



# THE HANS INDIA

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We are happy to announce the launch of The Hans India, Bengaluru edition, in digital format from today. The e-paper is available at www.thehansindia.com. Enjoy reading!



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tribute to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his second death anniversary, at Sadaiv Atal in New Delhi on Sunday

## Chetan Chauhan dead

**New Delhi:** Former Indian cricketer Chetan Chauhan, who had tested COVID-19 positive on July 11, succumbed to the fatal virus on Sunday. Chauhan, 73, was recently shifted to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Chauhan's 12-year long cricketing career was decorated with 40 Tests and 7 One Day Internationals (ODIs). ► **P8**

## WOMENIA



## BREAKING THE TABOO OVER SANITARY PADS

## BUSINESS



## MKT COURSE HINGES ON Q1 RESULTS

## P6



After Instagram & Twitter, I have installed WhatsApp too, just in case I need to announce my retirement...

## Confrontation with neighbours JOE BIDEN VOWS TO BACK INDIA

**Washington:** Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has asserted that if elected, his administration will stand with India against the threats New Delhi faces from its own region and along its borders and vowed to continue to rely on the Indian-American Diaspora, that keeps the two nations together.

Last week, Biden scripted history by selecting Indian origin Senator Harris, 55, as his running mate in the US presiden-



tial election. Harris, whose father is an African from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is the first-ever Black vice-presidential nominee. Presidential elections in

the US will be held on November 3 and the 77-year-old is challenging incumbent Republican President Donald Trump in the polls.

Continued on Page 5

## Dhoni starts, and ends, his career with run-outs



**New Delhi (IANS):** Spanning over 15 years, the international career of the dashing cricketer and former India skipper M.S. Dhoni has a unique twist to it -- both his debut and last matches recording run-outs for him. ► **P8**



## Pranab still on ventilator

**New Delhi:** Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee continued to remain on ventilatory support on Sunday, Army Research and Referral Hospital in the national capital said, adding that his vitals are stable and being monitored by a team of specialists.

"There is no change in the condition of Pranab Mukherjee. His vital and clinical parameters are stable and

he continues to be on ventilator support. The health condition of the former president who also has multiple old co-morbidities is being closely monitored by a team of specialists," the hospital said in a statement.

The health condition of Mukherjee had also remained unchanged on Saturday, according to the Army hospital, which had also said the former President was

under intensive care and continues to be on ventilator support.

Abhijit Mukherjee, son of Pranab Mukherjee, said his father's health condition is "much better and stable".

He informed that he had visited his father on Saturday, and had found out that he is responding to treatment and expressed the belief that "he will be back among us soon."



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal along with his spouse Sunita Kejriwal offers prayers at Hanuman Temple in Connaught Place on his birthday, in New Delhi on Sunday

## Petrol prices rise across metros after 47-day halt

**New Delhi:** After a pause of over 45 days, petrol prices rose across the four metros on Sunday.

In the national capital, the fuel was sold at Rs 80.57 per litre, 14 paise higher than the previous level. Petrol price was at Rs 80.43 in Delhi since June 29.

The price hike comes at a time when crude oil prices have been rising and the Brent crude is trading around \$45 per barrel.

Continued on Page 5

## Tata group may take Air India's control by Jan 1

**New Delhi:** The buzz in aviation circles is getting louder that the Tata group could be in the Air India's cockpit as early as the New Year, if it is the sole eligible bidder for India's national carrier.

If the Tata bid is put in on or before the final submission date of August 31 and as it looks at the moment, Tata will likely be the sole eligible bidder.

Thereafter, if the Tata bid is deemed accepted, the 90 day period for handover shall commence and end by November 30 or at the most, by December 31. So, one possible scenario is for Tata to take control of Air India by January 1, 2021.

If the Tata bid is deemed accepted, the 90-day period for handover shall commence and end by November 30 or at the most by December 31



The Tata group, which already has a footprint in the airlines business, has shown interest in acquiring Air India, which at one point of time was under the Tata umbrella.

While the other bidders are not known yet, globally, airlines are under severe stress due to the Covid-19 pandemic and resultant

disruption on air travel and tourism. Tata is widely believed to emerge as the sole bidder for Air India and the salt to software conglomerate is likely to place a bid before August 31, the last date for bids for Air India, which the government has repeatedly said it will not be extended.

Continued on Page 5

## Vaishno Devi temple reopens for devotees

**Jammu:** After four months, the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine was reopened for devotees on Sunday, officials said. About 2000 pilgrims will only be allowed to proceed to the shrine daily from Sunday.

"Out of these, 100 would be from outside J&K and 1,900 devotees would be locals. All outsiders will have to undergo Covid-19 test before they are allowed to undertake the trek to the shrine," the officials said. Before the pandemic, over 2.40 crore devotees have been visiting the shrine each year. "Thermal scanners have

been installed at different places on the trek to Mata's Shrine. No helpers or ponies will be allowed to move with the devotees who will have to walk the entire trek from Katra base camp," they said.

Religious places in J&K were closed following the Covid-19 outbreak. And, in view of this, pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi was suspended four months back. The shrine situated on the Trikuta Hills in Reasi district of Jammu division is the most thronged religious place in J&K.

## Sisodia interacts with school managements

**New Delhi:** Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia interacted with the members of the newly-formed school management committees of several schools on Sunday. During the interaction, describing the committees as the cabinets of the schools, he advised the SMC members to take decisions on their own and raise resources. "When it comes to the school operations, you should play the role of a parent. We should dream and also take the responsibility to fulfil those dreams," Sisodia said.

## Organ airlifted from Pune to Hyd to save a life

- Patient suffering from terminal lung disease receives the organ
- Airlift undertaken with guidance of Jeevandan & ZTCC Pune
- Green corridor arranged in both cities for speedy transport

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Treatment to even smaller health issues is a big deal in this pandemic time. But, toughest things like lung transplantation also can happen if the will is



strong. Under the Telangana States' Jeevandan's able guidance in co-ordination with the Zonal Transplant Coordination Committee (ZTCC) Pune, made it happen. A patient at KIMS Heart and Lung Transplant Institute, Hyderabad, is the recipient of the organ. A

young person was declared brain dead at a private hospital in Pune on Sunday. A person from Hyderabad, who is suffering from terminal lung disease, needs lung transplantation. He has registered the name in Jeevandan. The relatives of the brain-dead person in Pune

were gracious enough to consider the noble sacrifice for organ donation, which will go forward in saving a life. Though many people are coming forward to donate their organs, those who died with corona and some other problems cannot make it. Continued on Page 5

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## BREAKING THE TABOO OVER SANITARY PADS

TEJAL SINHA



Kolkata-based Aqsa Mushtaque, a 25-year-old communication manager, at an online classifieds company, has taken the initiative to spread awareness about menstrual health and hygiene

Indian women face many challenges during menstrual periods, especially in rural areas, where lack of awareness and cost of sanitary pads result in using unhygienic methods, including rags and leaves, increasing the risk of infections and disease.

According to a community-based study 'Menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls - A study conducted in urban slums' in 2018, unhygienic environmental conditions were observed. Poverty, illiteracy, and ignorance are the major factors which lead to poor environmental sanitation. In the last few years, India has started distributing sanitary napkins in schools by holding classroom sessions on menstrual hygiene and many more initiatives.

Meanwhile, in 2018, Bollywood made its first film 'Padman' on menstrual hygiene, breaking taboos around the subject and boosting awareness.

Aqsa Mushtaque, a 25-year-old communication manager at an online classifieds company has taken the initiative to spread awareness about menstrual health and hygiene.

Sharing about her initiative, 'Free The Period', Aqsa says, she received a call from her maid saying that she did not have mon-



ey to buy sanitary pads for her daughter. After understanding the gravity of the situation, Aqsa went out and ended up distributing scores of pads in slum areas. "With the support of my fiancé and two of my male friends I started this initiative."

Some women in rural areas get very conscious while using sanitary napkins. They feel shy even with the sound the adhesive strip makes when removed from their underwear, especially during the lockdown when male family members are also all at home.

During this initiative, one of the things that surprised her was more than women, the maximum number of donations and contributions came from men.

Aqsa shares, "Around 85 per cent of the donations came from men. My posters were also shared by them only. However, at the same time, women are not yet ready to accept pads openly, which is why I had to wrap each and every pack in newspapers. They are ashamed to talk about this openly, some men asked me to stop doing this distribution as it is maligning the society's image. I always knew I couldn't change their mindset in a day, so I had to accept all the challenges and overcome them with a smile. Also my fiancé supported me a lot and made me believe that I could overcome any difficulties."

During the pandemic, the biggest challenge was the availability of pads in the market considering it as an essential. Apart from this, when Aqsa began her campaign, a guy from Delhi NCR wanted to collaborate with her. Later she found out that he started using her photos of camps from the field for his fundraising. He totally copied her campaign and name as well, which made it much more difficult for her to do the campaign. When she asked him to remove them, he straight away refused to do so.

"I want everyone to talk freely about periods, menstrual health and hygiene. That is when the taboo and social stigma will be erased. We need people to talk about their menstrual problems and then only it will be easier to tackle menstrual health issues," concludes Aqsa.

## 74 years later India's past paving future of fashion?

**AS THE WORLD TURNS TO SLOW FASHION, DOES INDIA HOLD THE KEY?**

PUJA GUPTA

India is a country that reflects an inimitable kind of richness - that of arts, textiles and crafts. When it comes to natural fabrics, India was amongst the main textile hubs of the world before industrialisation took over.

Indian fashion inherently was organic; and in pre-colonial and colonial times it was a very strong voice for the country and its culture. Indian textiles were sought after by the royal, rich and affluent across Europe and the Orient. Khadi became the symbol of the Nationalist movement and the Indian flag was supposed to feature the 'Charkri'. Mahatma Gandhi promoted "self-reliance" by spinning khadi, buying Indian-made goods only and doing away with English clothes for the non-cooperation movement. 74 years into Independence and we see echoes of this in the #makeinIndia initiative.

With the fashion industry being one of the largest polluters and a strain on resources, today, the world is once again looking forward to slow fashion, and turning its eyes to India's immense potential. There are an astounding 24 lakh looms in the country, points out Sujata Biswas, an alumnus of IIFT Delhi and the co-founder of Suta which recently launched its exclusive handloom collection called Aapke Naam.

"The knowledge of crafting fabric from natural materials, intricate weaving practices and resourceful production processes are still alive amongst our weavers, who carry this priceless treasure forward and pass it down generation-

to-generation. The comfort and the charms of hand-woven Indian textiles are unmatched," she tells. Renowned fashion designer Rina Singh says: "In the 60s and 70s we were definitely influenced by the bohemian culture present across the world, the hippie culture. Even the aristocracy that came with the British from photographs documented you can see the use of rich Indian textiles and embroidery in the clothing and light-weight breathable fabrics for dresses. Costume had a strong individualistic style with Indian characteristics."

She adds: "Indian cinema too was full of influences, whether it was in the way they draped the sari or wore bell bottoms with kurtas; retro-Indian styles will probably never go out of fashion. While it's not something that I would pursue in my work, I admire it for the sense of fashion that it brings." Singh has launched her label eka's first trans-seasonal CORE collection, featuring essential pieces in sustainable textiles, guided by ideals of comfort and timelessness.

Suta, the slow-fashion brand, has brought back saris as everyday attire with simple yet stunning drapes. Over 1500 weavers creating their line from all over India, a large part of their collections are handloom products.

Taniya Biswas, co-founders of Suta, said: "At Suta, it has always been our aim to bring traditional weaves to mainstream fashion by infusing modern sensibilities into it. The weaves and textiles are very versatile and become a great canvas for gorgeous designs that today's women identify with. We have grown from two weavers to 1500+ and we are bringing together a systematic approach for the amazing skills of these artisans to find relevance with the modern consumer."

## Get rid of hair fall this monsoon

Let the melody of monsoon play on your mind, not it's menace on your hair. This high-on-humidity weather is the main reason behind hair fall. Hair's chemical structure makes it unusually sensitive to airborne hydrogen. In this weather, your hair absorbs hydrogen, forming bonds, and swells until the smooth cuticle erupts to make them frizzy. But, you can take care of your hair by doing some simple and small everyday things, which we otherwise ignore.

**Get drenched but wash away the rain afterwards**

Shampoo your hair 2-3 times a week to keep your sticky and sweaty scalp healthy and wash off the rainwater that is loaded with pollutants. Given the delicate care your hair needs during monsoons, use a mild shampoo which will help to nourish your hair and help reduce hair fall due to breakage



**Dry your hair the right way.**

Use a microfibre towel to dry your hair as it absorbs the water very quickly and causes minimum friction between your hair and towel to reduce hair fall

**Say yes to conditioner**

A rich conditioner is a must to

fight the frizz that rain showers bring. Use any conditioner that helps lock in the nourishment, strengthen and protects hair against hair fall\*. When applying conditioner, use a wide-tooth comb to spread it well. Remember to rinse with cold water for extra shine!

