



# THE HANS INDIA

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## WINDOWS



Women purchase 'rakhi' on the eve of Raksha Bandhan festival, in Chikmagalur district on Sunday

## NITI Aayog suggests creation of Dak Bank

**New Delhi:** In a bid to further deepen financial inclusion in the country, the NITI Aayog has suggested the creation of a Dak Bank -- postal bank -- by merging the regional rural banks, among other recommendations to the government. In a recent presentation to the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Ministry, the NITI Aayog has suggested the over 1.5 lakh post offices in the country should be made outlets for the proposed Dak Bank, sources said.

## World's highest rail bridge ready by 2022

**New Delhi:** The world's highest railway bridge over river Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir will be ready by next year, and will connect the Valley with the rest of India by train for the first time by 2022, officials said on Sunday. The bridge, which has a central span of 467 metres, is being built at a height of 359 metres from the bed level. The height of Qutab Minar in Delhi is 72 metres and that of the Eiffel Tower in Paris is 324 metres. "This is the tallest railway bridge in the world and the maximum designed wind speed for the bridge is 266 kmph," a senior government official said.

## WOMENIA



## NEETA LULLA ON JOINING OSCAR VOTING BODY FOR 2020

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# Shah tests positive for Covid

## Admitted to hospital, Union Minister alerts contacts

**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday tested positive for COVID-19 infection and has been admitted to a hospital.

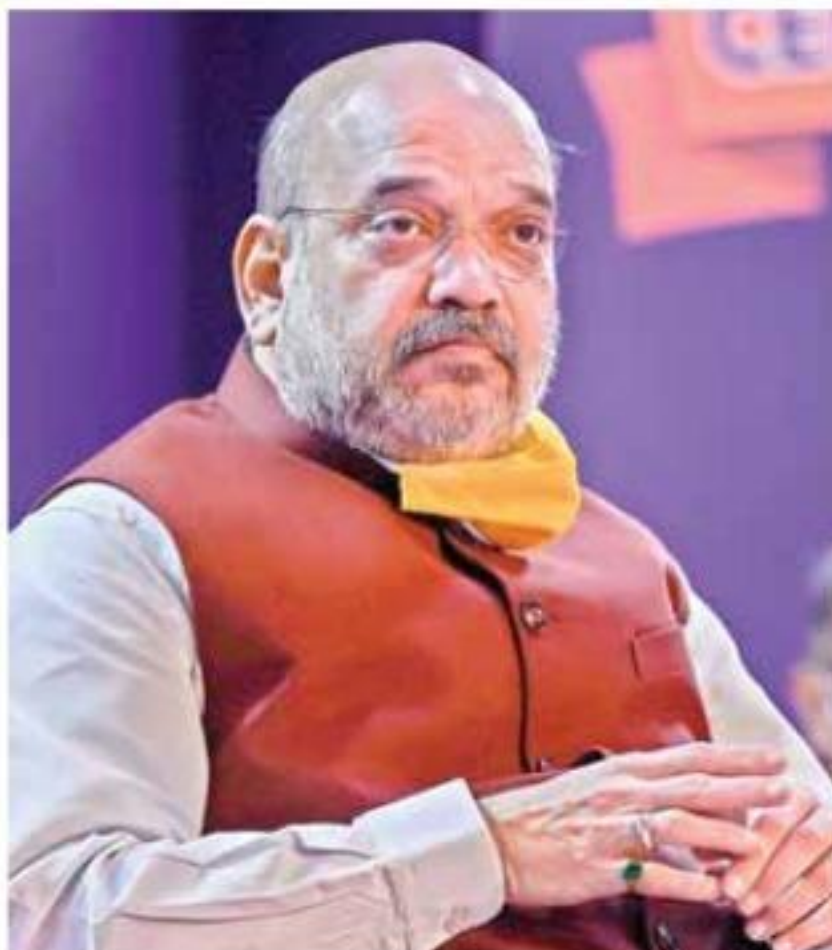
Shah (55) took to social media on Sunday to report his infection. "I have tested positive but my health is fine," he said, adding that he has been hospitalised on the advice of doctors. The Union Home Minister also appealed to those who came into close contact with him in the last few days to get themselves tested for COVID-19.

"I request those who came in contact with me in last few days to get tested for coronavirus and isolate themselves," he wrote in a message on Twitter.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted, "Amitji, your perseverance and willpower has been an example for every challenge. I believe you will definitely win over this big challenge of coronavirus. I pray to God for your speedy recovery."

BJP president JP Nadra wrote, "Received news of Union Home Minister Amit Shah testing COVID-19 positive. I pray to God for his speedy recovery."

Madhya Pradesh CM, who had too tested positive for COVID-19 infection last week, wrote, "May



God heal you completely soon and you join the service with full energy. We wish you all the best!"

Senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy wished recovery to Shah on Twitter and wrote, "I am sorry to hear from news media that Amit Shah has to be admitted to hospital because he has tested positive for Coronavirus. I wish him speedy recovery and pray for his early discharge."

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote, "I pray for the speedy recovery of Hon'ble Home Minister Shri @AmitShah ji."

## TN Governor tests positive for Covid

**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has tested positive for COVID-19, Chennai Kauvery hospital said on Sunday. The Governor has been advised home isolation and he will be monitored by a team of professionals from the hospital. The update came just hours after he was taken to the hospital in the morning. "The Governor's condition is mild, asymptomatic and he is clinically stable," said a Kauvery hospital official.

## UP MINISTER FALLS TO COVID

### Govt announces State mourning

**Lucknow:** The Yogi Adityanath government has announced a state mourning after the demise of Uttar Pradesh Minister Kamala Rani Varun. The minister, 62, died of coronavirus on Sunday. She had been admitted to the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) on July 18.

The council of minister held a condolence meeting and observed a two-minute silence on the occasion. The cremation will take place in Kanpur later in the day.

According to an official statement issued by Prof R K Dhiman, Director SGPGIMS, the minister had comorbidities in form of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and hypothyroidism.

"She had bilateral pneumonia at admission and was shifted to ICU on the day of admission itself because of high oxygen requirement. Later, she required non-invasive ventilation (NIV) with high oxygen requirements. "On evaluation,



she had all the features of severe disease and she was given Inj. Remdesivir followed by Tocilizumab following which she had transient improvement in her clinical status for few days but again her condition started deteriorating with progressively increasing NIV and oxygen requirements," the statement said. She was immediately transfused with convalescent plasma and steroid doses were hiked.

She was put on mechanical ventilator on Saturday but her condition continued to deteriorate with hypotension and multi organ dysfunction and succumbed to her illness.

# ICMR moots registry of Covid-19 patients

**New Delhi:** The ICMR in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry and AIIMS is planning to set up the National Clinical Registry which will help researchers and policy makers understand effectiveness of investigational therapies, adverse effects taking place and generate evidence for improving the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

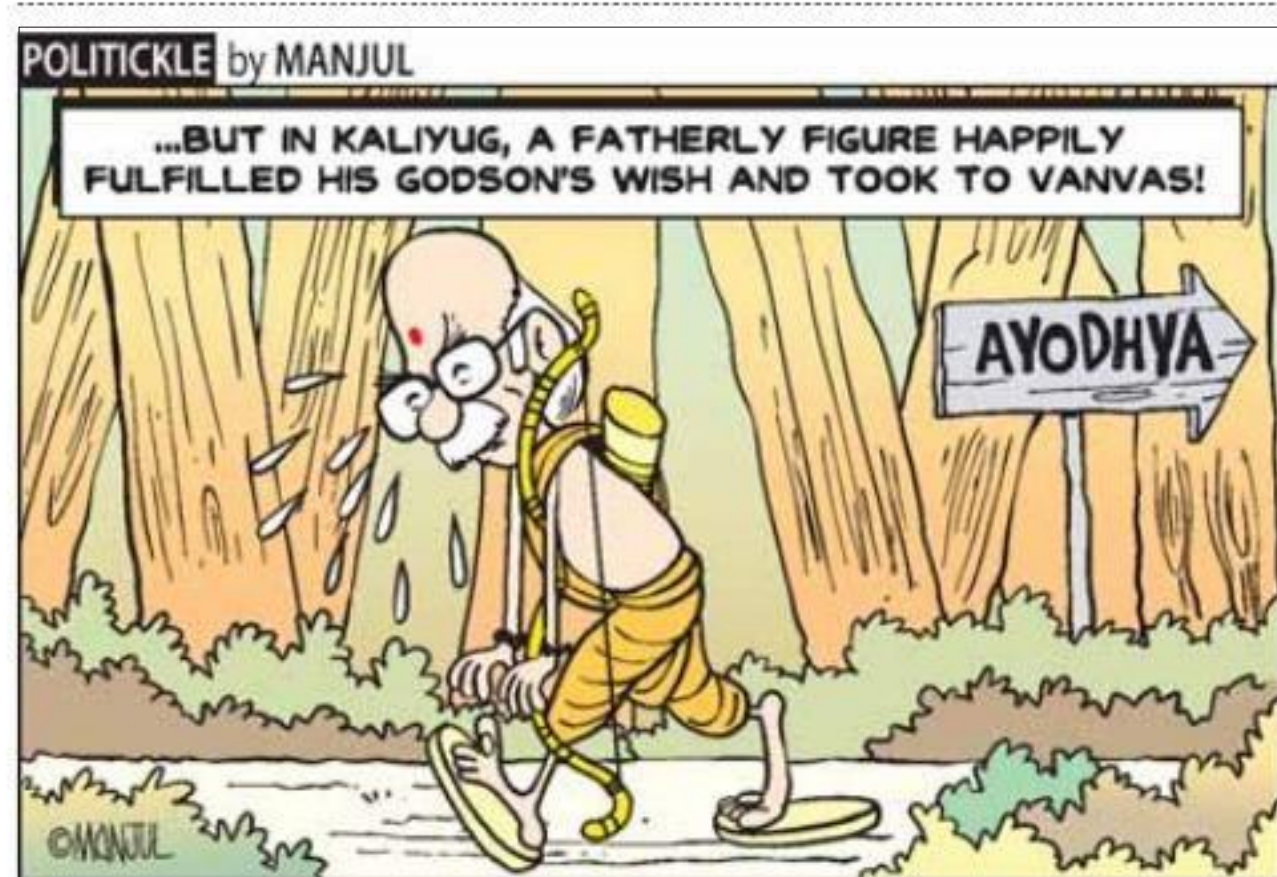
"The aim is to collect

data of the hospitalised COVID-19 patients like clinical and laboratory features, their demographics, comorbidities, treatment outcomes, complications in all age groups among others," officials said.

The novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 and the illness it is causing has so many unknown parameters that are a barrier to the proper understanding and management of the disease,

they said. "A systematically collected, comprehensive database covering different regions of the country will enable both researchers and policy makers to generate pertinent hypotheses, to inform crucial understanding of COVID 19, to detect trends in the progression of the pandemic and to accordingly calibrate response to the pandemic," an official said.

Continued on Page 5



## RAY OF HOPE?

# Chennai techie claims Chandrayaan 2 rover intact

## ISRO probing images shared by techie

**Chennai:** Space enthusiast and techie Shanmuga Subramanian has claimed that rover Pragyan of Chandrayaan-2, the Indian Space Research Organisation's moon mission, is intact on the lunar surface and had rolled out a few metres from the lander.

He had previously found the debris of India's moonlander Vikram. NASA had given credit to Subramanian, while sending him an e-mail on how his discovery had assisted its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera team to find the site of the primary impact, along with other debris at the impact location.

In a series of tweets along with the pictures of the moon surface, Subramanian said, "Chandrayaan-2's Pragyan 'ROVER' intact on Moon's

surface and has rolled out few metres from the skeleton Vikram lander whose payloads got disintegrated due to rough landing. "We have received com-

the rover... but the lander was not able to communicate it back to the earth," Subramanian said.

Tweeting a picture taken by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), Shanmugam said the white dot might be the skeleton lander devoid of other payloads and the black dot might be the rover.

According to him, the rover may be still intact on the moon's surface. Latest pictures from LRO (Jan 4, 2020)

showed rover tracks on the moon from the lander. He said the debris he had found earlier might be from one of the payloads. The debris found by NASA might be of other payloads, transmitting antenna and thrusters.

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## Army braces for a long winter as India, China talk disengagement

**New Delhi:** The fifth round of Corps Commander-level talks between India and China were held on Sunday to take forward the stalled disengagement process at Pangong Tso and Gogra-Hot Springs, and to discuss the restoration of status quo in the Depsang Plains region in eastern Ladakh.

The talks took place at 11 am in Moldo on the Chinese side of Line of Actual Control (LAC) as standoff enters 90th day.

The waiting game is on in the treacherous heights of Eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese troops have been involved in a tense face-off for the last 13 weeks.

While both sides have stepped back in Galwan Valley and Hot Springs as agreed upon, the other two friction points — Pangong Tso and PPI7 Gogra — have seen minimal progress. The pulling back has been stalled at Pangong Tso and Depsang Plains and 50 soldiers from both sides remain in a stand-off.

So far, four rounds of Army Cdr level talks, two rounds of WMCC meetings and one virtual meet between Special Representatives of India and China, Ajit Doval and Wang Yi have taken place.

Lt Gen YK Joshi, GOC-in-C, Northern Command, had earlier said that troops will continue to be deployed on ground till status quo ante is achieved, that is, till the Chinese go back to their pre mid-April positions. Sources said the Indian Army is preparing for 40,000 personnel to spend the winters in Eastern Ladakh. It is also going ahead with emergency purchases of high altitude clothing and Arctic tents.

Continued on Page 5

# NEP adds breakfast in menu for schoolchildren

**New Delhi:** The mid-day meals provided to students in government or aided schools should be supplemented by breakfast, the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has proposed.

The policy which was approved by the Union Cabinet earlier this week has noted that morning hours after a nutritious breakfast can be particularly productive for the study of cognitively more demanding subjects and hence recommended expansion of the mid-day meal scheme to include provisions for breakfast in schools.

"Children are unable to learn



optimally when they are undernourished or unwell. Hence, the nutrition and health (including mental health) of children will be addressed, through healthy meals and the introduction of well-trained social workers, counsellors, and community involvement into the schooling system," the policy said. "Furthermore, research shows that the morning hours after a nutritious breakfast can be particularly productive for the study of cognitively more demanding subjects and hence these hours may be leveraged

by providing a simple but energizing breakfast in addition to mid-day meals," it added.

In locations where hot meals are not possible, a simple but nutritious meal — groundnuts or chana mixed with jaggery and local fruits may be provided.

"All school children shall undergo regular health check-ups especially for 100 pc immunization in schools and health cards will be issued to monitor the same," the policy said.

The revised policy has proposed that prior to the age of 5 every child will move to a "preparatory class" or "balvatika".



# Womenia

## Exploring weaves of India

**Ipsita Dash and her sister Vinita Dash work with weavers in remote areas across India and sell sarees, accessories and more**

TEJAL SINHA

Work pressure and corporate career slowly buried Ipsita's creativity. After working with several Multi National Companies like Caritor and Infosys, she choose to start her own venture named 'Testmind' that prepares engineering graduates for the workforce.

