there will not be a joint statement following the meeting. Seems like the Chinese are going to be screened not only for the virus, but also for their character.



Analysis of the Telangana State Budget for FY 2021-22

# A tightrope walk

DR SK JOSHI

MOST householders are aware of the difficulties faced in preparing, and more so, sticking to their individual budgets. In case of any exigency in the family, the situation becomes further critical needing extra efforts and resources. Based on individual experiences, one can imagine the extent of complexities involved in putting together a state budget. It is, indeed, a tightrope walking taking adequate care of every sector and every section of society.

As the entire world reeled under Covid causing major economic and social disruption, the global economy significantly slowed down. Telangana also suffered but managed to put its acts together. At this stage, it is imperative to boot strap the economy. Towards this end the jumbo budget of Rs 230,825.96 crore for FY 2021-22 presented by the Finance Minister, Harish Rao can be categorised as a bold and creative one.

What is proposed under this budget? Efficacy of every budget depends on accurate assessment of factors namely, 'expectations of people', 'estimations of available resources' and 'intentions of the government'. Optimisation among these factors results into inter se allocation of resources for various sectors. In so far as expectations of people are concerned, they are ever growing and must be fulfilled by welfare measures.

In so far as intentions of the government are concerned, CM, KCR had a steely resolve to change the face of the Telangana, especially rural areas by providing drinking water to every household and irrigation to every field. Even at the cost of reduced allocations to several other sectors, TRS government has continued to provide importance to water sector. In fact, in the recent past, the water sector budget of Telangana State was higher than that of the Ministry of Jal Shakti at the national level

In these difficult times welfare of people cannot be ignored. That is precisely done in the budget leaving with comparatively lesser resources for economic development.

Added to the slowdown is the uncertainty of garnering resources due to various external and internal factors. These have direct impact on the one hand, on the receipts to the State from Government of India, and collection of State's own resources. On the other hand, unavoidable commitments such as extending additional fitment to government employees and pensioners

duly considering recommendations of the pay revision committee towards salary and pensions, and other ongoing welfare measures have further squeezed the scope of any manoeuvrability.

In so far as intentions of the government are concerned, CM, KCR had a steely resolve to change the face of the Telangana, especially rural areas by providing drinking water to every household and irrigation to every field. Even at the cost of reduced allocations to several other sectors, TRS government has continued to provide importance to water sector. In fact, in the recent past, the water sector budget of Telangana State was higher than that of the Ministry of Jal Shakti at the national level. His gamble seems to have been paying off. Telangana has successfully created a grid both for irrigation and drinking water. Depending on the requirement at a place, water can be transferred from one surplus part of the state to another deficit part. This kind of infrastructure perhaps, is not available anywhere in the country. Many developed countries do not even have this kind of infrastructure.

Due to sufficient availability of water, Telangana State is likely to achieve the highest ever production of agricultural crops of 4.11 crore MT for the year 2020-21 as against 1.41 crore MT immediately after formation of the State in the year 2014-15. The total gross area under cultivation has increased from 141 lakh acres to 212 lakh acres during the corresponding period.

Thanks to the hard work of the farmers and sustained support of the State Government, Telangana had successfully tackled the unprecedented disruption. The Budget reaffirms that farmers will continue to get Rs.10,000 per acre for two crops under Rythu Bandhu Scheme (Rs.14,800 crore). Other farmer oriented schemes namely, loan waiver (Rs.5225 crore), Rythu Bima (Rs 1200 crore), dairy development (Rs 1730 crore) in the current budget makes Telangana as the farmer friendliest state in the country. Kudos to the long-term vision of the leadership in the state. With the state economy bouncing back in the last three months, the most heartening point being that revenue earnings from all the sectors have almost reached the pre-Covid levels, this budget will further provide enabling environment for development. Telangana seems to have withstood the storm as reflected by the increase in State Gross Domestic Product (SGDP) from Rs.9.6 lakh crore in the previous year to Rs.9.78 lakh crore for the financial year 2021.

The economy was also managed efficiently by pegging expenditures at Rs.1.83 lakh crore as against revenue of Rs.1.43 lakh crore (leaving a deficit of Rs 33,191 crore that is roughly 3% of gross state domestic product) during the year 2020-21. People are aware that Harish Rao is a good cricketer providing strength to team KCR, but this budget has also proved that he is an equally adept trapeze artist who can achieve multiple objectives.

(The author is a former Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana)

# Sea levels are rising fastest in big cities

SALLY BROWN,  
ROBERT JAMES NICHOLLS

IT is well known that climate-induced sea level rise is a major threat. What is less well known is the threat of sinking land. And in many of the most populated coastal areas, the land is sinking even faster than the sea is rising.

Parts of Tokyo for instance sank by four metres during the 20th century, with two metres or more of sinking reported in Shanghai, Bangkok, and New Orleans. This process is known as subsidence. Slow subsidence happens naturally in river deltas, and it can be accelerated by the extraction of groundwater, oil or gas which causes the soil to consolidate and the surface to lose elevation.

Subsidence leads to relative sea level rise (sea level rise plus land sinking). It turns croplands salty, damages buildings, causes widespread flooding and can even mean the loss of entire coastal areas.

Subsidence can threaten flooding in low-lying coastal areas, much more so than rising sea levels, yet scientists are only just realising the global implications of the threat with respect to coastal cities.

In fact, while the average coastal area experiences relative sea level rise of less than 3mm per year, the average coastal resident experiences a rise of around 8mm to 10mm per year. This is because so many people live in deltas and especially cities on deltas that are subsiding. That's the key finding of our new research, where we analysed how fast cities are sinking across the world and compared them with global subsidence data including less densely populated coastal lines.

Our finding reflects that people often choose to live in river deltas, floodplains and other areas that were already prone to sinking, and in doing so will further enhance subsidence. In particular, subsiding cities contain more than 150 million people in the coastal zone — that's roughly 20 per cent of people in the world who live by the sea. This means relative sea level rise will have a more sudden and more severe impact than scientists had originally thought.

Here are a few of the most affected cities:  
JAKARTA

The Indonesian capital Jakarta is home to 10 million people, and is built on low-lying land next to the sea. Groundwater extraction caused the city to sink more than three metres from 1947 to 2010 and much of the city is still sinking by 10 cm or more each year.

Subsidence does not occur evenly, leading to uneven risks that make urban



Subsidence leads to relative sea level rise (sea level rise plus land sinking). It turns croplands salty, damages buildings, causes widespread flooding and can even mean the loss of entire coastal areas. Subsidence can threaten flooding in low-lying coastal areas, much more so than rising sea levels, yet scientists are only just realising the global implications of the threat with respect to coastal cities. In fact, while the average coastal area experiences relative sea level rise of less than 3mm per year, the average coastal resident experiences a rise of around 8mm to 10mm per year. This is because so many people live in deltas and especially cities on deltas that are subsiding

planning difficult. Buildings are now flooded, cracks are appearing in infrastructure which is being abandoned.

Jakarta has built higher sea walls to keep up with the subsidence. But since groundwater pumping continues, this patching-up policy can only last so long before the same problems occur again. And the city needs to keep pumping since groundwater is used for drinking water. Taking water, the very thing that humans need to survive, ultimately puts people at risk from inundation.

The battle against subsidence is slowly being lost, with the government proposing in 2019 to move the capital to a purpose-built city on the island of Borneo more than 1,000 km away, with subsidence being one of many reasons.

## SHANGHAI

Developing rapidly in the past few decades, and now with a population of 26 million, Shanghai is another sinker. The city has maximum subsidence rates

of around 2.5 cm a year. Again this is mostly caused by lowering groundwater levels, in this case thanks to drainage to construct skyscrapers, metro lines and roads (for instance Metro Line 1, built in the 1990s, caused rapid subsidence).

If no additional protection is built, by 2100 this rate of subsidence and sea level rise mean that a storm surge could flood around 15 per cent of the city.

## NEW ORLEANS

In New Orleans, centuries of embankments and ditches had effectively drained the city and sunk it, leaving about half of it below sea level.

Much of New Orleans is below sea level (red) and relies on sea walls to stay dry. The Data Center, New Orleans, CC BY-SA

When Hurricane Katrina breached the levees in 2005, the city did not stand a chance. The hurricane caused at least US\$40 billion (£29 billion) in damage and particularly took its toll on the city's

African American community. More than 1,570 people died across the state of Louisiana.

If the city had not subsided, damage would have been greatly reduced and lives would have been saved. Decisions that were made many decades or more ago set the path for the disasters that are seen today, and what we will see in the future.

