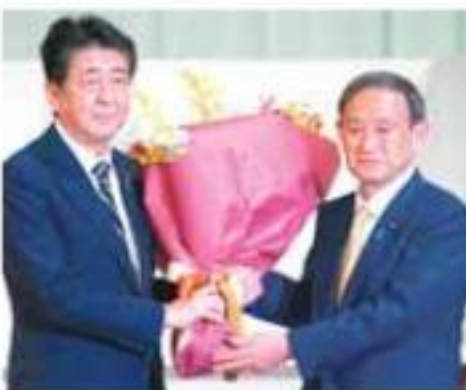




## WINDOWS

### Virus effect: Bill aims to cut salaries of MPs

**New Delhi (PTI):** Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday introduced in Lok Sabha a bill that seeks to reduce for one year the salaries of Members of Parliament by 30 per cent "to meet the exigencies arising out of COVID-19 pandemic". The ordinance had stated that the corona virus pandemic has shown the importance of expeditious relief and assistance and therefore, it was necessary to take "certain emergency measures to prevent and contain the spread of this pandemic".



*Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (left) presents Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga with flowers after Suga was elected as new head of Japan's ruling party at the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) leadership election in Tokyo on Monday. The ruling LDP chooses its new leader in an internal vote to pick a successor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who announced his intention to resign last month due to illness*

### Suga elected as new leader of Japan's LDP

**Tokyo (IANS):** Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga was on Monday elected as the new leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), replacing outgoing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who announced his resignation last month due to health issues, from the top post. The 71-year-old was elected at a joint plenary meeting of party members from both houses of the Diet (Parliament) and delegates from local chapters earlier in the day, reports Xinhua news agency. At the meeting, Suga won 377 votes while the other two contenders, LDP policy chief Fumio Kishida and former Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba garnered 89 and 68 votes, respectively. In the scaled-down vote, 394 Diet members cast their ballots.



# Govt scraps Question Hour, Opposition slams move

**New Delhi (PTI):** Lok Sabha on Monday decided to do away with Question Hour and private members' business during the Monsoon session, inviting strong criticism from opposition members who accused the government of stifling democracy.

The lower house adopted the motion to suspend Question Hour, with the government maintaining that it is not running away from discussion and will reply to all questions raised by the opposition.

Slamming the move, the opposition led by the Congress said that Question Hour is the "golden hour of the House". Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said the argument and rationale that has been put forth by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi is far from convincing. He said the Question Hour is recognised as an essence of parliamentary democracy and executives are accountable and answerable during the Question Hour.

In such an extraordinary situation, if the House is running, "why Question Hour is singled out," Ranjan Chowdhury asked. "We get chance to raise issues of common people."

Continued on Page 5

## 30 MPs test +ve

**New Delhi:** Around 30 MPs, including BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi and Pravesh Verma, and over 50 employees of Parliament have tested positive for Covid-19 so far, sources said on Monday. Many of them tested positive after undergoing compulsory corona virus tests at the Parliament premises before the start of the monsoon session, while several of them had undergone tests in their respective constituencies. All parliamentarians and staff of the secretariats of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha had undergone mandatory Covid-19 tests before the start of the session. Media-persons covering the parliament's proceedings also underwent these tests and at least one of them has tested positive, the sources said.

▶ P3



Rajya Sabha MP Mary Kom at Parliament House on the opening day of Monsoon Session, in New Delhi on Monday

## Hope Parliament sends message that country stands behind soldiers: PM

**New Delhi (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed confidence that Parliament will give this strong message that the country is unitedly standing behind its brave soldiers guarding India's borders, noting that doing so is the legislature's "special responsibility".

In his remarks to media before the commence-

ment of Parliament's monsoon session, Modi noted, in an apparent reference to the ongoing border row with China in Ladakh, that Indian soldiers are bravely discharging their duties while standing guard in difficult hilly terrains with snow-fall expected in some time.

Referring to the issue, he said, "This Parliament also has a special respon-

sibility, especially in this session." He continued, "This Parliament, its every member will give this message in one voice, one sentiment and one resolve that the country is standing behind our soldiers. It (country) is doing so through Parliament and its members. I am confident that this Parliament will give this very strong message that it is standing

behind our country's brave soldiers in one voice."

His call for unity over the issue came as Parliament is expected to debate the tense border situation, with some opposition leaders, especially from the Congress, sharply criticising the government's handling of the row with China.

Continued on Page 5

## Centre to SC: No removal of slums along rail tracks

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Centre on Monday informed the Supreme Court that for the time being there will be no removal of 48,000 slums along the railway tracks in Delhi.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing Centre, submitted before a bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde that the Railways, urban development ministry and Delhi government will sit together and find a solution in four weeks and till then there will be no demolition of slums along the train tracks.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi submitted before the bench that the court should order a status quo. The bench replied that it will not, as the Centre has already stated that there will be status quo till a decision is taken.

Senior advocate Salman Khurshid submitted before the bench that he appeared on behalf of the applicants who are directly affected as they are jhuggi dwellers. Khurshid emphasised that they need to be heard and urged the court to make them a party in the case. Singhvi argued that demolitions have taken place on Friday and Monday, therefore the in-

structions need to be given to stop it.

Mehta replied that such demolitions may have taken place in pursuance to some other matter, but not in this case. Delhi government counsel contended before the court that the government will fully co-operate in regard to the laws and rules in place for rehabilitation. The top court has listed the matter after four weeks.

Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken had moved the Supreme Court challenging its order to remove nearly 48,000 jhuggis along the railway tracks in Delhi. On August 31, the Supreme Court had ordered removal of around 48,000 slum dwellings across railway tracks in Delhi within three months and said no political interference will be entertained in the matter.

Maken, in an intervention application, said the agencies - Ministry of Railways, Delhi government etc, - have already initiated the process identification and removal of jhuggis and have issued demolition notices in various slums in Delhi.

Continued on Page 5

## Unauthorised idol installation in AP temple sparks row

### Unknown persons behind the sacrilegious act

V PRADEEP KUMAR

**Srikalahasti:** The controversy pertaining to attacks on Hindu temples has now taken a new turn with some unknown persons clandestinely installing Shiva and Nandi idols beside Kasi and Rameswara Shiva Lingas.

The BJP and other Opposition parties, taking strong objection to the in consequential measures taken by the temple authorities and Endowments department like suspending the constable on duty, have launched an agitation. The Executive Officer has assured them that they would probe the incident thoroughly within 48 hours.

What has added fuel to the fire is that when no employee or devotee could go into the temple without thorough screening how could anyone take inside



BJP and Jana Sena leaders staging a protest over unauthorised idol installation at Srikalahasti temple, at Endowments department regional office in Tirupati on Monday

these idols, which weigh around 7 kgs each and install them. The temple authorities cannot duck the responsibility saying that they do not know how it has happened, the Opposition parties argue. Suspending a police official on duty is not the solution, the BJP and other party leaders said.

They said the temple authorities claim that they have enquired with the main priest about them but they revealed that they

Meanwhile, the temple management has removed the private security agency following the incident and surrendered two home guards to the SP who were on duty at the south gate when the idols were reportedly taken into the temple in big bags.

Executive Officer C Chandrasekhar Reddy told The Hans India that the CCTV footage revealed that some persons carried the bags inside the temple on September 8 through the south gate. An internal enquiry was also ordered, he said.

BJP leaders G Bhanuprakash Reddy, Samanchi Srinivas and Kola Anand along with Jana Sena leaders held a protest at the RJC office in Tirupati on Monday. They demanded the CM to react in this matter and raised slogans against the government.



### Modi praised me for Covid testing, says Trump

**Washington (IANS):** US President Donald Trump has claimed that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised him for corona virus testing in America, which is currently the worst-hit country in the world. Trump made the remarks at a campaign rally on Saturday night in Nevada.

The President said: "We've tested more people than India than many many big countries put together. India's second. We are 44 million tests ahead of India. They have 1.5 billion people..."

And Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi calls me. He says what a job you've done with testing. I said explain that to these dishonest people back."

Trump then goes on to slam his Democratic rival Joe Biden, saying that if he was in charge when the "China virus" arrived, "hundreds of thousands of more Americans would have died".

As of Monday, the US accounts for the world's highest number of Covid-19 cases and deaths at 6,520,234 and 194,081 respectively, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

India is currently in the second place in terms of cases at 4,846,427, while the country's death toll stood at 79,722.

At the rally, Trump warned that he was prepared to "be really vicious" in the final weeks of the presidential campaign.

Nevada is among the locations his campaign is targeting as they work to rebuild enthusiasm around his handling of the US economy and solidify his support with Hispanic voters, said a Politico news report.

## Oracle wins deal for TikTok US biz, Microsoft's bid rejected

**San Francisco (IANS):** Bytedance, the Chinese owner of TikTok, has chosen Cloud major Oracle over Microsoft to run its US operations as a 'trusted tech partner', multiple media reports revealed on Monday while an official announcement was still awaited.

According to The New York Times, it was unclear whether TikTok's choice of Oracle as a technology partner would mean that "Oracle would also take a majority ownership stake of the social media app".

This is different from an outright sale and appears to suggest Oracle will help run TikTok's US operations with its Cloud technologies.

In an official statement, Mi-

crosoft said its bid for TikTok operations in the US was rejected. "ByteDance let us know today they would not be selling TikTok's US operations to Microsoft. We are confident our proposal would have been good for TikTok's users, while protecting national security interests," Microsoft said.

"To do this, we would have made significant changes to ensure the service met the highest standards for security, privacy, online safety, and combating disinformation, and we made these principles clear in our August statement," the tech giant added.

After TikTok was banned in India in June, along with 58 other Chinese apps, the Donald



Trump administration in the US increased pressure on the ByteDance-owned platform to sell its US operations by mid-September or face a ban.

According to NYT, Oracle has cultivated close ties with the Trump administration.

"Its founder, Larry Ellison, hosted a fund-raiser for Trump this year, and its chief executive, Safra Catz, served on the president's transition team and has frequently visited the White House".

Trump said last month that he would support Oracle buying TikTok.

"I think that Oracle would be certainly somebody that could handle it," he told reporters. Trump maintained there will be

"no extension of the TikTok deadline".

Riding on new customer wins in both Cloud applications and infrastructure businesses, Oracle posted better than expected results for its FY21 first quarter results last week, generating \$9.4 billion in revenue which was up 2 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Meanwhile, China said the Trump administration's deadline for TikTok sale is tantamount to "coercive robbery". "The tricks of economic bullying and political manipulation that the US played on non-American companies are tantamount to coercive robbery," said a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson over the weekend.



# Womenia

TWEET PATROL



**SAMANTHA AKKINENI**  
@SAMANTHAPRABHU2

It's Monday,  
but it's ok!!



## DENIM TIPS FOR EVERY GIRL

- Want to look chic in your denim. While showing some skin in your denim. If you're wearing a miniskirt or shorts, cover up on top. If your top is skimpy, go for full-coverage bottoms.
- Don't underestimate the power of a well-fitting, stylish winter coat. You can be wearing pajamas underneath and you'll still look perfectly put together.
- Fold jeans like a pro: Lay jeans on a flat surface, fold in half from left to right. Grab the stacked jean legs and fold them in half so the hem of the jeans lines up with the waistband. Fold the jeans in half one more time.
- If the garment you're ironing has delicate buttons or detailing, cover them with the bowl of a metal spoon and press the surrounding fabric.



## Reigniting the passion for music

ASKARI JAFFER

Kolkata-based, 33-years-old, Sohini Singha Majumdar is a vocalist who sings Khayal, Thumri, Bhajan and Ghazal mainly. Her musical journey started at the age of four. Sohini took up English Honours for her graduation and pursued MBA in Human Resource Management.

Sohini says, "My maternal grandfather taught me the ABCs of music. I don't follow any particular gharana. I try to incorporate styles of several gharanas in my rendition which suits my voice."

The maternal side of her family is of musicians and it is from there that she has inherited music.