Having a degree in Fine Arts, She has a strong inclination for colors and patterns. She relocated from Bangalore to Noida, and was not physically present for TestMind, and then moved out of it.

Ipsita shares, "The creative person inside me which was lost somewhere due to work pressure and busy schedules, had its calling! I really wanted to infuse my creativity with the beautiful traditional weaves of our country, to offer appealing curated products to my customers. Thus, started 6yardsandmore in 2016, November."

Her sister Vinita is the Co-Founder in our company. She is also an Engineer and artistic. She is located in Middle East and looks into our Global Operations. They source their products from all the corners of India, ranging from Assam, to Tamil Nadu and Lucknow to Rajasthan. The weavers are usually placed in remote villages in various states.

Their collection covers the master weaves from all 4 zones of our country, even those which are unexplored or unknown to many. They also try to share the story behind such treasured weaves with our customers, so that they appreciate these even more. She says, "There was travelling involved in the beginning phase. Once we explored the areas and did the quality check, we finalised the weavers from specific areas who are completely authentic and trustworthy. In present situation, we connect with them online."

Along with sarees, they also have fabrics, dupattas and stoles, ethnic wears, traditional handcrafted jewellery handcrafted all types of bags, which have traditional ikat, kalamkari and block prints fabric. Their sales were earlier done in exhibitions and now through various online platforms. They also have a page for Non Resident Indians,

'Pravasi' by 6yardsandmore, giving

women residing outside India, to stay connected with their roots and traditional and authentic weaves.

As a person, Ipsita was always inclined to 'Giving back to Society' and started a Trust called 'Aastha' for children with special needs and old people who were abandoned by family.

In continuation with this, 6yardsandmore also strongly relates to this cause and provides a helping hand to Hunar Foundation by providing them a complete non profitable marketing and selling platform. They also promote their products and get new orders for them, in a pure non-profit sharing basis.

'Pravasi by 6yardsandmore' is an exclusive page for Non-Resident Indians in various parts of the world. It has products specially curated for people staying abroad while keeping their preferences, choices and comfort in mind. They also provide them extra services like fall, pico, blouse stitch which is not easily available in foreign.

"During the initial period of this Pandemic, we faced a few challenging situations. The supply of raw materials was hit which effected the availability of our products. The transportation of products and our courier services were slow and closed in many sectors. There was a major dip in the buying pattern of customers, especially in March to May segment," adds Ipsita.

However, they saw the change in trend for good by end of May. There was a sudden surge in people buying online. They were more relaxed with handling of parcels with basic precautions. Their courier partners were also more regularised in their operation, though with a delay.

TWEET PATROL



**EESHA REBBA**  
**@YOURSEESHA**

Absolutely loved every single character n emotion of #UmaMaheswaraUgraRoopasya !  
@ActorSatyaDev as usually u wer amazing n outstanding performances by d whole cast n crew.  
A big congratulations to @mahaisnotanoun @Shobu\_ 🎉



## Neeta Lulla on joining Oscar voting body for 2020

Celebrated costume designer Neeta Lulla is happy to join the Oscar Panel this year, and says the role comes with a lot of responsibility.

Lulla was among the 819 artistes and executives who have received invitations to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

"The responsibility it brings is the responsibility to communicate correctly. When you are part of such an esteemed jury, you need to communicate to them correctly, you need to be in sync with what they're talking about in terms of what are the new kind of films coming up, and the genres that are coming up, be true to reading them, be true to judging the films that come to you. A great deal of responsibility goes with it," Lulla told.

The 2020 invitees also include Bollywood stars Alia Bhatt and Hrithik Roshan, documentary director Nishtha Jain, writer Sabrina Dhawan, casting directors Nandini



Shrikent and Tess Joseph, visual effects artistes Vishal Anand and Sandeep Kamal, and V. Senthil Kumar, the co-founder of the digital streaming company Qube Cinema Technologies.

The invitation, when accepted, gives one voting rights to the 93rd edition of Academy Awards.

Lulla's period films "Devdas" (2002), "Jodhaa Akbar" (2008) and "Manikarnika" (2019) were recognised by the Academy.

"I was completely taken aback when that underlying aspect of the clip came in. And I was like, this is a body that has recognised

my work and knows what 'Devdas' and 'Jodhaa Akbar' are! There's a sense of pride that they have actually noticed these films and they have seen the work over, and then came the clip where they spoke about the visual grandeur and visual colour combinations of 'Manikarnika'. It was like people are noticing India and people are noticing the kind of work coming from India," declared Lulla, who was also seen in "Decoded Season 2", a short-format fashion series on TLC and Discovery Plus app.

## Watermelon Day

Well, the concept behind Watermelon Day is a very simple one; it is all about celebrating this tasty and delicious fruit. Watermelon is a type of fruit that is enjoyed all around the world. Not only does it taste delicious, but it offers a lot of nutritional benefits as well, so you don't need to feel guilty about enjoying as much watermelon as you want, which is always a plus.



TODAY

## Prepare your pet for post lockdown life

ASKARI JAFFER

As the lockdown around the country begins a phased relaxation, we are witnessing many returning to their old jobs. As we gradually return to the life we're used to living, we need to prepare our pets to move away from the life they've now got used to.

"Our pets have gotten used to having us around the house all day for almost 6 months, and now that this is going to change, pet parents need to take steps to ensure this shift is easy on their beloved charges," says Devanshi Shah, founder, Petkonnnect.

She shares some tips with to help you prepare your pet for this change.

### Preparing for a loud environment

We have all grown quite fond of the beautiful silence of nature, that everyone has had the pleasure of enjoying these last months. From the pollution free skies, to the return of wildlife like we haven't seen in a while; I'm sure you've enjoyed the lovely song of birds chirping. The same goes for our pets, many of whom may now find the old sounds of a busy street quite startling if not scary.

To prepare them for these noises, we need to start gradually exposing our pets to the outside world again. Shortening the walk or play time is advisable, as it allows them to experience these noises in smaller doses. What is also very important is to keep all pets leashed. A sudden loud noise

like a car horn could frighten an animal, causing it to run off in fear. At this point a leash will ensure you're not chasing your pet down a long road!

### Training for Independence

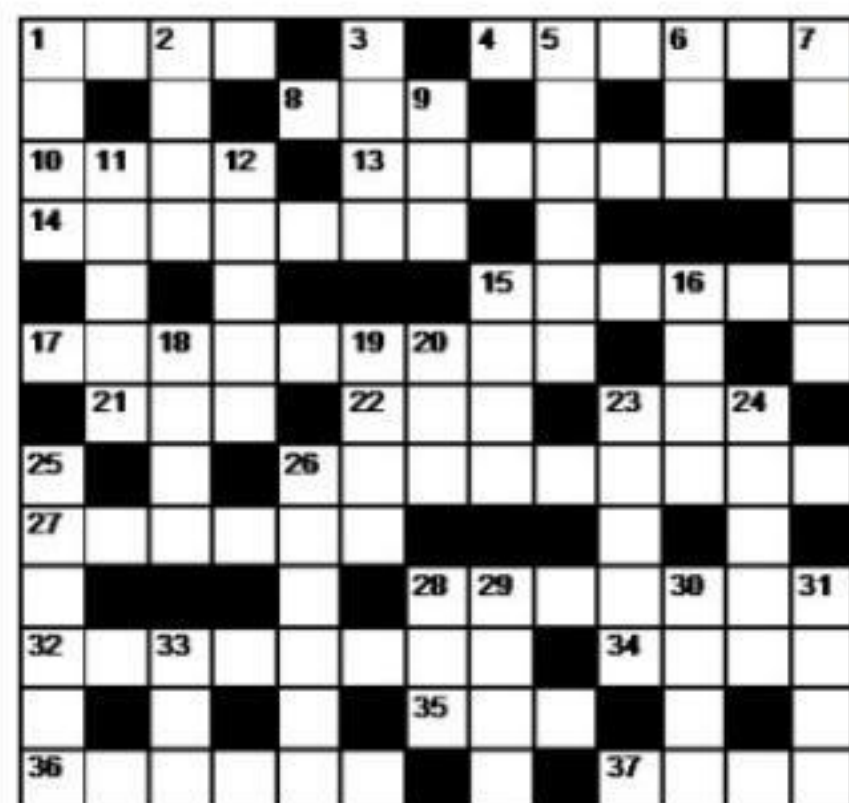
I feel I can say, with great confidence, that our co-dependency with our pets has greatly risen during the lockdown. Not only have they loved to have us at home all the time, but we too have loved to grab them for a good cuddle to fight the lockdown blues. It's time we started giving them some space, so they get used to being alone again. Try keeping your pet alone in a room in a house for an hour or two a day. Increase the number of hours gradually, so they learn to

start enjoying their own company once again. Try to begin this practice a few weeks before returning to work.

### Tire them out

There is no substitute for a good workout. As you return to your life of work, I would urge pet parents to set that alarm a little early. Maybe try getting up an hour or half an hour earlier than usual, and get in a morning walk or play session with your pets. This morning exercise will tire your pets, and have a very positive impact on reducing any form of anxiety your pet may feel during the course of the day. They'll also be very grateful to you for making the extra effort to show your affection to them.

**The sooner you begin preparing your pets, the lesser of an impact they will feel when you leave home for the larger part of the day**



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 1

## CROSSWORD

### Across

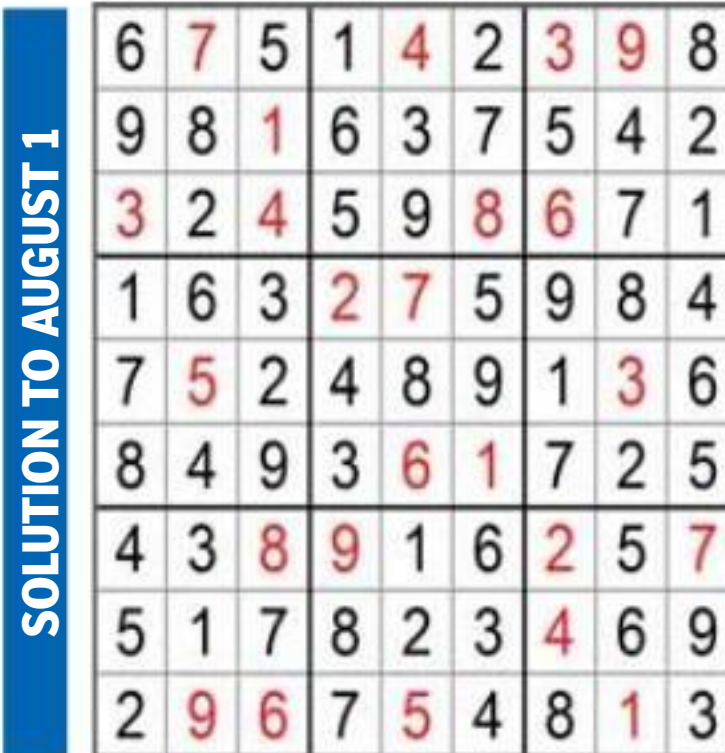
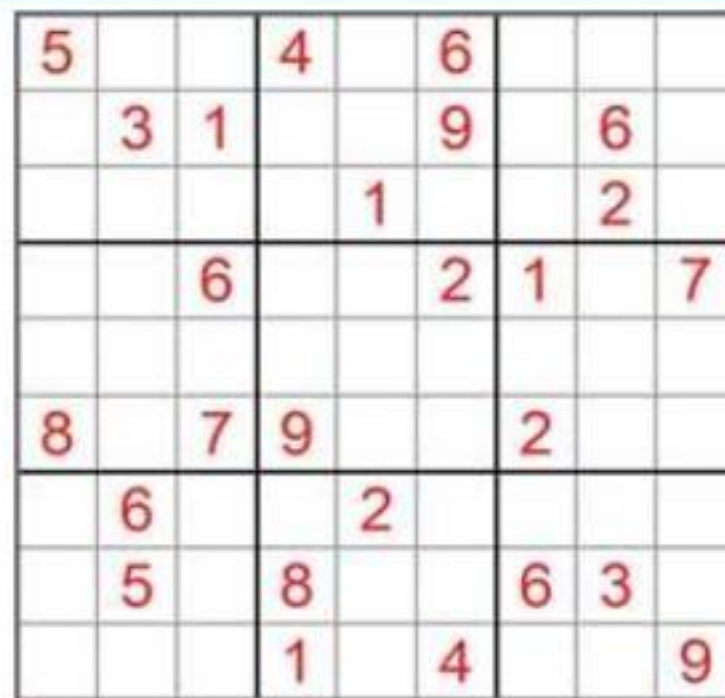
- 1 Be abrupt (4)
- 4 Blood clots (6)
- 8 Droop (3)
- 10 Puts to service (4)
- 13 Pilfers (8)
- 14 A small, round orange fruit (7)
- 15 Desired by police? (6)
- 17 Indian royalty (9)
- 21 Chop (3)
- 22 At a distance (3)
- 23 Weep (3)
- 26 Everlasting (9)
- 27 A shaded area (6)
- 28 Weasel-like animals (7)
- 32 Supplemental part (8)
- 34 Genuine (4)
- 35 Needlefish (3)
- 36 Most certain or confident ? (6)
- 37 Stronghold (4)

### Down

- 1 Arab marketplace (4)
- 2 Attention-getter (4)

- 3 California wine valley (4)
- 5 Muslim teacher (6)
- 6 Japanese middle manager? (3)
- 7 Within (6)
- 9 Intestine (3)
- 11 Twilled fabric of silk (5)
- 12 Red indian woman (5)
- 15 Twist (4)
- 16 You in old English (4)
- 18 Daughter of Cronus (4)
- 19 Western classic For \_ \_ Dollars More (1,3)
- 20 Glass container (3)
- 23 Begin (5)
- 24 African tongue (5)
- 25 Prestigious statuettes (6)
- 26 Indicates a direction (6)
- 28 A pear-shaped fruit (3)
- 29 Test (4)
- 30 Therefore (4)
- 31 Irish clan (4)
- 33 For each (3)

## SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 1

## NEWS ROUNDUP

### Anushka Sharma wishes 'Friendship Day' to old buddies

Actress Anushka Sharma, who comes from an army background, has remembered all her old friends with whom she lost touch with when their families got posted to different places.

Anushka took to Instagram, where she shared a throwback picture of herself along with some of her childhood friends.

Alongside the image, she wrote, "You make a lot of friends in your life and each one of them has an important part to play in it. Knowingly or unknowingly, they all leave an impression on us. Some of them continue to be in touch and some you think of very fondly and their memories inevitably land up bringing a smile to your face."

"Being from an army background a lot of the friends we made but lost touch with them as and when their families got posted to different places."

"This one's for all our friends. To the ones we've grown up with and the ones who are with us today... Wishing everyone a very happy friendship day!"

Anushka's husband and star cricketer Virat Kohli took to the comment section and dropped a heart emoji.

Recently, Anushka and Virat pledged to help people hit by the devastating floods in Assam and Bihar.

On the work front, she was last seen in "Zero" with Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif. As a producer, she is enjoying back-to-back success, with her web series "Pataal Lok" and the digital film "Bulbul".