## There are no simple solutions

So what can be done? Building a sea wall or dike is one immediate solution. This of course stops the water coming in, but remember that the sea wall is sinking too, so it has to be extra large in order to be effective in the long-term. In urban areas, engineers cannot raise ground easily: that can take decades as buildings and infrastructure are renewed. There is no simple solution, and large-scale urban subsidence is largely irreversible.

Some cities have found "solutions". Tokyo for instance managed to stop subsidence from about 1960 onwards thanks to stronger regulations on water pumping, but it cannot get rid of the overall risk as parts of city are below sea level and depend on dikes and pumps to be habitable. Indonesia's bold proposal to move its capital city may be the ultimate solution.

Increased urbanisation especially in deltas areas and the demand for freshwater means subsidence will remain a pressing issue in the coming decades. Dealing with subsidence is complementary to dealing with climate-induced sea level rise and both need to be addressed. A combination of rising seas and sinking lands will increasingly leave coastal cities at risk.

(Courtesy: Down to Earth)

# LETTERS

## Dravidian drama

THIS has reference to the edit TN polls: A trend setter in Dravidian polls. (March 18, 2021.) A decade of rule in Tamil Nadu by AIADMK will be challenged in the upcoming elections in the state by others like DMK and minor and insignificant political groups like MNM among others. There is already a poll prediction by way of an exit poll to DMK to dominate the political scene of Tamil Nadu this time around, even though the CM dreamer M K Stalin has nothing significant to offer to the electorate of the state.

There are already raids by the IT department on various political entities in unearthing illegal cash flow and materials intended as freebies to voters. In a way Tamil Nadu voters have developed an affinity to such sops by political parties that have come to stay, without which winning an election is regarded well nigh impossible.

The AIADMK is fighting the election without Amma Jayalalithaa, which is a serious handicap to the party, while Chinnamma is a force to reckon with has been declared ineligible to contest elections for another decade, in view of her conviction and jail term endured. It is a big blow to the party in Tamil Nadu as the limelight is on a handful individuals who have yes masters without any radical initiative to woo voters.

Whether it is OPS or EPS, both have failed to

thehansreader@gmail.com

carry the charisma of Amma even remotely, in being able to counter the tide of DMK. These leaders' ability in attracting and motivating voters will be put to an enormous test in Tamil Nadu. The credibility of the BJP as its political ally will be put to an acid test.

Kamal Hasan's MNM has already become a laughing stock in the political environment of the State as Kamal has complained his proclaimed promise in his party manifesto to be copied by his political adversary DMK which gave the demand for all political to announce and release their party manifesto on same day, simultaneously to help avoid eleventh hour corrections and improvements, copying others promises to voters, if they came to power.

K R Parvathy, Mysuru

## Kudos to Indian Railways!

ONE of the greatest Indian engineering marvels of the new millennium - the 476 metre-long steel arch, which is set to be the "world's highest" railway bridge in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, is almost ready. The arch bottom of the Chenab bridge has been completed and next the upper arch of the engineering marvel in making will be completed.

The magnificent arch bridge is part of an ambitious railway project connecting Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the country Work on putting the main arch began in November 2017.

The Rs1,250-crore bridge will be 359 metres above the Chenab river bed and has a length of 1315 metres. What makes the rail line really amazing and awesome is that it is expected to be 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower !. It is

also reported that once completed, it will surpass the record of the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge (275 m) in China Railway officials had earlier said that this railway bridge will be able to withstand up to 8 magnitude earthquakes and high-intensity blasts.

The bridge is a vital link which will connect the rest of the nation with the Kashmir valley and boost tourism and enhance industrial set ups. This can help increase employment and help the Kashmir region rise economically.

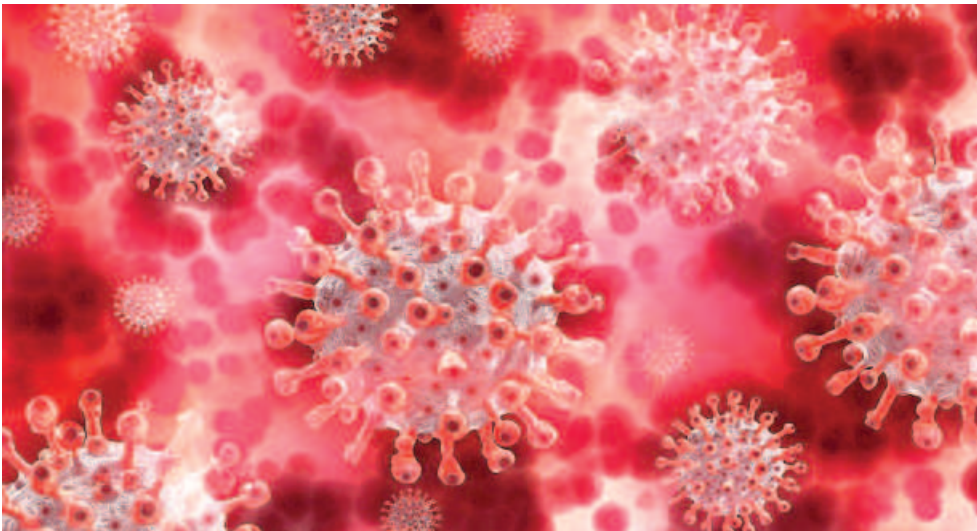
It is really a feather in the cap of Indian railways and showcases our engineering intelligence and might to the rest of the world. The Railways Minister Piyush Goyal has rightly said that this is an infrastructural marvel and the Indian Railways is well on track to achieve another engineering milestone in world railways history. Kudos to the railways, the engineers and all those brains who worked so hard to create history.

M Pradyu, Kannur

## Stop second wave of Covid-19

THE almost alarming rise in daily new Covid-19 cases across multiple states - Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu - indicates the prospect of the onset of a second wave. It has now become imperative that we must do all that is humanly possible to avoid it. There is not anything (or much) new to be said about how best we can act to stop the second wave. What needs to be done is known to most; still it is worth reiterating.

A three-pronged action that by and large



makes the pandemic response is available for us to contain the spread of the disease. One is to follow the Covid-19 appropriate behaviour which includes maintaining physical distancing and wearing masks. It is important to wear masks properly covering the nose and mouth fully denying entry to the virus into its host - the human body. Wearing masks around the neck or up the jaw serves no purpose, though. The second is, testing, tracking and treating. RT-PCR testing needs to be scaled up to detect cases and stop transmission of the virus. The third is vaccination, of which no one can feign ignorance.

The vaccination drive should gain momentum as a people's movement. For it vaccine hesi-

tancy that persists across the social spectrum has to go. People can be persuaded to shed vaccine hesitancy by dissemination of right information that convinces them of the safety and efficacy of vaccines and allays their fears. It is vital that adherence to safety norms, testing and vaccination must happen simultaneously for the success of the single-minded battle against the pandemic. It is important that the general population realizes that the danger posed by the coronavirus, still in circulation, is far from over. As a nation, we have to redouble our collective efforts to prevent the second peak and win the race against the pandemic.

G David Milton, Maruthancode, Kanyakumari-Dt



# Uptick in Covid cases, vaccine wastage worries TS Governor

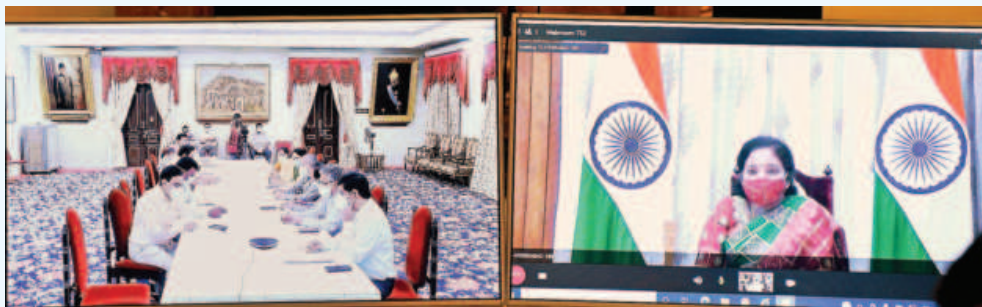
HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

GOVERNOR Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday expressed concern over the high rate of vaccine wastage and the spurt in Covid-19 cases in the State.

She directed Raj Bhavan officials to get a report from the Health department on the vaccine wastage in which Telangana topped the country, about the increase in cases in schools and hostels besides measures taken to contain the spread. "Large number of students testing positive concerns me," she said.

The Governor was reviewing the developments in the State with the Raj Bhavan officials through a video conference from Raj Nivas, Puducherry, where she is holding an additional charge as the Lt. Governor.