She adds, "My grandfather was a singer and violinist, my mother is a vocalist and my maternal aunt is a sitarist. My mother was a great source of inspiration for me as she practiced regularly in spite of having so much work at home. My mother told me that riyaz should be like eating and taking baths which are done regularly. I wake up in the morning and after completing my riyaz I go to the office. While travelling I listen to music. After coming

**Surmandal, a group of culturally inclined people and music lovers of Hyderabad, organised its second virtual live event, a 'Classical and Light Music Concert' on Facebook by Sohini Singha Majumdar recently**

from office, I teach my daughter and spend 'mamma time' with her. After she goes to sleep, I sometimes work on my compositions or listen to good music. Then I go to sleep. Weekends we go for outings."

When asked about learning the raga, Sohini says she is still learning to sing the existing ragas. Once she learns singing them properly, she would give a thought about creating any raag.

She adds, "I compose Ghazals based on several raagas during my free time. It is my hobby and gives me immense mental relaxation. I get extremely stressed out when I am unable to concentrate on riyaz due to some other emergencies. The ongoing pandemic has been very stressful to everyone around and for me things have been different."

I am basically a home person and this pandemic has given me a lot of time which I always wanted to have. I have utilised it fully in music and my family."

Indian Classical Music is the base of every music in India. The



span of Indian Classical music is vast and there are many old ragas which have lots of significance. So, it is very important to nurture and preserve the authenticity of several ragas. The responsibility of this are at the shoulder of the Guru to propagate and the Shishya to carry forward in the next generation

"I draw my inspiration from legends of Indian classical music

and their works inspire me to continue my 'sadhana' and chase my dreams. In the Indian societal structure, a woman's life is full of responsibilities. God has made women multitasking and my life is similarly very hectic. I am a professional singer on top of that I have a full time job, a kid and a family. Carrying out all these together becomes very challenging at times. These become stressful for me. Thanks to my parents, sister and family for supporting me and my friends for giving me mental strength to cope up with this struggle," concludes Sohini.

## Salon style hair at home

**SOMETIMES ALL WE NEED IS A GOOD HAIR DAY TO PUT A SMILE ON OUR FACE**

With home sheltering for months on end during the lockdown, many of us have quite simply got sick of the sloppy dressing and carefree hair and makeup routine. If you can afford to, continue to stay at home despite the unlock, because the pandemic ain't going away in a rush, but step up to the plate and take care of your locks.

Shilpa Joshi Halder, Hair Color & Care Development Manager South Asia for L'Oréal Paris shared few hair care tips

### Effortless Styled Hair at Home

With staying indoors, we all are on a lookout for chic updos for our zoom calls. You can try a sleek wrapped ponytail which is perfect for your office calls as well as your zoom parties. To accomplish this look, untangle your hair with the help of the Serum, take a couple of drops and apply it the whole way across the length of your hair. Put your hair in a tight pony; take a

strand from the ponytail and fold it around the hair and then tie it with a rubber band. Set up those strands of the baby hair with a tiny bit of the hair serum, and voila you're ready.

### As a finishing touch

If you have dry hair troubles and leave-in conditioners aren't doing the job, an instant shine and smoothing serum is your BFF. Smoothing serums are also one of the most effective ways to manage your hair in humid climates. My recommendation for a go-to serum is the new as it helps give an instant nourish to dry and frizzy hair. Take 3-4 drops of serum on the palm of your hand and rub it well to make it warm. Now, start applying serum to the back of your hair first and then come to the front and midsection of the hair so your hairstyle stays intact.

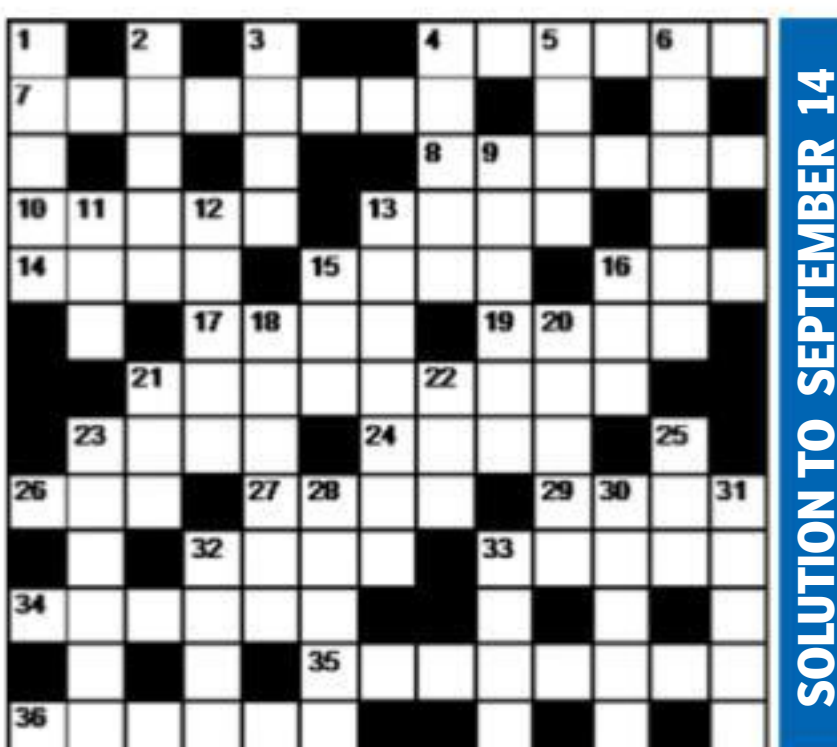
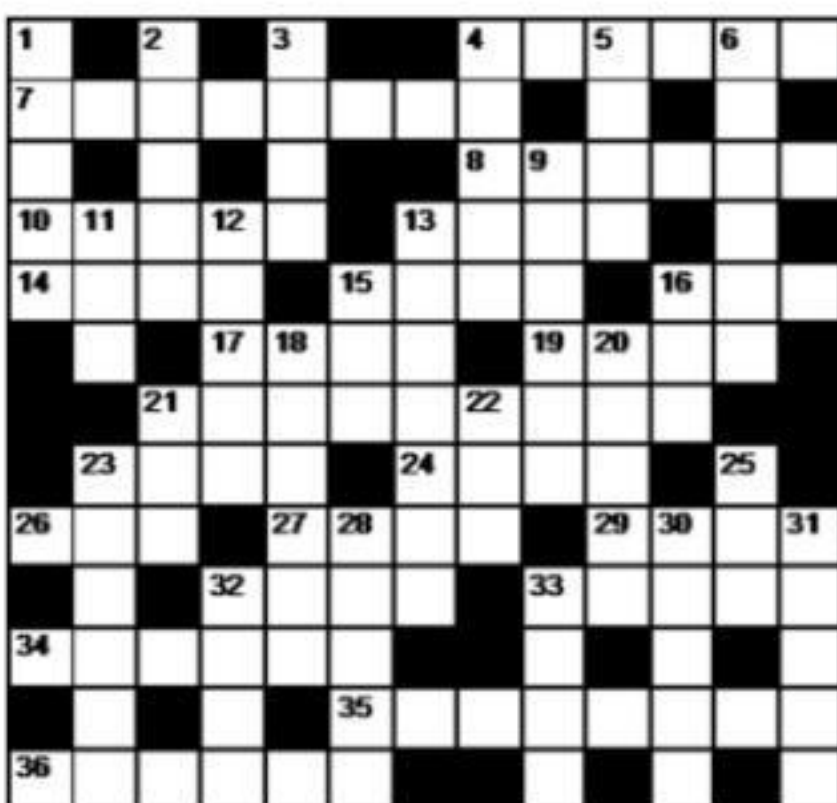
### Before a blow dry

Before attempting a blow dry at home, it's a good idea to pre-treat your hair with heat-protecting serum. Depending on your hair length take two to five drops of the serum in your palm and rub it well. If you have fine hair and wonder why it always struggles to hold a blow dry, I recommend using the serum which is enriched with a luxurious blend of 6 precious floral oils. This serum is specially curated for hair of all textures and is the perfect choice for a styling aid. The lightweight and non-greasy formula transforms the hair texture from the very first use, delivering extraordinary nourishment and protects the hair from heat as well.



**Vidya strives the romance of femininity in this saree!**

Combining finer nuances of handcraft and design, this saree from Saundh (instagram-@saundhindia) draws inspiration from the rich motifs of the tree of life. Set in the classic tones of ivory and red clubbed with raw silk blouse, this saree is the brands ode to the modern day Indian woman



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 14

## CROSSWORD

### Across

- Small burrowing rodent (6)
- Neither passive nor inert ? (8)
- Small mug (6)
- Inner sancta (5)
- Intimidates; farm animals (4)
- Hack or cab (4)
- North Indian restaurant staple (4)
- Not many (3)
- Norse deity (4)
- Cheese "made" the wrong way ? (4)
- Light brownish green colour (5-4)
- Adam and Eve's locale ? (4)
- Swift (4)
- A conclusion (3)
- Showy trinket (4)
- Those long and slipper fish? (4)
- Give in return for a sum of money (4)
- Let in or concede; acknowledge (5)
- In a careful manner (4,2)
- An annoyance (8)

### Down

- Big or huge (5)
- Sepals collectively (5)
- Sicilian volcano (4)
- Italian city - "on age" anagram ? (5)
- Fixes (4)
- In the same place (6)
- Possessors or proprietors (6)
- Block up (3)
- Form of address (5)
- Wary (7)
- Penultimate mo. (3)
- The \_\_\_ four: The Beatles of course (3)
- Depends on, hangs ? (6)
- No longer fashionable (5)
- Eccentric (3)
- Father (3)
- Submerge (6)
- Boxing great (3)
- Apart; solitary or single (5)
- Alter text (5)
- Iron containing carbon (5)
- The satellite TV giants for our region ? (4)
- In addition (4)

## SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 14

## NEWS ROUNDUP

### Samantha Akkineni has 12 million Instagram followers

Southern star Samantha Akkineni has garnered a fan following of 12 million on Instagram. The actress shared the news on Monday with a new picture and also thanked her fans.

"12 million Now and forever. Thankyou for this amazing shot @vaishnavpraveen @thehouseofpixels," she wrote alongside the image that has Samantha posing on a sofa in a shimmering dress.



The actress recently shared that she starts her weekend by doing 108 Surya Namaskars. Samantha has made a name for herself in Tamil and Telugu film industries. She is known for her performances in films such as "Ye Maaya Chesave", "Neethaane En Ponvasantham", "Eega", "Mersal" and "Rangasthalam". She impressed all with her role in "Super Deluxe" last year. She will soon be seen in the second part of "The Family Man"



# Centre says no data on migrant deaths during lockdown

**New Delhi:** The Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government on Monday told Parliament that it has no data available on the number of migrant workers who lost their lives during the 68-day nationwide sudden lockdown imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus. Since no such data exists, there is 'no question of giving compensation' to victims' next of kin, the Centre added.

Responding to a question on whether thousands of migrant labourers lost their lives during this period, the Ministry of Labour and

Employment, through a written reply, said "no such data is available". The government also said that it had not kept track of the job losses caused during the pandemic. "No such data is maintained," it said.

According to a report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), 41 lakh jobs were lost in the country due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Another World Bank report issued in April this year said that the nationwide lockdown has impacted the livelihood of nearly 40 million inter-

nal migrants.

Five million salaried people lost their jobs in July this year, the Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE) said. "17.7 million salaried jobs were lost in April 2020. An additional 0.1 million jobs were lost in May. Then, 3.9 million jobs were gained in June. But, 5 million jobs were lost in July," the CMIE data showed. Further, 37.5 million students have been out of campus.

According to a Save Life Foundation report published in June, 198 migrant workers died in road accidents while returning to their village homes

during the coronavirus lockdown.

More than 1,400 road accidents killed 750 people, including 198 migrant workers, between March 25 and May 31, according to the Save Life Foundation, a charity that works towards improving road safety and emergency care in India.

The migrants lost their lives while walking, cycling and travelling in trucks and vans in intense heat, as well as in massive crashes involving state-organised buses, it said, blaming speeding and driver fatigue.

Researchers Thejesh GN, Kanika Sharma and Aman state the number

of non-virus deaths was as high as 971 till 4 July of which over 200 died due to starvation.

Compiling information from news reports, the database put together by the group, which describes itself as "freelance scholars and student volunteers interested in action-oriented research, socio-economic rights and related issues", shows that a large number of people have died due to reasons such as road accidents while walking back to their homes, starvation, denial of medical care, police brutality, exhaustion, suicides – all consequences of the lockdown.