# 80 per cent nod in favour of education in regional languages

**New Delhi (IANS):** The new National Education Policy (NEP) announced by the central government last week has introduced major reforms in Indian education at all levels. For languages, it lays emphasis on learning in the mother tongue or regional language as the medium of instruction till Grade 5, to promote multilingualism. The NEP has also given a list of foreign language electives students can take from the secondary school level.

"Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at



least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language, mother tongue, local language or the regional language. Thereafter, the home or local language shall continue

to be taught as a language wherever possible. This will be followed by both public and private schools," said the policy.

In an Inshorts poll, participated in by over 2 lakh users, 80

percent of the respondents supported the move of making mother tongue/regional language the medium of instruction. However, many are saying they want to stick to English language as the medium of instruction.

"As a parent, I feel the reform in NEP was a much needed reform because in some way the focus was shifting only to the English language which is why kids were not very familiar with their mother tongue or Sanskrit or any other foreign language. Through this reform, students can make their base strong in

language from the very beginning. Changing the medium of instruction will add important and enriching options as well as will promote multilingualism in the country.

"The most interesting fact is that students can now avail facility of learning foreign languages also at the secondary level. Through this reform children can now learn three languages at the same time which will definitely help them in further studies in different regions with different languages. I think this reform will surely add on fun learning methods,"

NCR-based parent Niti told IANSLife.

"A language is mainly a utilitarian tool for acquiring knowledge. While promoting regional languages is indeed beneficial, making multiple languages compulsory is detrimental to both the social and human capital of the country. English already provides access to global knowledge as well as is being used uniformly in the majority of the IT workplaces globally," Shubhajit Jagadev, Executive Director, EduSkills opines.

Notably, in the new National Education Policy, Indian gov-

ernment has included Korean, Japanese, Thai, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian languages at the secondary level among the foreign languages to be offered.

The government also pointed out that foreign language vocabulary should be updated in the textbooks and other printing materials. The suggested foreign languages are Korean, English, French, German, Hebrew and Japanese for this. The new policy will replace the existing policy that was formulated in 1986. This revision has come after 28 years.

## New edu policy will create digital divide, says Cong

**New Delhi (IANS):** Stepping up its attack against the Centre's new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Congress has said that it will create a digital divide in the country.

Addressing a press conference, former HRD Minister Palam Raju and Chief spokesperson of Congress Randeep Surjewala said that the NEP 2020 misses the fundamental goal of human development and expansion of knowledge.

The party said that the NEP 2020 which aimed to pave the way for transformational reforms in "school and higher education" is high on catchwords, gloss, appearance and verbosity but lacks coherent implementation roadmap and strategy, clearly defined milestones and the critical finances necessary to execute this grand vision.

"NEP will lead to increased segregation of the poor and disadvantaged by creating a 'digital divide'. More than 70 per cent children of marginalised sections may be completely ex-



cluded as seen during access to online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will also make the rural versus urban divide even stronger on account of absent or diminished internet connectivity/access to computers in the rural areas." Randeep Surjewala said, adding that there is no discussion of SC/ST/OBC and deprived class.

The Congress criticised the timing of the NEP 2020 in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic when all educational institutions are closed, which is questionable. The party said that almost the entire academia has complained of no consultation, no discussion and no deliberations, except with BJP-RSS affiliates.

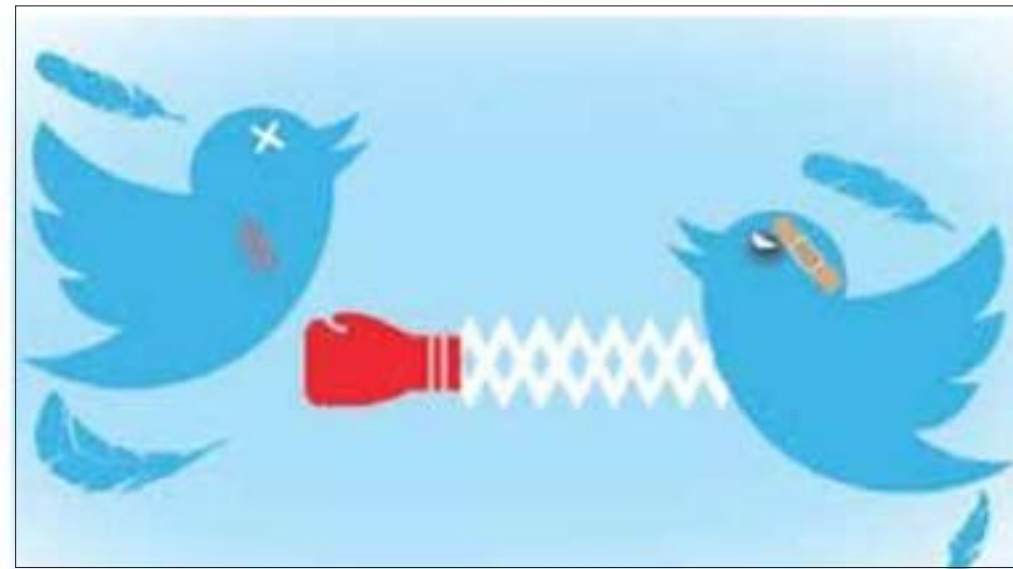
## Congress leaders busy fighting Twitter wars

**New Delhi (IANS):** Internal discord in the Congress is out in the open since Friday as some former Union ministers have launched an offensive on Twitter against members of Team Rahul.

On Friday, party leader Manish Tewari started the attack and it continued on Saturday but on Sunday he trained his guns on the BJP.

After Tewari came out on Twitter to defend 10 years of the UPA under then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he found support from fellow UPA ministers - Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor and Milind Deora who hit out at the "ill informed" team of Rahul Gandhi and asked them to introspect on the 2019 poll defeat.

The war within the party erupted when the younger leaders questioned the seniors and demanded introspection on con-



secutive poll defeats on 2014 and 2019 and blamed UPA rule, sources said.

The man in the firing line is Rajeev Satav, the newly-elected Rajya Sabha member who is in charge of Gujarat Congress and is a former Youth Congress President close to Rahul Gandhi, who raised the issue of decimation of

the party and blamed UPA rule.

But Satav also hit back and called it "malicious" as he slammed the senior leaders for dragging the name of Manmohan Singh, and he was supported by Manickam Tagore and Sushmita Dev.

Satav tweeted "Dr Singh has made commendable contribu-

tions to building modern India. He will always be held in high regard. I will discuss my comments, or those made by any other esteemed colleagues, on internal party forums only."

He was supported by Manickam Tagore who tweeted "Absolutely agree with Rajeev Satav. There is merit in keeping party discussions within the party. This is the time to combine our efforts to fight and defeat Modi/Shah and RSS."

Sushmita Dev also supported his sentiments as Satav said "The malicious attempt to draw Dr Manmohan Singh into this exchange is reprehensible. To say my observations cast a shadow over Dr Singh's leadership of UPA II is a lie, a total misrepresentation of facts. I hold Dr Singh in high esteem. He is above reproach."



## Sonia discharged from hospital, condition stable

**New Delhi (IANS):** Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi was on Sunday discharged from the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here, three days after she was admitted, according to a health bulletin.

Her condition was stable at the time of discharge, said Dr D.S. Rana, Chairman (Board of Management), Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

The 73-year-old Congress patron was admitted to the hospital for routine tests and check-up on Thursday.

She was under the care of Dr Arup Kumar Basu, a chest and respiratory medicine specialist. On Thursday, she had chaired a meeting of the party Rajya Sabha MPs which went on for more than three hours.

## Yogi emerges as BJP's new poster boy for 'Hindutva'

**Lucknow (IANS):** As the countdown begins for the 'bhumi puja' of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the BJP has found a new poster boy of "Hindutva" in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. With the BJP's original Hindutva mascot Kalyan Singh slipping into political retirement, Yogi Adityanath has emerged as much younger and stronger Hindu icon. Ever since he assumed the office of Chief Minister in March 2017, Yogi has made it a point to constantly reaffirm his commitment to the Hindutva ideology.

By declining to address the Muslim community at the Eidgah on Eid-a-tradition followed by all Chief Ministers- refusing to lift the ban on sale of meat on Bakrid, the Chief Minister has reinforced his image as a Hindu leader.

Even after becoming Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath continues to remain the chief priest of the fa-



mous Gorakhnath temple in Gorakhpur, wears saffron robes and performs his religious duties without fail.

Without any qualms, the Chief Minister led the shifting of Ram idol from the original site to the makeshift structure at Manas Bhawan in March this year and is regularly seen offering prayers at various Temples.

He initiated the 'Deepotsav' function during Diwali in Ayodhya and has been working overtime to turn Ayodhya into a major tourist

hub. Yogi has effectively translated his religious following into his political following and devotees of the Goraksh Peeth openly swear by his popularity as the Chief Minister.

Interestingly, Yogi's popularity as a Hindu icon has now soared past the popularity of leaders who played key roles in the temple movement.

Kalyan Singh, now 88-year-old, lost much of his sheen when he revolted twice against the BJP - in 1999 and then in 2009- and joined hands in between with Samajwadi patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and formed his own party. He played caste politics and decimated his stature as a Hindu leader.

L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi, the two stalwarts of the temple movement, have faded away from public memory to a great extent after they were eased out of active politics. The likes of Vinay Kati-

yar, Uma Bharti have also been side-lined from mainstream politics and are past their prime, apart from being largely unknown to the millennials.

Besides, unabashed showing his religious leanings, Yogi Adityanath has also impressed many by ensuring development of Ayodhya - a city that had remained steeped in backwardness for decades.

The Chief Minister has aggressively promoted religious tourism in Uttar Pradesh and his repeated visits to the holy cities like Ayodhya, Mathura and Kashi reaffirm his commitment to Hindutva.

In a rare departure from established traditions, Yogi Adityanath penned an article in which he made an emotional appeal to the people to light lamps and candles in their homes to mark the 'bhumi puja' which will turn the dream of Ram temple into reality.

## Mandatory BCG vaccination linked with slower Covid-19 growth

**New York (IANS):** Adding to the growing evidence that early BCG vaccination may be helpful in taming the Covid-19 spread, scientists now claim that countries with mandatory BCG vaccination until at least the year 2000 tended to exhibit slower infection and death rates during the first 30 days of the outbreak.

By applying a statistical model based on their findings, the researchers further estimated that only 468 people would likely have died from Covid-19 in the US as of March 29 - which is 19 per cent of the actual figure of 2,467 deaths by that date - if the US had instituted mandatory BCG vaccination several decades ago.

Martha Berg, the study's lead author from University of Michi-



gan (U-M) and colleagues focused on changes in the growth rates of Covid-19 cases and deaths, while controlling for variables including diagnostic test availability, median age, per capita GDP, population size and density, net migration rate, and various cultural differences such as individualism.

Their findings suggest that national policies for universal BCG vaccination can be effective in the fight against Covid-19 - an association that merits clinical investi-

gation. "Available evidence demonstrates that BCG vaccination, typically given at birth or during childhood to prevent tuberculosis, can also help strengthen immunity against various other infectious diseases - perhaps including Covid-19," the authors wrote in a paper published in the journal Science Advances.

To reach this conclusion, Berg and colleagues analyzed the day-by-day rate of increase of confirmed cases in 135 countries and deaths in 134 countries in the first 30-day period of each country's outbreak.

Mandatory BCG vaccination correlated with a flattening of the curve in the spread of Covid-19, the analysis showed.

## RAKSHA BANDHAN GOES DIGITAL THIS YEAR

**New Delhi (IANSLife):** With travel restrictions and physical distancing becoming the new normal this year, traditional visits to our siblings for Rakhi this year are being substituted by virtual Rakhis sent online.

Major e-commerce sites have seen massive jump in the number

of orders placed for rakhis and e-gifts given the restrictions and apprehensions about travel and social distancing. Snapdeal saw rakhi orders jumping three-fold as more users have opted to buy or send Rakhis online. Adding to the trend, Snapdeal's shoppers moved to completely digital solu-

tions for Raksha Bandhan this year by choosing E-Gift cards as the topmost Rakhi gift.

The platform witnessed a surge in the sale of digital gift cards two weeks before Rakshabandhan. It logged an increase of 70 per cent in the sale of these cards, vis-à-vis last year, the company an-

nounced in a statement. Last year, travel accessories like go-pro mounts, selfie sticks, and backpacks were widely picked as Raksha Bandhan gifts. Ethnic clothes were also widely bought as gifting. This year, as India continues to be cautious of the virus, digital gift cards saw a big boost

in sales. "The number of Rakhis sold this year exceeds the number of Rakhis sold in the last two years combined. This is primarily due to the shoppers exercising caution and avoiding the festival linked travel," the company said. Flipkart has also seen a sale of over 1,00,000 rakhis per day. Overall, the platform has seen 2x growth as compared to previous

year in terms of units sold. The North is the largest chunk in the pie, with almost 45 per cent demand coming from the region, followed by Eastern states with 25 per cent share, the company said. The top 10 cities generating demand are New Delhi, Bangalore, Patna, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Lucknow, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata and Gurgaon



Young women tie rakhis on the wrists of Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on the eve of Raksha Bandhan festival, at International Border Octroi post in Suchetgarh, Jammu

## 3-year-old boy dies after swallowing coin in Kerala

**Kochi:** Three-year-old boy died after he accidentally swallowed a coin at his home near Aluva, with relatives alleging that government hospitals where he was taken to had refused to admit him as he came from a COVID-19 containment zone.

Health Minister K K Shailaja termed the incident as "very unfortunate" and directed the Principal Secretary (Health) to submit a report after a thorough enquiry. Stringent action would be taken if any lapses were found, she said in a statement.

The boy's relatives alleged that he was denied treatment as his residence fell in a COVID-19 containment zone at Kadungallur near Aluva. They said the incident occurred on Saturday morning following which the parents took the child to the Aluva government hospital, where an X-ray was done and re-

vealed the presence of the object. However, the hospital authorities allegedly did not admit the child. A senior doctor there claimed that the boy was not admitted as there was no paediatric surgeon and so he was referred to the Ernakulam General Hospital.

Doctors there examined the child and referred him to the Government Medical College Hospital, Alappuzha, for better medical care, where too he was allegedly not admitted. The doctors reportedly advised the parents to give their child fruits, which, they said, would result in the coin passing through his motion. The parents, who belong to a poor family, took the child back to their home in Kadungallur. However his condition worsened by evening and they rushed him to Aluva government hospital, but he died en route, police said.



## 'People may demand Modi's resignation if pandemic, economic crisis not tackled'

**Mumbai:** Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said people may seek Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation if problems like job losses are not resolved. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, 10 crore people have lost their livelihood and the crisis has affected 40 crore families, Raut claimed in his weekly column 'Rokthok' in the Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana'.

Salaried middle class people have lost their jobs, while the trade and industry have suffered losses to the tune of about Rs four lakh crore, the Rajya Sabha member said.

"There is a limit to people's patience. They cannot just survive on hope and assurances. Even the prime minister will agree that even though Lord Ram's 'vanvas' (exile) has ended, the present situation is difficult. No one had



ever felt so insecure about their lives," Raut said.

"Israel is witnessing protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and there are demands for his resignation over the failure to tackle the coronavirus pandemic and economic crisis. India, too, could witness

the same," he said.