"I am concerned about the high number of Covid-19 positive cases in a couple of residential schools. I am worried about the high rate of vaccine wastage in our State. When more than 70



- ▶ Asks Raj Bhavan officials to get report from Health department
- ▶ Says we cannot afford to waste precious vaccine
- ▶ All eligible need to get vaccinated
- ▶ Advises people to strictly adhere to Covid-19 preventive norms to contain the pandemic



countries are seeking our vaccine, we cannot afford to waste vaccine. All eligible need to get vaccinated," she added.

Dr Soundararajan advised people to strictly adhere to the Covid-19 preventive norms to contain the pandemic. "After tak-

ing the vaccine also we need to adhere to the preventive norms so as to prevent the spread of the virus," she added.

Referring to the nutritional intervention in tribal habitations, the Governor said she would launch a training programme for

resource persons in the first week of April.

Secretary to Governor K Surendra Mohan led the team of Raj Bhavan officials in apprising her of the developments in the State during the video conference.

## Stranded Telangana expat in Saudi pines to return to roots

In a video making rounds on social media, he who is undergoing through huge financial crisis, has appealed to the India authorities to arrange for his return home

MOHAMMED HUSSAIN  
HYDERABAD

AN Indian migrant worker who had gone to Saudi Arabia in search of temporary work is now desperate to return back to his native place, after the company in which he was working left him in lurch. In a video making rounds on social media, he who is undergoing through huge financial crisis, has appealed to the India authorities to arrange for his return home.

Mirza Ateeq Baig, who hails from Hyderabad in Telangana State, went to Saudi Arabia to work in a contracting company in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Ateeq shared an appealing video to social activist Amjed Ullah Khan requesting him to help in returning to Hyderabad.

In the video shared on Twitter by Amjed Ullah Khan on Wednesday, Ateeq alleged that a contracting company called SASS Development Group had not paid him



in the salary for over two months, which led him into financial crises due to which he was not able to have a single meal in a day. He also claimed that he was restricted to return to India.

After social activist and spokesperson of Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) Amjed Ullah Khan brought the issue to the notice of the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Embassy in

Riyadh urging the authorities to rescue him, they responded to his tweet. The authorities took the matter on an urgent basis and the Indian Embassy in Riyadh aided and extended help to Ateeq. Later, the SASS Development Group also reacted to the video of Ateeq. The company stated in a tweet that Mirza Ateeq Baig didn't report to the company for around one to two months.

## Concerned over Covid cases, HC asks govt to implement ICMR guidelines

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

TAKING note of growing number of Covid-19 cases in the State, the Telangana High Court on Thursday asked the TRS government to strictly implement ICMR guidelines to prevent spread of the virus.

It asked the government to categorise all areas, with the most number of Covid cases, as containment zones and take preventive steps. A division bench of the court asked the government to conduct 50,000 RT-PCR tests every day.

The HC passed these orders while dealing with a batch of PILs filed by various persons. Arguing the case on behalf of a petitioner, senior advocate Chikkudu Prabhakar informed the court that the medical bulletin released on March 6, 7, 11, 12 and 13 clearly showed that the government didn't perform 50,000 tests a day, despite HC orders.

Prabhakar urged the court to consider the non-compliance of the orders as contempt and initiate action against the officials concerned.

However, the State advocate-general explained to the HC that they were following its orders and conducting the requisite number of tests. Later, the court adjourned the case to April 7.

## Light rain lashes TS districts

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

LIGHT rainfall up to 1 cm occurred at isolated places in Telangana during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Thursday.

According to a warning issued by the IMD bulletin, thunderstorms with lightning, hailstorm and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph are very likely to occur on March 19 and 20 at isolated places in 19 Telangana districts.

Rain is attributed to an upper air cyclonic circulation over central Maharashtra which now lies over Marathwada and its neighbourhood. The bulletin said the trough/wind discontinuity from north interior Karnataka to south-east MP across interior Maharashtra at 1.5 km above the mean sea level has become less marked.

Meanwhile, during the last 24 hours, the highest maximum temperature of 38.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Bhadrachalam. There was no large change in the day temperatures in most parts of the State. They were normal in

- ▶ Thunderstorms with lightning, hailstorm & gusty winds of 30-40 kmph forecast on March 19 & 20
- ▶ Bhadrachalam has highest max temp of 38.5 degrees Celsius; Adilabad 38.3 deg C, Nalgonda 38, Mahbubnagar 37.8, Dundigal 37.5, Hyderabad 36.9, Ramagundam 36.6, Nizamabad 36.5, Hakimpet 36.2, Medak 36, Khammam 35.8, Hanamkonda 35
- ▶ Medak records lowest night temp of 18 deg C; Hakimpet 20, Dundigal 20.6, Hanamkonda 21.5, Nalgonda 22, Hyderabad 22.2, Bhadrachalam & Ramagundam 22.4 each, Nizamabad 22.9, Khammam 23, Mahbubnagar 23.5, Adilabad 24.7



most parts and below normal ranging from 1.6 to 3 degrees Celsius in some parts.

The other day temperature in Telangana were: Adilabad 38.3 deg C, Nalgonda 38, Mahbubnagar 37.8, Dundigal 37.5, Hyderabad 36.9, Ramagundam 36.6, Nizamabad 36.5, Hakimpet 36.2, Medak 36, Kham-

mam 35.8 and Hanamkonda 35.

The night temperatures across the State were: Medak 18 deg C, Hakimpet 20, Dundigal 20.6, Hanamkonda 21.5, Nalgonda 22, Hyderabad 22.2, Bhadrachalam & Ramagundam 22.4 each, Nizamabad 22.9, Khammam 23, Mahbubnagar 23.5 and Adilabad 24.7.

## Goutham urges ConCor to set up container-making unit in AP

- Industries Minister meets Container Corporation of India chairman and MD Kalyanram to build a manufacturing unit in the land allotted to NTC and BHEL in Chittoor district
- Meets Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to request financial support to upcoming Ramayapatnam Port and fishing harbours in the State



Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Information Technology Mekapati Goutham Reddy meeting with Mansukh L. Mandaviya, MoS for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Independent Charge), at Transport Bhawan, in New Delhi on Thursday

can be the destination for container manufacturing, considering that it is planning to build more ports and fishing harbours.

He highlighted that the country is witnessing a shortage of containers, especially at a time when India is looking to diminish trade with China. The minister called on ConCor to build a manufacturing unit in the land allotted to NTPC and BHEL in Chittoor district.

Kalyanram said he will take the minister's requests into consideration and cooperate as soon as

possible. Later, Goutham Reddy also met Union shipping minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

"Met shipping minister Mansukh Mandaviya and requested him to extend Government of India's financial support to upcoming Ramayapatnam Port and fishing harbours in AP and he assured us the required support," said Reddy.

The minister said he held detailed discussions about investment opportunities regarding coastal development and waterways projects in the southern state.

## RBKs to certify all farm inputs

- Chief Minister launches RBK channel for providing information to farmers on crops and weather
- Says farmers should not be cheated while buying seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and others through Rythu Bharosa Kendras
- Directs authorities to see that no farmer sells his produce below MSP

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBK) channel in virtual mode from his camp office here on Thursday. He also reviewed procurement of rabi crop produce of 2020-21 and preparations for kharif 2021-22.

During the review, the Chief Minister said RBKs are setup to support farmers in all activities ranging from sowing seeds to selling the crop. New buildings are also being constructed for them in villages so that all these structures should be permanent



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launches RBK (Rythu Bharosa Kendras) channel at his camp office in Tadepalli on Thursday

for all the farmers.

He said farmers should not be cheated in purchase of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, etc., through RBKs and added that the state government has been testing the products at RBKs and give guarantee and quality certification with government stamp on it. He said the aim is to make inputs available to farmers within 48 to 72 hours of placing orders.

The Chief Minister said agriculture assistants are working from RBKs and e-cropping is being registered at the same place. The poster with details of minimum support price for any crop within the RBK's limit is displayed in the RBK. He said if any farmer has to sell his crop for less than the minimum support price

in any village, he can register in RBK and agriculture assistant of that village should inform the government by uploading the details in CMAPP (Comprehensive Monitoring of Agriculture Prices and Procurement). He said marketing department would intervene and ensure the crop is sold at a fair price, if not it should procure the crop from the farmer directly and added that all this process will be done under the preview of joint collector.

He said RBK channel is launched to provide information to farmers on crops and weather conditions.

As smart TVs are being set up in RBKs, the RBK channel would help the farmers to get the continuous information on the pre-



cautions to be taken while farming and information on weather conditions, he said and added that a toll free number (155251) was set up to address the specific problems raised by farmers at RBKs.

The Chief Minister asked the agriculture minister and secretary to come up with a system to address the doubts of the farmers in RBKs in an interactive manner with the scientists.