**Oiling is a must**

Oil your hair but massage gently to avoid breakage. Once or twice a week is good for nourishment, but doing it more often is not recommended, as your scalp is already oily due to the weather

**Switch to a holistic diet**

Go easy on junk food as it leads to hair thinning. Cut down on caffeine because it dehydrates and causes hair fall. Add fresh fruits, leafy vegetables, whole-grains and protein-rich foods to your plate to tackle hair fall in the rainy season. Most importantly, drink at least 8-12 glasses of water during the course of the day

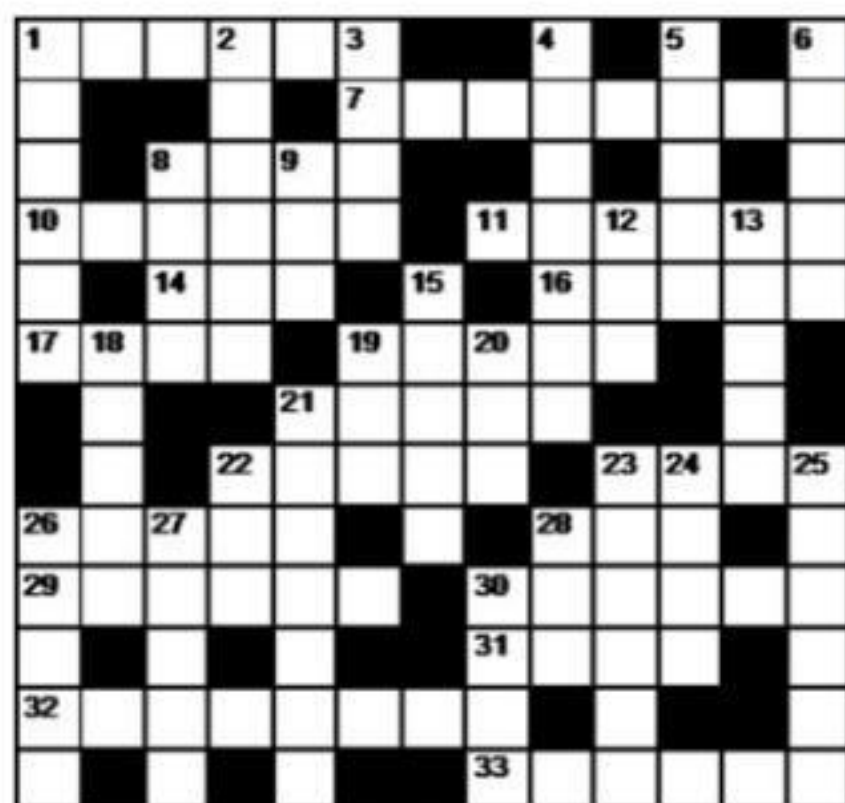
**Try a hair accessory**

Accessorise with a scarf or headband to protect your hair from excessive moisture. It would not just cover up a bad hair day but make you look cool too.

### QUICK TIP

### Stay motivated with a list

A simple to-do list can do wonders for keeping you both organised, motivated, and productive as you work from home. As you create your list, think about big, long-term goals, like finishing a project, as well as small goals, like completing tasks that lead to that big goal. Checking off those smaller goals lets you know you're making progress, which gives you positive reinforcement throughout your day. And work feels much more doable when it's not all one giant task.



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 15

### CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 A thorny tree or shrub (6)
- 7 Italian dessert of coffee-flavoured sponge cake (8)
- 8 Alone (4)
- 10 Hindu hermitage (6)
- 11 Thick mucus in throat (6)
- 14 Tokyo's former name (3)
- 16 Loiter (5)
- 17 Covers (4)
- 19 A cleaning compound (5)
- 21 Two-legged support (5)
- 22 The \_\_\_\_ : Netherlands' famous city ? (5)
- 23 Emperor of Russia (4)
- 26 Castro's follower ? (5)
- 28 Compete (3)
- 29 Lethargic (6)
- 30 Astringent, sharp (6)
- 31 Solemn pledge (4)
- 32 Approaching (2,3,3)
- 33 Leap or bounce (6)

Down

- 1 Assault (6)
- 2 Combinations of three or more musical tones (6)
- 3 Power source (4)
- 4 Iraq capital (7)
- 5 TV picture element (5)
- 6 Dolt (5)
- 8 Get rid of (4)
- 9 Indochinese language (3)
- 12 Slack or loose (3)
- 13 Lumps of soil (5)
- 15 Replenish (3,2)
- 18 Become liable (5)
- 19 Large (3)
- 20 Fish eggs (3)
- 21 Irish ghost (7)
- 22 Hesitation (3)
- 23 Stifled laugh (6)
- 24 Third son of Adam (4)
- 25 Enthusiastic (6)
- 26 Multimedia device (2-3)
- 27 Compartment (5)
- 28 By way of (3)
- 30 Male children (4)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 15

### NEWS ROUNDUP

### Melange by Lifestyle, announces DP as Brand Ambassador

In addition to launching its new collection, Melange by Lifestyle announced actor and style icon Deepika Padukone as its brand ambassador. This collaboration further strengthens the brand ethos of 'Rethink Ethnic' and epitomizes the versatile, eclectic style of modern Indian women.

Comprising key trends, quintessential season favourites and contemporary styles and silhouettes, the curated collection is an absolute delight for customers. The ever popular 'florals' has been re-imagined in new silhouettes and prints. The 'Work from Home' collection featuring the Linen range brings together fashion and utility.

Speaking on the announcement and Launch, Rishi Vasudev, Executive Director, Lifestyle International private Limited said, "Melange by Lifestyle celebrated the style sensibilities of modern Indian Women who are strong and self-made. Deepika captures this bold and individualistic style that Melange represents."

Deepika Padukone on the announcement said, "Melange has managed to beautifully capture the essence of the modern Indian woman. I am delighted to be announced as the brand ambassador for Melange and look forward to the journey ahead."





# Chinese man with hawala links bribed monks to spy on Dalai Lama

**New Delhi:** A 42-year-old Chinese man, identified as Charlie Peng who is accused in Rs 1,000 crore worth cross-border money laundering racket, had been bribing some 'lamas' (Buddhist spiritual monk) in Delhi's Majnu ka Tila to gather information on Dalai Lama and his associate, the Income Tax department found in its probe on Sunday.

According to officials, Peng used to handover nearly Rs 3 lakh in cash to the 'lamas'. Some men working with Peng confessed to the I-T department that they used to give money in packets to the people concerned, according to NDTV report.

The entire communication was done on Chinese app 'WeChat', which has now been banned in India. The I-T has shared the information with other government agencies to intensify probe.

The money laundering racked was

busted by tax sleuths earlier this week when officials raided some Chinese individuals and their local associates and seized a number of documents and computer peripherals and recovered about Rs nearly 60-70 lakh cash from multiple premises in the Delhi-NCR region.

The tax sleuths raided at least two dozen premises in Delhi, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad on Tuesday as part of the action under which it covered the Chinese, some of their Indian associates and bank officials, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had said in a statement. Peng is alleged to be the kingpin of this racket. The 42-year-old Chinese national, aka Luao Sang, is allegedly holding a fake Indian passport and officials said he created a "web of sham companies to launder hawala funds to and from China" in the past two-three years.

They said his front or showcase busi-

ness was import and export of medical and electronic goods and some other items.

Charlie, the sources said, was arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police in September, 2018 on charges of fraud and forgery and was allegedly running an illegal money changer.

It is alleged that Peng got a fake Indian passport from Manipur after marrying a woman from that state.

The CBDT in its statement, without taking any names, had said that the "subsidiary of Chinese company and its related concerns have taken over Rs 100 crore bogus advances from shell entities for opening businesses of retail showrooms in India".

Evidences of foreign hawala transactions involving Hong Kong and US dollars have also been unearthed, the CBDT said.



# BJP, RSS CONTROL FB, WHATSAPP: RAHUL

**New Delhi (IANS):** Accusing the BJP and the RSS of controlling Facebook and WhatsApp in India, the Congress on Sunday alleged that the two had attacked democracy in the country and demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into alleged violations by the social media platform and its messaging service.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "BJP and RSS control Facebook and WhatsApp in India. They spread fake news and hatred through it and use it to influence the electorate."

"Finally, the American media has come out with the truth about Facebook."

He tagged a Wall Street Jour-



**Congress demands Joint Parliamentary Committee inquiry**

nal report on the issue.

Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted: "Facebook - WhatsApp sinister connection to BJP government exposed! Is Facebook being used to spread 'Fake News' and 'Hate Material'? What is the connect of Facebook-India leaders to BJP?"

"Does it not warrant a JPC probe?"

Addressing a virtual press conference, Congress spokesperson and former Union Minister Ajay Maken said: "There are 40 crore Indians on WhatsApp and over 28 crore on Facebook. So, a probe is necessary into the commercial

dealings, propagation of hate content, and connection of Facebook and WhatsApp employees with the BJP."

"The bias and alignment of the Facebook India's leadership team with the BJP and RSS is not limited to just their Head of Public Policy in India. There are many others in that leadership team with a close working relationship with the BJP."

The United States' Congress has summoned Facebook CEO Marc Zuckerberg and investigated its role in election manipulation in the past. The UK too has issued warnings to Facebook. Facebook was accused of similar interference in Brazil.

**Will PM Modi be quarantined: Sena**  
**Russia makes vaccine, India hawks 'papads'**

**Mumbai (IANS):** Contending that Russia has given the first lesson in 'Atmanirbharta' (self-reliance) by making a vaccine against coronavirus, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said India is still busy hawking "wacky remedies like 'Bhabhiji Papads'". "Russia had boldly gone ahead and brought the world's first Covid-19 vaccine. Russian President Vladimir Putin even administered it to his corona-hit daughter to win the country's confidence over its efficacy," he said. On the contrary, in India, Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries Arjun Ram Meghwal, who publicly claimed that consuming 'Bhabhiji Papads' will boost immunity against Covid, stands exposed as he himself is now infected," Raut said in his anecdotal column 'Rokthok' in the Shiv Sena's 'Saamana Group'.



## 13-year-old raped, strangled in UP

**Lucknow:** Two men were arrested after a minor Dalit girl was raped and murdered in Lakhimpur Kheri District, Uttar Pradesh. The 13-year-old girl's body was found in a sugarcane field that belonged to one of the accused, police said.

The girl's father said that her eyes were gouged out, her tongue was cut and she was strangled. The horrific incident happened on Friday, under the Isanagar police station limits, police said.

The victim had gone missing on Friday afternoon, and the father said that they had started looking for her when she did not return till late evening. Eventually, he said, she was found in a sugarcane field with her eyes gouged out. He added that her tongue was cut and she was strangled with a dupatta.

They noticed some dragging marks near a sugarcane field and found her body, the police said. The girl's father has denied enmity with anyone in the village, they added.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Dhaurahra, Abhishek Pratap along with Isanagar police officials rushed to the spot and carried out preliminary investigations which led to the arrest of two men on Friday night, they added.

**2 DIE IN UP VIOLENCE, 3 COPS SUSPENDED**

**Lucknow:** A father and son have died in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh district after a bloody brawl between two factions over a land dispute. The violence broke out during a village panchayat meeting.

The police said the meeting was held without their knowledge and with two lawyers acting as intermediaries. Nevertheless, three cops, including a sub-inspector, have been suspended for not acting in time to prevent the violence.

"Today, in a village in Uttar Pradesh, a panchayat meeting was held to resolve a land dispute between two groups. Clashes broke out between the two sides and the injured were taken to hospital without the police being informed," Abhishek Singh, the Superintendent of Police (Pratapgarh), said.

## DOC KAFEEL'S DETENTION UNDER NSA EXTENDED

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh government has extended the detention of Kafeel Khan under the National Security Act by a period of three months, an official statement said. Khan has been in jail since January 29 for allegedly delivering a provocative speech at the Aligarh Muslim University on December 10, 2019 during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests. In an order dated August 4, 2020, the UP home department said the National Security Act was invoked against Khan on February 13, 2020 on the orders of the Aligarh District Magistrate. After this, the matter was sent to the advisory council, which in its report, said there are "enough reasons" to keep Khan in jail.

**New Delhi (IANS):** With a single-day spike of 63,489 coronavirus cases, India's total tally reached 25,89,682 even as its death toll climbed up to 49,980 with 944 more fatalities in the last 24 hours, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) data said on Sunday.