## 30 Lok Sabha MPs test positive

### Rajasthan MP found Covid-19 positive tests negative in Jaipur

**New Delhi:** As many as 25 members of the Lok Sabha have tested positive for Covid-19. All members were required to get tested for Covid-19, 72 hours prior to the start of the session today. It is reported that 12 members of the BJP have tested positive. Reports also suggest that MPs from Shiv Sena, YSR Congress, DMK and RLP have also tested positive. Sources have said that Lok Sabha members were tested at the Parliament House on September 13 and 14.

BJP's Sukanta Majumdar shared his positive status on Twitter. "Requesting all those who have come in close contact with me in the last few days to monitor their health and get tested in case of any symptoms," he tweeted.

Stringent social-distancing protocols were adopted in view



of the pandemic. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has provided multi-utility Covid-19 kits to all MPs. Each kit contains 40 disposable masks, five N-95 masks, 20 bottles of sanitisers of 50 ml each, face shields, 40 pairs of gloves, a touch-free hook to open and close doors without touching

them, herbal sanitation wipes and tea bags to enhance immunity.

Rajasthan MP Hanuman Beniwal has questioned the authenticity of the Covid-19 diagnostic tests after he received two contrary reports, one which said he tested positive and the other which said he tested negative.

Beniwal, who represents the Nagaur constituency, tweeted the images of the two different test reports. The first test, conducted by the ICMR – National Institute of Cancer Research and Prevention as part of the mandatory testing before the monsoon session of Parliament, showed he had the virus. The second test was conducted at the Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur after he went back unable to attend Parliament. The test sample was negative for coronavirus.

Puzzled by the different results, he tweeted, "I got checked for Covid-19 in Lok Sabha premises, which came positive. Then I got tested at the SMS medical hospital in Jaipur and the report came negative. I am sharing both the reports with you, which report should be considered correct?" he asked his followers.

## Tally in India breaches 48-lakh mark; death toll climbs 79,722

**New Delhi (PTT):** India's COVID-19 case tally crossed 48 lakh with 92,071 new infections being reported in a day, while over 37.8 lakh people have recuperated taking the national recovery rate to 78 per cent on Monday, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 48,46,427, while the death toll climbed to 79,722 with 1,136 more people succumbing to the infection in a span of 24 hours, the data up-



dated at 8 am showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection has further dropped to 1.64 per cent.

There are 9,86,598 active cases of COVID-19 in the country, while 37,80,107 people have recuperated, the data stated. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and it went past 40 lakh on September 5.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 5,72,39,428 samples have been tested up to September 13 with 9,78,500 samples being tested on Sunday.

## MPs may get a 30% pay cut for a year amid Covid

**New Delhi:** Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday introduced in Lok Sabha a bill that seeks to reduce for one year the salaries of Members of Parliament by 30 per cent "to meet the exigencies arising out of COVID-19 pandemic". The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeks to replace the Salary, Allowances And Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

"I rise to move...to introduce the bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954," Joshi said and added that "I introduce the bill". The ordinance was cleared by the Cabinet on April 6 and promulgated on April 7. The ordinance had stated that the coronavirus pandemic has shown the importance of expeditious relief and assistance and therefore, it was necessary to take "certain emergency measures to prevent and contain the spread of this pandemic".

## EPF members withdraw

### ₹39.4k cr

**New Delhi:** Employees provident fund (EPF) members withdrew Rs 39,402.94 crore between March 25 and August 31, Parliament was informed on Monday. The government had imposed the nationwide lockdown on March 25, 2020, to contain the deadly coronavirus. Total withdrawals from EPF accounts stood at Rs 39,402.94 crore from March 25 to August 31 this year, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

The maximum amount of EPF withdrawals from March 25 to August 31 were recorded in Maharashtra Rs 7,837.85 crore, followed by Karnataka - Rs 5,743.96 crore and Tamil Nadu (including Puducherry) - Rs 4,984.51 crore. The total EPF withdrawals in Delhi during the period stood at Rs 2,940.97 crore. The minister informed the House that in order to ameliorate the hardships faced by the labourers due to economic disruption caused by COVID-19 pandemic, various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Labour and Employment as part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and Atmanirbhar Bharat.



## #MeToo: 'Akbar selectively targeted Ramani'

**New Delhi:** Journalist Priya Ramani told a Delhi court on Monday that she was targeted selectively through a criminal defamation complaint by former Union minister M J Akbar to halt the avalanche of allegations of sexual misconduct against him following the #MeToo movement in 2018.

Ramani made the submission before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja through her lawyer during the final hearing in the complaint filed by Akbar against her.

In the wake of #MeToo movement, Ramani in 2018 accused Akbar of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago when he was a journalist. Akbar resigned as Union minister on October 17, 2018. Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Ramani, told the court on Monday that over 14 women accused Akbar of sexual harassment in the wake of #MeToo movement but he has filed complaint only against Ramani.

"Priya Ramani was targeted selectively... Either everyone's articles and tweets are defamatory or none is. Or are the other allegations accepted," John asked.

## Post Revocation of Art 370

## Farooq attends first Parl Session

Lok Sabha MP and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Farooq Abdullah is attending Parliament for the first time since the revocation of Article 370 on August 5 last year. According to sources in the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Abdullah is expected to speak about the revocation of Article 370, bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and other related issues including the situation along Line of Control (LoC) and along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. The 83-year-old National Conference



president has recently pledged support for the Gupkar declaration. On August 22 along with other political leaders from the region, he signed a joint statement that described the abrogation of Article 370 as grossly "unconstitutional" and sought its restoration. Abdullah has denied rumours of his resignation as an MP and has said that whenever he gets an opportunity in Parliament he will show what he is capable of doing. "You will see my role in Parliament," he said in a press conference in Srinagar recently.

## Ranaut says she's leaving Mumbai, calls analogy about PoK 'bang on'

### Kangana should shift if she thinks Mumbai is PoK: Sena minister

**Mumbai/ New Delhi:** Actor Kangana Ranaut, locked in a bitter feud with Maharashtra's ruling Shiv Sena, left Mumbai this morning saying she was doing so with a "heavy heart" after being "terrorised" with attempts to demolish her office. "Must say my analogy about PoK was bang on," said the actor.

"With a heavy heart leaving Mumbai, the way I was terrorised all these days constant attacks and abuses hurled at me attempts to break my house after my work place, alert security with lethal weapons around me, must say my analogy about PoK was bang on (sic)," she tweeted as she headed to the airport.

After landing in Chandigarh for her return to Himachal Pradesh, she tweeted that her security had reduced significantly and people were greeting her with joy. "It seems this time I was saved. There was a time when I felt a mother's touch in Mumbai, but today the situation is such that I am lucky to be alive. The moment Shiv Sena became Sonia Sena, the Mumbai administration became a terror," she posted in Hindi, targeting the Sena as well as Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Ranaut



should shift from Mumbai if she thinks the city is like Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) and is "bad" to her, Maharashtra transport minister and Shiv Sena leader Anil Parab said here on Monday.

"If Mumbai is this bad, then she should live where she finds it right. We had said this earlier too and we continue to hold this view," Parab told reporters.

The minister said the Sena had no "personal issues" with Ranaut.

"At the same time, the party cannot just listen if someone criticises or says bad things about the megapolis," he said.

## Corona made in Wuhan lab, claims Chinese virologist

**Beijing:** In a stunning revelation, a Chinese virologist has claimed that the coronavirus was created in a government-controlled laboratory in Wuhan, the original epicentre of the outbreak and offered scientific evidence to back her claims. In an exclusive conversation with 'Loose Women', a British talk show, Dr Li-Meng Yan, the scientist said she was assigned to investigate "new pneumonia" in Wuhan. She said that she discovered a cover-up operation regarding coronavirus during her investigation. Dr Li-Meng, who specialised in virology and immunology at the Hong Kong School of Public Health, said she conducted two researches on new pneumonia in China first between December and early January and the



second one in mid-January, before fleeing to the US from Hong Kong. "I decided to report this development to my supervisor, who is also a World Health Organisation (WHO) consultant.

There was no response from the WHO and my supervisor. Everyone warned me that do not cross the right line and keep silence or else I would be made to disappear," she said. The virologist said she had expected her super-

visor to "do the right thing on behalf of the Chinese government and WHO". Several countries, including the US, have criticised both China and WHO for covering-up the severity of the coronavirus outbreak.

Dr Li-Meng revealed she had contacted a famous Chinese YouTuber in the US. The expose, which was in Chinese, said that the Chinese Communist Party was covering up the COVID-19 crisis and there was a human-to-human transmission of the virus.

She also said that coronavirus is a "high-mutant virus" which will become an outbreak soon and the seafood market in Wuhan and the virus's intermediate hosts were just a "smokescreen".

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## Blending politics and sports

Two years ago Naomi Osaka was all tears when she won the 2018 US Open but raised the issue of social justice. This time too as part of her victory speech, Osaka made sure to continue bringing awareness to social justice to the very end. Osaka came to the tournament prepared with seven face masks to wear — one for each round of the U.S. Open, granted she made it to the finals — all emblazoned with the name of a Black victim of violence.

In her final match on September 12, she unveiled the seventh and last mask name: Tamir Rice, the 12-year-old black boy killed by police in Cleveland in 2014 while playing with his toy gun. Barely two weeks ago, Osaka announced she would not be playing her semifinal match in a tune-up event, preferring not to distract from Black Lives Matter protests and the out-

rage over Jacob Blake's shooting. The entire tennis ecosystem scrambled in response to her, and all matches were called off that day.

Such is Osaka's moral authority and currency these days. She is the new Serena Williams both on and off the court. Of course such celebrities should be politically right too in their expressions nowadays. This is a highly polarised world. Joining the ranks that rebel against authority is increasingly becoming the norm of the day. Some prefer to call it anarchy and some others Leftism or Socialism.

Yet, individual voices are coming together, thanks due to the social media, to rally against the governments. After taking the court with a Tamir Rice mask, Osaka lost the first set. She regrouped to win the last two sets. This will not go down as a classic, but she completed the job, as champions do. And then she talked about the issue that matters to her — social justice. Personal triumph over it was time for collective conscience...She wore seven masks with different names for each of her matches to honor Black victims of violence. She said it motivated her.

Osaka, 22, represents Japan but is based in the United States. In the five-month tour hiatus because of the pandemic, Osaka, the biracial daughter of a Haitian father and Japanese mother, became deeply involved in the social justice movement, attending a rally in Minneapolis and speaking out on social networks.

The families of the victims Osaka chose to represent with her face masks have shared their support for her endeavours through recorded messages with ESPN — Trayvon Martin's mother Sybrina Fulton thanked Osaka and told her to "continue to do well, continue to kick butt at the U.S. Open," while Ahmaud Arbery Sr., Ahmaud Arbery's father, said: "Naomi, I just want to tell you thank you for the support for my family and God bless you for what you're doing." "It means a lot," Osaka said in response to the videos. It was a remarkable show of support for the Black Lives Matter movement. Less remarked upon was the fact that she anticipated sticking around for seven matches, a supreme show of self-belief.

## Why is our education system in such a mess?

SHEIKH NASEER

No doubt our educational system is worthy enough to be commended and full of countless qualities but there is no intensity left in the system that can cope up with the expectations that was supposed to be met up with some great brains.

Our colleges, universities and even the schools come up with activities that not bow only the heads of the intellectuals and highly regarded minds but also the ignorant in disgrace.

With each passing day we face unexpected accusation that drag us harshly with disastrous results. The relationship between the teachers and the students had now crossed the contours and put very dreadful impact on our society.

The image and dignity of teachers has now changed and the students consider teachers as slaves which must be addressed before the fall of entire educational system. If we keep encouraging this disease in our children, the day is not far when a teacher would sit on the ground and the children will be taught sitting on the chair.

This is the serious issue in our system, books cannot alone solve this problem it would be difficult to overcome if it continues for a long time. Sooner or later this is going to ruin our generations which can't be felt in the way we encourage these notions without noticing them. Education and ignorance are two different horses we cannot ride both and make one journey with dual destinations. It is our preference which way to lead and which one to ignore.