He said the state government has been taking revolutionary steps as part of the process of bringing them closer and more useful to the farmers.

Agriculture minister Kurasala Kannababu, Agriculture Mission vice-chairman M V S Nagi Reddy, agriculture special chief secretary Poonam Malakondaiah, civil supplies commissioner Kona Shashidhar, special secretary for marketing and cooperation Y Madhusudan Reddy, agriculture marketing commissioner M D Suryakumari and other officials were present.

## 'AP ahead of 'BC States' in giving priority to BCs'

AMARAVATI

YSRCP general secretary and Government Advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said weaker sections, women and minorities were given priority in heading the civic bodies accounting for 78 per cent of the total seats, much more than the normal quota norms in tune with the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government's policy.

Speaking to media persons here on Thursday, Ramakrishna Reddy said that of the total 86 posts of mayors and chairpersons, 40 were given to BCs, 12 for minorities while women were given 52 seats on the whole.

He said it was a record that BCs were given high priority in Andhra Pradesh than the so-called BC states or any other state governments across the country.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has made it clear that people who are the majority in number from a community, should be represented in adequately to look after the welfare of their people. Unlike in TDP government, which used BCs like a vote bank, the Chief Minister had given recognition to weaker sections and implemented his saying that BC are Backbone Class in reality, he said.

Speaking on Mydukur municipality, Ramakrishna Reddy said that the party had won because the councillor who won on Jana Sena remained neutral and with support from ex-officio members, YSRCP had won the municipality. He said that they had not misused power anywhere, as the Chief Minister had made it clear that there should be no abuse of power in the case of Tadipatri and Mydukur.

## Follow Covid norms, govt tells industries

AMARAVATI

THE state government on Thursday instructed managements of factories, industries, shops and establishments in the state to continue all measures in their respective organisations to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease in view of the recent upward trend in the contagion.

In an order, the principal secretary (labour) B Udayalakshmi

directed the managements to implement the Covid-19 control measures "without any negligence or compromise" to safeguard their workforce from the pandemic.

"There is an upsurge in Covid-19 cases in the last few days in Andhra Pradesh. In bigger organisations, the staff not related to production may be extended the option of work from home. The managements of these organisa-

tions shall work out and declare a policy in this regard duly covering remote work option with full pay," Udayalakshmi said in the order.

Pregnant women, women with infants, employees with comorbidities and other health complications must also be allowed to work remotely with full pay.

The principal secretary said the organisations should take care of such employees health and safety and not lay off anyone.



# Farm laws: Modi should have consulted farmers first: BJP leader

## Apna Dal MLA announces support to farmers’ stir; Centre, BJP not trustworthy, says Naresh Tikait

BALLIA/LUCKOW/ NEW DELHI

UTTAR Pradesh BJP working committee member Ram Iqbal Singh on Thursday said there would have been no agitation by farmers had the Centre consulted them before enacting the new agricultural laws.

He also urged the government to bring a law guaranteeing the minimum support price (MSP) for farmers. Thousands of farmers are camping at Delhi’s border points in Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur to demand that the Centre repeal the three farm laws that were enacted in September last year and make a new law guaranteeing MSP for crops.

Speaking to reporters here, Singh said the Modi government should have consulted the farmers before enacting the new agricultural laws. Had the farmers been taken into confidence by the government before

bringing these laws, there would have been no agitation over the issue, he said.

The recent hike in MSP is not in accordance with the rise in prices of diesel and fertilisers and farmers will suffer losses due to this, he added. The government had increased the MSP of six rabi crops in September last year.

Singh also claimed that the situation in police stations and tehsils in Uttar Pradesh under the Yogi Adityanath government is “bad”. He said he had raised the issue in a meeting of the state working committee of the BJP held recently in Lucknow.

An Apna Dal MLA has come out in support of the farmers agitating against three new agriculture laws of the centre.

The Apna Dal is an ally of the BJP government in Ut-



BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait speaks to media outside Andhra Pradesh Bhavan, in New Delhi

tar Pradesh and this is the first time that the party Legislator had defied the coalition discipline.

Apna Dal (S) MLA Amar Singh Chaudhary told reporters, “It seems that the government has no problem with people and farmers getting angry. It looks like the aim is not to make a handful of industrialists unhappy.” The government and the BJP are not trustworthy, BKU president Naresh Tikait alleged on Wednesday, as he hit out at the Centre over the contentious agriculture laws.

“This movement will continue for long, make it a part of your routine.” “The government and the BJP are not trustworthy,” the farmer leader said, according to a statement issued by BKU’s national media in-charge Dharmendra Malik. “More people like (Meghalaya Governor) Satyapal Malik will come forward. The farmers respect their truth. BJP MPs are now feeling

suffocated,” Tikait said.

Attacking the government for not paying tributes to farmers who died during their protest, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said his two-minute silence in the memory of the 300 men who sacrificed their lives is not acceptable to the BJP.

He used the hashtag ‘300DeathsAtProtest’ to highlight that 300 farmers have so far lost their lives in the farmers’ agitation. “My 2 minute silence for the farmers who died during the agitation is not acceptable to the BJP. I will pay my tributes to the sacrifices of my farmers and labourers again and again. I am not afraid of those who fear my silence,” Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. In another tweet, he again attacked the government over job losses and cited a report claiming that a large number of EPF accounts were shut during the pandemic.

# WAZE ALSO A BIZ BARON

## 2 Cos have been struck off by Ministry of Corporate Affairs

### Another is involved in manufacture of TV, radio transmitters

SANJEEV SHARMA

NEW DELHI

SACHIN Hindurao Vaze, the senior Mumbai police officer who is being investigated is listed as a director in three companies namely Digi Next Multimedia, Multibuild Infracore and Techlegal Solutions.

Was Vaze a Mumbai cop or a business baron? And was there a conflict of interest? How a police officer like Vaze was holding directorships and equity in as many as three companies with business interests may be something that has been alleged and may become the point of another investigation into his business interests. Two of the companies have been struck off by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) while Diginext Multimedia is still listed as active. Shirish Thorat is listed as director on two companies.

There are reports that he was driving a Mercedes which used to be parked in police headquarters with a fake number plate with no questions asked.

Diginext Multi Media Limited was incorporated on September 27, 2011. It is classified as non-govt company and is registered at Registrar of Companies, Mumbai. Its authorized share capital is Rs. 500,000 and its paid up capital is Rs 5,00,000. The company status is active as per records. The company is involved in manufacture of television and radio transmitters and apparatus for line telephony and line telegraphy. Diginext Multi Media Limited’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) was last held on 30 September 2017. Its balance sheet was last filed on 31 March



2017. The company has been struck off the records by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The directors of Diginext Multi Media Limited are Venkatesh Appasaheb Waze, Sanyog Shivaji Shelar, Shirish Thorat, Alok Jayant Thakkar, Sumeet Mahendra Rathod and Sachin Hindurao Vaze. Its registered address is Office No 1, Kelkar Compound Court, Naka Thane, Thane, Maharashtra. Multibuild Infracore was incorporated on 19 January 2013.

It is classified as Non-govt company and is registered at Registrar of Companies, Mumbai. Its authorized share capital is Rs. 500,000 and its paid up capital is Rs. 500,000. It is involved in Building of complete constructions or parts

thereof; civil engineering

The directors of Multibuild Infracore Projects Limited are Sanjay Chandrakant Mashilkar, Sachin Hindurao Vaze, Uday Pundalik Wagle, Yash Uday Wagle and Vijay Pandhari Gawai.

Multibuild Infracore Projects Limited’s registered address is Office No 1, Radha Niwas, Kelkar Compound Court Naka, Thane (West), Thane.

Techlegal Solutions Private Limited was company incorporated on 5 February 2010. It is classified as Non-govt company and is registered at Registrar of Companies, Mumbai. Its authorized share capital is Rs 2,00,000 and its paid up capital is Rs 1,30,000. It is involved in Business activities.

# 400 UK, Brazil, South Africa virus variant cases in India

NEW DELHI

FOUR hundred coronavirus patients in India have so far have been found to be affected with three mutant variants first detected in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil, the government said today amid a worrying surge in several parts of the country. Of these, 158 cases were reported in the last two weeks. On March 4, there were 242 such cases across the country, the centre said. The three variants are believed to be more contagious or easier to catch. These three mutant variants also have the potential to re-infect people who have been previously infected with SARS-CoV-2, Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, citing findings from World Health Organization. “No case of re-infection by mutant variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus has been reported from India so far,” the Minister said.

The mutant strain from the United Kingdom was first reported in India on December 29 in six passengers who had returned from Britain. These were also the first cases of a mutant strain in the country, which has logged the second highest Covid infections in the world after the United States.