Of the total cases, 6,77,444 are still active. A total of 18,62,258 coronavirus patients has recovered so far, including 53,322 who won the battle against the virus in the last one day.

The fatality rate -- the proportion of people who die of the disease among individuals diagnosed -- dropped to 1.93 per cent, the Ministry said, adding that the recovery rate had gone up to 71.91 per cent.



A Parsi man wearing mask as a precaution against the coronavirus walks outside a prayer hall near a Fire Temple during Parsi New Year in Mumbai on Sunday

## India's recovery rate at 72%, records 63,489 new cases



**'I am still not a free man,' says Saifuddin Soz**

**Srinager:** Senior Congress leader Saifuddin Soz has claimed he was still being held in detention by the Jammu and Kashmir administration despite a nationwide uproar two weeks ago over his personal freedom.

A habeas corpus petition by the 82-year-old leader was dismissed by the Supreme Court on July 29 after the J&K administration said the senior Congress leader was never under detention. Soz had moved the top court saying he had been under detention in his home since August 5 2019.

However, a day after his petition was dismissed, a video

emerged of Soz being prevented by security men from stepping out of his house. In fact, Soz was seen being physically prevented from talking to media persons on the other side of the fenced wall of his home.

"I am not free. I continue to be under detention," Soz told Outlook on Sunday.

"Nothing has changed since then. I was under house arrest from August 5, 2019, and I continued to be under house arrest," Soz added. In Soz's habeas corpus petition, his lawyer had said that even after 10 months, no grounds were provided for Soz's detention.

## US allows emergency use of new saliva-based coronavirus test

**Houston:** The US health watchdog has authorised the emergency use of a new and expensive saliva based laboratory diagnostic test for COVID-19 that could be a game changer in the diagnosis of the infection as it will enable rapid testing amongst more people easily.

Stephen Hahn, the Food and Drugs Administration Commissioner, said the new saliva test would increase efficiency and avoid a shortage of crucial test components like reagents.

"Providing this type of flexibility for processing saliva samples to test for COVID-19 infection is groundbreaking in terms of efficiency and avoiding shortages of crucial test components like reagents," he said in a statement. The agency has previously authorised four other tests that use saliva for sampling, but these yielded varying results. Authorisation of the new test occurs amid ongoing disarray over COVID-19 testing.



The US has been plagued by an inconsistent strategy for detecting the virus, thanks in part to persistent shortages and the use of a variety of different tests that have sometimes yielded unreliable results.

The new method called SalivaDirect is being further validated as a test for asymptomatic individuals through a programme

that tests players and staff from the National Basketball Association (NBA).

SalivaDirect is simpler, less expensive and less invasive than the traditional method for such testing known as nasopharyngeal (NP) swabbing.

Results so far have found that Saliva Direct is highly sensitive and yields similar outcomes as

NP swabbing. With the FDA's emergency use authorisation, the testing method is immediately available to other diagnostic laboratories that want to start using the new test, which can be scaled up quickly for use across the nation and, perhaps, beyond - in the coming weeks, researchers said.

A key component of SalivaDirect, the researchers note, is that the method has been validated with reagents and instruments from multiple vendors.

This flexibility enables continued testing if some vendors encounter supply chain issues as experienced early in the pandemic. "This is a huge step forward to make testing more accessible," said Chantal Vogels, a Yale postdoctoral fellow, who led the laboratory development and validation along with Doug Brackney, an adjunct assistant clinical pro "This started off as an idea in our lab soon after we found saliva to be a promising sample type of

the detection of SARS-CoV-2, and now it has the potential to be used on a large scale to help protect public health. We are delighted to make this contribution to the fight against coronavirus," he said.

Development of SalivaDirect as a means of rapidly expanding SARS-CoV-2 testing was spearheaded this spring by Nathan Grubaugh and Anne Wyllie, assistant professor and associate research scientist, respectively, at Yale School of Public Health.

After finding saliva to be a promising sample type for SARS-CoV-2 detection, they wanted to improve the method further.

"With saliva being quick and easy to collect, we realised it could be a game-changer in COVID-19 diagnostics," said Anne Wyllie.

With testing urgently needed, the Yale team was determined to decrease both testing times and costs, to make testing widely accessible.



## Pedagogy in peril, authorities should act fast

The extended holidays to schools and other educational institutions have not only weakened the fundamentals of students and have led to loss of human capital, but also affected the livelihood of the faculty working in private educational institutions. As the world is still waiting for a vaccine for the novel coronavirus disease, many institutions have embraced e-learning to sustain the momentum. But the experience so far has proved that the online classes cannot be a substitute for classroom learning. E-classes are not able to generate the interaction that is necessary and can be done only when the student is physically present in the school. Another major drawback is that the teachers' body language is also missing in online classes. It should also be noted that there is no uniform policy on e-learning and each

State is experimenting in its own way. While in cities like Hyderabad, e-classes are being conducted by many schools, in Bengaluru, if the students have access to internet, the teacher takes classes online and if not, the teacher has to go to their houses to conduct the classes. The teachers are now going to the houses of students so that they are not deprived of education. This makes the teachers prone to coronavirus as they have to travel by local RTC buses where no social distancing is maintained. The teachers of government schools are asked to register their attendance in school and go to the houses and take classes and assign homework where a few students sit in groups. Next day, they have to check the homework. If they refuse to do so, they would be suspended. Even the number of hours of schooling through e-learning has come down to about two hours for the primary classes and another hour or two for the higher classes. This has hampered the education system. The students not only miss direct interaction with the teachers and fellow students but also badly miss sports and other extracurricular activities like debates, elocution competitions, seminars, work-

shops etc. Sitting in front of a laptop or desktop for a few hours is killing their creativity. Another problem is that while teaching on online platforms has been successful, up to an extent, in urban areas, in rural areas situation is different since they do not have easy access to smart phones or uninterrupted internet connections. Not just that, only non-laboratory-based subjects can be taught online. This is an unprecedented and unfamiliar situation, and nobody still knows when the situation will be normal. Since educational institutions are most vulnerable for the spread of the disease due to the mass gathering in the classrooms, it may not be possible to reopen them unless, the infection is totally eradicated. Many private educational institutions have stopped paying salaries to its staff including teachers but are insisting that the parents pay the fees. In universities, research programmes have been affected in a negative way and many a timebound researches have been hit hard by the virus. The pandemic has not only affected the economy but also 320 million students in the country. Its time a proper policy was worked out. Already two months of academic year has gone waste.

## Injustice in the name of Adivasi development: A perspective from below

PROF RAMDAS RUPAVATH

The constitution of Indian economy should be such that no one under it should suffer from want of food and clothing. Everybody should be able to get sufficient work to enable him or her to make ends meet. Tribal communities have been an integral part of our country from prehistoric times. Development is supposed to be a process of expanding real freedom that people enjoy. It may not happen unless an individual's deprivation is removed. Poverty, unemployment, forced displacement and alienation reduce the capabilities of individuals to enjoy their freedoms. But the current socio-economic scenario in India is witnessing displacement and alienation as the foundation stone for development. Since Independence, many development schemes and protective measures have been attempted by the Central and the state governments for the tribal areas of Bharat. While exploitation and backwardness are found in many communities and social groups in India, among tribes, it has also resulted in social alienation. The existence of a distinct culture and lifestyle makes the problems of Tribals different from those of other deprived groups in India. It is confusing, as some people in society express themselves differently to others. It is equally important to examine how the Indian state responds differently to such a phenomenon. Indian democracy has been intensively analysed, debated and criticised for a long time. However, democracy is not only concerned with elections and the formation of the government, and it is more about values, ways of thinking and practices. Democracy need not be replaced by needs that should be focused on social justice. Through a democratic method, existing social, economic and political injustices can be removed. The tribal communities are the most affected people in such a democratic setup with this sort of developmental approach.

It is important to note that various State governments never allocated a substantial budget for tribal welfare and development. We can observe that it was only in the 5th Plan that there was an increase in the amount allocated to tribal development is considered as an influential contribution in helping to measure the micro policy performance, it is clearly well placed to comment on the current state of India's public policy issues and their implementations. However, given the framework of macro planning, very little of tribal culture could be protected, nor could special attention be given to their needs. Hence, two problems for the Congress in the early years were the interrelated issues of tribal progress and tribal integration. Thus, the policy as regards to the tribal communication, in India and elsewhere, largely followed the safeguards and special provisions given in the Constitution such as the reservation of seats in the legislature, land transfer regulation and services. Some schemes were started to help Tribals set up cottage industries, provide educational facilities, or irrigation etc. The attitudes of Congress-run State governments were also ambivalent. Many initially followed the rules set up by the scheduled areas and by the scheduled tribes' commission established by the government of India in 1960 which attempted to preserve tribal culture and identification; however, this position was gradually abandoned. By 1960s, the pressure of governing such a large country led to the notions of tribal development and economic development becoming synonymous.

The ruling class in the Indian political process since independence has adopted a policy of development through modernisation. However, the national economy is largely in favour of economic growth, profit and surplus. Such a policy has used the Tribals for growth, not development. Once upon a time, they were the lords of their resources, but due to modernisation, they have been alienated from their lands for various purposes and alienated from their resources without proper rehabilitation or compensation from the State or the corporate class. The State should introduce welfare programmes and poverty alleviation programmes through investing lakhs and crores of rupees to bring them back from these extreme conditions. Exploitation has to be handled on a very high priority basis. Proper steps should be taken for the rehabilitation of these people. Unless such a programme of rehabilitation is taken up, the multiple effects of the prevailing conditions may continue to do much greater damage to the socio-economic fabric of the community compared with the benefits which might accrue from development programmes. The government assumes these people are a financial burden and obstacles to the economy.

Capitalist society uses extremely unskilled backward tribal people. This is the dynamics of modern development. That is why the Adivasis are excluded from economic paradigms but included in terms of voting in politics. The Tribals are demanding land, water and forest for their survival. The shortcomings of the developments can be seen through the status of the Tribals in developmental aspects like poverty, health, and educational status. In the name of development, exploitation has led to various social and tribal movements. However, the State response to the tribal movements during the present period has been clearly repressive and represents a subversion of constitutionality. Arrests and illegal confinement of thousands of tribal people seem to have been the reality pursued by the law-enforcing agencies in the specific context of tribal India. The State repression of the tribal movement and resistance paints a picture of an obnoxious mode of exploitation reinforced by the dominant classes. The resistance offered by various movements and other tribal forces has had an impact on the State and dominant classes. It has resulted in certain modifications of the position of the Tribals, while the State with all its repressive machinery was compelled to adopt transitory liberal strategies of welfare. Tribes, on the other hand, organised their efforts relentlessly to fight the injustice affecting their lives and to demand the constitutionally and socially valid recognition of their identity and existence.

Acts such as the anti-terror act and initiatives in the name of national security and national development are indicative of the Centre taking action in matters that also lie within the competence of the states. In this situation, federalism, which is the basic structure of the Constitution, is at stake. The Indian government should respond to the continuing challenges by increasing the scale of employment and self-employment on small scales the government of India should take due care that the scheme reaches the indigenous/Adivasi people who deserve it. Change should be made at the bottom levels in the system. One explanation offered here is that local people are simply not consulted or considered sufficiently as stakeholders when it comes to planning development provisions. Only through more attention to a perspective from below, it is argued at this final point, can poverty and hunger be removed from India's society as a whole and from tribal societies in particular.

If the prolonged involvement of welfare and development can alleviate tribal poverty in India in the long run, and also avoid the much-lamented and still observed snatching of State benefits by advanced people, then a truly effective revolution of the relationship among the Centre, States and the most peripheral citizens has been achieved. India needs to develop its own proactive measures to cultivate a democracy of the oppressed.

*(The writer is Head, Centre for Human Rights, Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad. Views expressed are personal)*

# The curse of Farakka: Purpose defeated

### THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjhunwala

The Hooghly River used to get dry in the last century. We made the Farakka Barrage in the seventies to divert water of the Ganga to the Hooghly to keep her alive. Subsequently we made agreement with Bangladesh to

share water of the Ganga equally. We are now diverting one-half of the water to Hooghly and one-half is going to Bangladesh through the Padma River, by which name Ganga is known in Bangladesh. Farakka has been successful in making the Hooghly live again. However, three problems have arisen.