Taking a dig at the Centre, Raut listed its "measures" to contain the coronavirus situation and the "economic crisis".

He said Section 144 (prohibitory orders) was imposed around the Ambala Air Force station to protect the five Rafale jets

(on their arrival from France recently). Before Rafale, Sukhoi and MiG aircraft have come to India, but such a "celebration" was never done, he said.

"Will Rafale jets with the bomb and missile carrying capacity be able to destroy the crisis of unemployment and economic challenges?" Raut asked.

Hitting out at the Centre, he said attempts were made to destabilise the (Congress-led) Gehlot government in Rajasthan, and there is a possibility of imposition of President's rule in that state.

Raut noted that BJP leader Pragya Thakur has said reciting 'Hanuman Chalisa' daily will rid the world of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also pointed that gold prices have reached Rs 5,00,000 per 'tola' (one tola is 10 gm).

## IS intel chief killed in Afghanistan

**Kabul (IANS):** Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security (NDS) has said that it killed Assadullah Orakzai, the intelligence head for the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), it was reported.

The NDS told TOLO News that the IS commander was killed on Saturday during an operation near Jalalabad city, the capital of Nangarhar province.

"The Special Units of the NDS have eliminated Ziurrahman known as Assadullah Orakzai, the native of Akhel Orakzai agency of Pakistan during a targeted operation," the agency said in a statement late Saturday night.

According to the NDS, Orakzai was involved in plotting deadly attacks on a number of military and civilian targets in Afghanistan.



## Tourism sector needs Centre’s urgent attention

While Covid-19 pandemic resulted in most sectors facing sizeable and immediate revenue loss, a few sectors including aviation, tourism and hospitality were badly affected by the pandemic. Though the Centre has announced some relief to the MSMEs, tourism and hospitality sector has virtually been kept aside though they happen to be one of the high revenues earning sectors. Ever since the lockdown 1 was announced, the tourism sector had suffered a sort of irrecoverable loss and despite several recommendations from the associations urging the government to come to their rescue, the government has not focussed its attention on this sector. This sector has lost one season, the summer and are hoping against hope that the government would come up with necessary SoPs to push start the sector once again at least by October. This will be the only sector to suffer nine months adverse impact as March-October is the best time for them. Yet, the government did not deem it fit to focus its attention on tourism sector, association leaders aver. The associations rue that tourism supply chains have broken down in India across all its key inbound, domestic and outbound markets. The direct and indirect impact of Covid-19 on this industry is estimated

to be over 10% of the GDP which in terms of money would be around Rs 20 lakh crore in India. This value covers the whole tourism value chain from airlines, travel agents, hotels, tour operators, tourism destinations restaurants, tourist transportation and tourist guides. Each of these segments of tourism is non - performing and may have to stay so for next three months or so if not more. Pending refunds for travel agents, pending payments from clients, vacant hotels and restaurants, empty conventions and wedding halls, no order in pipelines for tour operators, no visible bookings for peak October-March season, no corporate travel, no religious or spiritual events, no sea and river cruises, camping, rafting, golf, film tourism has resulted in breaking the backbone of the industry. Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH), the policy federation of all the national associations representing the complete tourism, travel and hospitality industry of India for the past six months has been requesting the government to see that some steps for survival and revival of the tourism industry be taken. It wants the government to create a tourism fund which can take care of the employees, one year moratorium on principal and interest payments by tourism, travel and hospitality business, full year waiver of all Central and State statutory liabilities like PF, ESI, income tax, GST, fixed power and utilities tariffs, property, excise, interstate tourist transportation taxes and license fees, all without any accumulated or penal interest. Tourism has one of the largest economic multipliers and FAITH based upon its industry estimates believes that each rupee

spent on tourism could have an economic multiplier of upwards of 3- 4 times and hence the government should take measures to come to the rescue of this industry. It wants that the policies evolved by the government should not only aim at the major players but those even who are into B2B in tourism sector. They have not been able to earn even a rupee in the last six months. “Tourism can be a platform to overcome the pandemic,” said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. The time has come to restart tourism, given its multiplier effect on the economy, jobs and people, both socially and psychologically, added Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary General, UNWTO. Their argument is that if people travel, even for short vacations, they can unshackle the seemingly unshakeable viral chains on the economy.

They can be the engines for the post-Covid-19 growth era. If people cross physical barriers, they can help re-energise factories. If we are not scared to embark on fresh journeys, we will implicitly, in the words of Guterres, “promote solidarity and trust”, which are imperative to fight and win over the virus. Many States will suffer if tourism lags in the revival of the economy. The consequences for specific regions and districts can be disastrous. These are evident from the ground reports. A holistic approach is required to kick-start tourism. There have to be combined efforts by policymakers at the national and State levels. There is an overpowering desire among people to take short vacations — anywhere, even for a day or two. Of course, they are scared about their health. But if given a safe environment, they are willing to take the holiday plunge.



## A first-hand account of 3-decade-old Ayodhya movement

SA HEMANTH

A week is a long time in politics, is a famous quote of British Prime Minister Harold Wilson. If a week is a long time, then 30,786 weeks must be like an eternity. That is the distance in time Bharat has travelled ever since Moghul invader Babar destroyed the temple that stood on the birthplace of Lord Ram in the holy temple-town of Ayodhya and the Bhoomi Poojan that is scheduled to take place on 5 August 2020.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads a battery of leaders belonging to the Hindu movement to lay the foundation stone on August 5 for the construction of a grand temple befitting the stature of Lord Ram at Ayodhya, history will be in the making. An injustice that was done in 1528 is being undone in 2020. It is nothing but an epoch-making and momentous event in the life of all those who believe and feel proud that Lord Ram is our ancestor.

As I sat glued to the TV watching the announcement made by Ram Janabhoomi Nyas Trust that the ground breaking ceremony would be held on August 5, I could not control tears rolling down from my eyes. I was a living witness as well as a participant in the three-decade of Ayodhya-related movements and now I am a living witness to the history in the making.

For someone like me who has participated in all the four Rath Yatras and present in two of the three Karsevas at the holy temple-town of Ayodhya related to the Sri Ram temple movement, 5 August 2020 will be an emotionally memorable day.

I am not aware if the Supreme Court consciously decided to pronounce its verdict in this centuries-old dispute on 9th November 2019. Call it irony or coincidence, it was on this day three-decades ago, 9 November 1989 the first Karseva was performed in Ayodhya. The foundation stone was laid for the construction of a grand temple befitting the stature and personality of Lord Ram.

The four yatras that were taken out starting 1986 to rekindle the spirit of cultural nationalism and awaken the Hindus to realise their cultural ethos as well as remember their national hero Lord Ram were – (a) Sri Ram Janaki Rath Yatra; (b) Sri Ram Jyoti Rath Yatra; (c) Sri Ram Shila Rath Yatra and (d) 10,000 Kms Somnath-Ayodhya Rath Yatra undertaken by the then BJP President LK Advani.

While I took part in the first three yatras in various parts of Karnataka, I was part of

the Somnath-Ayodhya Advani's Rath Yatra for about 6,000-Kms. I was fortunate to have travelled in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and some parts of Bihar.

Just before the commencement of the Somnath-Ayodhya Rath Yatra, I was sitting with Karnataka Kesari Late Jagannath Rao Joshi, in my capacity as his Sahayak at Kaushik Ashram in Pune, Maharashtra. When the decision was made known to Jagannath Rao Joshi that Advani was going on Rath Yatra, he said spontaneously, “Advani is going to be the man who will lay a strong foundation to guide the course of India's destiny to occupy its rightful place of Vishwa Guru in the comity of nations”. Karnataka Kesari Jagannath Rao Joshi is no more today. He passed away in July 1991. But he has proved to be prophetic. He asked me to take part in the Rath Yatra and keep reporting on daily basis over phone.

This “biggest mass movement ever the country has seen since Independence – as Advani prefers to put it – began on September 25 1990 from Somnath in Gujarat and abruptly ended on October 23 when Advani was arrested at Samastipur, Bihar. I was present at Samastipur when Advani was arrested and taken away by the District Magistrate to Masanjore Dam Guest House near Dumka on Bihar-Bengal border to be kept as detainee for the next fortnight.

The choice of Somnath to launch the Rath Yatra for mobilising solidarity of the people is just not casual or accidental. It was a conscious decision taken by Advani. By choosing Somnath as the point where his Rath Yatra starts, Advani sent out a message that it is high time for the government to “emulate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel” on Ayodhya.

The alliterative slogan – “Sardar & Somnath; Advani & Ayodhya” reverberated throughout the country. Advani also penned a small handbook titled “A Tale of Two Temples” thus highlighting the scant disregard shown to Ayodhya while Sardar Patel demonstrated exemplary courage and political will to re-build Somnath temple.

The reverence that the people have for Lord Ram is only to be seen to believe. Millions who thronged various Rath Yatras actually wanted to touch the tyre, the vehicle and the people manning Rath Yatras. Advani's public meetings were attended by lakhs. In fact, at Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Mandasaur (Madhya Pradesh), the crowd was to the tune of about five to seven lakhs. And they heard Advani in rapt attention.

Advani brought out five dimensions of the Ayodhya movement. 1) Philosophical (that Ram Janabhoomi is axiomatic – self-evident – as millions of Hindus since time immemorial believe that Ram was indeed born there and hence a grand temple is a must.

2) Historical (that Ram may not be a God to many, but he can still be our national hero, our proud ancestor and hence Indians irrespective of their religious denomination need to identify with Ram and not with Babar. Ram is a native India and Babur was a foreign invader. It is wrong to say that Muslims will identify with Babur. Advani also argued that the government must emulate Sardar Patel.)

3) Ideological (that Ayodhya is essentially an issue of cultural nationalism that has tremendous potential to cement the Hindu-Muslim relationship if handled rightly).

4) Political (that the Ayodhya issue was politicised by constituting Babri Masjid Action Committee and used as a symbol of secularism. But Advani demolished this argument by saying that it was actually pseudo-secularism that was practised by most of the non-BJP parties. His argument that secularism had become a euphemism to show their hate against Hinduism caught the imagination of the people).

5) Legal (that the issue is not to find out whether Ram was indeed born there or not. The issue was whether any temple preceded the mosque; whether any temple was demolished and upon which a mosque constructed? Advani said this can be ascertained by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) excavations which commenced in 2002 when he was the Deputy Prime Minister of India. The Allahabad Court too had said something similar.

I regret for not being present at Ayodhya during Karseva 2 on October 30, 1990 when hundreds of Karsevaks were shot dead by the trigger-happy Mulayam Singh government. But I was fortunate to have been present in Ayodhya in my capacity as journalist belonging to Rashtriya Sahara in Karseva 3 on 6th December 1992.

How come such a huge structure fell at the hands of karsevaks who never had any sophisticated tools?

The secret was told to me by a former official of ASI in January 1993. He said, “The mosque was a superficial structure. The mosque never had a foundation of its own. It was constructed on the pillars that belonged to a temple. But it will be made known to the world, perhaps, after about a quarter century or so.” The Supreme Court said something similar in its judgement which it delivered on 9th November 2019.

Advani's Rath Yatra was a major watershed in the political history of Independent India. It was a much-needed cutting edge that set right the cultural compass of the country. I feel happy that I am a living witness to the history in the making. Welcome Lord Ram, to your rightful place!

# Make Ayodhya the global spiritual capital

### THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjhunwala

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to make Varanasi the Global Spiritual Capital during his 2014 electoral campaign. The same can be done better for Ayodhya which is now at the centre of global attention with the construction of the Rama Temple. The case for Ayodhya stands on the fact that there are remarkable similarities between the lives of Lord Rama and Ibrahim of the Abrahamic religions, namely, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Syed

Tariq Abdulla of Rampur has established that Abrahamic Prophets Adam and Nuh lived in India. Might it be that Abraham too lived in India and is known as Rama to the Hindus? If so, Rama is not merely as the Lord of the Hindus but the Father of the Abrahamic religions as well. Ayodhya can be developed as not only the Global Spiritual Capital but also as a centre of pilgrimage for Hindus, Jews, Christians and Muslims at par with Jerusalem and Mecca. The government has developed the Pilgrimage Circuit covering Bodh Gaya, Lumbini and Varanasi. Ayodhya can similarly be developed as a global pilgrim destination. Saudi Arabia is today earning an income of about 10 billion US Dollars or Rs 75,000 crore every year from pilgrimage to Mecca. We could earn four times this money if we can establish Ayodhya as the pilgrim centre for the Hindu and Abrahamic religions.

A large number of parallels are seen in the life trajectory of Lord Rama and Prophet Abraham or Ibrahim. The original name of Ibrahim, written as Abraham in the Bible was Abram, or Ab-Ram, which means “father Ram.” Thus, the name “Rama” is embedded in the name Ibrahim. Similarly, the names Dasaratha and Terah, Sita and Sarah; and Lakshmana and Lot are similar.

Rama went to the south with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana. Abraham went to south with his wife Sarah and nephew Lot. Rama's wife Sita was abducted and taken to Ravana's palace, Rama killed Ravana and retrieved Sita and returned to Ayodhya. Similarly, Abraham's wife Sarah was forcibly taken to the Pharaoh's palace, the Lord stuck the Pharaoh with troubles and Abraham retrieved Sarah and returned to Ai where he was living. The names Ravana and Pharaoh; and Ayodhya and Ai are also similar. Rama broke his relations with Lakshmana sometime after their return to Ayodhya because the latter had violated his order of not allowing anyone to intrude upon his secret consultations. Abraham also broke his relations with Lot sometime after their return to Ai because the herdsman of the two fought with each other. These and many other parallels in their lives open the possibility that Rama and Abraham could be the same person.

Indeed, the Bible says that Abraham's father Terah lived at a place called “Ur Chaldea”; Abrahamic religions believe this was a place named “Ur” in Iraq. But we have not one but many places with the name “Ur”—Kampur, Nagpur, Rampur and so on. It is possible that Abraham may have lived in a place named Ur that was located in India. The Quran says that Ibrahim and his son Ishmael make a House of Worship which is believed to be the one at Mecca. Ibrahim may have travelled from Ur in India rather than from Ur in Iraq to make the House of Worship at Mecca as believed by our Muslim brothers.

The major difference between Hindu and Abrahamic religions is that the Hindus undertake idol worship while the Abrahamic religions deny the same. They worship the one unseen God or Allah. The situation of Hindu religion at the time of Lord Rama may have been similar. The Yoga Vasishtha says that young Rama once returned from a pilgrimage to Ayodhya and developed disinterest in matters of the world. He asked what would be the benefit of engaging in worldly works when the entire universe was a



**The major difference between Hindu and Abrahamic religions is that the Hindus undertake idol worship while the Abrahamic religions deny the same. They worship the one unseen God or Allah. The situation of Hindu religion at the time of Lord Rama may have been similar. The Yoga Vasishtha says that young Rama once returned from a pilgrimage to Ayodhya and developed disinterest in matters of the world. He asked what would be the benefit of engaging in worldly works when the entire universe was a mirage and did not actually exist at all. At that time Sage Vasishtha explained to Rama that this entire universe was pervaded by the same Supreme Power called Brahman and this universe was as real as Brahman. Thus, he advised Rama to engage in his worldly duties seeing Brahman in everything — the earth, the trees and the relatives. Thereafter, Rama abandoned his idea of giving up the material world an engaged in actions such as killing Ravana. The core message of the Sage was that there is only one Brahman and no other. The Hindu Brahman is the same as the God of the Bible and Allah of the Quran.**

mirage and did not actually exist at all. At that time Sage Vasishtha explained to Rama that this entire universe was pervaded by the same Supreme Power called Brahman and this universe was as real as Brahman. Thus, he advised Rama to engage in his worldly duties seeing Brahman in everything — the earth, the trees and the relatives. Thereafter, Rama abandoned his idea of giving up the material world an engaged in actions such as killing Ravana. The core message of the Sage was that there is only one Brahman and no other. The Hindu Brahman is the same as the God of the Bible and Allah of the Quran.