# NIA seizes Mercedes, Prado linked to Waze

MUMBAI

In the ongoing probe into the SUV case, the NIA has seized two more cars -- a Mercedes and a Toyota Land Cruiser Prado -- allegedly used by arrested and suspended Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Waze, official sources said here on Thursday.

The Toyota was even found parked near his Thane residence. Around mid February, these vehicles were reportedly driven around to conduct a recce of the spot outside Antilia building - the home of industrialist Mukesh Ambani - where a SUV Scorpio was found abandoned on February 25 along with 20 gelatin sticks and a threat letter.

The development comes two days after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) seized a Mercedes which was driven by Waze and the number of vehicles impounded by the agency has gone upto 6 till date including an Innova.

Earlier, the Maharashtra Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant had released a photograph of a Bharatiya Janata Party activist with the first Mercedes seized by the NIA on

Tuesday. “Why is the BJP in a hurry? The probe is on by a Central agency. We have seen over the past one year how the BJP makes outlandish allegations which ultimately falls flat on its face, be it the case of Palghar lynchings case or the death of Sushant Singh Rajput,” Sawant said sharply. He reiterated that the BJP was out to defame the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in the state since it was voted out of power. The BJP, however, rubbished the allegation claiming the party worker was only posing with the luxury vehicle which was purchased by his friend.

In a significant revelation, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said that the transfer of Mumbai Commissioner of Police Param Bir Singh was not a routine one and he was shunted out to ensure a “free and fair” probe in the cases of arrested police official Sachin Vaze and the SUV.

“Singh was removed as Mumbai Police chief to ensure that there is a thorough probe, free and fair... Two reputed agencies, the NIA and ATS are investigating, both are conducting the probes professionally,” he said.

# ‘Dangal’ sisters cousin commits suicide after losing bout

NEW DELHI

SHOCKING news from the wrestling circuit as top Indian wrestlers Geeta and Babita Phogat’s cousin Ritika Phogat allegedly committed suicide on Thursday. According to news reports, Ritika took her own life after she allegedly lost a wrestling tournament final in Bharatpur on Wednesday. She was only 17 years of age.

Part of the famous Phogat family, Ritika was competing at the state-level sub-junior, junior women, and men wrestling tournament. Ritika lost the final, which was played on March 14, by 1 point and committed suicide after not being able to bear the loss. Ritika had trained under Dronacharya Awardee Mahabir Singh Phogat, who was also reportedly present at the tournament. She was a student of the Mahabir Phogat Sports Academy.

Phogat sisters (Geeta and Babita) became a household name after winning Gold and Silver medals respectively in the 2010 Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi. Geeta was the first female wrestler from India to have won a gold medal in the CWG and even went on representing the nation in the 2012 London Olympics.

Later, their younger sister Ritu Phogat is a professional MMA (mixed martial arts) fighter and participates in the ONE Championship.

Their cousin sister Vinesh Phogat is one of the best freestyle wrestlers in the world and a medal hopeful at the Tokyo Olympics.

# BJP expels 15 for filing papers as independents

GUWAHATI

THE Assam Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday expelled 15 leaders, including former deputy speaker Dilip Kumar Paul, from the party for six years for joining the assembly poll fray as Independents after being denied tickets.

BJP state general secretary Rajdeep Roy said the party’s Assam chief Ranjeet Kumar Dass has approved the disciplinary action with immediate effect.

The list of 15 members include Paul, who resigned from the BJP after he was denied a ticket and is contesting as an Independent from Silchar constituency.

In a setback to the Congress in Kerala, senior party leader K Sudhakaran on Thursday said he would not contest against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Dharmadam constituency in northern Kannur district.

He said he did not get enough time to make any fundamental preparation at the constituency, which was inevitable ahead of contesting and so he did not want to be a contender at the segment during the April 6 Assembly polls.

West Bengal’s ruling Trinamool Congress supporters were involved in a violent clash with their arch rival Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) activists in East Midnapore’s Nandigram on Thursday.

The BJP alleged that Trinamool-backed assailants carrying lathis launched the attacks on their party workers in which one BJP worker received serious injuries.

Meanwhile, a plea has been filed in the Delhi High Court seeking direction to the Centre and Election Commission to debar campaigners and candidates from canvassing either permanently or for a stipulated time if they repeatedly violate the mandatory masking guidelines issued by the poll panel in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.



AGP supporters perform during the nomination filing procession of party candidate from West Guwahati Ramendra Narayan Kalita, in Guwahati on Thursday

## ‘Lord Ram’ joins BJP

KOLKATA: Days before assembly polls begin in West Bengal and three other states, actor Arun Govil, who played the role of Lord Ram in the famous TV serial Ramayan, joined the BJP on Thursday, saying his decision was triggered by TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee’s “irritation” to the chant of Jai Shri Ram. Govil joined the BJP in the presence of its general secretary Arun Singh and Union Minister Debasree Chaudhuri after the party announced the names of 148 candidates for the West Bengal assembly polls.

“West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s irritation to Jai Shri Ram was a trigger point for me to join the BJP. And there is nothing wrong in saying Jai Shri Ram....it is not a slogan, not even a political slogan. It is a way of life for us, it represents our culture and ethos,” he told the media.

## Mukul Roy in fray

Kolkata: The BJP on Thursday announced 148 candidates for the upcoming assembly polls in West Bengal, including the party’s vice-president Mukul Roy and its former state unit head Rahul Sinha.

The party continued with its strategy of fielding personalities from different walks of life and sitting MPs as it named folk artiste Ashim Sarkar from the Haringhata assembly seat and scientist Gobhardhan Das from the Purbasthali Uttar.

The party has fielded its former state unit chief Rahul Sinha from Habra and former Union minister and ex-TMC leader Mukul Roy from the Krishnanagar Uttar seat.

The BJP has so far announced five sitting MPs including an Union minister as its candidates for assembly polls in the state.

# Khela will end, vikas to start: Modi tells Didi

KOLKATA

COUNTERING Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress’ popular slogan “Khela Hobe”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday trained guns at the West Bengal chief minister countering her with politics of developments, instead of unabated violence.

“Didi says there will be a game but BJP says there will be employment generation, development and education. Didi’s match will come to an end and the process of development will start in Bengal,” Modi said at an election rally in Purulia.

Modi also took a dig at the issues like drinking water crisis, rampant corruption and violence across the state by the ruling Trinamool Congress in the past 10-years.

Mamata asserted that she will bring ‘parivartan’ (change) in Delhi after winning the upcoming assembly elections in West Bengal. The chief minister said that the BJP is targeting West Bengal with all its might as it knows that she will go for the Centre soon after securing victory in her state.

She accused the BJP of “stealing” her ‘parivartan’ slogan and remodelling it as ‘asol parivartan’ (real change).

“The BJP is afraid that if we win in West Bengal, then we will bring an alternative in Delhi and that is why they are targeting the state with all force,” she said while addressing a public meeting in Kalaikunda in Paschim Medinipur district in support of TMC candidates contesting the seats going to polls in the first phase on March 27.



# Naked statue of Netanyahu erected in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV

A statue resembling Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sitting naked in a corner was erected at Tel Aviv’s Habima Square, local media reported on Wednesday.

The bronze statue of Benjamin Netanyahu depicts him naked, squatting, and apparently relieving himself in Habima Square. Initially, municipal authorities set up barriers around the installation and posted a removal note on the statue, reported The Times of Israel.

Later, the statue was reportedly removed by Tel Aviv municipality inspectors, the report said.

According to the report, the statue was five-meters tall and weighed six tonnes. It was dubbed “Israeli Hero”. The artist behind the statue remains unknown.

# SC cancels 'tie rakhi for bail' order in sexual assault case

## Agreeing to the petitioners’ view, top court also issued directions for sensitisation of judges and lawyers

NEW DELHI

THE Madhya Pradesh High Court’s order in a case of sexual assault -- asking the accused to get “rakhi” tied by the woman to get bail -- was scrapped by the Supreme Court today. The top court, which was hearing a petition from nine women lawyers, ordered that in such cases, stereotypes must be avoided. The court also issued directions for sensitisation of judges and lawyers, agreeing to the petitioners’ view that it was “gross trivialization of the trauma suffered by the complainant.”

The petitioners had challenged the condition of the bail, contending that such orders objectify

woman.

“Bail conditions and orders should avoid reflecting stereotypical or patriarchal notions about women and their place in society...in other words, discussions about the dress, behaviour, or past “conduct” or “morals” of the prosecutrix should not enter the verdict granting bail,” the top court said in its order.