First problem is that the Sunderbans are getting eroded due to Farakka. The sediments brought by the Ganga are distributed unequally between Hooghly and Padma. The Farakka Barrage has gates to regulate the flow to Hooghly and Padma. A pond has been formed behind the barrage. The sediments settle in this pond. The water coming out from below the gates of Farakka goes to Bangladesh. This water carries more sediments. Water from the upper levels of the pond goes to the Hooghly. This water carries less sediments. The result is that while water is shared equally, more sediments go to Bangladesh and less to Hooghly. Both Bangladesh and India are suffering due to this imbalance. The more sediments going to Bangladesh are leading to the deposition of sediments in bed of the Padma, choking of the channel and increased flooding in Bangladesh. A fortuitous result, however, is that part of these excessive sediments reaching the Bangladesh sea-coast are leading to accretion of the land of Bangladesh. On the other hand, the water going to Hooghly has less sediments. This brings trouble of a different type. The sea has a natural hunger for the sediments just as we have hunger for bread. Since the Hooghly is bringing less sediments, the hunger of the sea is not satisfied, and the sea has started to eat the Ganga Sagar Island. In this way, the Farakka Barrage is eating the sacred land of India.

The Tehri Dam and Haridwar and Narora Barrages have added to the problem. The sediments brought by Bhagirathi River is arrested in the reservoir of Tehri Dam. The sediments brought by Alaknanda are partly removed along with water at Haridwar and Narora Barrages even during the monsoons. As a result, there is less water and less sediment in the Ganga below Narora. Of these, the less water is leading to a reduction in the velocity of the river and, even though the amount of sediments is also less, the Ganga is not able to carry these less sediments to the sea. The re-



**The Tehri Dam and Haridwar and Narora Barrages have added to the problem. The sediments brought by Bhagirathi River is arrested in the reservoir of Tehri Dam. The sediments brought by Alaknanda are partly removed along with water at Haridwar and Narora Barrages even during the monsoons. As a result, there is less water and less sediment in the Ganga below Narora. Of these, the less water is leading to a reduction in the velocity of the river and, even though the amount of sediments is also less, the Ganga is not able to carry these less sediments to the sea. The result is that these sediments are settling in the channel of the river and the riverbed is rising. Such deposition of sediments took place before the making of Tehri and Narora as well.**

sult is that these sediments are settling in the channel of the river and the riverbed is rising. Such deposition of sediments took place before the making of Tehri and Narora as well. However, at that time we had massive floods once every five or 10 years and the sediments that had been deposited in the previous few years were pushed to the sea. The channel was cleaned-up and capacity of the river to carry floodwaters was restored. Presently, however, the riverbed is not getting cleared of the deposited sediments, the channel is not getting cleared, the capacity of the Ganga to carry flood waters is getting reduced, she is not able to accept the floodwaters brought by Kosi and Gandak and entire Bihar is repeatedly being inundated by the floods.

The reduction of water in the Ganga and, consequently, in the Hooghly due to the abstraction of water at Haridwar and Narora is having another unexpected result. The sea brings in large

amount of sand with it during the high tide which is stronger. It is, however, not able to carry this sand back with the low tide which is weaker. Therefore, the sea has always deposited sediments in the mouths of the Ganga. Indeed, part of the land of Ganga Sagar being eaten by the sea today is being deposited in the mouths of the Ganga. This natural phenomenon has become adverse because these sediments were previously being pushed back into the sea during the major floods. This is not happening now because water is less because of Tehri, Haridwar and Narora. The result of this deposition is that it is becoming progressively difficult for ships to come into Haldia and Kolkata ports. Often a dredger moves in front of a ship clearing the channel for the ship to move on. The purpose of Farakka to assist navigation has been utterly defeated.

The solution to these problems requires a comprehensive study. Some preliminary thoughts can however be

shared. Firstly, we need to find alternative ways of diverting the water to the Hooghly such that the balance between water and sediments is not disturbed. One possibility is to dredge the Bhairavi and the Jalangi Rivers downstream of Farakka. These rivers join the Hooghly. We divert the water-and-sediment of the Ganga to the Hooghly though these rivers if we do not make a barrage and a pond wherein the sediments settle. Secondly, we must think of removing the Tehri Dam, and Haridwar and Narora Barrages to bring back the major floods so that two objectives can be attained, namely, (1) the channel can be cleared and floods can be reduced; and (2) the sediments can be pushed to Ganga Sagar and erosion can be contained. This will certainly lead to a reduction in the availability of water for irrigation in Uttar Pradesh. However, water can be made available for irrigation by making recharge wells that recharge the groundwater aquifers. The rainfall in Uttar Pradesh is, perhaps, 20 times more than the catchment of Tehri; and the holding capacity of the groundwater aquifers of Uttar Pradesh is also about 30 times more than the capacity of Tehri. We can get much more irrigation by groundwater recharge than we are getting from Tehri. The third step to be taken is to make an agreement with Bangladesh to provide 80 percent water to Bangladesh during one month in the monsoons, and 80 percent to the Hooghly next month. This will restore the major floods in the Padma and Hooghly, push the sediments coming from the upstream and the sand coming with the high tide back into the sea. That will clear the channel of the Hooghly and perhaps save the Haldia and Kolkata ports from incapacitation.

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

## Employees unions with vested interests

It is highly sarcastic to note that the so-called A.P. Government Employees' Federation chairman K Venkata Rama Reddy and its secretary general Arava Paul reiterated that the employees were not seeking the salary dues for March and April to be given for 12% interest (Andhra Pradesh Government staff 'reject' interest on back wages, THI Aug 14). They further said that they did not entrust any one to represent them in the court. What a wonderful concern they have towards the government instead of having anxiety towards employees who have been serving under Covid-19 pandemic condition and retired personnel, some of whom are suffering from financial constraints and age-related ailments. It is highly regrettable to note that they have failed to grasp the concern of D Lakshmi Kameswari, retired district judge who filed Public Interest Litigation in the High Court for payment of the deferred salaries and pensions for the employees and retired employees respectively.

In fact, what is the need for the retired judge to file PIL for the employees? While some employees were born with silver spoons in their mouths, others are sole dependent on salaries to meet their daily basic needs. At this juncture, this hypocritic support to the government is no way appears to be sincere. It is better to keep selfish ends and nepotism aside and strive for the welfare of employees in true spirit.

**M Blessing Moses,**  
Chintalapudi, W G dist, AP



## LETTERS

### Apex court should clear air about Hindu Succession Act

While welcoming the Supreme Court's amended Hindu Succession Act that confers the status of coparcener to daughters the right to have equal share to parental property, it is to be noted that former Chief Minister of combined Andhra Pradesh NT Rama Rao made it through an order to this effect. According to Hindu Marriage Act, it is an offence to marry a woman when the first wife is alive and she loses the legal right to get the share in husband's property as this marriage is illegal. Do the children born to them get any share from the parent on account of their innocence? Do the legitimate daughters possess the legal right to look after their parents? Do the sons-in-law agree to bear the burden of in-laws? There are parents without male children. Court should clarify this point also. It is a big award, though not new, the opinion of the court that a daughter is a daughter throughout her life, but a son is a son until he gets a wife is not at all in good taste. Parents spend their twilight days in male children's care. Son alone finally lit the pyre of the parents, conducts all rituals, remains aloof with his wife for eleven days and thereafter celebrate annual ceremonies. Daughters have no role in all these activities. And also, the son sells the inherited property for his parents' health care needs. Will daughters sacrifice from their acquired share from parents? Indian legal provisions are very complicated, and it is

evidenced with different decisions of the Bench. Sharing of inherited property from forefathers has to be treated on a different angle. Umpteen number of transfers of property cases are piling up in Indian courts since long and their disposals are taking decades thereby delaying justice to the legally righteous persons. As everybody is equal before law, why this succession Act is not made applicable to other religions also?

**N Padmavathi,** Hyderabad

### PM does exemplary job

Our Prime Minister has touched many subjects in his Independence Day speech to show how our achievements were in the last one year for the benefit of our countrymen. As it is well-known that our fight against coronavirus has been going on for the last almost one year, two strategic points that we are concentrating on are physical and mental wellbeing. The first one is being done by increasing medical facilities like increasing the number of doctors, paramedical staff, hospital beds etc and the other by making people aware of their internal strength, boosting self-confidence and helping people overcome emotional disturbances etc. This includes yoga and physical exercises. Self-confidence is what one should have to face the situation. Health is most important for anyone to survive and live happily. The Prime Minister is taking care of individuals by issuing Health Cards similar to Aadhaar cards.

**V Vijayakumar,** Hanamkonda, Warangal

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# Govt to empower 15,004 village secretariats with UPI

- CM Jagan to launch UPI-based payment system today
- Objective is to enable people living in interior villages to secure access to digital payment system

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** With an ambitious aim to promote financial inclusion and provide access to digital payments to the interior villages, the State government in association with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) and Canara Bank, announced accessibility of United Pay-



ments Interface (UPI) to 15,004 village secretariats and ward secretariats throughout the State from Monday.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will be launching India's biggest 'UPI-based payment system' on

Monday along with Dilip Asbe, MD and CEO of National Payment Corporation of India and L V Prabhakar MD & CDO of Canara Bank.

This state-of-the-art initiative would pave the way for customers to experience easy, safe and instant payment mode of UPI for their day-to-day transactions. With the introduction of QR Code, the UPI is set to empower thousands of villagers with digital payments and provide an all new level of convenience with respect to their regular payments. The customer needs to file a request to perform UPI transactions. This will translate a pop QR code on

the computer screen present in the Village Secretariats and Ward Secretariats, indicating that money needs to be collected.

The customer can scan the dynamic UPI QR code through any UPI-enabled application on his/her mobile device and authenticate the payment. The customer will also get the transaction confirmation message on his registered mobile number. Additionally, a Digital Assistant is also designated by the AP government who will facilitate UPI payments for customers and transfer money to a common pool account where it is supposed to be credited.

## 8,012 new cases in AP TOTAL CASES RISE TO 2.89 LAKH

- 88 deaths reported during the last 24 hours and toll increases to 2,650
- AP has so far conducted 28.60 lakh Covid tests
- Over 2 lakh patients have recovered from the virus

**Amaravati:** The Covid-19 tally in Andhra Pradesh touched 2.89 lakh on Sunday as 8,012 fresh cases were added while the total number of recoveries crossed the two lakh mark.

With 88 fresh casualties, the overall coronavirus toll climbed to 2,650, according to the latest bulletin.

It said 10,117 patients had recovered from the viral infection in the last 24 hours. The State now has 85,945 active coronavirus cases after 2.01 lakh patients had recovered so far.

The infection positivity rate

continued to shoot up and has now reached 10.13 per cent after 28.60 lakh tests were done.

Chittoor district reported the highest number of 981 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, followed by West Godavari 893 and East Godavari 875.

East Godavari crossed the 40,000 mark in the overall number of cases, the top in the State.

Krishna district, which was once the number two from the top in the State, now slid to the second position from the bot-

tom in the Covid-19 table, aggregating 12,344 total cases.

The active cases in the district remained at 3,391 after 263 were added in the last 24 hours, the lowest in the State.

More than 8,727 patients got cured and discharged from hospitals.

"It has seen its peak but is now sliding. We are conducting 4,000 to 5,000 tests per day and coming out with the results quickly. This is helping us identify the patients and extended required treatment.

Thus, we are able to reduce the infection," Krishna District Collector A Md Imtiaz pointed out. He said facilities in hospitals have also been improved and better medicare was being provided to the coronavirus victims.

## Minister Botcha bereaved

- His mother Eswaramma passes away at a private hospital in Vizag
- She was 84 and died following prolonged illness
- Last rites were performed in Vizianagaram on Sunday afternoon

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Visakhapatnam:** Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana's mother Eswaramma breathed her last here on Sunday morning following a prolonged illness.

The 84-year-old was suffering from illness for the past one month and was admitted to a private hospital in Visakhapatnam for treatment. She died while undergoing treatment.

Her body was shifted to Vizianagaram where the last rites were performed on Sunday noon.

# Good response from students, staff to Inter online classes

- Online classes started for Sr Inter students in the State a week ago

- Classes are being held through Zoom app by drawing weekly timetables

- The attendance of the students has been increasing gradually

- The information pertaining to attendance of students in each district should be forwarded to the Intermediate Board every three days, says Chittoor District Vocational Education Officer M Viswanath Naik

V PRADEEP KUMAR

**Tirupati:** The Board of Intermediate Education has initiated online classes for senior Intermediate students to get the syllabus covered. In fact, during normal course, junior colleges start functioning from June 1st week every year.

However, due to the coronavirus pandemic no schools or



A screenshot of the online classes being conducted for senior Intermediate students

colleges were opened till now.

The private colleges have started online classes for their students already and are way ahead in completing the syllabus. As colleges have to remain closed for another 3-4 weeks, the BIE has directed the staff to start online classes which commenced on last Monday. The response for the online classes from the faculty as well as students so far was quite encouraging to the officials.