The way that can drag us from gloom to light, from disgrace to honour, from beasthood to mankind, these things can be achieved by knowledge. There is no other way to put us forward and realize where we stand. When knowledge enters ignorance settles down into its coffin.

The most dignified and respected profession — teaching — which is called to be the primary task of prophets sent to earth for reformation but it is very unfortunate that this pious job is now considered a nasty experience which also bowed our sky thoughts to disgrace. The educational system or the people who run this can't be blamed. The fault and weakness take birth from the womb.

What is the reason behind when our finest brains competing in modern world but with no success touching their hands? The drawback lies somewhere in planning, their education with the purpose of collecting assets and material goods and not preparing them for service.

We can't blame the persons involved or we can say the traders of knowledge are good in any sense. Knowledge is source of success in this mortal world and certainly for hereafter but that must be brought with solid practice, when knowledge is practiced on true basis, it will lead us to success in this world and hereafter.

What are the reasons that our so called educational institutions are not producing souls who can be counted as the main resources of development of good society, how these institutions emerged with great purpose in the past years and now are mere shops of buying and selling of knowledge?

This is the question that takes place in every small and matured mind, in every single and collective group. These questions have completely struck our generation which perhaps remains unnoticed all the time.

The fact is that the whole system which was supposed to carry all human attributes along and nourish the human physical and spiritual outlay but unfortunately it has died and left all the expectations in the trash can, should we not count ourselves responsible for this?

Should we not even think for a moment leaving our materialistic thinking aside for a moment? This is really a time to address the whole chapter, read, practice and implement. Now our education system goes on with the essence of wisdom, neither a student learns in that way nor a teacher proves himself better to meet up the desired expectations.

This is not the case with all our teachers. There are still some dignified mentors who still light the candle of passion and inspiration into the hearts of students, should we not also salute those shining stars?

*(The author is a student of English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad)*



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

The Supreme Court long back stated in a landmark judgment State of Uttar Pradesh v. Raj Narain and Others, "... people of this country have a right to know every public act, everything that is done in a public way by their public functionaries. They are entitled to know the particulars of every public transaction in all its hearing."

This principle was reiterated by Justice S Vaidyanathan, in a positive judgment for Right to information in case of Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission versus Tamil Nadu State Information Commission, on 7th September 2020. Mr. A. Muthian, a citizen filed an RTI application seeking following information:

a) Total number of vacancies called for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008;b) Number of seats allocated to the Backward Community out of the total number of vacancies called for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008;c) Number of seats allocated to the Most Backward Community out of the total number of vacancies called for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008;d) Out of seats allocated to the Backward Community, the list of the selected candidates from the sub-castes of Muthuraja and Muthuriyar; e) Out of seat allocated to the Most Backward Community, the list of selected candidates from Vanniya Kula Shatriar sub-castes (Vanniyar, Vanniya,VanniyaGounder, Kandar, Padayachi Palli and Agni Kular Shathriar)."

The Public Information Officer of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission gave the detailed information sought for in respect of (a) to (c) but denied the information for that other queries claiming exemptions under Section 8 (1)(d) of RTI Act, which pertains to commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party. However, when the applicant appealed, the second appellate authority, the Tamil Nadu Information Commission (TNIC), ordered that the information sought be provided free of cost.

The TNPSOC claimed that it, being a Constitutional functionary, has moral obligation to maintain confidentiality and in the event of furnishing of the details to the respondent, it would harm the interest of third parties and the details regarding caste-wise breakup of the selected candidates got nothing to do with the public activity and such disclosure would amount to invasion of the privacy of individuals, apart from creation of communal discontent and strife. It was stated that the State has stopped the sporting of the caste behind

the names of persons and at the time of publication of result, TNPSOC used to indicate only the Class of candidates and not otherwise. Therefore, the direction to furnish such details, issued by TNIC is highly unsustainable and untenable.

The Madras High Court rejected contentions by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSOC) that the information sought for, if divulged, would infringe the privacy of individuals and create communal discontent and strife. The HC said: "The contention of TNPSOC that the details sought for by the respondent are not at all warranted and that it would amount to invasion of privacy, cannot be accepted, especially when the selection itself is based on caste-wise quota. The disclosure of caste wise breakup will certainly inure to the benefit of candidates to ascertain as to whether they actually fall under the reservation quota or not. When the general list itself has already been published for public view, as stated in the petition, there is nothing wrong in disclosing the details to the respondent. In the list, the details of caste, including sub-caste have to be necessarily mentioned and the contention that such revelation would create communal disharmony is not acceptable. As long as there is a provision for appointment on the basis of reservation, what prevents the authorities in unearthing those details to the public and when the details sought for by the respondent are furnished, it will throw a clear light / picture as to under what category, a candidate was placed.

The Court further said: The apprehension of TNPSOC, that in-depth description of castes will create communal unrest, is only an illusion and imaginary and if it is the real concern of TNPSOC and the Government, they should think of abolishing the quota system as well as removal of column regarding caste particulars in the school certificate itself, so that the people of

Tamil Nadu could stand united under one roof irrespective of caste, creed, religion, etc. atleast in the year 2050 and our State will be a model State for the whole of the country.

The Court added that the TNPSOC's apprehension that an in-depth description of castes would create communal unrest is only an illusion. Justice Vaidyanathan further remarked, "... if it is the real concern of TNPSOC and the Government, they should think of abolishing the quota system as well as removal of column regarding caste particulars in the school certificate itself, so that the people of Tamil Nadu could stand united under one roof irrespective of caste, creed, religion, etc. at least in the year 2050 and our State will be a model State for the whole of the country."

The Court ultimately upheld the provision of the information sought for within a month's time, after also noting that first authority had erroneously relied on Section 8(1)(d) of the RTI act to reject the RTI request. The Court said, "... the purpose of enactment of RTI Act itself is to ensure transparency in all respects. Moreover, a reading of the said section shows that it relates to commercial confidence, trade secrets, etc., and it does not strictly prohibit the authority concerned from providing such details, as divulging of caste details will surely be beneficial to candidates to doubly ascertain either about their induction or rejection and as such."

The Judge also directed the TNPSOC to appraise the Court of the names and position of the officials who had rejected the RTI request and who had, thereby, "failed to discharge their official duties as adumbrated under the RTI Act, 2005."

The Court also directed the Tamil Nadu government to issue a circular to its departments warning of legal consequences if information is not divulged

in line with the RTI Act. Justice S Vaidyanathan remarked, "Now-a-days, the Officials are used to adopt a tactic answer in mechanical manner that the information sought for is exempted in the light of Section 8(1)(d) of the Act, without actually ascertaining as to whether the information sought falls within the ambit of the said provision. Such Officers must be taught a lesson and in my view, they are unfit to hold the post of Public Information Officer or any other post in connection with the discharge of duties under RTI Act and they should be shown the doors, so that it will be a lesson for other Officers to act in accordance with the terms of the Act, failing which they may also face the similar or more consequences."

"... the provision of Section 6 confers right to information to any person for the obvious reason that right to information flows from the right to expression... Even the Supreme Court clearly held that the office of Chief Justice will come under the purview of Right to Information (RTI), by observing that transparency does not undermine judicial freedom." The Court has now also directed the Tamil Nadu Government to issue a circular to its Departments warning of legal consequences that would follow if information is not divulged in line with the RTI Act. "The Government is directed to circular this order to all its Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, Corporation, etc., so that the Authorities, more particularly under RTI Act, will come to know of the legal consequences of non-furnishing of the details, which the affected parties / General Public seek for."

This judgment came as a relief to transparency lovers, among several anti-RTI incidents and orders in recent times.

*(The writer is Dean, School of Law, Bennett University, and former Central Information Commissioner)*



## LETTERS

### Not a 'neat' arrangement in any way

I am one of the NEET aspirants and as per NTA 85-90 per cent attendance was registered. The NTA has shared this information with Education Minister who has complimented "NEET participation reflects the tenacity and grit of young Atmanirbhar Bharat". I just want to share my as well as thoughts of lakhs of others in NEET examination.

First thing first, NEET or other competitive examination are for our long term career and not simply participating in a school annual day or cultural event. I am sure the Education Minister aware that before entering politics, he was himself a student and I was a bit perplexed what has Atmanirbhar has to do with taking highly competitive NEET and other examination. While preparing for 12th CBSE examination in 2019, like lakhs of others, I was simultaneously preparing for the NEET examination and appeared for the exam in 2019. In spite of putting in hard work and preparation, like many others I was not lucky to get good rank. As I was not prepared to give up, after having cleared 12th exam, I was determined like many others to attempt one more time this year.

For almost one year I had totally devoted my time and energy to prepare for NEET not just studying/practicing test in home, was simultaneously attending study centre class and using public library. When millions like me were in the final stage of our preparation, the "Act of God" stopped everything and our hopes of taking the exam in May also turned non-essential when act of god cases were still low. I still fail to understand why the

study centres and libraries could not have been allowed to function on a limited and thus completed exam following the same protocols instead of postponing the examination more than once. Even if the postponement is for safety of ours, why the study centres and libraries were not allowed to re-open on a limited scale for us to make up the loss of time while announcing the new dates and even Court failed to give such directive. As for as arrangement for the NEET exam, the less said the better. Contrary to the claim by NTA and government, the center which was school in an urban village, no protocol was in place, as promised neither mask was provided nor any physical distancing was followed inside or outside the centre. I have not shared all this to blame anyone, but want to share the reality authorities, the politicians who were fighting for and against conducting the exam were ignorant of. Now, everything is over, we are simply left in lurch at the mercy of "God".

R Anita, New Delhi

### Needless objection

The UPA allies staged protests outside the Parliament on Monday to demand cancellation of the NEET exams. This objection seems to be needless at present because the revocation of the continuing entrance test will affect lakhs of students' futures those who are preparing for it for a long time. The Central Government has eased several restrictions under Unlock 4.0 and Indian Railways too started some special trains for students. The state governments and local authorities must ensure the hassle-free transportation facility of examinees and assist them toward following COVID-19 safeguards in all test centers.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, Satna, MP

### Vaccination exercise

The Union Health Ministry's plan to allow vaccination of a section of people even before completion of Phase 3 trials of Covid-19 vaccine candidates and their results analysed for safety and efficacy comes with its own perils. Curiously, the announcement follows the Trump administration in the US declaring a similar intent. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan remarked that the government will implement this after it reaches a consensus, but rushing to vaccinate people unmindful of the consequences is foolhardy.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

### Modi's masterstroke

PM Modi on September 13 inaugurated three petroleum sector projects in Bihar virtually. This is a great move by the government to re-employ the indigenous labourers near their home town. The three multi crore plants will be set up in the districts of Durgapur, Champaran and Banka. The LPG bottling plant in Banka will help the state of Bihar to achieve its aim of 'Atmanirbhar Bihar' in the cooking fuel sector. These plants have been commissioned by Indian Oil and HPCL under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Bihar has always been a hub of migrant labourers and as the pandemic has left a number of them jobless, this announcement is definitely good news for the Bihar localities. This will boost the petroleum sector in the state and will also open up new doors for investment in the backward regions of the state. Seeing such developments in the state of Bihar is indeed a ray of hope for the distressed labourers. It will stop many migrating labour of Bihar to move to other states in current scenario of this pandemic. Kudos!

Kavya Shah, Ujjain

### Dubious politics

Hurrah! Throwback to protectionism and regionalism. We are living in the most cosmopolitan of times. Have a look at the upcoming assembly elections in Bihar. An electorate, drowned in poverty, unemployment, pandemic, suffering, floods, ignorance, and what not, will rise above all petty issues, and 'caste' their precious vote to avenge against the "despotic and anarchist government of Maharashtra". Cheers to the highly imaginative nature of Indian electoral politics and more cheers to the electronic media that has become the best opium for the masses.

Ashish Painuly, Dehradun

### Manmohan Singh as Cong prez?

Congress finds itself in deep sea on its leadership issue to steer the party in the next elections. Senility prevents Sonia to lead the party. Apparently Rahul accepted defeat before the battle began. Priyanka may not be acceptable to the family. Azad is well-known in Kashmir and a little known in AP. He doesn't have national stature. It would be good to recall the services of Manmohan Singh who is known very well to the entire nation. In this way Sonia can have the cake and eat it too by pulling the strings from behind and if things go wrong the buck can be conveniently passed on to somebody else.