Hinduism was the Global Spiritual Leader till about 1,000 years ago. Till then, it appears, the Hindu society followed the path of action told by Sage Vasishtha and followed by Lord Rama. The situation changed dramatically after Lord Shankaracharya gave his teachings. Sage Vasishtha had taught that “Brahman is truth and the world His manifestation.” In distinction, Shankaracharya taught that “Brahman is truth the world is unreal.” The material world became “unreal.” Lord Shankaracharya, it appears, made this teaching only to create a detached mode of action. He himself lived actively in the 32 short years of his life. Like Sage Va-

sishta, he wanted people to engage actively in the world but with a sense of detachment. However, it appears, his teachings got perverted and later Hindu teachers taught that the world was actually unreal and there was no benefit to be derived from engaging in action within it. The result was that the best minds of India became inert and we lost to the Lodhi, Mughals and the British and Hinduism has been declining since then.

The making of the Rama Temple presents an opportunity to reinstate the teaching of Sage Vasishtha, which is in essence parallel to the teachings of the Abrahamic religions, at the centre of the global religious movement; and to raise Lord Rama from a Hindu avatar to the global Lord.

Rama and Ibrahim could be the same person. Teachings of Sage Vasishtha are parallel to the teachings of the Bible and Quran. Therefore, we can promote the Ram Temple as the Temple of Ibrahim as well and promote the teachings of Sage Vasishtha. In this way, we can make Ayodhya as the Global Spiritual Capital that the Prime Minister had promised to do for Varanasi in 2014; and also, as the global pilgrim destination along the lines of Jerusalem and Mecca.

*(The writer is formerly Professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)*

## Three-capitals, a foolish concept

Maybe it is a day of exultation for those who have sympathy for YSR and his offspring. But it is not a matter of rejoice for those who dream and relish Amaravati as AP's capital. It is a doomsday for the farmers of Amaravati who gave away their lands for the sake of an iconic and monumental capital. Amaravati should be indisputably revived. Democracy has turned into autocracy in Andhra Pradesh with the ruling party's dominance in the legislatures to the utter bewilderment of voters. No prudent person would endorse this three-capital idea and it is a bad tradition set as per the whims and fancies of a charlatan party.

K Sai Prasanna, Tadepalligudem, WG dist, AP

## Don't panic if affected with coronavirus

One need not become panic with corona disease if affected. Community spread of corona became so fast and rampant that it needs to be controlled by community and by individual with utmost preventive measures like keeping physical distance, using masks, sanitisers and avoiding gatherings and functions. Fatality is more in Covid-29 patients having comorbidity like diabetic, cardiac or renal diseases and immunocompromised diseases like cancer and auto immune diseases. We are not sure of to what extent herd immunity



would help in minimising coronavirus. Corona brought ample awareness on Covid-19 symptoms to one and all which is resulting in people of suspected Covid-19 of getting isolated themselves, seeking medical help and volunteering for tests. Immunity boosting, high protein

diet intake with intermittent fasting have been proved to increase antibodies production in the body so to fight corona disease. Let us hope for the best.

Dr B N Rao, ex vice president, IMA Telangana unit

## Maoism is not terrorism

Recently a US-based State Department report has described the Maoist outfit as the world's 6th deadliest terror organisation. The Union Home Ministry of India also stated that the Maoist terror outfit is at its worst. But this organisation which traces its routes from Communism played a vital role for freedom struggle in India. Now this party put forward an argument stating that “democracy in India is sham” and adopted strategy of guerrilla warfare in order to lead a violent revolution. Probably, this could be the reason why Gandhiji refused to adopt violence path to achieve independence keeping in mind the future consequences that can be noticed even today. Yet, Maoism should not be branded as extreme terrorism as their ideology is actually being misinterpreted by some opportunistic elements. Also, there are aspiring youth who are getting attracted to Maoist groups being fed up with the atrocities of a few people in the government. There is an urgent need for those individuals to be educated and try to bring them back to normalcy.

M Mohan Vamsi, Sathupalli, Telangana

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MISHAP AT HSL

# ₹50 lakh compensation each announced to kin of deceased

- **HSL Chairman and Managing Director Rear Admiral (Retd) L V Sarat Babu says employment opportunities will also be provided to family members based on their educational qualifications**
- **Tourism Minister Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao interacts with the family members of the deceased**
- **Says measures will be taken to prevent such mishaps in future**
- **Says it is unfortunate that TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu is politicising every incident happening in Visakhapatnam**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Visakhapatnam:** The Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) on Sunday announced a compensation of Rs 50 lakh to the kin of the deceased who got killed in the crane collapse accident.

Tourism Minister M Srinivasa Rao visited the HSL and interacted with the family members of the deceased and later with the representatives of the workers' union. He said the HSL agreed to pay a compensation of Rs 50 lakh to the kin of each of



AP Tourism Minister M Srinivasa Rao enquiring about the crane collapse incident at the HSL in Visakhapatnam on Sunday

the deceased. The Minister said that it was the most unfortunate accident ever happened in HSL. Efforts will be taken to avoid such mishaps in future, Srinivasa Rao said.

Speaking to the media, the Minister said it's unfortunate that TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu was trying to 'politicise' every incident that happens in Visakhapatnam and resorting to false campaigning which affects the brand image of Vizag, especially when the district is gearing up as the executive capital of the State.

“Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is making every effort to change the landscape of Utarandhra, it is very unfortunate that the TDP resorts to such false propaganda,” Srinivasa Rao said.

HSL Chairman and Managing Director Rear Admiral (Retd) L V Sarat Babu said employment opportunity will also be provided to the eligible family members based on their educational qualification.

“This was the first major accident that took place ever in

HSL. Investigation is on to look into the cause of the accident by the committee formed to ascertain the cause of the incident. Based on the committee's report, appropriate action will be taken,” mentioned Sarat Babu. He said the committee will not only submit a detailed report on the incident but also make sure that such incidents will be avoided in future.

Joint Collectors M Venugopal Reddy and R Govinda Rao, MLA Tippala Nagireddy, union leaders, among others were present.

## CBI abruptly halts Viveka murder case

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Kadapa:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team comprising 20 members including 12 technical experts, which has been probing the murder case of former MP YS Vivekananda Reddy for the last couple of weeks, abruptly halted its probe late night on Saturday.

According to the sources, the CBI sleuths have enquired one of the suspects of former MP murder case A Krishan Reddy (Viveka PA), Lakshmi Devi (domestic help), SK. Vinaytullah (computer operator) in the presence of Vivekananda Reddy's daughter Dr Sunitha at Kadapa central prison on Friday and Saturday. It is learnt the CBI has recorded the evidences of trio late evening staying at guest house in Kadapa Central Prison and left for Delhi on Sunday.

There was no clarity whether the CBI concluded the probe or continue on total 17 suspects mentioned in the writ petition by Vivekananda Reddy daughter Dr Sunitha while seeking CBI probe in the issue.

Till date, the CBI has enquired Vivekananda Reddy wife Soubhagamma, daughter Sunitha, watch man Rangaiah, driver Prasad, Yerra Gangi Reddy, CI Sankaraiah, ASI, Parameswara Reddy, Sankar Reddy, A. Krishan Reddy, domestic help Lakshmi Devi, computer operator Inaitullah over the incident. As per the FIR filed by three Special Investigations Teams (SITS), CBI has to conduct probe into suspects like YS Baskar Reddy, YS Avinash Reddy, CI Sriram, former minister C Adinarayana Reddy, MLC B Tech Ravi and some few suspects. They also have to investigate over the death of one Srinivasulu Reddy, who was prime suspect in this case.

## TTD outsourced employees oppose merger with APCOS

**Tirupati:** Intensifying its stir, the TTD Outsourcing Employees Welfare Association decided to launch an indefinite protest at TTD administrative building here from August 17 to press the management to desist from merging TTD outsourced employees with the government APCOS (Andhra Pradesh Corporation for Outsourced Services).

Association executive committee meeting which held here on Sunday decided to launch the indefinite protest, if the TTD management did not concede the demand to withdraw the decision to merge the outsourcing employees working in TTD with APCOS by August 16.

# Mahila JAC urges AP govt to withdraw 3 capitals proposal

- **Alleges collusion between the State govt and Centre on the issue**
- **JAC leader Sunkara Padmasri points out that no State in the country has three capitals**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** Amaravati Mahila JAC leaders staged an innovative protest against the shifting of administrative capital from Amaravati to Vizag.

The JAC leaders once again appealed to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to withdraw the proposal of three capitals and continue Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Mahila JAC leaders including CPI Krishna district secretary Akkineni Vanaja, Mahila Congress leader Sunkara Padmasri, former ZP chairperson and TDP leader Gadde Anuradha and others performed Sava Yatra with the body of the State government at the Amaravati JAC office on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion,



Amaravati Mahila JAC leaders staging a protest at the JAC office in Vijayawada on Sunday

Vanaja has alleged that the Union government has colluded with the State government on three capitals issue and demanded that the Centre should intervene and oppose the idea of three capitals for Andhra Pradesh.

She questioned what about the fate of thousands of farmers, who gave their lands for construction of capital Amaravati. She wondered why Jana Sena president Pawan Kalyan was also not opposing the idea of three capitals.

Mahila Congress leader and

Amaravati Mahila JAC leader Sunkara Padmasri came down heavily on the State government for proposing the idea of three capitals. She said no State in the country has three capitals and blamed the government that on the pretext of development of all regions, it has taken up the three capitals issue.

She said the State government was working against the wishes of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Former ZP Chairperson Gadde Anuradha, P Durga Bhavani and others spoke on the occasion.

# 8,555 new cases in AP

- **Total cases rise to 1,58,764**
- **Visakhapatnam district records maximum 1,227 cases during the last 24 hours**
- **The Medical and Health Dept has so far conducted 20,65,407 tests**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** A total of 8,555 new coronavirus positive cases have been reported in the State during the last 24 hours and the total cases surged to 1,58,764 by Sunday.

The Medical and Health department has conducted 52,834 tests in the State and 8,555 were tests positive to Covid-19. A total of 67 persons lost

lives due to Covid during the last 24 hours in the State. Krishna district has the highest number of 11 deaths followed by Guntur with eight death cases. East Godavari and Visakhapatnam have recorded seven deaths each. Kurnool and Nellore have six deaths each, Srikakulam recorded five deaths, Prakasam district four, Chittoor, Vizianagaram and Kadapa districts have three deaths each and Anantapur and West Godavari recorded two deaths each.

Visakhapatnam district registered the highest number of 1,227 cases during the last 24 hours followed by Kurnool district with 996 cases. East Godavari district registered 930 cases, Chittoor 781 cases, Anantapur district 696 cases,

Vizianagaram 637 cases, Prakasam 384 and Krishna district recorded 379 cases.

On the other hand, recovered persons are also increasing in the State.

So far, 79,991 persons recovered from the Covid by Sunday. East Godavari and Kurnool districts have the highest number of recoveries with 13,526 and 10,051 respectively.

So far the Medical and Health Department has conducted 20,65,407 tests till now. In all, 74,404 active cases are in the State by Sunday and 1,474 persons lost lives due to Covid-19.

Total recoveries in the State during the last 24 hours are 6,277 and. The Medical and Health department is collecting samples and conducting the Covid-19 tests.

## Beneficiaries upset over not receiving hike in pension

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Guntur:** The State government did not hike old-age pension and widow pension and pension paid to the single women for July 2020 to Rs 2,500 per month from Rs 2,250, as announced by the government due to fund crunch and disappointed 61.28 lakh pensioners getting pensions under the YSR Pension Kanuka in the State.

The district administration on Saturday distributed old pensions Rs 2,250 for the month of July 2020.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy earlier announced that the government will hike pensions to Rs 2,500 per month from July 2020 and would pay hiked pension on August 1.

During the Praja Sankalpa Yatra, Jagan Mohan Reddy had promised to hike the pensions to Rs 3,000 per month. However, after he came to power, the Chief

Minister announced that the government would hike pension by Rs 250 every year. Within four years, the government will hike the pension by Rs 1,000 and make it Rs 3,000 per month and keep up its election promise.

As the YSRCP government celebrates its first anniversary, the government would hike old-age pensions and widow pensions to Rs 2,500, he said. However, due to fall in revenue collections caused by Covid-19, the Finance Department seems to have stopped the hike in pensions this July.

An official from the Rural Development Department on the condition of anonymity said, “The government directed to sanction new pensions within a week from the date of receiving application. Every district is sanctioning thousands of new pensions every month. The increase in number of beneficiaries is causing additional finan-

- **While the CM promised to hike pension by Rs 250 every year, the old-age, widow and single women pensioners expected a monthly pension of Rs 2,500 on Aug 1**
- **However, due to fall in revenue collection caused by the pandemic, the Finance Dept seems to have denied its approval for the hike in pension for July 2020**

cial burden on the exchequer. Taking the current financial status of the State into consideration, the Finance Department has kept the recommendation of the government to hike pensions pending. The government is expected to make an announcement on pensions hike very soon,” he said.

P V Kasi Rao, beneficiary of YSR Pension Kanuka Scheme, said, “I expected the government will hike pension and I will get Rs 2,500 per month from August 1. The government did not hike pension for July 2020. I got only Rs 2,250 as pension. I am awaiting pension hike to meet my expenditure,” he said.

## CM to inaugurate e-Raksha Bandhan today

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** To mark the Raksha Bandhan a special festival of love and bond between the brother and sister as well as to give more protection to the women and girls in the State, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch the e-Raksha Bandhan on Monday.

As part of e-Raksha Bandhan, many programmes will be organised for one month starting from August 3 in the State. Experts on women safety will give suggestions and advice to the women and girls how to protect them from the cyber-

crimes and other crimes. DGP D Gautam Sawang in a message on Sunday, announced that messages will be given to the women on how to be safe and protect themselves from the social media like facebook, YouTube etc and other platforms. DGP has said e-Raksha Bandhan will give a message to stay safe and to stay smart.

The State government has already enacted new laws and has been giving top priority for safety of women and children. Disha police stations have been inaugurated in the State to ensure speedy investigation of cases and punish the culprits.

## ICMR moots registry of Covid-19 patients

*Continued from P1*

Fifteen institutions of national repute including the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh, AIIMS Delhi, AIIMS Jodhpur, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru and Armed Force Medical College in Pune will connect with the hospitals and medical colleges to get them on board.