These classes are also being held in all the government junior colleges in the State. The staff have to attend the colleges duly following the Covid-19 protocols. They will draw up weekly timetables for online classes with each

class running for 40 minutes to one hour. The classes will be conducted through the Zoom app.

The class teacher concerned has to collect the Android mobile phone numbers of all students in the class and form a WhatsApp group in which the staff and Principal will also be included. Every day, messages will be sent on the next day's schedule of classes through this group. The other staff members like librarians and PETs will monitor students' attendance and see that all of them take part in the programme. It was learnt that the attendance was very poor in the beginning, but it has been increasing gradually with each passing day.

Chittoor District Vocational Education Officer M Viswanath Naik told The Hans India that for every three days the attendance report has to be submitted to the Intermediate Board to take further steps. "We have been suggesting to the students who do not have Android mobile phones to go to their friends' houses and take part in the classes. The staff are showing enthusiasm in taking part in the classes to keep pace with the private lecturers," he maintained.

The DVEO also said that the textbooks were already sent to colleges except 3-4 titles and students are collecting them by visiting the colleges. To a question, he said that the syllabus was reduced by 30 per cent by removing some lessons in some chapters.

## Joe Biden vows to back India

*Continued from P1*

"Fifteen years ago, I was leading the efforts to approve the historic civil nuclear deal with India. I said that if the US and India became closer friends and partners, then the world will be a safer place," Biden, who was vice-president in the Obama administration, said while addressing the Indian-American community on India's Independence Day. If elected president, Biden said, he will continue to believe this and also continue to stand with India against the threats it faces from its own region and along its borders.

Biden said that he will work on expanding two-way trade between the US and India, and take on big global challenges like climate change and global health security.

If elected, the Democratic candidate said, he will work to strengthen the democracies where diversity is the mutual strength. On this day, let us "continue to deepen the bond that endures between our nation's and our people, Biden said. He said that "as President, I'll also continue to rely on the Indian-American diaspora, that keeps our two nations together, as I have throughout my career".

# Cong urges govt to help flood-affected people

- PCC chief S Sailajanath says the govt should protect the flood victims from the pandemic by providing them masks, sanitisers and other protective gear

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** People who are already suffering with coronavirus are also affected now by the floods following incessant rains, pointed out Dr Sake Sailajanath, president of Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC).

He said in a statement here



S Sailajanath

on Sunday that several low-lying areas throughout the State were being inundated due to the downpour witnessed in the state. Several areas like Devipatnam, Chinturu and other areas

in East Godavari were already marooned. The people of low-lying areas express anxiety after the third warning signal was hoisted at the Dowleswaram Barrage on River Godavari. The heavy rains in Telangana also resulted in spate to River Godavari posing a threat to East Godavari district. The officials released water from Prakasam Barrage and the low-lying areas are facing threat of floods, he said and demanded the government shift the affected people immediately to safer places and provide them necessary facilities. At the same time, the gov-

ernment should take precautions to prevent the spread of coronavirus among the flood-affected people by supplying them with masks, sanitisers and other protective gear.

In Rayalaseema, Kurnool district is facing the threat of flood since the Tunga Bhadra dam is full and Karnataka government might release water any minute.

Expressing concern over the growing number of corona deaths in the State, he demanded that the government take measures to provide better treatment to patients and improve medical facilities.

## Lockdown extended in pilgrim city till Aug 31

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirupati:** The lockdown which is in force in the city since July 21 has been extended in the municipal corporation limits till August 31. Corporation Commissioner P S Girisha issued orders extending the lockdown for two more weeks keeping in view the rapid increase of Covid cases remaining unabated in the city.

However, the Commissioner announced more relaxations by extending the daily business hours for both essential and non-essentials up to 5 in the evening. In a release here on Sunday, the commissioner said that the lockdown has been extended to check the spread of coronavirus and urged all sections of people to strictly adhere to the lock down rules to help the civic administration contain Covid cases in the pilgrim city.

The daily business hours will be from morning 6 to 5 in the evening, he said making it clear that stern action will be taken on those found running their business beyond the permitted hours. Corporation will not hesitate to seize the shops and also cancel the trade license of the shops or the business establishments found functioning after 5 in the evening, he warned. He said that the Corporation has set facilities for Covid test in its 9 Urban Health Centres in the city where tests are being conducted daily and urged the people to avail the facility for testing in case of any symptoms like fever, cough and cold.

# Tata group may take Air India's control by Jan 1

*Continued from P1*

The group already has an airline venture in Vistara and it is not yet clear as to how or if it will consolidate the airline ventures including Vistara, Air Asia and the possible acquisition of Air India.

According to reports, the Tata group has already begun due diligence and is likely to put in a formal bid soon.

On the ensuing structure for the airline business, there is speculation that Tata is planning to merge its existing stake in

AirAsia with Air India into a single entity. Air India has been passing through a critical financial condition from much before the Covid-19 onslaught. The crippling effect of the pandemic, especially in the aviation sector, has further brought its finances to a precarious position. Recently, its pilots and other employees are on the warpath as Air India has laid off employees and started a Leave Without Pay (LWP) scheme.

From Tata Airlines and Air India to Vistara and AirAsia India,

the Tata group has been an important part of the growing aviation sector in India.

From Tata Air Lines and the long-since nationalised Air India to strategic joint ventures with AirAsia Berhad and Singapore Airlines (SIA) for AirAsia India and Vistara, respectively, Tata has been present in the aviation sector.

The two joint venture airlines operate independently with their respective business models - low-cost (AirAsia) and full-service (Vistara).

# Organ airlifted from Pune to Hyd to save a life

*Continued from P1*

But, here all this happened as the donor was tested negative.

Dr Swarnalatha, who is in charge of Jeevandan, Telangana, guided and supported the cause. Arthi Gokhle, Central coordinator ZTCC Pune, put a lot

of efforts to make it happen.

The lung was brought by a chartered flight from Pune to Hyderabad. Traffic police of both the cities have arranged the green corridor and the Airports Authority of India also came forward to help the noble

cause. Finally, KIMS Heart and Lung Transplant Institute, Hyderabad, received the lung by the evening without any delay from the city which is 560 km away within an hour and transplanted the same to the needy patient.

## Petrol prices rise across metros after 47-day halt

*Continued from P1*

Price of petrol in the other key metros, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata on Sunday were Rs 87.31, Rs 83.75 and Rs 82.17 per litre respectively.

Diesel prices, however, were unchanged for the 16th consecutive day in Delhi at Rs 73.56 per litre.

Price of diesel fell over Rs 8 in the city on July 31 after the Delhi government announced to slash the value added tax (VAT) on it. In Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata also diesel prices were unchanged at Rs 80.11, Rs 78.86 and Rs 77.06 per litre.





It's far better to buy a wonderful company at a fair price than a fair company at a wonderful price  
- Warren Buffett



# HANS INVEST

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THE HANS INDIA  
DELHI MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2020

# Mkt course hinges on Q1 results

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

Amidst choppy trading, stock markets ended last week roughly at where they started. Nifty and Sensex declined just by 36 points and 163 points to close at 11,178 and 37,877 respectively. The benchmark indices after bobbing between small gains and losses for most of the week corrected sharply on Friday.

However, broader markets continued to outperform the benchmark on expected lines as Nifty Mid cap and Small cap indices gained over two per cent each. The market's trepidation reflects the uncertainty that investors are facing as Covid cases and deaths continue to rise, analysts said. Despite the concerns over Covid and the economy, stocks are trading close to their highest levels in six months, stretching valuations to a point of concern. Pharma and tech stocks have traded strongly all week.

Old timers say there is a lot of confusion in the market present and question how stock prices could be so high when country is going through this terrible crisis. In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister focused on eight specific areas including the need for building a self-reliant India. The other seven areas touched upon were giving a boost to infrastructure, providing support to urban workers, medium enterprises and middle-class Indians, ensuring greater participation of women in economic activities, taking care of farmers, strengthening the existing digital framework, making development more environment-friendly and building a strong network of national cadet corps in all the border districts of the country.

## MARKET KHBREIN



Currency movement, progress of monsoon will also weigh on bourses

However, many of these announcements were a reiteration of earlier policies. Target of 1,000 days or roughly three years to complete the extension of an optical fibre network to connect all the 600,000-odd villages in the country and the launch of a national digital health mission through which every Indian's health record data would be collected helping in delivery of health services has been announced. These programs envisage bright prospects for telecom and healthcare sectors. Apart from pharma and IT, all the

economy-related sectors like auto, industrials and capital goods are coming into investor's radar as there is an expectation of normalization of the economy.

The global rally in equity markets, ongoing domestic earnings scorecard and announcements related to vaccine development helped the sentiment-led rally to continue for almost five months. Mid-cap and Small caps seems to be getting their mojo back as they are starting to outperform large-cap peers. There is still huge investors' appetite for

equities as precious metals are considered too expensive. So investors are chasing fundamentally sound Mid-caps & Small-caps.

However, expect broad-ranged action within 11400-10900 with a negative bias to be witnessed in the coming week. Sentiment direction will be dictated by quarterly earnings, progress of monsoon, global cues and movement of rupee against the dollar. Remain cautious and restrict trades to short-term itself with more emphasis on stock-specific trade setups on either side. *Heard on the Street:* Coming to US markets, fresh economic data, including unemployment claims and retail spending, continue to suggest the economy is recovering, albeit slowly. Whether the recovery can persist in the absence of further stimulus is something investors are weighing now, say analysts. The S&P 500 has flirted with record levels in recent days. It has been only 123 trading days since the S&P 500 set its last high. A new record would be the fastest recovery from a bear

market in history. As US Presidential Election are just three months away, traders are preparing for the possibility that prolonged political uncertainty will stoke stock-market mayhem. Any sharp fall in the US markets will trigger a domino effect across globe markets

## F&O/ SECTOR WATCH

Mirroring the tepid volumes in cash market, derivative segment witnessed muted activity in many stock futures. Options data indicates that Nifty could trade in a range of 11,000-11,400 in coming days, while the VIX being in the comfort zone could remain an indication for bullish undercurrent. Maximum put option open interest was seen at 11,000, while maximum call option open interest was seen at 11,500. Call writing was seen at 11,200 and 11,300 strike while Put writing was seen at 11,100 then 10,800 strike. The Implied Volatility (IV) of calls closed at 17.46 per cent while for put options closed at 19.41. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.47 slightly down from the previous week which indicates call writing in out of the money strike. After underperforming for better part of recent rally, financials are expected to outperform in next few weeks, say industry observers.

Niti Aayog is expected to announce prioritized list of PSUs to be privatized in next few weeks. Stay invested and add on declines in PSU stocks. Stock futures looking good are Ashok Leyland, Adani Ports, BEL, Cadila Health, L&T, L&T Finance, M&M Finance, NMDC and Tata Power.

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

## IN SHORT

### Equity mutual funds see outflows

Equity mutual funds witnessed an outflow of Rs 2,480 crore in July, making it the first withdrawal in more than four years, primarily on profit-bookings by investors. Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed a net inflow of Rs 89,813 crore across all segments last month, much higher than Rs 7,265 crore seen in June, data by Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed. This inflow could be attributed to infusion in liquid funds and low duration funds. As per the data, outflow from equity and equity-linked open ended schemes was at Rs 2,480.35 crore in July as compared to an inflow of Rs 240.55 crore in June. Such schemes had attracted Rs 5,256 crore in May, Rs 6,213 crore in April, Rs 11,723 crore in March, Rs 10,796 crore in February and Rs 7,877 crore in January. July 2020 saw the first outflow since March 2016, when equity schemes witnessed a pull out of Rs 1,370 crore. In July this year, except for equity linked saving schemes (ELSS) and focused fund categories, all the other equity categories witnessed net outflow.

### New norms for investor complaints

Markets regulator Sebi came out with a framework for handling investor complaints by exchanges as well as standard operating procedure for actions to be taken against listed companies for failure to redress such grievances. Under the framework, exchanges can levy penalty on companies in case of non-redressal of investor complaints and ask depositories to freeze the shareholding of the promoter entities. This will come into force from September 1, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular. Sebi said the procedure will be applicable for complaints related to non updation of address or signature; non-receipt of bonus, dividend, interest for delay in dividend, duplicate debt securities certificate and share certificate. In addition, grievances pertaining to non-receipt of securities in public issues or rights issues, not receiving securities after conversion/consolidation/ splitting; and receiving refund or dividend and shares in physical mode instead of electronic mode will also be applicable.