The Supreme Court said bail conditions “should not mandate, require or permit contact” between the accused and the woman. Such conditions should seek to protect the woman from any further harassment by the accused.

The order also said the courts, while adjudicat-



ing gender-related crimes, should not suggest or entertain any notions (or encourage any steps) towards compromises between the woman and the accused.

The case was linked to the bail order for one Vikram Bagri, who was in jail in Ujjain on charges of sexually assaulting a neighbour. In April 2020, he had fled a bail petition in Indore.

On July 30, the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court granted him conditional bail. One of the conditions was that the accused would go to the house of the woman on Rakshabandhan and get a rakhi tied.

The man also had to pledge to protect the

woman as a brother and give her Rs 11,000. He was also asked to pay Rs5,000 to the woman’s son for clothes and sweets.

The court had demanded that photographs of the event had to be submitted in the registry.

On October 16, the top court had put a freeze on the bail order and the release of the accused.

During the hearing, Attorney General KK Venugopal, who was assisting the court, questioned the condition imposed for grant of bail. The High Court judge, he said, had indulged in “plain drama” and gender sensitisation was required to arrest a trend of judges trivialising sexual offences and harming the dignity of victims.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### BICL's closure proposal in advanced stage

“Proposal for the closure of British India Corporation Ltd (BICL) is in the advanced stage. The corporation has been incurring losses since its nationalisation in the year 1981. The government approved revival schemes in November 2001, 2005 and 2011 also failed.”

— Smriti Irani, Union Minister



## SUSTAINABILITY

### ICAI develops SRMM model

Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI on Thursday said it has developed the first version of Sustainability Reporting Maturity Model (SRMM). The model is aimed at bringing out a comprehensive scoring tool based on report of the Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting that was constituted by the corporate affairs ministry in August 2020.

| FOREX (buy rates in ₹) |        |                    |       |
|------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------|
| US Dollar              | 73.25  | South              |       |
| Euro                   | 87.47  | African Rand       | 5.67  |
| UAE Dirham             | 20.34  | Hong Kong Dollar   | 10.74 |
| Thai Baht              | 2.59   | Japanese Yen       | 0.76  |
| British Pound          | 102.23 | New Zealand Dollar | 52.93 |
| Australian Dollar      | 57.19  | Saudi Riyal        | 21.26 |
| Canadian Dollar        | 59.02  | Swedish Krona      | 9.81  |
| Swiss Franc            | 79.14  | Singapore Dollar   | 55.1  |

DELHI FRIDAY 19 MARCH 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Kotak Life's campaign

Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited (Kotak Life) has launched its outdoor campaign in Vijayawada to increase awareness about Kotak Life's comprehensive health insurance product Kotak Health Shield. The campaign is also being rolled out in other cities including Hyderabad, Jaipur, Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Vadodara, Guwahati, Hubli, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Koch Thiruvur & Patna. Subhasis Ghosh, Head Marketing, Institutional Business and Alliances, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company said: "With continuous rise in chronic diseases, healthcare and health insurance should be people's top priority. To increase awareness of Kotak Life's first flagship health insurance product Kotak Health Shield, we have rolled out the second phase of our outdoor campaign. The sites in each city have been carefully selected keeping in mind high visibility, location and availability that would amplify our message".

### Tekie builds animated series

Tekie, a startup, has built an interactive animated educational series. Along with this, there are many activities that teach them about real world concepts and abstract sci-fi problems, with easy to consume lessons for kids in class 6th to 12th. The team invested three years in product development & research and launched the beta version in July 2020. Since then, it has grown to over 10,000 paid users and continues to expand at an unprecedented pace. A class of Tekie starts with a student watching an animated interactive video. Animated characters across the video introduce kids with the concept of programming.

### Ite launches new devices

Ite launched four new G-series Android TVs in India. Aligned with the Make-in-India initiative, the televisions are completely manufactured in India and are targeted towards aspirers and millennials from tier 3 and below markets who are vying for an upgrade to premium Smart TV experience. The product is available across two categories, 2K and 4K models, in different sizes from 32-inch to 55-inch. Prices start at Rs 16,999. "The G-series Android TV device offers access to 5,000 apps and 1,000 streaming apps to keep up with the content consumption behavior of our consumers. Our R&D team has aggressively focused on two major aspects like display and sound to ensure a superior viewing and listening experience," said Arijet Talapatra, CEO, Transsion India.

### BKT Tires partners with IPL teams

Balkrishna Industries (BKT Tires) announced that it will be sponsoring seven teams in the IPL 2021. The company is the official tire partner for Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Kolkata Knight Riders, Punjab Kings and Rajasthan Royals in the forthcoming T-20 League. The season marks BKT's first collaboration Bangalore team, and the second consecutive partnership with the remaining six teams, following Season 2020. "We are elated to be a part of this huge cricketing event that is known to bind our entire nation, for yet another season, after key-collaborations with the biggest global leagues. We believe deeply in the values that are inspired by the game of cricket such as leadership, generosity of spirit, resilience, and hard-work," said Rajiv Poddar, Joint MD, Balkrishna Industries.

# CBI books Cadbury for corruption, fraud

It allegedly paid bribes, misrepresented facts to avail benefits in Himachal Pradesh

NEW DELHI

THE CBI has booked confectionery major Cadbury India Private Limited (now known as Mondelez Foods Private Limited) for alleged corruption and misrepresentation of facts to fraudulently avail area-based tax benefits in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, officials said on Wednesday. After registering the FIR, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) carried out searches at 10 locations in Solan, Baddi, Mohali, Pinjore and Mumbai, they said. The FIR is an outcome of a preliminary enquiry registered by the agency, which showed that the company allegedly "paid bribes, misrepresented facts and manipulated records to fraudulently avail area-based exemption benefits (central excise and income tax) in Baddi, knowing full well that it was not entitled to avail area-based tax exemption benefits", the officials said.

"For availing the same, some members of the executive board of the company, along with key managers, collectively decided to manipulate records, engage intermediaries to route bribes and cover up all the evidence that had surfaced during the internal investigation," the CBI has alleged. Besides the company, the agency has booked a total of 12 individuals, including two then Central Excise officials, the then Cadbury India Limited (CIL) vice-president (finance



and compliance) Vikram Arora and its directors Rajesh Garg and Jailboy Phillips. CIL had set up a manufacturing unit at Sandholi village for manufacturing malt-based food (Bournvita). The unit started commercial production from May 19, 2005, the CBI has alleged in its FIR. Two years later, CIL proposed to expand production by setting up another unit for its products '5 Star' and 'Gems' as the second unit on the land acquired from Barmalt in 2007 in Baddi to avail an exemption from excise duty and income tax for 10 additional years, it has alleged.

The company decided to expand its capacity and avail tax benefits from May 19, 2005, for which it applied for an amalgamation of the two units, stating that it has decided

to have its second unit as a composite in the existing facility, the CBI FIR says. The approval was granted on March 7, 2008 by the Directorate of Industries, it added. About 15 months later, the company said its second unit has started production, for which it should be given tax benefits, which was not possible as the company had already stated that it would be a composite unit of an already existing factory, which was getting tax benefits from 2005, the agency has said. The company again applied for amalgamation and sought to set up the second unit as a different company - Cadbury India Limited Unit II - on March 29, 2010, two days before the cut-off date to avail the exemption, the CBI has alleged.

The company decided to expand its capacity and avail tax benefits from May 19, 2005, for which it applied for an amalgamation of the two units, stating that it has decided to have its second unit as a composite in the existing facility

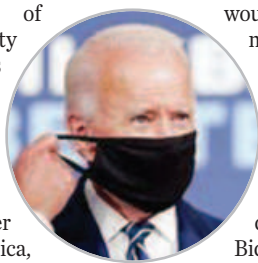
## WTO TRIPS WAIVER

### US lawmakers urge Biden to support India

WASHINGTON

A group of American lawmakers has urged President Joe Biden to support the move by India and South Africa before the World Trade Organization for an emergency temporary waiver of some Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) rules to enable greater production and supply of Covid-19 vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tests. The move comes after India and South Africa, along with several other countries, urgently went to the WTO seeking a time-limited waiver of the TRIPS agreement. The previous Trump administration had opposed such a move.

At a news conference here on Wednesday, the lawmakers Rosa DeLauro, Jan Schakowsky, Earl Blumenauer, Lloyd Doggett, Adriano Espaillat, and Andy Levin urged President Biden to support the emergency temporary waiver at the



WTO as requested by countries led by India and South Africa. The lawmakers said more than 60 US representatives would collectively write to Biden to announce support for the TRIPS waiver proposed by India and South Africa at the WTO.