DSP Rao, Kakinada

thehansreader@gmail.com



# Monsoon rains lash coast, Seema

- ◆ Many streams and canals overflow with rainwater
- ◆ P Gannavaram in East Godavari registers highest rainfall of 17.42 cm
- ◆ Paddy, cotton and other crops affected

**Amaravati:** Heavy rainfall creating havoc in most places in coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema for the past two days.

A weather system in the Bay of Bengal was causing the rainfall which is expected to continue for two more days. Winds up to a speed of 45-55 km were likely to hit the coastal region.

“South-west monsoon has been vigorous over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema,” said a Met official.

Starting September 12 (Saturday) night, rainfall accompanied with lightning and thunder struck intermittently with heavy downpour. The entire Sunday witnessed intermittent heavy rainfall.

Several streams and canals in the state were overflowing with rainwater.

Due to heavy rain, water flowed into several houses in East Godavari’s Pithapuram. In Kurnool district, paddy and maize fields were inundated with rain water.

P Gannavaram mandal in East Godavari has registered the highest amount of rainfall at 17.42 cm.

As many as 61 mandals in Anantapur have witnessed an average rainfall of 2.82 cm. In Kurnool, it rained 3.72 cm on an average.

Nearly 100 acre paddy fields at Golugonda mandal in Visakhapatnam have been completely inundated with rainwater. In Kadapa, 412 hectare of paddy, cotton and other crops have been affected by the rains.



SDRF personnel shifting residents to safer areas at Saraswathi Nagar in Nanyal town on Monday

## 3 officials killed as car falls into canal

**Tanuku (West Godavari district):** Three government employees, including one working on contract, died when a car they were travelling in plunged into an irrigation canal during a heavy rain here on Monday morning.

West Godavari superintendent of police K Narayan Naik said that the deceased were identified as Sekhar, a senior assistant in Tanuku municipal office; Katari Srinivas, a water boy in the RTO office; and Dasari Nagasubashini, a cluster coordinator of Velugu project.

The trio was coming to Tanuku to their respective offices from Bhimavaram, which is 37 km away.

The driver of the vehicle said to have lost control due to heavy rain.

Meanwhile, police are trying to ascertain how the accident occurred, as well as waiting for the post-mortem reports.



The car that plunged into an irrigation canal during a heavy rain at Tanuku in West Godavari district on Monday morning

## Fresh Covid-19 cases come down to 7,956; Tally rises to 5.75 lakh

**Amaravati:** Fresh Covid-19 cases in the state slumped below the 8,000 mark after about three weeks on Monday, taking the tally to 5.75 lakh, but the number of tests too came down by more than 10,000.

As many as 9,764 patients got cured and discharged from hospitals, while 60 more succumbed to the pandemic as the toll mounted to 4,972, a government bulletin said.

With 7,956 fresh cases detected in the last 24 hours from 9 am on Sunday, the total number of cases rose to 5,75,079 while the recoveries increased to 4,76,903.

The number of active cases decreased further to 93,204.

While the infection positivity rate has been increasing daily, touching 12.34 per cent on Monday, the recovery rate too improved to 81.23 per cent. The mortality rate dipped marginally from 0.87 per cent to 0.85 per cent.

Chittoor has now become the fourth district in the state to cross the 50,000 cases mark.

East and West Godavari districts continued to add new cases in excess of a 1,000 daily.

East Godavaris overall positive cases rose to 78,220, with 12,022 of them now active while the Wests gross stood at 51,565 with 8,813 active cases, according to the bulletin.

# Job aspirants rue clash of AP sectt, bank exam dates

SAMBASIVA RAO M

**Amaravati:** Youth aspiring to appear for both AP village and ward secretariat jobs and IBPS are at disadvantage as two exams are scheduled to be held the same day, September 20. The candidate will have to choose either of the two tests.

The village and ward secretariat staff recruitment examinations are being conducted by the state government to recruit staff for various categories like Panchayat Secretary, Mahila Police, Ward Administrative Secretary, Welfare Education Assistant in the morning session and Panchayat Secretary (Grade 6) and Digital Assistant in the afternoon session on September 20.

The same day, the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), an autonomous body set up by Reserve Bank of India, central financial institutions and public sector banks, is conducting a common recruitment process for recruitment of officers (Scale 1, 2 and 3) and office assistants (multipurpose) in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

Speaking to The Hans India, Potluri Vijaya and J Akhila, two aspirants from Guntur, explained that they have been preparing for these two exams for last one year. But, the exams coincided on the



- Both AP Village/Ward Secretariat staff recruitment test and IBPS exam are scheduled for same day-Sept 20
- The candidates who have been preparing for the both tests have to choose any one
- Panchayat Raj Principal Secretary Gopal Krishna Dwivedi rules out changing the date of Sectt staff test

same day, depriving them a chance to take one exam. They appealed to the state government to change the exam for village/ward secretariat staff.

However, Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, principal secretary, panchayat raj and rural development, said that the state government would not change any scheduled date regarding the village and ward secretariat exams.

He explained that these dates were announced well in advance about one-and-a-half months ago and all the preparations were completed.

“Students have downloaded the hall tickets. The government machinery has made all the arrangements, starting from identifying exam centres, printing OMR sheets, setting question papers, issuing orders to the police and other departments for necessary arrangements and almost all the departments have been working on it. Nearly 11 lakh candidates applied for these exams. At this juncture, the government is determined to conduct the exams as per the announced schedule and there will not be any change in it,” Dwivedi explained.

## Two kids die after consuming biscuits

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Kurnool:** Two children died and another is undergoing treatment at hospital after consuming biscuits they bought from a grocery store at Chintakommadinne village under Allagadda mandal in the district late on Sunday night.

According to Allagadda CI M Sudershan, Hussain Bahsa, 6,

### Another 8-yr-old girl battling for life in Kurnool govt hospital

his siter Hussain Bi, 4, and their cousin Jamal Bi, 8, bought biscuit packets from a kirana store

near their home. After consuming them, all the three fell unconscious. Their parents rushed them to Allagadda government hospital. While Hussain Basha died on the way to hospital, his little sister Hussain Bi succumbed on Monday morning while undergoing treatment. Another girl Jamal Bi has been shifted to Kurnool government general hospital for better treatment.

According to doctors, food poisoning is suspected to be the cause.

Children’s father Pedda Hussain Basha is a motor bike mechanic.

## Congress demands withdrawal of VAT hike on natural gas

**Says 10% rise is affecting the livelihood of taxi, auto drivers who use LNG for their vehicles**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) has taken a strong exception to the move by the state government to increase the value added tax (VAT) on the natural gas which would affect the livelihood of the taxi drivers and the auto-rickshaw drivers.

APCC working president N Tulasi Reddy said in a statement here on Monday that the state government issued a GO enhancing the VAT on the natural gas from 14.5 per cent to 24.5 per cent which is on higher side affecting the lives of various people.

Particularly, the taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers were hit hard economically due to the pandemic. At this juncture it is highly reprehensible to enhance the VAT on natural gas, he said.

The increase would result in an additional expenditure of Rs 30 per day and Rs 900 per month and Rs 10,800 per year for the auto drivers and Rs 21,600 for taxi drivers.

The government which has given Rs 10,000 under Vahanamitra scheme is now extorting Rs 20,000 by enhancing the VAT which is gross injustice, he said.

He demanded the government to withdraw the hike in VAT on natural gas immediately.

## Quit if you can’t control cops, HC to DGP

**Amaravati:** The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday pulled up state Director General of Police Damodar Gautam Sawang and remarked that he should resign if he could not control the police, their observation coming over a case of alleged illegal detention of a man by police.

A division bench, comprising Justices Rakesh Kumar and J Uma Devi, also remarked that the (state) government would face problems if such a situation continued.

The judges stated this during a hearing on a writ petition filed by Sunkara Narayana Swamy of East Godavari district, seeking release of his kin Pottipothu Venkataraju from the “illegal detention” of police.

The DGP, though, was not present when the bench made the remarks.

The petitioner alleged that the Amalapuram police in East Godavari district illegally took Venkataraju into custody on September 6 over a civil issue pertaining to Visakhapatnam jurisdiction.

The petition was filed in the High Court on September 9 and came up for hearing before the division bench on Monday.

- A division bench pulls up the top cop while hearing a petition filed on ‘illegal detention’ of a person in East Godavari
- The judges observe that there is ‘no rule of law’ in Andhra Pradesh
- Warns that if the situation continues like this, it will put the government in trouble

The judges came down heavily on DGP Sawang, saying the “rule of law” was not being implemented in Andhra Pradesh.

“We had summoned the DGP to the court (for personal appearance) many times in the past, but there appears to be no change. If the situation continues like this, it will put the government in trouble,” the judges said.

The judges recalled that in at least three other cases the High Court ordered a judicial probe and in all those cases the wrongdoing of the police was established.

“Police system in the state seems to be going off the track. He (the DGP) should resign if he can’t control the police,” the division bench said.

The court said it was not possible to order a CBI probe in every case.

Hearing on the writ petition will continue on Tuesday.

This was not the first time DGP Sawang faced the wrath of the High Court.

In March this year, a division bench, headed by Chief Justice J K Maheshwari, pulled up the DGP over the detention of TD president N Chandrababu Naidu at Visakhapatnam airport on February 27 after taking him into preventive custody under Section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

When the DGP appeared in person on the summons of the court, the Chief Justice had made the former read out Section 151 Cr P C in open court.

The DGP also faced the courts wrath in another case relating to the police action against protesters in capital Amaravati. (PTI)

## Sitaram behind job fraud, alleges former TDP MLA

- Kuna Ravi Kumar alleges that Assembly Speaker is behind the collection of money by one Someswara Rao promising outsourced jobs in Assembly and govt departments
- He questions why Assembly secretary has not lodged a police complaint against Someswara Rao when he is using Assembly ID for his nefarious activities
- He points out that he also accompanied Sitaram to an international conference in Uganda

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** TDP former MLA Kuna Ravi Kumar alleged that Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram had cheated many unemployed youth promising them jobs as outsourced staff in the Secretariat and government offices.

Addressing a press conference at TDP state office at Mangalagiri on Monday, Ravi Kumar accused P Bala Krishnamacharyulu, secretary, AP Assembly, that he was behaving like a personal secretary of the Speaker in order to promote his self-interests. The secretary should not have issued the statement

saying that the Speaker’s office would not be responsible for illegal activities of one Someswara Rao who is accused of cheating unemployed youth in the name of jobs, he said.

The TDP leader asked why the Assembly secretary did not complain to police when he said that Someswara Rao was using a fake ID in the name of Speaker’s Office to collect huge amounts from unemployed youth. Ravi Kumar said that a police complaint should have been lodged against Someswara Rao if he had collected money, but the office of the Speaker did not do so. If Someswara Rao was



misusing the Speaker’s Office, why did Sitaram take him along with his family members to Uganda to attend a Speakers’ conference, he questioned.

The former MLA demanded that the Speaker and the Assembly secretary to explain the content of a latest audio clip in which Someswara Rao was heard asking why no police case was filed against him if he was using a fake ID in the Assembly and the Secretariat premises. Someswara Rao was also saying that he had a letter from Sitaram appointing him as PA and that he had transferred amounts to some private bank accounts.

The TDP leader demanded an inquiry into all these allegations.

## Hope Parliament sends message that country stands behind soldiers: PM

*Continued from P1*

Noting that Parliament is expected to take up many important discussions and decide on key issues, the prime minister hoped that MPs will do “value addition” to debates. It is our experience that the more deep and diverse debate happens in Parliament, the more benefits it brings to the subject of discussion and the country, he added.

## Centre to SC: No removal of slums along rail tracks

*Continued from P1*

“Further, while doing so they have circumvented the established procedure by law with respect to rehabilitation of the slum dwellers prior to eviction/demolition of their jhuggis and ignorance of the procedure enshrined in the Delhi Slum & JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015 and the Protocol (for removal of jhuggis),” said the application.

## Govt scraps Question Hour, Opposition slams move

*Continued from P1*

Question Hour is simply a golden hour of the House,” he said, adding by doing way with this, the government is trying to “throttle democracy”.