### Forex reserves zoom to \$538 bn

The country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by \$3.623 billion to a record high of \$538.191 billion in the week ended August 7, RBI data showed on Friday. In the previous week ended July 31, the reserves had increased by \$11.938 billion to reach \$534.568 billion. The reserves had crossed the half-a-trillion mark for the first time in the week ended June 5, 2020, after it had jumped by \$8.223 billion to \$501.703 billion. In the week ended August 7, the forex kitty rose on the back of gains in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves. FCAs rose by \$1.464 billion to \$492.293 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves were up by \$2.160 billion to \$39.785 billion. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased \$6 million to \$1.481 billion.

# It's time for booking profits

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

Last week, markets mostly traded in a subdued note, before registering big fall on Friday. While Nifty shed 35.65 points during the week to close at 11,178.4 points, BSE Sensex lost 0.4 per cent. The broader indices Nifty Mid-cap-100 and Smallcap-100 advanced by 1.7 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.

On the sectoral front, Nifty Media index gained the most with 4.8 per cent, and the metal index rose by 3.9 per cent. On the downside, Nifty private bank index and FMCG indices fell by 0.8 per cent each. The domestic institutions were the net sellers in August. DIIs sold Rs 6554.59 crore worth of shares, whereas FII bought shares worth Rs 11,627.16 crore

However, a lot of exciting things happened last week. Barring on Friday, the Nifty traded in a very tight range of just 136 points. But, it fell by 188 points from the day's high on Friday. After a four indecisive doji candle, the Friday's big fall forced Nifty to close below the last six day's range. In fact, from 20th July or from 19 trading sessions, Nifty is trading between 10882 - 11373. For last four weeks, the index failed to cross 11370 levels on a closing basis. Even then, there are some positives on the weekly chart. The Nifty did not



close below the prior bar low for the last 12 weeks. This indicates that bulls are still strong.

Coming back to the daily chart, Nifty took support at 20DMA on Friday, though it has broken that level on an intraday basis. This is actually a serious breach. If we consider 11882-11373 range as a double top pattern, a close below 11882 will be the first signal for bearish strength.

However, there is no doubt that Nifty is in a clear uptrend even now. A lower low below 11882 is a trend reversal. Besides, there is a clear weak signal in all the indicators. The RSI(57.57) has formed a negative divergence. Watch for 50-48 level in RSI as Nifty has to take support at this level. Otherwise, it will move below 40 level. The positive directional momentum indicator +DMI did not make any higher high since June 8. This indicates weaker strength in the Nifty rally. As I mentioned earlier, the daily ranges are declining.

The Average True Range (ATR) has been declining since March low. The MACD histogram, which is showing bearish momentum since the beginning of this month, has increased on Friday. All these signs are showing a definite weakness in the

trend. Though Nifty has been trading above 200DMA for the last 19 trading sessions, the 200DMA still is in a downtrend. Unless Nifty moves above 11,377 level with a sharper movement supported by increasing volume and institutional participation, the uptrend may halt for some time.

In the last two weeks, we cautioned against long positions. Our stance proved right. At the same time, we are not suggesting to short. It is time to book profits. The market is witnessing distribution in largecaps, and funds are flowing into the mid and small caps. Further, there could be some profit booking in the leading sectors like pharma and IT. As markets are trading at above 31 PE level, valuations are not attractive across the board. So, it's better to wait for a clear direction.

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

# Investing into overseas stocks, good way to diversify portfolio

## When invested in dollar-priced stocks, rupee depreciation offers additional returns



K Naresh Kumar

Stock market investing is not just about taking part of a price movement associated with each scrip but taking share of a business. With the global integration of various businesses, it has become seamless to consume the products or services of a particular region across the globe.

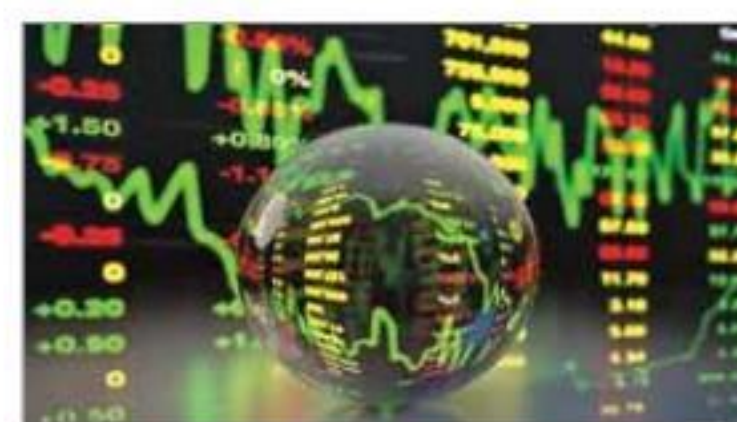
While we end up using many such products or services sitting at our home, the companies which produce them may not have been listed on our bourses. Moreover, there could be certain area of services or technology which is futuristic and are less prominent in India.

So, the biggest names in various technology, banks, manufacturing, etc. are not listed in India. How could one take advantage of this? The solution is investing in foreign equity via various media. Moreover, when we look at the history of our Indian currency, it has been depreciating at various intervals against the US Dollar and also against other major

world currencies like that of the Pound Sterling and Euro. When an investor is exposing their money to international equity, it invariably gets invested in that particular currency and so any depreciation of rupee i.e. any appreciation of their currency is an additional alpha to the investor. Thus, the currency gain alone forms a decent attraction for investing in foreign equity.

Another important reason is the need for diversification of the portfolio. While most of us dwell in the sub-categorization of the existing portfolio, one needs to consider that all the investments are being done domestically or carry a single country risk. When an investor exposes part of their portfolios to assets based or linked to other countries, the concentration risk is minimized.

The options of investing in international equity requires a trading account which allows the purchase of these instruments. The RBI has approved a limit of \$200,000 per annum for resident individuals to invest abroad. This ceiling is without any restrictions on the type of assets purchased in a foreign country and could be doubled for couples pursuing together. However, only a very



few demat account providers are currently facilitating overseas equity investments. Besides, these accounts have higher brokerage costs.

If one is not keen on a particular stock(s), then an Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) could be an easy option. Though ETFs are restricted to couple of larger indices, investors looking for a bit of diversification could benefit from these choices. However, to transact in these, one doesn't need an international trading account and so could eventually turn economical. The other important factor to be considered when investing in ETFs is available liquidity in these products.

Another convenient option is through mutual fund offerings which have a predominant international exposure. Most of these offerings are fund-of-fund (FoF) which means the funds collected through these funds are fed into another actively

managed fund abroad. That's why these are mostly feeder funds and simple to operate for investors. Investors with or without a demat account could start transactions post the mandatory compliance of KYC.

Of course, there are some hybrid funds that are also available for the interested

investors. A few of the current offerings in India allow the fund to participate up to 30 per cent of the corpus in the International equity.

Though there're funds investing in other geographies (China, Europe, etc.) most of these funds concentrated on the US dollar denominated instruments. Hence, it's better to know the correlation between USD's impact on stock markets. When the dollar is up, emerging-market stocks are to tend to perform poorly. An exposure aligned with a goal like that of foreign education needs or travel over a long period of time is ideal when exploring international equity. As a mere diversification, one needn't exceed beyond 10 per cent of their portfolio.

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

# Options data indicates imminent correction

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

The Options band further narrowed as the highest Open Interest (OI) was seen at 11,300 CE and 11,000 PE after the trading hours on last Friday. The options data points to strong resistance levels for the NSE Nifty and scattered Put OI build-up at strikes below the 11,000 strike. As the broad-based index entered into some consolidation after a sharp move in the last couple of weeks, the NSE Nifty may consolidate around 11,000 level. The 11,000 strike has the highest Put base for the August F&O series as well. Thus, immediate and major support level remains at 11,000 strike. If Nifty closes below this level, it may be considered negative in the ongoing momentum.

The 11,300 strike, which also recorded maximum Call OI addition

## DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

of 15.13 lakh contracts, has highest Call OI of 27.19 lakh contracts followed by 11,500 strike with 23.56 lakh contracts, 11,400 strike with 23.49 lakh contracts and 11,800 strike with 22.95 lakh contracts. The 11,200 strike witnessed Call OI build-up of 12.35 lakh contracts, while 11,400/11,500 strikes also recorded significant Call OI build-up. Coming to Put side, the 11,000 strike, which also recorded maximum Put OI addition of 10.13 lakh contracts, has highest Put OI of 19.98 lakh contracts followed by 10,800 strike with 14.48 lakh contracts, 11,100 strike with 13.16 lakh contracts and 11,200 strike with 12.40 lakh contracts. Put OI build-



up at other strikes was marginal and scattered during the past week.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives), SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "Indian markets remained subdued last week as Nifty hovered in the range of 11,110 to 11,400 levels with some stock-specific action. However, in later part of the week, bears took the charge as markets get dragged sharply lower as banking, auto and telecom stocks remained under pressure. From de-

Call writers creating hefty Open Interest at 11300, 11400 & 11,500 strikes; Put-Call Ratio indicates Call writing

derivatives front, both the Call and Put writers remained active during the week. However, after a long time, Call writers were seen creating hefty Open Interest at 11,300, 11,400 & 11,500 strikes, while Put writers seen shifting to lower bands, which suggest a sign of caution for upcoming sessions."

For the month, the highest Call base is at the 11,500 strike followed by 11,300 strike. The volatility has touched lows near 20 and closed the week above 21 levels, indicating

limited downsides. However, after continued decline in the volatility, a round of upsides should be expected, opine analysts.

According to ICICI Direct.com, most heavyweights are witnessing continued Call writing at ATM and OTM strikes suggesting limited upsides in the near term. Moreover, continued selling by domestic institutions at higher levels may keep upsides limited in the near term.

"On weekly basis, there was a long build-up seen in BharatForge, TataPower and CumminsInd, whereas short build-up in Concor, Bharti Airtel and Bank of Baroda. For coming week, the 11,000 to 11,300 range for Nifty would remain crucial as slide below 11,000 levels would trigger long unwinding, which could take markets even lower," remarked Bisht.

## The Implied Volatility (IV)

"The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 17.33 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 21.12. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 21.67 per cent and is expected to remain sideways. Put-Call Ratio of OI for the week closed at 1.48 slightly down from the previous week and it's indicating Call writing in out of the money strike," added Bisht.

## Bank Nifty

Shedding minute 74.6 points or 0.34 per cent for the week, Bank Nifty closed at 21,679.40 points as against previous week's closing of 21,754 points. The NSE banking index was trading in a positive mode, but couldn't breach its highest Call base of 22,500 strike despite multiple attempts. For the week ahead, the highest Call base remains at 22,500 strike, which should act as

immediate and major hurdle, above which it may move towards 23,500 level.

The stock-specific action continued where most of the private banks supported the index. Considering heavy Call writing at ATM and OTM strikes for the private sector, the banking heavyweights' further up-move remains a challenge. Among stocks, IndusInd Bank and Axis Bank are trading near their highest Call bases and sustainability at current levels may trigger short covering move. As per the ICICI Direct.com, for the coming week, noteworthy Put base is placed at the ATM 22,000 strike. If it remains below these levels then further declines of 800-1000 points cannot be ruled out.

Upsides in the banking space seem limited as this space has already remained subdued. Derivatives analysts see stock-specific reversals from this space. Recent buying was seen in underperforming midcap stocks, which may continue to perform in this positive consolidation.



# ASYMPTOMATIC PEOPLE LINE UP FOR COVID TESTS

- They are entering into arguments with health staff demanding test
- Only rapid test being conducted for asymptomatic cases while both rapid and RT-PCR tests are being conducted on symptomatic cases
- People mostly avoiding tests on holidays resulting in dip in testing numbers

MAHESH AVADHUTHA

**Hyderabad:** The Health department is doing Covid-19 test even to asymptomatic people apart from people having virus-related symptoms.

After ramping up tests and increasing testing centres since last month, even asymptomatic people are landing up at testing centres, especially in GHMC limits,



and demanding Covid test to be done on them. People approaching the testing centres even when their neighbours test positive; someone from their apartment or street-tests positive; office colleague tests positive. They insist on conducting tests on them even though the health officials say that they have to do the sample test only on symptomatic people. "Some individuals are entering

into arguments with testing staff and creating nuisance when told that testing will be done for symptomatic cases only. Now that rapid kits are also supplied adequately, instructions have been given to conduct Covid test for all people who visit centres," a DMHO official said.

"However, only rapid testing is being done for asymptomatic cases. Symptomatic cases are be-

ing tested with rapid kits initially and through RT-PCR again if there are any doubts," he said.