The temporary TRIPS waiver would allow countries and manufacturers to directly access and share technologies to produce vaccines and therapeutics without causing trade sanctions or international disputes, they said. "The Biden administration has an obligation to reverse the damage done by the Trump administration and re-establish our nation's global reputation as a public health leader," said DeLauro. "As we see every day, the Covid-19 pandemic knows no borders.

Our globalised systems cannot recover if only parts of the world are vaccinated and have protection against the virus. We must make vaccines available everywhere if we are going to crush the virus.

NEW DELHI

THE Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) in a letter sent to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said foreign entities like Amazon and Flipkart are hell bent on ruthlessly destroying the Indian retail sector with their deep pockets and expansive lobby of legal experts who will stop at nothing before trampling the lives of over 40 crore Indians. CAIT in a communication sent to Goyal said that FDI in e-commerce section of Press Note No.2 of FDI Policy 2016/2018, the stipulations of which foreign entities like Amazon and Flipkart are hell bent on ruthlessly destroying the Indian retail sector with their deep pockets and expansive lobby of legal experts who will stop at nothing before trampling the lives of over 40 crore Indians.

"It is nothing less than a daylight robbery where expressive prohibitions of Press Note No.2 are grossly and blatantly being violated by such foreign entities derived with their ulterior motives to implement their hidden agenda to control and dominate not only the e-commerce

business but also the retail trade of India in a very clandestine manner", it said. CAIT said that instead of complying the stipulations of said Press Note both in letter and spirit to respect the law of the land, these foreign entities are deliberately each and every rule of the Press Note No.2 treating India as a banana republic.

Under such a grim situation and particularly in the wake of current highly vitiated e-commerce business, a duty is cast upon the Government to protect sanctity of the law, rules and regulations pertaining to FDI in e-commerce and therefore necessity of a new and fresh Press Note replacing Press Note No.2 of the FDI policy is need of the hour.



The loopholes of the present policy are being exploited by foreign e-commerce giants like Amazon and Flipkart so that these loopholes are properly plugged and the policy is implemented as per its original intent. CAIT said that such control allows them do predatory pricing, deep discounting, preferential treatment

# Covid 2<sup>nd</sup> wave fears haunt stock markets

Sensex sinks 585 pts, Nifty slumps 163 pts; IT stocks bear the brunt

MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmarks spiralled lower for the fifth consecutive session on Thursday as a resurgence in Covid-19 cases in multiple states fanned fears of a second wave of the pandemic, even as global markets darted up after the US Fed reiterated its dovish stance.

After rallying nearly 500 points earlier in the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex succumbed to selling pressure in afternoon trade to close at 49,216.52, down 585.10 points or 1.17 per cent. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slumped 163.45 points or 1.11 per cent to finish at 14,557.85. The Sensex has now lost 2,062.99 points in five sessions, while the Nifty has shed 616.95 points. After rising for the past few days, IT stocks bore the brunt of profit-taking in



## Investor wealth falls over ₹8 lakh cr

Equity investors became poorer by over Rs 8 lakh crore in five days of market plunge. The BSE benchmark has lost 2,062.99 points or 4 per cent in five trading sessions. Following the bearish trend, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies declined by Rs 8,04,216.71 crore to Rs 2,01,22,436.75 crore in five days.

Thursday's session. HCL Tech was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 3.97 per cent, followed by Infosys, Dr Reddy's, TCS, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries and NTPC. On the other hand, ITC, Bajaj Auto, M&M, Maruti and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers, rising up to 3.25 per cent. Traders said rising Covid-19 cases in various parts of the country and reimposition of localised restrictions have unnerved investors.

"Having seen a brisk gap-up opening on

positive global cues, domestic equities fell sharply for the fifth consecutive day as sharp rise in coronavirus cases in the country made investors jittery. The mounting concerns of possible fresh economic restrictions made enthusiasm of dovish commentary from Federal Reserve short lived for domestic markets. "Additionally, a fresh spike in 10-year US Treasury yield to 1.72 per cent also weighed on investors' sentiments. Notably, investors' wealth got eroded by over Rs 3 lakh crore today and around Rs9 lakh crore in last five trading days," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities.

### UBI inks pact with SMC Global

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

UNION Bank of India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SMC Global Securities Ltd., a retail brokerage house, offering online trading services to Union Bank of India customers through the portal www.smctradeonline.com apart from desktop & Mobile application. SMC has presence in more than 550 cities, which can service Union Bank of India's 9,500 branches. The trading platform is a high-end, integrated application for fast, efficient and secure execution of trades. This tie-up will help the bank provide additional services to its account-holders, increase the float and generate an additional stream of revenue for the bank, according to a bank media release.

Now, Union Bank of India e-trading client will maintain the bank account as well as the demat account with Union Bank of India and the trading account with SMC Global Sec. Ltd.

# RS passes bill to raise FDI in insurance

NEW DELHI

RAJYA Sabha on Thursday approved a bill to raise the foreign investment limit in the insurance sector to 74 per cent with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying while control will go to foreign companies, the majority of directors and key management persons will be resident Indians who will be covered by law of the land.

"The laws of the land are fairly mature. They can control every operation which happens in this country. No one can take money away and make us sit and watch," she said replying to a debate on the bill. Giving out reasons for the decision to raise the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit, she said insurance companies are facing liquidity pressure and the higher limit would help meet the grow-

ing capital requirement. On change of definition of 'control' of the insurance company with the hike in FDI limit, she said control means right to appoint a majority of directors, control the management of policy decisions including by virtue of their shareholding or management right or shareholder agreements or voting agreements. By raising the FDI limit to 74 per cent, the current provision of control being vested with Indian companies had to be dropped. But conditions have been attached to the control.

"Majority of directors in the board and key management persons to be resident Indians which means every law of the land will be applicable on them. And a specific percentage of the profits is to be retained as general reserves. It cannot be (taken away)," she said.



Bosphorous Boxing tournament

# Nikhat stuns world champ Ekaterina, enters quarters



ISTANBUL

BOXER Nikhat Zareen beat reigning world champion Paltceva Ekaterina to enter women's 51kg quarter-finals at the Bosphorus Boxing Tournament in Istanbul, Turkey.

Asian Championships bronze medallist Nikhat caused a major upset on the second day of the tournament as she outpunched the Russian boxer 5-0. The Indian pugilist will now have yet another tough task in hand as she takes on two-time world

champion Kazakh boxer Kyzaiyab Nazym in the last-8 bout on the third day.

Apart from Nikhat, 2013 Asian champion Shiva Thapa, Sonia Lather and Parveen also registered victories in their respective categories to proceed into the quarter-finals.

While Assam boxer Thapa got better of Kazakhstan's Smagulov Baghtiyov 3-2 in the men's 63kg bout, World Championship silver medallist Lather (57kg) and Parveen (60kg) beat local favourites Surmeneli Tugcenaz and Ozyol Esra 5-

0 in their respective women's second round matches.

Meanwhile, Duryodhan Negi (69kg), Brijesh Yadav (81kg) and Krishan Sharma (+91kg) made exits with the losses in the preliminary rounds.

The third day of the event will witness six Indian boxers fighting in their respective quarter-final bouts. Lather, Zareen, Parveen and Jyoti (69kg) will be seen in action in the women's category while Thapa and Solanki will present Indian challenge in the men's category. (ANS)

# India keep series alive with win

AHMEDABAD

SHAARDUL Thakur kept his nerves in the final over of the fourth T20I match against England at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on Thursday. The 8-run win helped India levelled the five-match T20I series 2-2. The series decider is scheduled for Saturday at the same venue.

Defending 23 in the final over, Thakur was hit for a four and a six by Jofra Archer off the second and third balls respectively, then followed by two wides. But the pacer had Chris Jordan caught by Hardik Pandya off the penultimate delivery. Then, a dot ball followed.

Earlier, debutant Suryakumar Yadav's 31-ball 57 and Shreyas Iyer's 37 (off 18 balls) helped India post their highest total of the ongoing T20I series

against England in the fourth



match at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Thursday. India posted 185/8 in 20 overs.

The hosts lost openers K.L. Rahul and Rohit Sharma early. The opening pair put on 21 before Rohit Sharma was caught and bowled off a slower ball. Rahul, fighting to retain his place in the Indian team following a couple of ducks, stayed on as Yadav went berserk but couldn't make much of an impression. He fell for 14 in 17 balls.

Yadav, who got off the mark in international cricket with a six over fine leg, hit three sixes and smashed six fours. He followed his Mumbai Indians teammate Ishan Kishan to score a half-century on debut. Kishan achieved the feat in

India's Suryakumar Yadav leaves after his dismissal during the fourth T20 match against England in Ahmedabad on Thursday. Suryakumar, who replaced an injured Ishan Kishan, struck six fours and three sixes in his 31-ball maiden 57 to top score for India after being asked to bat. He debuted in the second T20I but did not bat in that match

the second T20 International on March 14.