Pralhad Joshi said before arriving at this decision, deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to almost all leaders of various parties. “I would like to tell various leaders who questioned the suspension of Question Hour that all state assemblies including Punjab, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have run sessions for a day or two and passed several bills, whereas the government of India decided to run for 18 days and hold discussion on bills,” Joshi said.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### 20 CPSEs in pipeline for strategic sale

As many as 20 CPSEs and their units are at various stages of strategic disinvestment, while six are being considered for closure or are under litigation. Government has in principle approved strategic investment in 34 cases since 2016

- Union Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur**



## BIG DEAL

### NVIDIA buys chipmaker Arm for \$40 bn

In one of the biggest tech deals, graphics giant NVIDIA confirmed that it is acquiring SoftBank-owned UK chip maker Arm for \$40 billion with an aim to create a premier computing company for the age of artificial intelligence. The deal would consolidate NVIDIA's position at the centre of the semiconductor industry.

## FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.88	South	
Euro	91.44	African Rand	5.06
UAE Dirham	22	Hong Kong Dollar	10.9
Thai Baht	2.69	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	98.15	New Zealand Dollar	51.56
Australian Dollar	56.04	Saudi Riyal	21.54
Canadian Dollar	58.48	Swedish Krona	9.62
Swiss Franc	84.07	Singapore Dollar	56.44

DELHI TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Ecom Express to hire 30k

**Hyderabad:** Ecom Express, a logistics solutions provider to e-commerce industry, on Monday announced that it will be creating 30,000 seasonal jobs through September and October months across its fulfilment centres, hubs, sortation centres and delivery centres. The company is gearing up for the surge in online shopping backed by festival sales and increasing preference to doorstep deliveries. The majority of the hires will be delivery personnel, hub and sorting centre associates and workforce for the warehousing activities. These seasonal positions have been created across the country with 3/4th of the hiring beyond metros as well as cities including Vijayawada. Saurabh Deep Singla, Chief Human Resource Officer, Ecom Express, said, "The Covid-19 pandemic has made our services more relevant than ever. Some of the new hires may move into permanent roles after the festive season".

### Toshiba lines up new products

**Hyderabad:** Japanese electronics major Toshiba said it would launch a new range of QLED, full array UHD, and smart televisions in India on September 18. This new generation Ultimate 4K TV series will be on sale on Amazon, Flipkart, Reliance Digital, and TataCliQ. As an introductory offer, Toshiba will be offering a 4-year panel warranty on its entire range of 4K televisions for the first four days of the launch till September 21. Rishi Tandon, COO, Toshiba Televisions India, said, "As a global brand, our aim is to enhance the TV viewing experience of Indian consumers by offering bigger screen size televisions with ultimate technology in picture, sound, and AI-enabled smart features at pocket-friendly prices. Our televisions deliver a deeply immersive viewing experience, intensifying the impact of every on-screen thrill and adventure."

### Harappa's initiative

**New Delhi:** Harappa Education, an online learning platform, has launched the second phase of its digital initiative Habit Heroes. Through this initiative, the platform will recognize and honour pioneering educators who have embraced change and made a spirited shift to teaching online. Shreyasi Singh, founder & CEO, Harappa Education, said, "We're so grateful to our expert faculty; and teachers across schools and colleges, who help students learn, grow and realize their potential. The intensity with which they have had to adapt and embrace change has awed and humbled us. With this initiative, we want to thank teachers across the country for their contribution to our lives, today and always." In the first phase of Habit Heroes, Harappa honoured 10 Habit Heroes for their initiatives of civic engagement, in the wake of the lockdown through March to May in India."

### New software from SoftTech

**Hyderabad:** SoftTech Engineers Limited has announced the launch of RuleBuddy PLAN ASSISTM, a new software product to create and pre-check building plans before submission to authorities. Powered by AutoCad platform, it allows import, visualization, editing and saving of 3D BIM models in IFC format to native DWG/TXT format. Vijay Gupta, CEO, SoftTech Engineers Limited, said, "Our new software will enable architects and real estate developers to save time and money by quickly preparing ready-to-approve building plans. It will not only check building plans for applicable building bye-laws, but will also ensure peace of mind by minimizing re-submissions."

# 'No hope of Covid vaccine to everyone before 2024'

Serum Institute CEO says it's going to take 4 to 5 years until everyone gets the vaccine on this planet

## HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** Dashing hopes of early vaccination against deadly coronavirus, Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine producer, made it amply clear that sufficient quantity of Covid-19 vaccine would not be available to immunise everybody in the world until the end of 2024.

In an interview with the London-based *Financial Times*, Adar Poonawalla, Chief Executive Officer of Pune-based Serum Institute of India, revealed that pharma companies were not ramping up production capacity faster to be able to immunise the world population in less time.

"It's going to take four to five years until everyone gets the vaccine on this planet," Poonawalla was quoted as saying in the interview. He earlier said that the world would require 15 billion doses if the Covid vaccine is a two-dose immunisation, as is the case with measles or rotavirus.

Serum Institute partnered with five global pharmaceutical companies, including AstraZeneca and Novavax, to develop a Covid vaccine. It committed to produce one billion doses, out of which it promised



Lack of sophisticated cold chain system will hamper vaccination drive in India

50 per cent to India. The vaccine maker may also tie up with Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute to produce its Sputnik vaccine. Poonawalla's comments on the vaccine production and distribution are crucial, in the wake of the Serum Institute taking on the responsibility of manufacturing Covid vaccine for the majority of the developing world. His remarks came a day after Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said a vaccine against the coronavirus disease would be ready by early

next year. "It may be ready by the first quarter of next year," he had said.

Further, there are also concerns that huge pre-orders from Europe and US will result in developing countries being pushed to the bottom of the list.

Poonawalla further said that the commitments had outdone the production capacity of vaccine manufacturers. "I know the world wants to be optimistic on it but I have not heard of anyone coming even close to that level right now," he said.

# Markets pare early gains to end lower

**Mumbai:** Domestic equity benchmark Sensex pared early gains to end 98 points lower on Monday, tracking losses in index majors HDFC twins, Reliance Industries and Bharti Airtel.

After gyrating 657 points during the day, the 30-share BSE index settled 97.92 points or 0.25 per cent lower at 38,756.63. The NSE Nifty slipped 24.40 points or 0.21 per cent to close at 11,440.05.

Bharti Airtel was the top loser in the Sensex pack, falling over 3 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid, SBI, HDFC Bank and Sun Pharma.

HCL Tech was the top gainer, rallying around 10 per cent, after the company said its revenue and operating margin for the September quarter are expected to be 'meaningfully better' than the top end of its previous forecast. TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Titan too ended with up

Sensex down 98 pts, Nifty closes at 11,440



to 5 per cent gains. "Indian markets started off with handsome gains not only following positive Asian and global market peers but also positive domestic sentiments," said Narendra Solanki, Head- Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rath.

However, during the afternoon session, the gains were lost and benchmarks fell into the negative zone as selling was witnessed in banks and financial stocks, he added.

### iD Fresh expands dairy portfolio

## HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** iD Fresh Food on Monday expanded its dairy production range in the city by introducing iD Curd. The Bengaluru-based company saw a 25-30 per cent growth in overall sales during Covid-19 in Hyderabad, in spite of the reduced institutional sales business.

Funded by Premji Invest and Helion Venture Partners, iD ventured into the dairy segment with its paneer in 2016. In the city, it has around 25 per cent of the market share for paneer since the launch of the product in 2017. With the launch of iD Curd, the company is looking at strengthening its position in the dairy segment in the city.

Musthafa PC, CEO and co-founder, iD Fresh Food, said, "The Covid-19 pandemic has put the spotlight on health and safety. An increasing number of people today are making conscious food choices to boost immunity and minimise safety hazards".

# No regulatory intervention on OTT platforms for now

WhatsApp, Skype, Viber and Hike some of widely-used OTT services

**New Delhi:** Regulator Trai on Monday said the time is not opportune to recommend a comprehensive regulatory framework for various aspects of OTT services beyond the laws and regulations prescribed currently, and decided against any immediate regulatory intervention.

The matter can be looked into afresh when more clarity emerges in international jurisdictions particularly the study undertaken by the ITU (International Telecommunication Union), Trai said outlining its views on the issue of regulatory framework for OTT (Over-The-Top) communication services. OTT services refer to applications and services that are accessible over the internet and ride on an operator's network. Skype, Viber, WhatsApp and Hike are some of the popular and widely-



It is not an opportune moment to recommend a comprehensive regulatory framework for various aspects of services referred to as OTT services, beyond the extant laws and regulations prescribed presently - Trai

used OTT services.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has further said that no regulatory interventions are needed for privacy and security related issues of OTT serv-

ices for now. "It is not an opportune moment to recommend a comprehensive regulatory framework for various aspects of services referred to as OTT services, beyond the extant laws and regulations prescribed presently," Trai said in a statement.

The regulator had come out with a discussion paper on regulatory framework for such services in November 2018 where it had sought industry's views on multiple issues.

These issues were similarity and substitutability of telecom service providers and OTT services, regulatory imbalance and non-level playing field between these two types of service providers, economic aspects, inter-operability, lawful interception of OTT services as well as access of emergency services from OTT.

### Recordent raises Angel funding

**Hyderabad:** City-based startup Recordent, a tech-enabled credit and payment reporting platform, has announced securing of undisclosed capital in an ongoing Angel funding round. The newly raised capital will be utilised to invest in technology and product development to offer a seamless service to MSMEs. Recordent will also utilise the funds to expand its team strength and acquire more users.

The platform enables MSMEs in leveraging the data and technology to accelerate their payment cycle. Currently, Recordent has a portfolio of over 400 clients from across the nation Furniture World, Spectra India. Over 2,500 customer due records have been submitted on the platform with a total value of over Rs 12 crore. Winny Patro, co-founder and CEO, Recordent India, said, "We are glad to announce our first capital intake through Angel funding round.

# Promoter share pledge hits 3-yr high

In value terms, promoters' share pledging increased by a huge 55.97% in Aug

**New Delhi:** Pledging of shares by promoters in companies listed on NSE reached a three-year high of 1.86 per cent of total market capitalisation.

The last time it was higher was on April 30, 2017 at 1.88 per cent, as per prime info base, an initiative of Prime Database.

In value terms, promoters' share pledging increased by a huge 55.97 per cent from last month with the value of pledged shares going up to Rs 2.77 lakh crore as on August 31, compared to Rs 1.78 lakh crore as on July 31, according to Pranav Haldea, Managing Director, PRIME Database Group. According to Haldea, "this increase was primarily driven by pledging of shares by promoters in Hindustan Zinc and Vedanta for the purpose of the delisting of Vedanta".

As on 31st August 2020, shares were pledged in 463 of the 1,656 main-board companies listed on NSE, as compared to 461 companies on July 31.



High pledge levels are typically not considered a good sign by the investors as a downturn in the market price can lead to invocation and change in management.

High pledge levels are typically not considered a good sign by the investors as a downturn in the market price can lead to invocation and change in management. Surprisingly, there were as many as 29 companies in which the complete holding (100 per cent) of the promoters was under pledge.

At another level, there were as many as 81 companies in which more than 90 per cent of the promoter's shareholding was pledged and 192 companies in which more

than 50 per cent of the promoter's shareholding was pledged.

SEBI at its board meeting held on in June 2019 had mandated that where pledging of promoters (and PACs) is more than 20 per cent of the total share capital of the company or 50 per cent of the Total Promoter Holding, promoters shall be required to disclose detailed reasons for encumbrance separately. As on August 31, there were 230 such companies listed on NSE.

Companies which moved from



zero per cent to some per cent pledging of promoters' holding from July to August were Hindustan Zinc (to 100), Vedanta (to 99.99) and Max Healthcare Institute (to 13.35). Overall, there were 13 companies in which the percentage of promoter holding pledged increased in August.

There were two companies in which pledged shares were brought down to zero in August 2020, these being Tirupati Forge (from 47.92) and Jyothy Labs (from 6.58). (PTT)

### S&P slashes India's GDP growth forecast

**New Delhi:** S&P Global Ratings on Monday slashed its FY21 growth forecast for India to (-) 9 per cent, from (-) 5 per cent estimated earlier, saying that rising Covid-19 cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer.