The other interesting thing is that asymptomatic people are being choosy when it comes to undergoing the test. They are not landing up at testing centers on public holidays including Sundays from the last few weeks and hence the testing numbers per day on those days are falling considerably when compared to normal days. The situation was no different due to incessant rain and two-day continuous holidays this weekend.

"While 1,800 to 2,000 tests are being done per day in our district regularly on holidays the numbers are falling to just 800 to 900 testing per day. While asymptomatic cases are avoiding tests on holidays those having symptoms have no choice but to visit the center and undergo the sample test," stated, a DMHO from one of the districts witnessing high caseload.

## BRIMMING WITH WATER



Following incessant rains in Hyderabad, the sluice gate of the historic Hussain Sagar Lake was lifted on Sunday to discharge excess water that accumulated in the lake.  
Photo: Adula Krishna

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Commissioner of Intermediate Education and Secretary, Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE), Syed Omer Jaleel announced that the launching of online classes is postponed from August 17.

In a statement on Sunday he said that earlier the department had proposed to

start digital classes for Intermediate students through Doordarshan and T-SAT from August 17.

The inauguration of digital classes for intermediate students was scheduled to be inaugurated by the State Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy. However, the same has been postponed due to continuous heavy rains in the State. The next date of the launch of online classes will be announced shortly, he added.

## TSBIE defers launching of Inter online classes

## GHMC reports only 254 cases as Covid tests fall by 50pc

**Hyderabad:** Positive cases in GHMC limits were reported just over 200 for the first time in over a month even as day testing numbers fell by nearly 50 per cent due to holiday on Saturday. Also, only one district (Karimnagar) reported over 100 new cases while four other districts that were reporting high caseloads for last few weeks also reported slightly fewer numbers than seen usually. As per the Health bulletin's figures up to August 15 evening, Telangana reported 1,102 new covid cases and nine deaths. Of the 12,120 tests done, reports of 1046 RT-PCR tests are pending. The number of tests done 24 hours earlier was over 21,000. In cases break-up, GHMC accounted for 254, Medchal 101, Ranga Reddy 81, Warangal 70, Sangareddy 66 cases.

The total covid count of the state rose to 91,361 while recovered cases number rose to 68,126 and deceased tally to 693. Of the 22,542 active cases, 15,502 cases are in home isolation.

## TAHSILDAR BRIBERY CASE

# Skeletons tumble out of cupboard

The accused realtor K Anji Reddy was in possession of Congress MP A Revanth Reddy's MPLADS recommendation letters. Some of the documents included development works proposed by the MP and few nomination files, say ACB officials

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The ACB raids conducted at the residence of tainted Tahsildar of Keesara mandal have unearthed some dirty facts of the bureaucratic world which may create a flutter in political circles.

According to the officials of ACB, tahsildar D Balraju Nagaraju demanded a bribe amount of Rs 2 crore from one realtor C Srinath of Sri Satya Developers for doing an official favor, i.e., to clear the land issue pertaining to 19 acres 39 guntas of land in survey no. 614 and



Keesara Tahsildar along with arrested realtors

other numbers in the limits of Rampally Dayara village in Keesara mandal to process the file in favour of original patadars and to furnish orders of district Collector of Medchal Malkajgiri district.

Apart from the amount the ACB got their hands on some incriminating material which was in possession of the tahsildar and an unaccounted cash

amount of Rs. 8 lakh was found in his car and Rs. 28 lakh unaccounted cash along with half a KG of gold ornaments and a locker key were found from his residence. Moreover many immovable property documents were also identified during the raids, said the officials of ACB.

However, the most astonishing treasure which the ACB got was some highly confidential

documents related to MPLADS fund files of Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy. These documents were found from a guest house of another realtor, K. Anji Reddy, who colluded with C Srinath to develop the lands at Rampally Dayara.

The accused K Anji Reddy was in possession of Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy's MPLADS recommendation letters. Some of the documents included development works proposed by the MP and few nomination files.

The officials of ACB noted, "As per the protocol, no one else should possess the documents apart from the MP before they are submitted to the collector. Nevertheless all these incriminating material have been seized and are being verified and the investigation is still under progress."

Meanwhile, the tahsildar and realtors C. Srinath and K. Anji Reddy have been arrested and produced before the special judge of ACB.

## KTR seeks DefMin help to open Cantt roads

- The MAUD Minister raises the plight of millions of citizens living in north and north-eastern parts of the city due to frequent road blockades without any justifiable reasons by the local Military authorities
- These authorities resort to regulate the traffic at their will on certain roads, which are otherwise the 'lifeline' for the people living in these areas
- The closure of the only connecting road causes untold misery and hardships to the locals, writes KTR

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Expressing displeasure over the untold inconvenience caused due to arbitrary road closure by the Military authorities, Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Sunday urged the Union Defence Minister Raj-nath Singh to intervene on the closure of the roads in cantonment areas and instruct the local authorities not to close roads without following standard operating procedures.

KTR raised the plight of millions of citizens living in north and north-eastern parts of the city due to frequent road blockades without any justifiable reasons by the local Military authorities of the Secunderabad Cantonment area. "These authorities resort to regulate the traffic at their will on certain roads, which are otherwise the 'lifeline' for the people living in these areas and closure of the only connecting road, causes untold misery and hardship to the locals," said Rao.

Rao further said that frequent and mostly sudden and unannounced closure of these important roads such as AOC roads, Gough Road several times had resulted in widespread resentment among the citizens. He recalled that Defence Ministry had issued a 'Standard Protocol' to be fol-

lowed by the Military authorities in initiating the process for closing of roads in accordance with the provisions of the Cantonment Act, 2006, duly factoring in the emergent security needs of the Army.

As per the orders, the Defence Ministry will have the final word on the closure of roads in Cantonments. Proposals for any road closure will have to be forwarded to the ministry for legal vetting, which will be done after publishing of draft orders in at least three local newspapers and the cantonment board's website, and the objections and suggestions from the local public have been considered.

Rao alleged that without following the SOP the authorities shut down four important roads- Allahabad Gate, Gough Road, Wellington Road and Ordnance Road for ten days in July 2018 citing a surge in Covid 19 cases in the City. "It is illogical to try to stop the spread of the pandemic by closing public roads. Residents had been forced to take long detours at a time when public transport is not available. One can imagine the tremendous tragedies that can occur during medical emergencies if such road blockades are allowed. This has simply aggravated the discomfort of the citizens during the pandemic," said KTR.



## BJP demands land tribunal

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Telangana BJP State vice-president NVVS Prabhakar demanded the State government to appoint a land tribunal to clear the pending cases related to the land disputes in the State.

Addressing media here on Sunday, he also demanded the appointment of a judicial commission to probe the allegations of revenue officials misusing their office to transfer the wakf, endowment, custodian and government lands to the private parties.

That apart, a series of incidents in which the State Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has caught revenue officials accepting bribes exposes the rampant corruption. Prabhakar found fault with

the State government for confirming the quasi-judicial powers on the MROs, RDO leading to the increase in the revenue officials entering into shady land deals with the support of the leaders from the ruling party.

He demanded a review of the confirming of the quasi-judicial powers on the revenue officials of the ranks of MRO and RDO. He said that his party will also take the issue to the notice of the State Governor with a request to issue necessary directions to the government to take necessary steps to weed out corruption.

The BJP leader also found fault with the State government for not giving its nod for the prosecution of the officials facing the corruption cases filed against them by the ACB.

## COVID SCARE

# Minister asks citizens to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi, Muharram at home

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Endowments Minister A Indrakaran Reddy on Sunday asked people of the State to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi and Muharram at their homes avoiding mass gatherings in wake of Covid pandemic.

Talking to the media here after reviewing the department, the Endowments Minister said the State government has decided to keep the ensuing Ganesh Chaturthi and Muharram simple. He called upon the devotees to celebrate the festival in their

- Endowments Minister Indrakaran Reddy urges devotees to avoid mass gathering, procession, immersion and prayers
- Calls upon the people to follow rules in wake of corona pandemic



homes without having mass gatherings, prayers and immersions.

The Minister said that the government would ensure there is no inconvenience to the people celebrating the festival at their homes by following the rules. He called upon

the people to follow the rules and guidelines in wake of corona. As per the rules, maintaining physical distancing, wearing masks is mandatory and people should also support the government during the pandemic, said Indrakaran Reddy.

## DEMOLITION OF SECTT MOSQUES, TEMPLE

# Cong braces for Statewide protest, legal battle

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Congress would fight a legal battle and launch a Statewide protest against the illegal demolition of two mosques and a temple in the Secretariat by the government, said TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday. He was speaking to media persons after chairing a meeting at Indira Bhavan with party senior leaders to discuss the demolition of places of worship in the Secretariat and preparations for the next GHMC elections.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao has hurt the religious sentiments by ordering the demolition of two mosques and a temple in the Secretariat. Later, he committed another sin of lying to the people on the issue.

Two days after the demolition (on July 10), the Chief Minister issued a statement claiming that some damage

- TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy slams Owaisi Bros, Kishan Reddy for their silence over demolitions
- Owaisi brothers often speak about Babri Masjid which is thousands of kilometers away. But they are supporting CM KCR on the demolition of two mosques in Hyderabad. Their stand has exposed their true colours," Uttam says
- Asks party cadre to gear up for GHMC polls, revamp party structure

was caused to the places of worship when debris of other structures in the Secretariat fell on them during demolition. However, a few days later, the State government filed an affidavit in



TPCC chief and MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy flanked by CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka, MP Revanth Reddy, former Council Floor leader Mohd Shabbir Ali and others addressing a meeting of party leaders at Indira Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday.

the High Court announcing that all the places of worship have been razed to the ground.

The TPCC chief announced that the Congress party would file a criminal

complaint against those involved and responsible for the demolition. He said all other legal steps would be taken to pursue the case at a higher level. Further, he said a Statewide agitation

would be organised against the demolitions.

Uttam Kumar Reddy also condemned MIM leaders Asaduddin Owaisi and Akbaruddin Owaisi for their silence on the issue. "Owaisi brothers often speak about Babri Masjid which is thousands of kilometers away. But they are supporting CM KCR on the demolition of two mosques in Hyderabad. Their stand has exposed their true colours," Uttam said. He also slammed Union Minister of Home G. Kishan Reddy for his silence on the issue.

Speaking on the GHMC elections, the TPCC chief asked the party cadre to start working on the electoral rolls by helping the people on enrolment of names, corrections, etc. Uttam asked the party leaders to take up revamping the party structure in Greater Hyderabad, Warangal and Khammam which would face municipal elections soon.

## Seven booked for circulating Bengaluru violence videos

**Hyderabad:** The Central Crime Station (CCS) of Hyderabad police on Sunday booked cases against seven persons for allegedly spreading violence videos of Bengaluru. According to CCS officials, the accused persons were spreading the videos through Youtube and other platforms like Whatsapp and Facebook on the pretext of broadcasting news. All the seven persons were working in the field of web reporting and as stringers. They were booked under multiple sections of IPC and the investigation is going on. Once the investigation is completed, the said persons will be detained for questioning and action will be taken further, said the police. The Commissioner of Police, Anjani Kumar has strictly warned in the past week about the fake news being spread about Bengaluru violence. He also stated that if anyone is found to be spreading such kind of fake news to disturb the communal harmony of the city, then strict action will be initiated against them.



# Tactics not most important thing in Champions League: Guardiola

## Lyon send Manchester City packing in quarterfinals

**Lisbon (IANS):** Manchester City's Champions League (CL) frustration continued with their shock 3-1 defeat to Olympique Lyonnais in the quarter-finals at Lisbon.

On the side of City, Pep Guardiola surprised by betting on Fernandinho on the right, Aymeric Laporte in the middle and Eric Garcia on the left in a very defensive line in Saturday's encounter, reports Xinhua news agency.

In the first minutes of the game, the Spanish coach's tactics seemed to have worked, since City managed three chances in just eight minutes, with a dominant 75 per cent possession of the ball. However, after 10 minutes, the game started to change and the Lyon team started to take shape.

In the 23rd minute of the first half, Toko Ekambi's shoot was stopped by Garcia's sliding tackle, and Maxwel Cornet took the loose ball, firing it in the back of the net. The goal was even reviewed by the video referee, but confirmed shortly thereafter.

City's response came soon after, with the English team growing in the game against Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes performing four saves in the first half, ensuring that the game went



to the interval with minimal advantage. At the beginning of the second half, Guardiola was forced to bring on attacker Riyad Mahrez for Brazilian defender Fernandinho.

Despite dominating possession throughout the match, defensive errors led to underdogs

Lyon going through to the semi-finals where they will face the might of Bayern Munich.

City coach Pep Guardiola was on his knees a number of times during the dying moments of the second half when City conceded twice after equalising and Raheem Sterling missed a sitter

when the score was still 2-1.