These 15 institutions would be the registry sites and would be mentoring around 100 COVID-19 hospitals which would be called satellite centres from where the data would be collected? as part of the exercise.

The proposal has been sent for approval to the Central Ethics Committee on Human Research (CECHR) of the ICMR. “The data will help improve the clinical management protocols as the repository would help us know which drug is working better in which age group, effectiveness of investigational therapies and adverse effects taking place. The idea is to generate evidence for improving the treatment of COVID-19 patients,” another official said.

## Chennai techie claims Chandrayaan 2 rover intact

*Continued from P1*

Subramanian speculated about the chances of the Pragyan rover remaining intact: “There are many possibilities on how it could have been intact, as it was bolted to the Lander, and could have survived the harsh rough landing.” He also clarified that he was still waiting for a confirmation from ISRO.

Asked specifically if he was saying that the rover was functioning optimally, he said he had not said anything on that aspect. Speaking about his method of finding the tracks of the rover, he said : “I downloaded EDR images from NASA's LRO quickmap site and used USGS ISIS3 open source software and processed it further to enlarge these images. And in the enlarged image we can find tracks of the rover.” Vikram lost contact with ISRO following its launch from Chandrayaan-2 moon orbiter on September 6 last year when it tried to make a soft landing near the moon's south pole.

## Army braces for a long winter as India, China talk disengagement

*Continued from P1*

Following the Galwan Valley incident, the government has given the armed forces ‘full freedom’ to give a ‘befitting’ response to any Chinese misadventure along the LAC. The Army has sent thousands of additional troops to forward locations along the border following the deadly clashes. The IAF has also moved air defence systems as well as a sizable number of its frontline combat jets and attack helicopters to several key air bases.





Give your investments time to mature. Be Patient for the world to discover your gems  
— Rakesh Jhunjunwala



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# Mkts in consolidation mode

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

Spooked by the rising number of Covid-19 cases, RBI's warning of a potential rise in NPAs in FY21 and weak global cues; after sixth consecutive week of gains, the domestic stock markets corrected during the week ended July 31, 2020. For the week, benchmark indices the Nifty closed at 11,073, down by 120 points and the Sensex weakened by 421 points to 37,607. The broader market outperformed the benchmarks as the BSE Midcap and Small-cap indices gained marginally during the week. Rising Covid-19 cases indicate there is still the risk of a second wave, or an elongated first wave of the virus. In the week ahead, all eyes will be on the three-day Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, which will conclude on August 6. Given the recent financial stability report wherein RBI warned of a sharp rise in NPAs in FY21 and current inflation scenario, economy observers expect the MPC members may cut repo rate by at least another 25 bps on top of 115 bps cut in previous two meetings. Markets expect decision on extension of moratorium of loans, more liquidity and regulatory measures from RBI to support the financial system and revive the economy. Investors largely expected poor economic figures, and the extent of the first quarter's decline in gross domestic product was slightly smaller than economists' projections.

GST collections suggest mild green shoots in the economy. This whole pandemic has been a quick peep into the future and what the

## MARKET Khabrein

Markets expect decision on extension of moratorium of loans, more liquidity and regulatory measures from RBI to support the financial system and revive the economy. Investors largely expected poor economic figures, and the extent of the first quarter's decline in gross domestic product was slightly smaller than economists' projections



world could look like in two or three years. It's sped up the transition to a new economy and market players are trying to figure out which are the businesses that are going to be really successful in that economy. With major corporate earnings out of the way, markets are moving into a consolidation mode with momentum slowing down in the last couple of sessions. Near term direction of the markets will be dic-

tated by the rise and fall of Covid-19 cases, crude oil prices, rupee movement and FII flows.

Heard on the Street: Don't let the stock market rally 'Mask' reality say experienced market players. Investors are suddenly showing foresight like never before, and are looking past the pandemic to an eventual recovery. After falling nearly 40 per cent from late February to late March, the NSE Nifty

and the BSE Sensex have come to within about 10 per cent of their all-time highs. Every recession is different, though, and perhaps this is one where it is easier for investors to envisage the eventual recovery than in past downturns. Still, there is substantial uncertainty about what course the coronavirus might take in the months ahead, the unemployment rate is above its highest levels from the last crisis and gross domestic product just registered its sharpest downturn on record in the first quarter. A newfound belief in profits' ability to recover seems dubious.

### F&O / Sector Watch

Settlement week witnessed brisk trading in the derivatives segment. Rollovers were a tad lower than last three month average. Options data indicates Nifty movement in the range of 10,800-11,300 in coming days. Maximum put open interest is at 11,000 and maximum Call open interest is at 11,200. Modest call writing was seen in 11,200

strike and put writing was seen at 11,000. Surprising build-up of positions was seen in put options at 10,600 strike. For Nifty immediate resistance is placed at 11,150 level; above which the rally can get extended towards 11400 level. Technical oscillators are suggesting that volatility will continue to grip the markets in coming week and traders should remain focus on stock specific moves. With most of the major corporates coming out with Q1 earnings, it is time to review different sectors say analysts. Expectedly most companies from Pharma sector, large and small, have reported good numbers. The sector is a winner in COVID-19 times. Use corrections to buy Aurobindo Pharma, Dr Reddy, Divi Labs and Sun Pharma. With work-from-home at more than 95 percent; unhurt from the lockdown IT sector has emerged as the clear winner. Following the Tier-1 companies, second rung IT companies also have shown similar positive trends. The market has been quick to discount the standout performance with the IT index gaining a whopping 22 percent in July. Stay overweight in the sector. Cement industry has surprised with smart improvement in price and volume. Robust rural demand has helped the industry substantially. Buy on declines Ultratech, ACC and Ambuja Cement. Looking good in stock futures are Amara Raja, Ambuja Cement, Godrej Consumer, National Aluminium, Sun Pharma, UPL and Voltas.

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

## IN SHORT

### Sebi defers margin rules by 1 mth

Bringing some relief to stock brokers, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has postponed the implementation of the new rules for upfront margin collection in the cash segment by a month. The norms will now come into effect from September 1, 2020, instead of the previously scheduled August 1. In another decision, Sebi has permitted using digital signatures for authentication and certification of any filing and submission made to the stock exchanges till December 31. Further, the regulator has also eased the norms. It said in a circular that if stock brokers collect a minimum 20 per cent upfront margin, then a penalty for short-collection or non-collection of margin shall not be applicable. "If TM/CM (trading member/clearing member) collects a minimum 20 per cent upfront margin in lieu of VaR and ELM from the client, then penalty for short-collection/non-collection of margin shall not be applicable. However, it is reiterated that the Clearing Corporation shall continue to collect the upfront margin from the TM/CM based on VaR and ELM," it said.

### Virtual museum of securities mkt

The market regulator Sebi is planning to set up a virtual museum of securities market to highlight achievements and milestones in the Indian capital market. In a notice, Sebi has invited Expression of Interest (Eoi) from agencies to develop the virtual museum. The museum is intended to be a visual online organised collection of history of evolution, achievements and milestones in the Indian securities market over the decades in terms of market infrastructure, regulation and enforcement, among others, Sebi said. "The museum would provide the best in class engagement with the latest technology, dispensing the knowledge and content of securities market in India. It will have its own digital platform and website for online visitors in order to provide them maximum possible experience and interest like in physical museum," the Sebi said.

### Forex reserves swell to \$522.63 bn

For the week ended July 24, the foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by \$3.60 billion to \$480.48 billion, data from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed. India's foreign exchange reserves climbed by \$4.99 billion to touch a new lifetime high of \$522.63 billion in the week to July 24, helped by currency accretion and increase in the value of gold reserves. The overall reserves had swelled by \$1.275 billion to \$517.637 billion in the previous reporting week. The reserves, seen as a major asset as the country undergoes the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, had first crossed the half-a-trillion mark for the first time in the week ended June 5. For the reporting week ended July 24, the foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by \$3.60 billion to \$480.48 billion, the Reserve Bank data showed.

# Divergence of indicators points to weakness in mkts

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

Finally, the profit booking in the market during the week pushed down the key indices. With one positive session and four negative days, NSE Nifty ended winning streak of six weeks. The Nifty ended with 120.75 points or 1.1 per cent loss last week. BSE Sensex also fell by 1.4 per cent. Nifty Midcap-100 lost just 0.4 per cent and Smallcap-100 advanced by 0.4 per cent. The Nifty Pharma index gained most by nine per cent, and the IT index rose by 4.5 per cent. The institutional participation was very low during July month. FIIs sold Rs 751.34 crore and DIIs bought just Rs55.49 crore only. Overall market breadth was in favour of declines during the week.

Technically, the NSE Nifty is mostly consolidating within the previous week's range, and it closed lower end of the range. Even though it broke the rising wedge support, the key support of two-week low of 11,058 has not broken on a closing basis. Among all the swing highs, from March lows, the current swing high is in the form of a box. And the Nifty is spending a lot of time to form a new swing. The 20-EMA is acting support for the past few weeks. During the last week for four days, the Nifty



opened at high or a gap up and closed at the lower level. For the last two days, it is closing below the previous bar low. This price structure is nothing, but a distribution. As volumes are declining, the addition of distribution days is limited one day. The distribution is mainly in large-caps.

Let us examine the probable near-term supports. The consolidation range low of 11,058 is key support on closing basis. On Friday, it broke on an intraday basis. The gap of July 21 is filled on Friday, and the July 17 gap is to be filled. The 20-EMA and this gap area are at the same zone of 10,933. The 200-DMA is placed at 10,860. It means, 11,058-10,860 is the support zone for the Nifty for the next week. Below this, zone 10,550 is a major support for the Nifty and the market as well. Only below 10,550, the current uptrend will reverse to the

downside. Unless a lower low below 10,550 is not formed, the uptrend is intact. On the upside, firstly, it should close above the previous bar high. Later, it has to move above 11,377 in a faster retracement. Then only the uptrend will sustain.

The negative divergences in the majority of the indicators are giving confirmations for the bearish outlook. The RSI has not made any higher high but, broken the support line. Watch the RSI (60.72) at 55 zone carefully. A close below 55 will be confirmation to the continuation of down move towards 10,550. The +DMI is turning down and at a prior swing low. This shows that the positive strength in the trend is weak.

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



K Naresh Kumar

In March this year when the world suddenly stared at a bleak immediate future due to the spreading pandemic and the voluntary closure of societies to any economic activity, the stock markets reacted abruptly to the impending world productivity contraction and corrected sharply. The news and the extrapolation of the possible impact on the world economy, the picture was everything short of hope. The rapid spread of the virus among the people across the geographies forced the governments to take stance of lives over livelihoods.

Then again, a quarter later, most of the stock markets indices have regained majority of the losses and also witnessed one of the best ever equity market performance in any quarter period in the recorded history. Such was the rapid rise in the stock markets led by technology, biotech, pharma and healthcare sectors, which not just happened to recover the lows, but begun to thrive in the current scenarios. Contrastingly, there were job losses and business closures - many temporary and some permanent, the fundamentals have never been worse, in a few parameters beating even the

Great depression but the stock/asset prices are moved opposite to this.

Of course, the credit goes to the governments and the central banks across the geographies managed to pull up a near-coordinated fiscal and monetary stimulus that changed the tide and the extrapolation of our thoughts. The counter narrative was well established to the earlier dreary narration of the imminent future. The stock market participants were not only inundated by the unprecedented liquidity, but also an overwhelming narrative that drove the stock markets. Add to that the millennium investors with their fresh look perspectives, stimulus money and also the ease of investing armed with platforms that provide ease of access/execution at almost nil costs; the recipe is the latest outcomes.

Though, at any interval or at any instance of the stock markets, the narrative or the story around the stock that drives the price up or down. It's wrong to assume that stories are misleading and actually turn important in stock investments. For instance, despite the tougher crisis the Indian economy endured, the great Indian story remained intact and that became the seeds of the initial resilience, be it in 2013 and the 2017 post-demonetization, etc. We humans love to tell and listen to stories that help us pass on the learnings and morals. This ain't any different with stock investing and the narratives built around stocks or sectors.

If we were to express the performance of stock in pure numbers,



The stock market participants were not only inundated by the unprecedented liquidity, but also by an overwhelming positive narrative

it wouldn't register in our thoughts. In stock markets, it's not just important that you believe what a stock does, but make others too accept your view.

A classic example is of Tesla in the US stock markets. The company's founder Elon Musk always comes up with thoughts or plans on how to change the world the way we live. While releasing the vital stats of what the company is currently doing, it always paints a picture that arouses an interest of what the future holds of about that company.

Even as the current fundamentals are diverse from the current results, the stock price doesn't matter any further. No, I'm not suggesting to short Tesla. While the US has printed more money in the last one month than in the last two centuries, the entire numbers rep-

resenting the enormous liquidity infusion, the continued asset purchases by the Fed, the zero interest rates and the falling real yields are no match to the convinced conviction of the narrative of the US Fed's 'whatever it takes' actions to avert an economic collapse is driving the markets.

Also due to the rise of 'intangibles' on the books of the companies, the traditional valuation models are under stress. So, would we ever not consider fundamentals again? Possibly in the near-term, this narrative is strong and intact, the markets could act diversely to the reality. For now don't fight the narrative and participate in it wisely.

*(The author is a co-founder of "Wealocity", a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealocity.com)*

# Option data signals bearish outlook

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

With highest Open Interest (OI) buildup at 11,500CE and 11,000PE, the NSE Nifty may hover in this range for the week ahead (August 3-7, 2020). As Nifty is in overbought zone, upside tick is mostly capped, observe analysts. Long positions are carried forward to August derivatives series and indicating short-term corrections. However, the lack of surge in long buildup is indicating consolidation or profit booking for the week ahead. After sharp upward moves in the last few weeks, the NSE Nifty has entered into some consolidation phase and it may consolidate around 11,000 level. The highest Put base for this series is placed at 11,000 strike followed by 10,800 strike. Positional support remains at 10,800 if any divergence is increased below 11,000 in the current consolidation. The highest

## DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

Call base is placed at 11,500 strike followed by 11,300 strike. Stocks from IT, pharma, FMCG have shown promise of giving higher returns in the coming days.

The 11,500 strike has highest Call OI of 25.90 lakh contracts followed by 11,200 strike, which recorded maximum Call OI of 12.44 lakh contracts, with 25.24 lakh contracts, 11,300 strike with 24.03 lakh contracts and 11,700 strike with 19.82 lakh contracts. Further 11,500 strike witnessed Call OI buildup of 9.96 lakh contracts, while 11,300/11,700/11,100 strikes witnessed significant addition of Call OI. Coming to Put side, 11,000 strike has maximum Put OI of 18.62 lakh contracts fol-



Aug F&O series begin on muted note; Put-Call Ratio of OI at 1.73 indicates more Call writing on upper strikes

lowed by 10,800 strike, which recorded highest Put OI buildup of 6.89 lakh contracts, with 17.39 lakh contracts, 10,500 strike with 15.27 lakh contracts and 11,000 strike with 18.62 lakh contracts. Further 10,400/10,500/10,700 strikes registered sizable Put OI addition. Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "On derivatives front, Call writers were seen adding hefty Open Interest in 11,200 Call

strikes, which should act as major hurdle for the index. However, on downside still 11,000 levels would act as crucial support for Nifty below which further selling pressure could drag the markets in coming sessions."