"One factor holding back private economic activity is the continued escalation of the Covid-19," S&P Global Ratings Asia-Pacific Economist Vishrut Rana said.

Rising Covid-19 cases in India will keep private spending and investment lower for longer. S&P Global Ratings now expects the country's economy to contract by 9 per cent in the current fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2021, the US-based rating agency said in a statement.

For 2021-22 fiscal, it expects economic growth at 10 per cent. S&P had earlier forecast India's economic contraction at 5 per cent.



# 'Set up cotton procurement centres at market yards'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Khammam:** District Collector RV Karnan has directed the district officials to commence arrangements for setting up CCI procurement centres at all market yards across the district.

He discussed and reviewed preparations for cotton procurement during monsoon with agriculture, marketing, police, fire and transport department officials along with the office bearers of market committees, Chambers of Commerce and ginning mills owners at a meeting at his office in Khammam on Monday.

The Collector asked agriculture and marketing officials, agriculture market committees office bearers and ginning mills proprietors to work in coordination towards smooth procurement of cotton in this season. The extent of cotton was increased in this season and the crop was grown in about 1,01,675 hectares. About 2,26,136 metric tonnes of yield was expected. Based on crop



District Collector RV Karnan discussing arrangements for cotton procurement at a review meeting in Khammam on Monday

booking data, the CCI procurement centres have to be established at Madhira, Nelakondapalli, Enkoor, Wyra besides Khammam markets, he stated.

Every centre should be equipped with required facilities such as moisture testing machines, weighing machines etc.

Covid-19 guidelines have to be followed strictly during the procurement season at all the markets, he ordered.

Karnan suggested that care has to be taken to ensure that majority of cotton produce would be procured by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and to avoid

the problems faced during the last procurement season.

Rythu Bandhu Samithi coordinator N Venkateswar Rao pointed out that due to lack of facilities at ginning mills in the district, farmers were forced to wait on roads for days with their vehicles carrying loads of cotton produce, in the past. Hence, he requested to take measures to see that CCI procures the produce at minimum support procure (MSP) and to avoid the exploitation of farmers by middlemen and private traders in the procurement.

Khammam Agriculture Market Committee Chairman M Venkata Ramana assured that all line departments, ginning mills and Chambers of Commerce will coordinate with each other to procure cotton from farmers at MSP.

ZP CEO Ch Priyanka, Additional Collector N Madhusudhan Rao, CCI AGM Praveen Kumar, District Marketing Officer Nagaraju, District Agriculture Officer Vijaya Nirmala and others were present.

## Fishermen warned not to venture into Godavari

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Kothagudem:** District Collector MV Reddy warned the fishermen not to go for hunting as heavy rains are expected in the next four days due to depression in Bay of Bengal.

On Monday, he instructed the officials to be alert and get ready for rescue operations. According to weather report, heavy rains will lash the district in the next four days.

Stating that the forecast warned of thunderstorm hitting the district, Collector Reddy warned public asked to leave dilapidated and to be cautious of electricity poles and power distribution lines. He asked the people to contact officials at the Collectorate's helpline number in case of emergency.



The Bolero truck that got washed away in a stream near Naseempet village on Monday

## Truck washes away in stream, youth rescue couple

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Suryapet:** Two persons were rescued by passers-by when their vehicle got washed away in a swollen stream near Naseempet of Atmakur (S) mandal on Monday.

According to police, Dhara-vath Kalyan and his wife Saroja, natives of Aladur Thanda of Mahabubabad, were going to

Suryapet in a Bolero to purchase sheep at a local market.

Their truck was washed away in a stream, which was overflowing, and the truck stopped after hitting an electric pole at around 3 am.

Three persons, who were on their way to Aipuri in a car, noticed the mishap and reached the Bolero vehicle and saved the couple.



The newly elected members of Pastors' Association in Macharam village on Monday

## Reverend William Booth is new president of Pastors Association

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Mahabubnagar:** The Pastors Association of Jadcherla has elected Reverend William Booth as its president at an election conducted by the association, in which pastors from across various mandals of Jadcherla constituency participated, held at Gypsy Hostel in Macharam village on Monday. They also elected its new executive body.

According to Reverend

William Booth, the newly elected executive committee members of the association will render their service for two years from 2020-2022.

Pastors of the six mandals under Jadcherla constituency, took part in the election to select executive body members including president, secretary, treasurer and vice-president of the association.

The newly elected members are : Pastor Yeliya as secretary,

SB Bhaskar as treasurer, G Stephen Raj, Devadasu Naidu and Timothy as assistant presidents, K Suvartha Raju as assistant secretary, KV Prakash as assistant treasurer, Paul Chander as organising secretary, M Nathaniel, Timothy, Santosh and Tabita Yeisha Raj Paul as members, Praveen, Isrial and Robert as advisors, Gidyonu, Paramjyothi and Ashirvadam were elected as auditors of the Pastors' Association.

## Eight crest gates of NSP lifted

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nalgonda:** Eight crest gates of Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) were lifted to 10 feet in view of the increased inflow to the project. Through these eight crest gates that were lifted, 1,19,632 cusecs of water were being released to down steam.

The inflow to the project was increased to 1,54,996 cusecs after lifting the gates of Srisailem project.

The water level in the project touched 589.70 feet as against the full reservoir level of 590 feet.

The current water storage is 311.14 TMCs against the full reservoir level of 312.04 TMC.

About 1800 cusecs of water was being released to SLBC canal and 400 cusecs to low level canal. The total outflow from the project was recorded as 1,54,996 cusecs.

## Tribal hostels should have own buildings: DYFI

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Karimnagar:** Stating that hostels of Tribal boys and girls should have their own buildings, DYFI district general secretary Tirupati submitted a memorandum to Joint Collector (Local Bodies) Shyam Prasad Lal here on Monday. He requested the JC to take up the construction of hostel buildings.

Tirupati said that SC, ST, BC and Minority students were housed in own building in the town, but tribal students have been living in rented buildings without proper facilities, though land was allotted for the same in Padmanagar.

He also pointed out that land was not allotted for the women's college hostel.

He criticised that the State government had completely failed to



DYFI leaders submitting a memorandum to Joint Collector Shyam Prasad Lal at his office in Karimnagar on Monday

build hostel buildings for the tribals as promised and requested to take up the construction of the same immediately.

The DYFI leader said that in the wake of corona spread, the building was vacated following the orders from the Tribal Commissioner as they would not pay rent for the rental buildings. But examination

dates were announced for degree and PG students and students were worried about their stay. He demanded the government to build hostel buildings for tribal boys and girls. DYFI district assistant secretary D Naresh Patel, Ravinder Naik, Renuka, Anusha, Lavanya, Uma, Rajitha and others were present on the occasion.

## 'Give priority to resolving public woes'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Karimnagar:** Public problems redressal should be our priority as people hope that their problems will be resolved through phone, said District Collector K Shashanka.

During Dial Your Collector programme at the Collectorate here on Monday, the Collector received various grievances. Chandraiah from Indurthi village of Chigurumamidi mandal complained that the village secretary was not giving permission for the construction of 30 houses. The Collector assured of solving his problem soon. Ravi from Mallapur village of Gangadhar mandal complained that the sada binas were not registered in 2016 for which the Collector said that rules were changed with the times and asked him to wait for some time.

Additional Collector directed the MRO to attend the complaint by Nazrin from Keshavpatnam mandal of not receiving pass-book.

## BJP demands action against govt land encroachers



BJP leaders staging a protest before MRO office in Mancherial on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Mancherial:** Bhartiya Janata Party leaders staged a protest before MRO office here on Monday demanding the government to take action against encroachers of government land and to take back the encroached land in Nasapur in the district. Speaking on the occasion, BJP Lead-

ers alleged that some leaders of the ruling party have occupied government lands in Nasapur municipality.

Two out of 37 acres in survey number 22 in Thigalapahad suburb, six acres in survey numbers 64 and 42 in Nasapur suburbs, they informed and requested the government to conduct survey and to take legal action against

the encroachers. They also demanded the government to provide double bedroom houses to all the eligible poor.

Nasapur ward councillors Bera Satyanarayana, Koduri Lahari, Vijay Kumar, Panuganti Rangarao, Akula Satish, Buddha Rajaya, Tippani Bhimaiah, Kotta Narayana and Chakri were among those who were present.

## Speed up construction of Rythu Vedika: Collector Musharraf

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nirmal:** District Collector Musharraf Ali Farooqui directed the authorities to take steps to complete construction of Rythu Vedika, which are under construction in the district immediately.

Addressing a meeting with the officials of concerned departments over Rythu Vedika construction in the district, at the Collector's office here on Monday, he reviewed the progress of construction works at mandal and village levels through power point presentation.

The Collector said steps have been taken to expedite the construction work of Rythu Vedika in the district.

Of the 79 farmer forums sanctioned for the district, the building in Chityala village was completed recently and the remaining 78 structures are expected to be completed at the earliest.

Officials of the concerned departments were advised to monitor works' progress on daily basis in coordination and make available sand, cement, iron and other materials.

He warned that action will be taken against the officials, who are negligent in the construction work.

District Agriculture Officer Anji Prasad, Panchayat Raj department officials, District Agriculture Department ADs, AVOs, AEOs and others attended the meeting.

Earlier in the day, the Collector along with education officials participated in the tender finalization process for supply of vegetables, eggs, mutton, chicken and other items related to the menu in Kasturba Gandhi Schools and Colleges in the district.

## Clear GST dues: CPI to Centre



CPI workers staging protest near Ambedkar statue in Hanamkonda on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hanamkonda (Warangal-U):** The Communist Party of India (CPI) has found fault with the Central government for not releasing GST compensation to States. The CPI activists led by its State Secretariat Member Thakkallapally Srinivas Rao staged a protest near BR Ambedkar statue here on Monday. Speaking at the protest, Rao accused the BJP-led Union government of delaying the compensation as mandated under the GST Act.

"This is nothing but the infringement of the GST Act. The Central government is trying to escape the responsibility by citing its inability on account of cess shortfall, which is unacceptable," Rao said. He found fault with the Centre for suggesting that States borrow money to make up their shortfall in GST revenues expected in the ongoing fiscal.

Terming it as betrayal, the CPI leader said that the Centre was trying to push the State into a debt trap. The States are already in dire straits due to the economic slowdown impacted by

**"This is nothing but the infringement of the GST Act. The Central government is trying to escape the responsibility by citing its inability on account of cess shortfall, which is unacceptable - Rao**

the coronavirus lockdown, he said. Referring to the Centre's Rs 20 crore Atmanirbhar Bharat, a package aimed at making India a self-reliant and self-sufficient nation, Rao alleged that it remained only on paper.

He demanded the Centre to release special funds for Telangana State to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to the pending GST compensation with immediate effect.

CPI Warangal district secretary Mekala Ravi, joint secretary K Bikshapathy, Sheikh Bashumia, T Bikshapathy, Gannarapu Ramesh and Dandu Laxman were among others present.

## Need more effort to address malnutrition: CWC chief

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Warangal:** Notwithstanding the various nutrition schemes implemented by the Central and State governments, children in rural areas are still suffering from malnutrition, Warangal District Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Chairperson Mandala Parashuramulu said. He was speaking at a training programme on Child Marriage and Malnutrition organised by the Childline-1098, Warangal Urban District, here on Monday. The programme was presided over by the Childline-1098 Nodal Coordinator MD Iqbal Pasha.

Dwelling more on the subject, the CWC Chairperson said that main symptoms of malnutrition are frequent illness in children, being underweight, being weak, always lazy and irritable and delayed



CWC Chairperson Mandala Parashuramulu speaking at a training programme on Child Marriage and Malnutrition organised by the Childline-1098 in Warangal on Monday

in the developmental stages of the child.

"Parents should pay special attention to their child's growth and provide them with more fruits,

leafy vegetables, protein, milk, eggs and fresh vegetables. Anganwadi teachers, child marriage ban officers, NGOs and leaders of various political parties should mo-

bilize the people from the village level on the Prevention of Child Marriage Act 2006," Mandala Parashuramulu said. Girls in distress can contact the Child Welfare Committee for assistance, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Hanamkonda Urban CDPO K Madhurima encapsulated the role of Anganwadi teachers in building malnutrition and child marriage free society. Childline-109 Nodal Coordinator MD Iqbal Pasha said that the governments should allocate more funds for the development of children. Governments need to work harder to make education and health accessible to all.