In this competition, the tactics are not the most important thing, Guardiola said in the post-match press conference.

"They (Lyon) are so fast and our central defenders are not so quick so I didn't want to leave them two versus two. We worked

for three days on this, we discussed it and we reviewed this and when you play like we did in the last 20 minutes it shows the system is not the problem."

City's defensive woes led to them giving Liverpool a free run in the Premier League title race despite scoring 102 goals this season and it was found wanting against Lyon. They were woefully caught out when Maxwell Cornet put the French side ahead and the same happened again when Moussa Dembele scored the second just seconds after Sterling's miss at the other end.

"It is what it is and hopefully one day we'll break this gap in this competition," added Guardiola, who has led City to two Premier League titles in four seasons but never gone beyond the quarter-final stage in the Champions League.

"We created more chances, had more shots, we did everything but unfortunately we are out again."

With this result, the semifinals are already defined with two French and two German teams. On one hand, Paris Saint Germain and RB Leipzig are playing on Tuesday, and on the other, Bayern Munich and the newly qualified Lyon, on Wednesday.



### ENG vs PAK 2ND TEST

## England reach 7/1 as rain plays havoc

**Southampton (IANS):** England reached 7/1 against Pakistan at Lunch on Day 4 of the rain-affected second Test at the Ageas Bowl here on Sunday.

At the break, Dom Sibley was batting on 2 with Zak Crawley on 5. England trail Pakistan by 229 runs. No play was possible on Day 3 because of persistent rain and bad light.

Resuming at 223/9, Mohammad Rizwan top-scored for the tourists with a fighting 72 as Stuart Broad and James Anderson returned figures of 4/56 and 3/60 respectively to bowl out Pakistan for 236.

England lost Rory Burns (0) in the first over itself as Shaheen Shah Afridi had the left hander caught at second slip by Asad Shafiq. Only 5 overs were possible before the skies opened up again and early lunch was taken. On Day 2, England made

quick work of the Pakistan tail after Babar Azam's dismissal by getting rid of Yasir Shah and Shaheen Afridi in quick succession. However, Rizwan went on the counter after that helped his team past the 200-run mark. Early Tea was taken after the umpires led the players off due to bad light. Broad managed to make a breakthrough in the first full over of the session with the wicket of Mohammad Abbas but at the end of that over, the umpires took the players off again due to bad light. They never came back and about two hours later, stumps was called.

**Brief scores:** Pakistan 236 (Mohammad Rizwan 72, Abid Ali 60, Babar Azam 47; Stuart Broad 4/56, James Anderson 3/60) vs England 7/1 (Dom Sibley 2 batting, Zak Crawley 5 batting)

## Ex-cricketer Chetan Chauhan dies of Covid-19

**New Delhi:** Former India opener Chetan Chauhan died on Sunday due to Covid-19 related complications after being put on life support for nearly 36 hours, his brother Pushpendra Chauhan said.

Chauhan, who played 40 Tests for India, was 73 and is survived by his wife and son Vinayak, who is scheduled to arrive from Melbourne later in the day.

"My elder brother Chetan Chauhan has left us today after fighting a good battle. I sincerely thank everyone who had prayed for his recovery. His son Vinayak will be reaching anytime and we will then perform last rites," Pushpendra told PTI.

Chauhan, who was Sunil Gavaskar's longest serving opening partner, was admitted to Sanjay Gandhi PGI in Lucknow on July 12 after being found Covid-19 positive.

Due to kidney related ailments, his health deteriorated and he was shifted to Medanta hospital in Gurugram.

On Friday night, he had a multi-organ failure and was put on ventilator support.



Chauhan was born in Uttar Pradesh and elected to the state assembly from Nauwagan in Amroha district.

A well-known cricketer before he joined politics, he played 40 Tests between 1969 and 1978 and scored 2,084 runs at an average of 31.57 with 97 being his highest score. He also played in seven ODIs, scoring 153 runs from them.

He and Sunil Gavaskar formed a successful opening partnership, scoring over 3,000 runs together with 10 century stands in numerous Tests in the 1970s.

Chauhan played Ranji Trophy for Maharashtra and Delhi and was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1981.

## Cyclist in national camp tests positive for Covid-19

**New Delhi (IANS):** Cyclist Triyasha Paul, who is a part of the National cycling Camp at the Indira Gandhi National Stadium in New Delhi, has tested positive for Covid-19, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Sunday.

Triyasha arrived at the camp on Wednesday and was given SAI's mandatory Covid-19 test upon arrival. The camp was scheduled to start on Friday.

SAI had earlier said that a team of 11 athletes, four coaches and 16 support staff had already reported to the camp before August 8 and are undergoing mandatory quarantine.

The reassembling of national camps for Olympic-level athletes around the country has seen positive tests emerging among athletes and staff. Six men's hockey players, including captain Manpreet Singh, had tested positive in Bengaluru while in the badminton camp at the Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad, women's doubles star N. Sikki Reddy and a physio had tested positive.

## Goa gets a thumbs up to stage ISL 2020-21

**Mumbai (IANS):** The Indian Super League (ISL) is set to be staged in Goa for the season 2020-21, starting November.

The ISL, in its seventh edition will be played behind closed doors at three venues - Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda; GMC Athletic Stadium, Bambolim; and Tilak Maidan Stadium, Vasco.

Nita Ambani, Founder & Chairperson, Football Sports Development Limited, said: "I am delighted to bring the ISL Season 7 to the state of Goa, from where we had left the action last season."

"Congratulations to the beautiful state of Goa and their passionate fans of football, as they once again become the epicenter of the beautiful game in India!"

"Over the last six years, ISL has played a key role in helping Indian football find its rightful place in the global arena. In this short period, we have crossed several remarkable milestones - ISL's recent membership of the World League Forum, City Football Group's investment in Mumbai City FC, ATK's merger with Mohun Bagan, and ISL's emergence as the fourth most popular league on social media with 38 million fan interactions, are all



indicators of the phenomenal rise of Indian football.

"Sport is one of the greatest expressions of solidarity and a source of happiness for people around the world. My gratitude to all our clubs, players, and staff for their fortitude and resilience during these unprecedented times. I look forward to the upcoming season of ISL as we showcase, through football, the triumph of human spirit in fighting

the pandemic with hope and courage."

Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) will be working closely with the Sports Authority Of Goa, Goa Football Association and the State administration to ensure a safe and secure season.

FSDL recently concluded a recce of the available infrastructure in Goa and has drawn up an extensive plan to undertake upgradation from pitch and

drainage refurbishment/ maintenance, floodlights and competition area uplift including players dressing rooms at each of the three stadiums.

FSDL wishes to provide an individual training pitch to each of the clubs.

Ten such training pitches have been identified in the state of Goa, which will see upgrades over the next month before handing it over to the respective clubs.

## Dhoni starts, and ends, his career with run-outs

**New Delhi (IANS):** Spanning over 15 years, the international career of the dashing cricketer and former India skipper M.S. Dhoni has a unique twist to it -- both his debut and last matches recording run-outs for him.

This rare statistic popped up as Mahendra Singh Dhoni aka MSD called time on his international career on Saturday, bringing an end to the top-flight career of one of India's greatest limited-overs cricketers, and its most successful captain.

Known to be a playwire between the wickets, Dhoni played for India the last time during the 2019 World Cup semi-final that the Men in Blue lost to New Zealand and bowed out of the competition. The 39-year old, who is the only captain to win all three ICC trophies - the 50-over World Cup, the T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy - was run out in that game too as he looked set to guide India to a victory.

In the tense encounter in Manchester, India were in a spot of bother while chasing 240, but Ravindra Jadeja and Dhoni restored the balance before Martin Guptill conjured up a special run-out moment to send Dhoni back as the veteran wicketkeeper-batsman tried to steal a double. With that ended India's hopes of reaching the final.

On his ODI debut in 2004, Dhoni nudged a delivery from Bangladesh's Mohammad Rafique to square leg and set off for a single, only to be sent back by his partner Mohammad Kaif.

Unfortunately, he got run out for a



duck while batting at number seven.

### Five moments that showed Dhoni is the coolest captain

**Kolkata (IANS):** The M.S. Dhoni we have seen in the recent past is not the one we have known over the years. The grey sideburns might have worked as a reminder to the world every day that his time is over, but the decision was made by Dhoni on August 15, the day of India's independence, that it is time to bid adieu to international cricket and watch the game from the other side of the fence. He looked a pale shadow of his former self for a while, but that cannot take away what has been an illustrious career, first as a player and then as the leader of the pack. From the inaugural World T20 triumph in 2007 to the fabled 2011 50-over World Cup win

on home soil and then the 2013 Champions Trophy victory in England, Dhoni led by example and tasted the success which no other Indian captain has ever managed.

He even led India to the number one ranking, both in Test and ODI formats. The five episodes during Dhoni's stint as India captain which proved that he was the coolest of them all.

#### 2007 World T20 final

With the seniors rested and under a new captain, no one really gave India a chance in a format which was new to them. India under Dhoni with the long hair then proved critics wrong with spectacular wins over England, South Africa and Australia to reach the final where arch-rivals Pakistan awaited them. It was a nerve-wracking summit clash and came down to Pakistan needing 13 runs from the final over. Of all

people, Dhoni handed the ball to Joginder Sharma raising quite a few eyebrows. Joginder was hit for a six by Pakistan skipper Misbah-ul-Haq in the second ball of the 20th over but what happened in the next ball will be remembered forever. Misbah went for a needless scoop shot over short fine leg but could only manage to find S. Sreesanth who took an easy catch and helped India win by 5 runs in the inaugural ICC World T20.

#### 2011 World Cup final

Yuvraj Singh's all-round brilliance had helped India reach the final on home soil. India had the likes of Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag opening the batting but chasing a challenging 275 for victory in the summit clash against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, India lost both iconic openers inside 31 runs. Gautam Gambhir came out at No. 3 and batted brilliantly for his 97 but it was Dhoni's masterstroke to push himself up the order and ahead of in-form Yuvraj which did the trick for India. The Ranchi dasher smashed an unforgettable 91 off 79 balls including the winning six off Nuwan Kulasekara in the 49th over to lead India to a second World Cup crown. It was exceptional from Dhoni both in the mind and with the bat as he theatrically became part of cricketing folklore.

#### 2013 Champions Trophy - Asking Rohit to open

Rohit Sharma has said time and again

that Dhoni improved his ODI career by asking him to open the batting in the format before the 2013 Champions Trophy in England. Since opening the batting, Rohit has scaled heights in jet speed and can now be termed as one of the best opening batsmen in the game after his superlative performance in the 2019 World Cup where he not only finished as the highest run getter but also scored a record five centuries. Rohit, earlier in 2019, became the fastest to 6,000 runs as an opener in ODI cricket and now has 6,691 runs in 130 innings opening the batting.

#### 2013 Champions Trophy - Handing Ishant Sharma the ball

A defining moment came in the rain-affected final of the Champions Trophy in Birmingham where Dhoni asked Ishant Sharma, who had been expensive before that, to bowl the 18th over and the tall pacer snared two wickets in two balls to break Eoin Morgan and Ravi Bopara's 64-run stand and eventually helped India win the game and the coveted trophy.

#### 2016 World T20

It was not a tournament where India ended as champions, losing to West Indies in the semi-finals. But in his last ICC event as skipper, Dhoni was brilliant once again in leading the side and India's one-run win over Bangladesh had a lot of Dhoni moments which will be remembered forever.

## 'MSD was a perfect follow-up to Ganguly's captaincy'

**New Delhi (IANS):** Former India women's team captain Anjum Chopra feels that the way Dhoni led the team to heights after the disappointment of 2007 is a testament to his character.

"His results speak for themselves. He got laurels for the country repeatedly and his success is not just at the international level but also in the IPL and whatever he has been a part of," Anjum told IANS on Sunday. Dhoni took over captaincy in ODIs from Rahul Dravid in 2007 and the Test captaincy from Anil Kumble in 2008. He remained the skipper of the Test team until his retirement from the format in 2014 and of the limited-overs side till 2017. The relatively short periods that Dravid and Kumble served as captains of the team meant that their terms have come to be seen as interim ones between Sourav Ganguly and Dhoni's captaincies.

"I think he has been a perfect foil for Sourav Ganguly. Of course there was Rahul Dravid in the middle but after all these guys left, Dhoni carried the team forward. Not only just carrying the legacy forward but adding on to whatever the seniors built."

"So he has seen the ups and downs of Indian team since (the 2003 World Cup). And then from there (to lead) the resurgence and then carry it forward, it takes a lot of character and he has shown that," she said.