Skipper Virat Kohli, batting at No. 4 and a slot behind Yadav, could make just one but Rishabh Pant chipped in with 30 off 23 balls.

Iyer, however, provided the late flip to take India to a fighting total. Among England bowlers, Jofra Archer was the most successful, picking four for 33 while Mark Wood was again economical going for just 25 in his four overs and picking one wicket.

Earlier, England had won the toss and elected to bowl.

## 4TH T20I SCOREBOARD

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| India   |     |
| Rohit Sharma c and b Jofra Archer .....   | 12  |
| KL Rahul c Jofra Archer b Stokes .....  | 14  |
| Suryakumar Yadav c Malan b Sam Curran .....   | 57  |
| Virat Kohli st Jos Buttler b Adil Rashid .....  | 1   |
| Rishabh Pant b Jofra Archer .....   | 30  |
| Shreyas Iyer c Malan b Jofra Archer .....   | 37  |
| Hardik Pandya c Stokes b Mark Wood .....  | 11  |
| Shardul Thakur not out .....  | 10  |
| Washington Sundar c Rashid b J Archer .....   | 4   |
| Bhuvneshwar Kumar not out .....   | 0   |
| Extras: (lb-5, w-4) .....   | 9   |
| Total: (For 8 wickets in 20 overs) .....  | 185 |
| Fall of wickets: 21-1, 63-2, 70-3, 110-4, 144-5, 170-6, 174-7, 179-8  |     |
| Bowling: Adil Rashid 4-1-39-1, Jofra Archer 4-0-33-4, Mark Wood 4-1-25-1, Chris Jordan 4-0-41-0, Ben Stokes 3-0-26-1, Sam Curran 1-0-16-1 |     |
| England   |     |
| Jason Roy c Yadav b Pandya .....  | 40  |
| Jos Buttler c Rahul b Kumar .....   | 9   |
| David Malan b Chahar .....  | 14  |
| J Bairstow c W Sundar b Chahar .....  | 25  |
| Ben Stokes c Yadav b Thakur .....   | 46  |
| Eoin Morgan (c) c W Sundar b Thakur .....   | 4   |
| Sam Curran b Pandya .....   | 3   |
| Chris Jordan c Pandya b Thakur .....  | 12  |
| Jofra Archer not out .....  | 18  |
| Adil Rashid not out .....   | 0   |
| Extras: (lb-5, w-4) .....   | 6   |
| Total: (For 8 wickets in 20 overs) .....  | 177 |
| Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-60, 3-66, 4-131, 5-140, 6-140, 7-153, 8-177  |     |
| Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-1-30-1, Hardik Pandya 4-0-16-2, Shardul Thakur 4-0-42-3, Washington Sundar 4-0-52-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-35-2   |     |

# Lakshya enters maiden last 8, Sindhu through

BIRMINGHAM

LAKSHYA Sen on Thursday became the youngest Indian male shuttler to reach the All England Championship quarterfinals, where Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu joined him with an easy win at the Super 1000 tournament here.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, recorded a dominant 21-8 21-8 win over Denmark's Line Christophersen in a completely lop-sided second-round match.



Earlier, the 19-year-old Lakshya from Almora, who had claimed five titles in 2019, saw off France's Thomas Rouxel 21-18 21-16 to make it to his maiden quarterfinals. However, it was curtains for HS Prannoy and

B Sai Praneeth after the duo went down in the men's singles second round on Thursday. Lakshya, who had claimed the Asian Junior Championships title, the World Junior champi-

onships bronze and Youth Olympics Games silver in 2018, will next face Netherland's world no 36 Mark Caljouw.

Sindhu will take on Japan's third seed Akane Yamaguchi. In the men's singles,

Prannoy, a former top 10 player couldn't find his way across world number 1 Kento Momota, the Japanese playing his first event since a horrific accident that saw him undergo an eye surgery last year.

The Indian lost 15-21 14-21 in a 48-minute match to bow out of the competition. (PTI)

# 'Arjuna' Srinivasa Rao passes away at 65

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KARIMNAGAR

MADASU Srinivasa Rao (65), a recipient of the Arjuna Award for Outstanding Sports Talent, died at a private hospital in Hyderabad on Thursday morning. He has been suffering from carcinoma (lung cancer) for some time. He was in a coma for a few days. He has wife, two sons and a daughter. The funeral was held in his hometown Peddapelli district Sultanabad mandal Garrepally amid tears of sports fans.

He had won many medals in badminton, shooting, table tennis, fencing and weightlifting in the Paralympics, World Championships, Asian meet and Commonwealth Games. He has also won several wheelchair marathons.

Anjana Reddy, an international Para Athlete said, "Srinivasa Rao played an important role in his success in the sport of disabled. He has been a mentor to many para athletes. Losing a great friend is painful."

Born into a middle class farmer family in Garrepally village, Srinivasa Rao joined RTC as a mechanic by profession. He was inherently active and passionate about sports. He attained training in the sport of para athletics at the suggestion of Siddhareddy, a district sports employee. He had received the Best National Disabled Employee awarded from President Shankar Dayal Sharma in 1994 and inspired by this award he established the Erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Paraspport Association affiliated to the National Sports Association and continued as its president for a long time.

Srinivasa Rao won gold at the 1996 Paralympic World Shooting Championships in London and has represented India at the Paralympics in Barcelona. He had participated in many international competitions and won medals too.

In 2002, he won gold at the World Para Badminton in Bangalore. The Government of India awarded the Arjuna Award in 2003 and holds the record of being the first athlete to receive the Arjuna Award in the Para Ath-



letes category from joint Andhra Pradesh. He received the award from the then President Abdul Kalam. On receiving the award, the then CM YSR presented him a reward of Rs 1 lakh. In 2017, the Telangana government honoured him with the 'Divyangasphoorthi' Award. Srinivasa Rao played a key role in bringing home registration fees free to international players.

He won gold in the men's doubles Asian Para Badminton in Malaysia in 2004 and a bronze medal at the 2006 Badminton Singles Open in Israel. He represented India at the 2010 Asian Para Fencing in Guangzhou, China. He also participated in the 2010 Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay in Delhi and received a memento from AP CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Srinivasa Rao took to long-distance running with the participation in Mumbai Marathon in 2006. He then finally won the 10K Marathon held in Bangalore in 2018.

He was an inspiration to many to become paraathletes. Anjana Reddy and Raghuram are among those players who were inspired by him and have won medals at the international level.

Karimnagar Collector K Shashanka mourned the death of Srinivasa Rao and DYSO Rajaveer attended the funeral as a government representative. Telangana Judo Association General Secretary G. Janardhan Reddy, Karimnagar District Olympic Committee vice-presidents Tummalam Ramesh Reddy, Mohammad Kareem and treasurer N.Siddareddy, and sportspersons attended the funeral.

## T20 WC regional qualifiers deferred

NEW DELHI: The 2022 T20 World Cup qualifiers in Africa and Asia have been postponed due to Covid, the International Cricket Council said on Thursday.

The Asia A Qualifier, which is two steps away from the 2022 T20 World Cup set to be played in Australia, was due to be hosted between April 3 and 9, 2021 involving Bahrain, Kuwait, Maldives, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. It will now be played in Kuwait from October 23 to 29 this year.


The Sub Regional Africa A and B Qualifiers, which are three steps away from the World Cup, were due to take place in South Africa in April 2021 and have been rescheduled to October 25-31 this year. (ANS)


## India Legends beat WI Legends

RAIPUR: Sachin Tendulkar-led India Legends stormed into the final of the first edition of the Road Safety World Series (RSWS) T20 after beating West Indies Legends by 12 runs at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium. Chasing 219 to win, West Indies were restricted to 206/6 in 20 overs.

Tendulkar (65) led the way with a half century after Virender Sehwag's (35) entertaining cameo. Yuvraj Singh then smashed three sixes to finish on 37 off 20 and India were 218/3 at the end of their 20 overs.


Windies were buoyed by a 99-run stand between opener Dwayne Smith (63) and Narsingh Deonarine (59). Deonarine and captain Brian Lara (46) then took Windies to within 24 runs off the last two overs. **Brief scores:** India Legends 218/3 in 20 overs (Sachin Tendulkar 65, Yuvraj Singh 49 not out, Yusuf Pathan 37 not out; Tino Best 2/25) beat Windies Legends 206/6 in 20 overs (Dwayne Smith 63, Narsingh Deonarine 59 not out, Brian Lara 46; Vinay Kumar 2/26) by 12 runs.





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