The Childline-1098 Coordinator Ragi Krishnamurthy, ICDS Supervisors V Rajyalakshmi, J Nirmala and T Kavitha were among others present.



# THIEM RALLIES TO CLINCH FIRST GRAND SLAM TITLE

Wish we could've two winners, says 27-year-old Austrian after epic US Open crown

**New York (IANS):** Dominic Thiem was all praise for Alexander Zverev after they both competed in what turned out to be an epic US Open 2020 final in which the Austrian emerged victorious riding on a tremendous fightback at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

On Sunday evening, Thiem used every bit of his Grand Slam experience to come back from the brink and defeat Zverev 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 in the 2020 US Open men's singles final.

From being two sets down, the 27-year-old world number three was in all sorts of trouble before hitting back from a break down to take the third.

In a nerve-wracking fourth set, Zverev faltered on serve at 3-4 allowing Thiem to take the contest to a decider.

Thiem then trailed 5-3 in the decider but rode on baseline winners to take it into a tiebreak. He squandered two match points from 6-4 but Zverev fired wide a third opportunity after four hours and two minutes.

This was the first US Open summit clash which was decided by a fifth-set tie-break. Thiem is the first player in the Open Era to rally from two sets down in US Open final. Thiem also became the first Grand Slam champion born in the 1990s, along with the 55th Grand Slam champion of the Open Era and the 150th of all time.

"We started to know each other back in 2014 and straight away



started to develop a great friendship...and then a great rivalry," Thiem said after the match as per the ATP Tour website. "We've made great things happen on the court and off the court. It's amazing how far our journey brought us to share this moment. I wish we could have two winners today. We both deserved it," he added.

Thiem has joined Thomas Muster (1995 Roland Garros) as the only Austrian men to win a major championship. He lost his first three Grand Slam finals, most recently in a five-set battle to Novak Djokovic at this year's Australian Open.

"At the speech, I got emotional. I couldn't put two words together...It was a difficult moment for me. I was super close to being a Grand Slam champion. I was a few games away, maybe a few points away. What upset me the most is not the third set, it's the fifth set. I had a lot of chances in the fifth set and didn't use them. I'm 23 years old. I don't think it's my last chance. I do believe that I will be a Grand Slam champion at some point," — Alexander Zverev

"It had to be like this - my career was always like the match today - many ups and downs and I love the way it turned out," tweeted Thiem after the match.

Despite the loss, Zverev achieved a career breakthrough in reaching his first Grand Slam final and also showered rich praise on Thiem. "I want to congratulate Dominic on the first of many Grand Slam titles. I wish you could have missed a little more so I could be holding that trophy up, but here I am giving the runner-up speech," Zverev said.

"I want to thank my team for sticking with me. The past two years have not been easy in my tennis career. We're definitely on the way up and I hope that one day we're going to lift that trophy up together," he added.

# England mount incredible fightback to level series against Australia

**Manchester (IANS):** A dramatic batting collapse, including loss of four wickets for three runs, saw Australia suffer a 24-run defeat against England at the Old Trafford to leave the ongoing three-match ODI series poised at 1-1.

Chasing what was a tricky target of 232, the visitors bumbled out for 207 in the 49th over with the result meaning that England have extended their lead at the top of the ongoing ICC World Cup Super League, as well as setting up a winner-takes-all encounter for the third ODI at the same venue on Wednesday.

Electing to bat, England found themselves quickly in trouble, with their openers, Jonny Bairstow and Jason Roy, returning to the dressing room within the first seven overs.

Joe Root and Eoin Morgan fought back, but just as things looked to be back on track for the hosts, leg-spinner Adam Zampa was brought on and with his third ball, had Root caught at slip at 39.

The hosts then lost a flurry of wickets and found themselves wanting at 149/8. However, Tom Curran and Adil Rashid then mounted a fightback as they added 76 runs before Curran was dismissed for 37 with two balls left in the innings, while Rashid ended with an unbeaten 35\* from only 26 deliveries as England ended their innings on 231/9 in their allotted 50 overs.

Australia didn't have a great start as they lost quickly David Warner and Marcus Stoinis to



Jofra Archer who bowled with hostility in his opening burst. However, Aaron Finch and Marnus Labuschagne held firm and took advantage once Archer was taken off and shared a 107-run stand.

Just when the visitors looked to be moving towards a comfortable victory, needing 89 runs from the last 20, they saw a dramatic collapse. Chris Woakes and Archer removed Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh, Finch and Glenn Maxwell in a 21-ball spell to turn the game on its head.

Pat Cummins and Alex Carey did stop the rot, but Sam Curran removed Cummins and Mitchell Starc with consecutive deliveries to put England firmly in charge and the hosts finally sealed the victory in the second-last over of the game. Australia and England will now meet in a series decider on Wednesday.

**Brief scores:** England 231/9 (Morgan 42, Root 39; Zampa 3/36) beat Australia 207 all out (Finch 73, Labuschagne 48; Woakes 3/32) by 24 runs.



"Australia hadn't played cricket for quite a long time so you sort of excuse them (that collapse) in the first T20I, even though it cost them that series. They have been pretty good since then but this will be a real punch in the guts for Australia. They pride themselves on getting over the line in those sorts of games and doing the basics well. "They didn't do that - they weren't good enough, with Aaron Finch the only batsman to really show any touch. It's 1-1 ahead of the last day of the international summer. Who writes these scripts?," —Shane Warne, Australian spin legend



## Rijiju lays foundation stones for various sports facilities in Ladakh

**Leh (IANS):** Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday laid foundation stones for various sports facilities costing over Rs 12 crore rupees in the union territory. Rijiju laid foundation for a synthetic track & astro-turf for football in Lehath Open Stadium. The estimated project cost is Rs 10.68 crore and scheduled to be completed by January next year. Similarly, the construction of gymnasium hall in NDS indoor stadium would cost about Rs 1.52 crore and construction will be completed by March 2021.

Rijiju suggested Ladakh UT Administration to constitute awards and incentives like jobs for local sports persons to encourage them to excel in the sporting field. He also asked the ice hockey associations across the country to come together to get the recognition for the sport by following the laid down procedures. He reminded the federations that in principle his ministry has recognised ice hockey as national sport.

For sports infrastructure and development in Ladakh, he announced relaxations at the function. He asked the UT administration to send proposals to develop sporting infrastructure in places with a thousand population in Ladakh. Under Khelo India program, his ministry would relax the norms and provide funds and the facilities meant for districts in the places suggested by the administration as Khelo India district sub centres. Similarly, sports persons excelled in local events would get training in 23 centres of excellence across the country, depending on their sporting disciplines. Speaking on the occasion, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur appealed to Rijiju to tap the potential in Ladakh for sports development. He suggested that during the winters, people from other parts of the country should come to Ladakh to experience and learn winter sports.

## Great Learning ropes in Virat Kohli as brand ambassador

**New Delhi (IANS):** Ed-tech company Great Learning on Monday announced the appointment of Virat Kohli, as its brand ambassador. The captain of the Indian cricket team, who also topped a recent ranking of India's most powerful celebrities, will now be the face of the Great Learning brand, the company said. He will lead the brand's latest 'Power Ahead' campaign, which underlines the importance of lifelong learning and showcases how high-quality learning at the right time can help professionals and students power ahead in their career. "Kohli is the obvious choice to be our brand ambassador because he best embodies the great learning ethos of excellence and continuous learning," Mohan Lakhamraju, Founder and CEO, Great Learning, said in a statement. "We are looking forward to this association with Kohli through which we wish to spread the message that now, through the high quality online learning offered by Great Learning, anyone can grow and succeed," Lakhamraju added.

The company is also launching a multi-film campaign with Kohli during the upcoming Dream 11 IPL, where the brand is Associate Sponsor on Disney + Hotstar.



## Marseille end nine-year winless run against PSG

**Paris (IANS):** Marseille clinched their first victory against old rivals Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) in nine years as Andre Villas Boas' side beat PSG 1-0 in a game which will be remembered for aggressive fouls and a late brawl.

On Sunday, Florian Thauvin's close-range volley set up by Dimitri Payet in the 31st minute punished the defending champions to a two-game losing streak in the opening two weeks of the Ligue 1 campaign, the first time the capital-based club has lost its first two games in a season since 1984-1985, reports Xinhua news agency.

But the stories of the toe-to-toe clash were far beyond the records. A brawl in stoppage time

saw five players sent off, including PSG's star Neymar, who had just come back from a Covid-19 quarantine. The former Barca striker got a straight red for slapping on the back of Alvaro Gonzalez's head.

Walking off the pitch, Neymar told officials that he did so because he had been racially abused and the angry Brazilian tweeted after the match that his "only regret" was not hitting Gonzalez in the face.

"Neymar told me that it was a racist insult. I didn't hear anything on the field," PSG coach Thomas Tuchel said. "Racism in life, in all domains, in sport, should not exist."

However, Villas-Boas didn't

think Alvaro -- who earlier accused Angel Di Maria of spitting at him -- would have committed such a wrongdoing.

"There is no place for racism in football but I don't think so," Villas-Boas said, "We will look at it later." "Before that, we had a situation with a spit from Di Maria," the Portuguese coach added.

The anarchy in injury time started with a tussle between Argentine pair Dario Benedetto of Marseille and Leandro Paredes of PSG, as the two players were both shown their second yellow cards and were sent off.

Meanwhile, PSG's defender Layvin Kurzawa and his Marseille counterpart Jordan Amavi

were also booked with direct red cards for a fight with each other in the disorder.

As a result, the game ended with eight men from PSG on the field, while Marseille had nine.

The rivalry between the two clubs is one of the biggest in Ligue 1, which is also related to the competition of the two cities, the biggest and second-biggest in the country.

The bad relationship got worse last month as PSG went all the way into the Champions League final, which previously was an honour exclusively belonging to Marseille. Earlier in the day, Monaco beat Nantes 2-1 at home to move atop of the league standings on goal difference.

## IPL 13

# Adjusting to extreme heat in UAE biggest challenge: Boult

**Abu Dhabi (IANS):** New Zealand pacer Trent Boult has said the biggest challenge for him will be to adjust to the extreme heat in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) when he turns up for reigning champions Mumbai Indians in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) starting September 19.

Boult was roped into the Mumbai Indians squad in the IPL trade window from the Delhi Capitals in the auctions held last year.

Mumbai Indians take on Chennai Super Kings in the IPL opener at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Saturday. "The biggest challenge so far has been trying to prepare to come to 45 degrees in the middle of a desert. I come from a very small country, New Zealand which is about 7 or 8 degrees at the moment, the middle of winter," Boult said in a video shared by Mumbai Indians on their official Instagram account.

"I have played for a couple of other



franchises but I am very excited to be part of this Mumbai family," said the 31-year old.

"Speaking from experience I have played against them a few times. The big challenge that you face when you come up against this side is that they

have always been very intimidating. So it's nice to be on the other end of it and be part of such a cool group," Boult added.

The left-arm pacer has so far played a total 33 IPL matches in which he has scalped 38 wickets.

## 'Kohli sets right example by always leading from front'

**Dubai:** Ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) batsman AB de Villiers has showered praise on his side's skipper, Virat Kohli, by saying that the latter always leads from the front.

The South African batsman, de Villiers, gave the statement in a video posted on RCB's official Twitter handle.

"We have worked so hard, we have a good work ethic, it really feels like everyone has bought into this hard-working environment. The credit needs to go to Virat, he sets the example and leads from the front. It is pretty easy to follow when you have a captain who is always leading from the front," De Villiers said in the video.

As a senior member of the team alongside Virat Kohli, the South African knows his responsibilities as he said, "I am feeling better than ever so I am looking to be out there with the boys."

On being asked about how difficult it was to come back after the long hiatus, de Villiers said, "It is natural to get breaks here and there, sometimes the schedule allows a period of no cricket for two months or so. Sometimes injuries happen and you are out for six or seven months. I know the feeling of coming back from a big break. It's amazing how you can get back into the groove, nothing guarantees performance, but that's the beauty of sport, you never know what to expect."