The July derivatives series concluded with 70 per cent rollover, as against previous rollover of 77 per cent and three-month average of 75 per cent, for Nifty and 55 per cent for Bank Nifty from 80 per cent to July F&O series. Nifty

began the August F&O series with OI of 1.11 crore shares when compared with OI of 1.14 crore shares at the beginning of the July series. The overall market-wide rollovers stood lower at 88 per cent as against the average rollovers of 92 per cent in the last three series.

Bisht adds: "Indian markets felt selling pressure at the last day of July series future and options expiry with banking stocks suffered the most as sharp decline was observed in HDFC bank, ICICI Bank along with sell off in oil marketing companies. However, we begin August series on muted note with Nifty manage to hold 11,000 above levels." Snapping six-week rally, key indices closed in red for the week ended July 31, 2020, as BSE Sensex closed at 37,606.89, a net loss of 522.02 points or 1.36 per cent, from the previous close of 38,128.90 points. Similarly, NSE

Nifty too declined by 120.7 points or 1.07 percent, and closed the week at 11,073.45 points as against last week's 11,194.15 level.

Bisht forecasts that "from the technical front, secondary oscillators are suggesting that volatility will continue to grip the markets in coming week and traders should remain focus on stock specific moves."

As the volatility still remained low near 24.50 level, analysts forecast positive consolidation in the index and expect more stock-specific moves to attract market participants amid range-bound market movement.

"The Implied Volatility (IV) of Calls closed at 23.20 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 25.84 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 24.73 per cent and is expected to remain volatile. Put-Call Ratio of OI for the week closed at 1.73 down as compared to last week at 1.98 and it indicates more Call writing on upper strikes," remarked Bisht.

FIIs remained buyers for a second consecutive week as the Nifty

moved beyond 11,000. FIIs bought Rs4,011 crore in Indian equities. Domestic institutions (DIIs) turned sellers at higher levels and sold Rs3,887 in equities last week. Due to the recent buying, for July, net FII investment in equities is around Rs7,650 crore including primary markets.

In the F&O space, FIIs were relatively low. While FIIs bought just Rs17 crore in index futures and sold to the tune of Rs892 in the stock futures segment during the week. However, FIIs have bought Rs 937 crore in index options.

### Bank Nifty

Declining by 1,022 points or 4.50 per cent for the week, Bank Nifty closed at 21,640.05 points as against previous week's closing of 22,662.05 points. Downsides in the banking space are limited as this space has already remained subdued. Stock-specific reversals from this space are expected. The market witnessed green shoots of some performance coming back in the PSU banking segment.





A couple wearing face masks as a precaution against the coronavirus travel on a two wheeler in Kolkata on Sunday

## California surpasses 5 lakh cases

**California:** California has become the first US state where the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases has surpassed half a million, according to the California Department of Public Health. "The 7-day average number of new cases is 7,819 per day. The 7-day average from the week prior was 10,005. California has 500,130 confirmed cases to date," the health department said on Saturday. According to the latest data, California has confirmed 6,542 new cases and 219 new deaths. "There have been 9,224 COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic," the California health department said. A total of 7,886,587 coronavirus tests have been conducted in California.



## Kuwait resumes commercial flights

**Kuwait City (IANS):** Kuwait has resumed commercial flights after remaining suspended for months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the country's civil aviation authorities said. The flights resumed on Saturday at the Kuwait International Airport, reports Xinhua news agency. Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, president of Kuwait's Directorate-General for Civil Aviation, said in a statement on Saturday that the first day of resuming commercial flights was a success in cooperation with all governmental and non-governmental agencies operating at the airport. The Supreme Committee for restarting commercial flights has taken all necessary measures to implement the approved plan and resume operation in accordance with the required health instructions, he noted.

## Russia plans mass vaccination

**Moscow (IANS):** Russia is planning a mass vaccination campaign against the novel coronavirus for October, Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said. "We plan wider (vaccination) for October because we need to launch a new system of treatment gradually," the Minister told TASS News Agency on Saturday. Murashko pointed out earlier that clinical trials of a coronavirus vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology were over. The vaccination will be free of charge, the Minister added. "We plan that the coronavirus vaccination campaign will be totally covered from the budget. Accordingly, the vaccination scheme is known to all. It will be planned," he said.



## Rally in Berlin against restrictions

**Berlin (IANS):** Despite the rising number of coronavirus cases in Germany, about 17,000 people took to the streets of Berlin rallying against social distancing rules imposed to curb the pandemic. On Saturday, protesters marched from the landmark Brandenburg Gate through central Berlin before holding a rally on a wide boulevard, reports Xinhua news agency. Police then broke up the rally, saying the organizers were unable to ensure that safety and health regulations were being observed. It added that a criminal complaint against the organizers for failing to comply with the regulation was filed. Many protesters did not wear masks and disregarded social distancing rules.

## Special mask for PM Modi

**Varanasi (IANS):** While most weavers in Uttar Pradesh are busy making masks amid COVID-19 pandemic, Bachcha Lal, a handloom weaver in Varanasi has made a special mask with silk and cotton for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The mask has 'Jai Shri Ram, Ayodhya Pavitra Dham', embroidered on it and will be gifted to the Prime Minister when he comes to Ayodhya for 'bhumi puja' of the Ram temple on August 5. The mask, however, is unusually large - it is 72 inches long and 22 inches wide. The weaver is aware that Modi usually wears a 'gamcha' instead of mask. "It is a token gift for the Prime Minister and can be used for the deity. After all, almost all deities in Kashi are wearing masks during the pandemic and also to prevent them from pollution," he said.



## Iran reports 2,548 new cases

**Tehran (IANS):** The number of COVID-19 cases confirmed in Iran rose to 306,752, after 2,548 new cases were registered in the last 24 hours, state TV reported. In her daily briefing, Sima Sadat Lari, spokeswoman for Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education, said out of the new cases, 1,067 have been hospitalized. Xinhua news agency reported on Saturday. The pandemic has so far claimed the lives of 16,982 Iranians, up by 216 in the past 24 hours, she said. So far, 265,830 infected have recovered and been discharged from hospitals in Iran, while 4,011 remain in critical condition. Currently, 15 out of 31 Iranian provinces are at high risk or in alert situation, she said.

## Chandigarh patient jumps to death

**Chandigarh (IANS):** A 62-year-old Covid-19 patient allegedly committed suicide on Sunday by jumping off the fifth floor of the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) here, police said. He died due to multiple fractures and a head injury, a police official said. The patient, admitted to the GMCH on July 31 after he tested positive on July 29, jumped from the gallery of area 55, a hospital statement said. It said that the man, who had sustained multiple fractures and a head injury, was taken to the operation theatre but he expired there.



## Centenarian woman recovers

**Chitradurga (IANS):** Over a century-old woman recovered from Covid-19 within a week after she contracted the virus from an infected person in Karnataka's Chitradurga, a district doctor said on Sunday. "Siddamma, who is about 100 years old, recovered from the infection and was discharged on Saturday from a Covid designated hospital in the town where she was admitted on July 27 and treated as an asymptomatic patient," district hospital doctor Rangareddy told IANS on phone. Chitradurga is 205 km northwest of Bengaluru.



# Amitabh discharged from hospital

**Mumbai:** Actor Amitabh Bachchan has tested negative for COVID-19 and has been discharged from the hospital, son Abhishek Bachchan shared on Sunday.

Amitabh, 77, and Abhishek were admitted to Nanavati hospital after they tested positive for COVID-19 on July 11.

Taking to Twitter, Abhishek, 44, wrote Amitabh will now be resting at home.

"My father, thankfully, has tested negative on his latest Covid-19 test and has been discharged from the hospital. He will now be at home and rest. Thank you all for all your prayers and wishes for him."

In a following tweet, Abhishek said he is still COVID-19 positive and will remain under medical care.

"I, unfortunately due to some comorbidities remain Covid-19 positive and remain in hospital. Again, thank you all for your continued wishes and prayers for my



family. Very humbled and indebted. I'll beat this and come back healthier! Promise," he added. Ab-

hishek's wife, actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, 46, and eight-year-old daughter Aaradhya were dis-

charged from the hospital on Monday after testing negative for COVID-19.

## India crosses 17 lakh mark



**New Delhi (IANS):** With 54,735 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, India on Sunday crossed the 17 lakh mark with an overall 17,50,723 cases, fresh data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare revealed.

A total of 853 deaths were also reported in this period.

Out of the total 17,50,723 cases, 5,67,730 cases were active, 11,45,629 people recovered from the disease and were dis-

charged, while 37,364 persons have lost their lives in the fight against the deadly virus.

With a recovery rate of 64.53 per cent, a total of 51,255 people were discharged in last 24 hours, the Ministry said, adding that the fatality rate remained at 2.15 per cent.

A total of 1,98,21,831 samples have been tested so far, of which 4,63,172 were tested in the last 24 hours.

India currently has a total of

1,344 laboratories which are functional and capable of carrying out COVID-19 testing, of which 913 are government while 431 are private.

Maharashtra remained the worst-hit state with total number of cases crossing 4,20,000, with 14,994 deaths out of which 265 occurred in the last 24 hours.

Tamil Nadu comes in second with 2,45,859 cases and 3,935 deaths. The state registered 97 fatalities in the last 24 hours.

Amid the grim situation, good news was coming in from Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh which saw a decline in the number of active cases.

While Delhi reported 37 less cases in the last 24 hours, Haryana's active case count went down by 180 and Himachal Pradesh's by 14 cases.

Mizoram, Tripura and Uttarakhand too saw a decline in the number of active cases.

While on the global front, India still remains the third worst hit nation.

## Crisis looms large over MP police

**Bhopal (IANS):** The coronavirus pandemic is on a sharp rise in Madhya Pradesh and now the police who played an important role in fighting the disease are getting infected. More than 250 policemen and officials have tested positive while over 1,000 employees have been quarantined. This has a direct impact on the efficiency of the police. Covid has captured almost every part of the state that is why strict measures such as lockdown are being taken to prevent the infection. The police, who are responsible for enforcing the lockdown, are themselves a victim of the circumstances. It has been spreading among the police during their duty hours as they come in contact with suspected corona patients.



Police department statistics are a testimony to the fact that the police force is under the grip of corona. Due to corona several police officials have died in the state, which includes Bhopal police deputy superintendent Prem Prakash Gautam, Indore station in-charge Devendra Chandravanshi, Ujjain police station in-charge Yashwant Pal and assistant sub-inspector Kunwar Singh.

Police headquarters have also raised concern about the growing corona infection in the police force. According to sources, the state headquarters have given instructions to all officials whose leave has earlier been sanctioned stands cancelled. According to the new directive, police officials and employees will not leave their headquarters. Under special circumstances, only due to family and health-related needs, they will be allowed to leave the headquarters after seeking permission from the inspector general of police of the zone concerned.

It has also come to the notice of the police chief that officials and employees who are travelling or are returning from other places are not taking necessary precautions. They should get themselves quarantined on their return to the workplace but are not doing so, which is why the corona cases are escalating.

## Only 34% approve Trump's handling of pandemic: Poll

**Washington (IANS):** Only 34 per cent of Americans approve of US President Donald Trump's handling of the novel coronavirus pandemic, according to a new poll.

The ABC News/Ipsos poll, whose results were released on Friday, also found that the US public broadly disapproves of the President's handling of other recent crises such as the nationwide protests following the death of African American George Floyd, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to the poll's result, "just over a third of Americans (36 per cent) approve of President Trump's



handling of the response to the protests across the country".

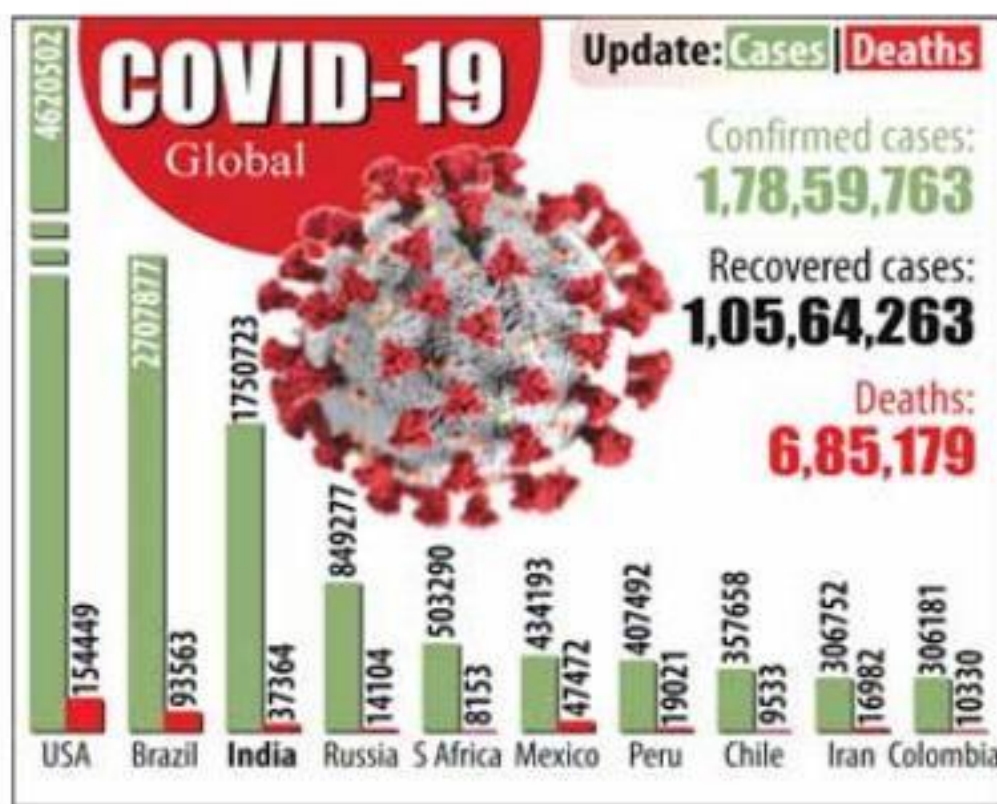
"Specifically, a majority of Americans (52 per cent) believe the deployment of federal law enforcement to cities with protests have made the situation worse," it added.

Republicans back Trump's handling of the coronavirus (74 per cent), the

protests (78 per cent) and Russia (80 per cent) by overwhelming margins. Democrats are almost uniformly in opposition to Trump's managing of the three issues, with approval of the president in single-digits on the pandemic (7 per cent), the unrest (8 per cent) and Russia (8 per cent).

Roughly 1 in 5 Republicans disapprove of the president on coronavirus (26 per cent), the protests (22 per cent) and Russia (20 per cent), and just over 9 in 10 Democrats disapprove on all three matters.

The ABC News/Ipsos study surveyed 730 adults from July 29-30.



## GLOBAL CASES TOP 17.7MN

**Washington (IANS):** The overall number of global coronavirus cases has topped 17.5 million, while the deaths have increased to more than 683,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University. As of Sunday morning, the total number of cases stood at 17,791,377 and the fatalities rose to 683,988, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update. The US accounted for the world's highest number of infections and fa-

talities at 4,620,182 and 154,360, respectively, according to the CSSE. Brazil came in the second place with 2,707,877 infections and 93,563 deaths. In terms of cases, India ranks third (1,695,988), and is followed by Russia (843,890), South Africa (503,290), Mexico (434,193), Peru (407,492), Chile (357,658), Iran (306,752), Colombia (306,181), the UK (305,572), Spain (288,522), Pakistan (278,305), Saudi Arabia (277,478), Italy (247,832), Bangladesh

(239,860), Turkey (231,869), France (225,197), Germany (211,005), Argentina (196,543), Iraq (126,704), Canada (118,523), Qatar (110,911) and Indonesia (109,936), the CSSE figures showed.

The other countries with over 10,000 deaths are the Mexico (47,472), UK (46,278), India (36,511), Italy (35,146), France (30,268), Spain (28,445), Peru (19,021), Iran (16,982), Russia (14,034) and Colombia (10,330).

## Expect 'lengthy' pandemic, warns WHO

**Geneva:** The World Health Organisation warned the coronavirus pandemic was likely to be "lengthy" after its emergency committee met to evaluate the crisis six months after sounding the international alarm.

The committee "highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 pandemic", the WHO said in a statement, and warned of the risk of "response fatigue" given the socio-economic pressures on countries.

"WHO continues to assess the global risk level of COVID-19 to be very high," it said.

The novel coronavirus has



killed at least 680,000 people and infected at least 17.6 million since the outbreak emerged in China last December.

The ongoing COVID-19 pan-

demic, the WHO said.

The WHO Emergency Committee on COVID-19, convened by WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus under the

International Health Regulations (IHR), held its fourth meeting on Friday (July 31), WHO said in an online statement released on Saturday, Xinhua news agency reported.

The committee unanimously agreed that the outbreak still constitutes a PHEIC, and noted the importance of "sustained community, national, regional, and global response efforts," said the statement.

Tedros had declared a PHEIC, WHO's highest level of alarm under IHR, on Jan. 30 at a time when there were fewer than 100 cases and no deaths outside China. He

issued the committee's advice to States Parties as Temporary Recommendations under the IHR, according to the statement. "The pandemic is a once-in-a-century health crisis, the effects of which will be felt for decades to come," Tedros told the committee in his opening remarks on Friday.

"Many countries that believed they were past the worst are now grappling with new outbreaks. Some that were less affected in the earliest weeks are now seeing escalating numbers of cases and deaths. And some that had large outbreaks have brought them under control," Tedros said.



FA CUP

# AUBAMEYANG BRACE HELPS ARSENAL BAG 14<sup>TH</sup> TITLE

**London (IANS):** Arsenal won a record-extending 14th FA Cup title after beating Chelsea 2-1 in the final at the Wembley Stadium. Captain Pierre-Emerick-Aubameyang scored twice to help them fight back from 1-0 down after Christian Pulisic put Chelsea in the lead in the fifth minute.

Chelsea's hopes of getting an equaliser were dented when midfielder Mateo Kovacic received a second yellow card in the 73rd minute of the match for a rather soft foul on Granit Xhaka. They ended the match with nine players after Pedro had to be stretchered off due to an injury.

Chelsea, who finished 10 points above Arsenal in the Premier League this season, were dominant in the opening proceedings with Pulisic becoming the first American to score in an FA Cup final.

The lead was cancelled out in the 28th minute with Aubameyang converting a penalty after being fouled by Chelsea captain Cesar Azpilicueta in the box. Azpilicueta eventually had to be taken off just before half time after he pulled his hamstring.

Pulisic suffered the same injury minutes into the second half and had to be substituted. Aubameyang then helped Arsenal take the lead over a deflated Chelsea side in the 67th minute by chipping the ball over goalkeeper Willy Caballero.

"We got complacent, took time on the ball like it was a stroll," Chelsea manager Frank Lampard told BBC One.

"We didn't play well enough to win a final. A lot of today is on us.

"We started well for 10-15 minutes and we can only blame ourselves from that point.



Arteta expresses gratitude towards Guardiola after FA Cup win

**London (IANS):** Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta expressed his gratitude towards Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola for the role the latter played in his development as a coach, after winning his first trophy as a manager as Arsenal beat Chelsea 2-1 in the final of the FA Cup at Wembley Stadium. "He has been a key figure in my development as a coach," Arteta said at his post-match news conference on Saturday. "He has my gratitude. I wouldn't be sitting here today without him. I have to thank him big time."

It was Pierre-Emerick-Aubameyang's brace that helped Arsenal overturn a 1-0



Mikel Arteta (right) along with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang lead Chelsea had in the match. "Big games require big moments for big players - he did that in the semi-final and now today. People questioning

whether he can do it in big games and he's done it today," said Arteta. Arteta, however, said that he is happy with the steps that the team has taken since he took over last December. "I think this is the best moment of my career because I know the difficulties we've been through," he said. "I had one mission - make the players and staff believe that we could do it. Seeing the change in the dressing room is what makes me more proud. "I completely understood the needs of this football club. I knew the challenges I was facing when I made a decision to come here and the expectations we will always have."

played back on ourselves, invited pressure," he added. Arsenal remain the most suc-

cessful side in the competition with Manchester United being closest to them with 12 titles.



Pulisic, Azpilicueta won't be fit for Bayern clash: Lampard

**London (IANS):** Chelsea manager Frank Lampard conceded that skipper Cesar Azpilicueta and winger Christian Pulisic won't be fit for their UEFA Champions League clash against Bayern Munich next weekend.

On Saturday, Chelsea suffered triple injury blows during their FA Cup final defeat at the hands of Arsenal, who won their 14th title by recording a 2-1 victory.

Lampard revealed that Azpilicueta and Pulisic won't be fit in time for their UCL Round of 16 second leg against Bayern.

He also said winger Pedro dislocated his shoulder during the Arsenal clash and remains doubtful for next weekend.

"On the injuries, Lampard says Azpi and Pulisic have hamstring strains which need scanning but they won't be fit for next weekend," Chelsea's Twitter post read.

"Pedro might have a dislocated shoulder but that is not certain yet."



## Three-team women's IPL to be proposed during GC meet

**New Delhi (IANS):** A three-team women's Indian Premier League is set to be proposed at the governing council meet on Sunday. The tournament will be played in the UAE -- the same venue for this year's men's IPL -- and the dates regarding the same will be discussed soon.

Speaking to IANS, sources in the know of developments said that a 3-team IPL for women is to be proposed during the GC.

"Yes, we are looking at this and a three-team women's IPL is set to be proposed during the governing council meeting. We have always had the women's T20 matches during the knockout stages of the IPL and we will look at a similar window this time as well," the source said.

The 13th edition of the Indian Premier League was earlier shifted to the UAE due to rising coronavirus cases in India and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is now planning to squeeze in a short women's tournament as well.

The BCCI has been organising women's T20 matches, better known as Challenger Series, during the men's IPL for two years now and same could be the case this time as well.

The men's IPL is currently scheduled to begin from September 19.

Earlier, it was reported that the women's team's tour of England was cancelled amid the ongoing coronavirus crisis. England are now looking to

## Players will get used to Covid-19 rules in 2-3 days, says Rahane

**New Delhi (IANS):** Delhi Capitals' (DC) cricketer Ajinkya Rahane feels players will get used to the Covid-19 protocols in 2-3 days once they touchdown in the UAE for the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The 2020 edition of the IPL has been shifted to UAE in the wake of rising coronavirus cases in the country and Rahane conceded the players will miss playing in India, in front of their own fans. "We will definitely miss our fans. Fans are everything to us. When they come out and support us in the stadiums, it feels really good, inspires us to do well," Rahane said during a TV show.

host South Africa women's team in a bilateral series which was earlier set to be a tri-nation tournament. So, like the men's team, women cricketers haven't had sufficient match-practice either for a while now and the BCCI will have to ensure their preparedness before their soon-to-be proposed matches in the UAE.

## Corona impact on grassroots cricket will be felt in Oct: Dravid

**New Delhi (IANS):** Former India captain and National Cricket Academy (NCA) Director of Cricket Operations Rahul Dravid said the real impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on domestic cricket in the country will start to be felt around October.

Dravid said that even if a vaccine becomes available towards the end of the year, some parts of the domestic season may have to be omitted.

"Hopefully if we're able to find a level of cure or vaccine even towards the end of the year, we'll be in a position to be able to complete, even if not the whole domestic season, but large parts of it," Dravid said in a webinar hosted by Deccan Herald.

"Obviously prioritising that would be important so that young boys and girls don't miss out on cricket for a year. We've been lucky so far (that the pandemic started in March towards the end of BCCI's domestic season), but come October, things might start getting stressful."

Dravid said that October is the time of the year when underage tournaments begin and those might turn out to be casualties



of the pandemic. "A few international tournaments have been cancelled and repositioned, and people can always find time and place for that, but once October comes around, that's when I think it'll start hitting us more," he said. "The next domestic season, for a lot of our young domestic players -- juniors, Under-16s, Under-19s and women cricketers -- start in October. If we aren't able to get back to a level of normalcy from then -- it could take longer -- we'll see the real impact on our domestic cricket and grassroots cricket. This year is probably more important for someone in his final year of Under-19s, than say for someone who is 23-24."

Dravid also stressed the need for a successful Indian Premier League (IPL) to be hosted this year.



## 'A cancer from within': Smith highlights problems in CSA

**Johannesburg (IANS):** Former South Africa captain and Cricket South Africa's (CSA) Director of Cricket Graeme Smith said that "internal agendas" within the country's cricket governing body has been a "cancer" that has affected it for a while.

"I think it's been a cancer from within the organisation for a while and it's not getting any better," he was quoted as saying by News24. "You try and sit and work out who in senior positions in this organisation is doing this, and why? What is the end goal? Is it serving cricket? It's quite clearly someone in a high-profile position, whether it is in the business part or the board part, because some of the stuff being leaked can only be from those parties within the organisation and that's disappointing."

## ENGLAND vs IRELAND, 2ND ODI

# Billings, Willey take hosts home after Bairstow show

**Southampton (IANS):** Jonny Bairstow hammered 82 off just 41 deliveries as England beat Ireland by four wickets in the second ODI between the two sides to claim victory in the series at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton. England chased down a target of 213 with four wickets and nearly 20 overs to spare. The hosts now lead the three-match series 2-0, after their six-wicket win in the first match.

Bairstow's efforts ensured that England crossed the 130-run mark within the first 16 overs of the match, although his innings also did not last longer than that. His opening partner Jason Roy went for a third-ball duck.

Bairstow went on to share a 71-run stand with James Vince, which came off just 49 balls, most of it courtesy the England wicketkeeper-batsman. He however got a nick off Josh Little that flew straight into the hands of Lorcan



Tucker behind the stumps to be dismissed on 82 off 41 balls.

Little then dismissed England captain Eoin Morgan and Moeen Ali in his next over to give the Irish boys a ray of hope but Sam Billings and David Willey saw them through to the end.

Little was Ireland's highest wicket taker with three scalps while Curtis Campher, who led the way with the bat in both

matches, took two. Earlier, Campher led another late fightback from Ireland to help them cross the 200-run mark. After being 91/6 in the 28th over, Campher helped the visitors post 212/9 at the end of their 50 overs.

**Brief Scores:** Ireland 212/9 in 50 overs (Campher 68, Tector 28; Rashid 3/34) vs England 216/6 in 32.3 overs (Bairstow 82, Willey 47; Little 3/60)



## Had retirement thoughts after axed for first Test, says Broad

**London (IANS):** Veteran England pacer Stuart Broad has said he did think about calling it a day after being axed for last month's opening Test against West Indies.

Broad finished the third Test between England and West Indies with a match haul of 10 for 67 during which he touched the milestone of 500 Test wickets.

Broad is just the seventh bowler -- and second Englishman after James Anderson -- to go past 500 Test wickets. He is also one among four fast-bowlers to achieve this impressive feat.

"Were there thoughts of retirement going round my head? 100%. Because I was so down," Broad told Daily Mail on Sunday.

"I was expecting to play, which is always a bit of a dangerous thing in sport but I felt I deserved to play."

"When Stokesy [Ben Stokes] told me I wasn't playing, I felt my body go into shakes. I could barely speak."

He added: "I have not really told anyone this but I was so down that week of the first Test, I was really low. I was stuck in that hotel. I couldn't go anywhere. It wasn't like I could go back to [girlfriend] Mollie and have a barbeque and chill out and reassess. I didn't sleep for two days. I was nowhere. A different decision could definitely have been made with my emotions of how I was feeling."

Broad, who is now targeting 600 Test wickets, also revealed that Stokes, who was captaining in England in the first Test in the absence of Joe Root, then played a key role.

## Kyrgios pulls out of US Open due to Covid-19 fears

**Sydney (IANS):** Tennis star Nick Kyrgios on Sunday pulled out of this year's US Open, saying his decision was made keeping in mind "the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have lost their lives". "Dear Tennis, I will not be playing this year at the US Open. It hurts me at my core," Kyrgios said in a video posted on Twitter. "But I'm sitting out for the people, for my Aussies, for the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have lost their lives, for all of you." Earlier, World No. 1 women's tennis player Ashleigh Barty also pulled out of this year's US Open due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.

**New Delhi (IANS):** Former Pakistan cricketer Azhar Mahmood feels India's victory at the inaugural edition of the World T20 (now T20 World Cup) changed how T20 cricket was perceived around the world at the time.

A young Team India, led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni, beat arch-rivals Pakistan by five runs to win the tournament in Johannesburg. Mahmood pointed towards India's win and said it ultimately resulted in the birth of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"India were not keen (on playing T20s) before the T20 World Cup. They were concentrating more on Test match cricket and one-day cricket. It was a massive



boost for Indian cricket to win the T20 World Cup, which eventually led to the birth of IPL. It was great to see," Mahmood said on Wisden's The Greatest Rivalry podcast. Mahmood also recalled that

Misbah-ul-Haq shot which ultimately led to Pakistan falling short of the target set by India. Pakistan needed 13 runs off the final Joginder Sharma over. Following a wide, Joginder bowled a dot delivery to



calm Indian nerves. Misbah then hit a huge straight six to make it 6 runs off 4 balls. The next ball, however, Misbah tried to play the scoop shot and was caught out at short fine leg, handing India the trophy.

"Unfortunately, Pakistan was on the losing side. Misbah UIHaq was playing so well but in the end, he tried to play that scoop shot. He could have hit a straight six off

Joginder Sharma but he tried to go with a fancy scoop. I jumped on my sofa, when I saw, but then when the catch was taken, I was like 'what's happening'." Mahmood said. Mahmood also heaped praise on then wicket-keeper-batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni, under whose leadership India won the tournament. Dhoni went on to lead the team across formats and oversaw one of the most successful phases in Indian cricket history.

"It was a great game of cricket, especially for Indian cricket. It was the birth of a great leader in Indian cricket, M.S. Dhoni. He changed the mindset and a lot of things in Indian cricket, for which he deserves credit," Mahmood added.