

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 22 AUGUST 2020

WEATHER

Max: 29.2°C
Min: 21.8°C
RH: 80%
Rain: 0.5 mm
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 29/22°C



NATION | 4

CBI recreates SSR crime scene



WORLD | 5

Biden vows to end Trump 'darkness'



CORONAVIRUS
CASES (+68,559)
29,72,235
DEATHS (+958)
55,921
covid19india.org

STATE GOVT BULLETINS	TELANGANA	ANDHRA PRADESH
(+1,967)	99,391	(+9,544)
(+8)	737	(+91)
		3,092

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES
2,30,06,465
DEATHS
7,99,576
COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES
213

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Vol. 83 No. 234 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

9 die fighting fire at Srisaillam power plant

Fire broke out at underground plant on Aug. 20 night, staff tried to douse fire till midnight; Victims' bodies found in escape tunnel

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

Nine people including seven employees of the Telangana State Power Generation Corporation (TS Genco) and two from a private firm were killed and eight others injured in a fire mishap at the Srisaillam Left Bank hydel power station, which is located about 125 metres underground, at about 10.30 pm on Thursday. There is only one entry and exit to the tunnel. One of the victims was a woman.

The victims are said to have tried to protect the power plant, one of the most prestigious in the country, before trying to make their escape. Thick smoke is said to have prevented an easy escape as well as quick rescue.

TS Genco said in a statement: "The accident happened when a sudden fire broke out in the electric panels. Employees who sensed danger made all efforts to extinguish the fire. The entrapped employees tried to save the plant from catching fire without even caring for their lives. It appears that the employees continued their efforts until 12 o'clock at night (Thursday)."

According to Genco, there were 17 employees in the power station when the fire

broke out. The eight survivors have been admitted in the Genco Hospital at Srisaillam.

Employees trapped in the tunnel as well as survivors sent videos and picture of the fire through their mobile phones to explain the seriousness of the situation inside the tunnel.

A survivor told TV channels, "We heard sounds and saw flames and tried to put off the fire. We were unable to do so due to the smoke."

The smoke prevented them from helping the others to escape. Another survivor said the staff tried to douse the flames by using fire extinguishers but did not succeed.

The power house is located in a two-km tunnel under the Nallamala hill range adjacent to the Srisaillam reservoir on the Telangana side on the Krishna river. Power generation at the hydel unit has been suspended following the accident.

According to Genco authorities, the fire erupted in the first unit of the hydel power generation unit in Domalapenta of Amrabad mandal in Nagarkurnool district, and smoke engulfed all the six power units of the underground station.

■ Page 2: CM declares ₹25 lakh ex gratia to victims



Telangana Genco employees try to douse fire emanating from an electric panel at the Srisaillam hydroelectric power plant, which is located 125 metres underground in a two kilometre-long tunnel, on Thursday night.

Non-stop use of turbines may have sparked mishap

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC
KURNOOL, AUG. 21

Did the continuous use of turbines for hydel power generation contribute to the fire accident at the TS Genco unit at Srisaillam on Friday?

The facility has been continuously producing power since July 20, following the good availability of water in the Srisaillam dam. Efficient use of generators is gained by on-and-off production rather than continuous production. Running the 900 MW unit (6x150 MW) for 30 days non-stop is unthinkable, said an engineer at the Srisaillam power plant.

The TS government has ordered two inquiries into the incident. The overuse of machinery resulted in tripping of the panel which caused the fire, said an engineer. The lack of easy approach to the escape routes appeared to have contributed to the toll in the incident, he said.

A police officer said he was informed by an official that fire broke out at

OFFICIAL WHO SURVIVED COVID DIES IN ACCIDENT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

Dharavath Sunder Naik, 32, an assistant engineer of Genco who died in the power plant fire, had recovered from Covid-19 one month back and had reportedly returned to duty only on Thursday, sources said.

Naik, a native of Jagani thanda of Chivvenla mandal, Suryapet district, was a resident of the Genco quarters at Srisaillam.

■ Full report on Page 2

VICTIMS SPOKE TO FAMILIES AFTER LOSING ALL HOPE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

All the nine persons who died in the fire accident at the power station spoke to their family members even as they tried to escape from the flames.

Mohan Rao, an assistant engineer and resident of Jeedimetla in Hyderabad, spoke to his family and one of his colleagues Venu and told them that his chances of escaping were bleak.

■ Full report on Page 2

the automatic voltage regulator. He said he came to know about the fire accident at the power plant at about 2 am on Friday.

Had the fire occurred during the day, the number of casualties would

have been more, he said.

There are two escape routes in power plant but the staff working there were not aware of them because safety drill appears to be not made compulsory, he said.

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices of *Deccan Chronicle* will remain closed today. There will be no edition on Sunday (August 23)

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Bhadrapada Shuddha Chavithi till 7.59 pm
Star: Hasta till 7.12 pm
Varjyam: 2.30 am to 3.58 am
Durmuhurtam: 6.04 am to 7.44 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Muharram 2,1442 AH
PRAVERS
Fajar: 4.56 am
Zohar: 12.29 pm
Asar: 4.43 pm
Maghrib: 6.44 pm
Isha: 7.53 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.36 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.00 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 9.02 AM
MOONSET TODAY 9.22 PM

COUNTER POINT

27% STUDENTS HAVE NO PHONES FOR ONLINE CLASSES: NCERT



I have a smartphone, the net, electricity and also long power cuts!

Happy Ganesh Chaturthi



The Ganesha idol at Khairatabad in the city on Friday. The organisers have installed a smaller idol as against the practice of having the tallest idol in the city in view of Covid-19 norms. *Deccan Chronicle* wishes all its readers a Happy Ganesh Chaturthi. — **DEEPAK DESHPANDE**

SC SAYS NO TO PROBE ON EX-CJI GOGOI

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, AUG. 21

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a plea seeking an "in-house" inquiry against former CJI Ranjan Gogoi for an alleged bias in passing an ex-parte order in July 2016.

Dismissing the plea as "infructuous", Justice Arun Mishra heading a three-judge bench told the petitioner-in-person that Justice Gogoi has since retired and "nothing can be done now, we can't help you".

As the petitioner-in-person said that the Supreme Court has not taken his case in spite of meeting secretary general, Justice Mishra said, "Whether your fault or the God's fault, your prayers have become infructuous."

Centre won't defer JEE, Neet

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

Despite pressure from students across the country, the Union education ministry on Friday confirmed that the JEE (Main) and Neet 2020 will not be postponed.

Students have been arguing that conducting exams in September when the Coronavirus cases are

still rising is irresponsible. Earlier in the day, there were speculations that exams could be postponed and a final decision could be made after August 25. That had given the students a sliver of hope.

After the confirmation of the dates by the ministry, students condemned the decision and expressed disappointment, saying that the government

was playing with the lives of the students.

Wasil Mohammed, a Neet aspirant, said, "We have seen in the recent past where conducting exams during Covid-10 has turned out to be horrible, with several students testing positive."

■ Page 2: SOP for exams won't help, say students

TOUGH TIME Poll panel curbs political activity, voters to get gloves

Covid to spoil election hysteria

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, AUG. 21

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday restricted political activity ahead of elections scheduled to be conducted in the country, amid rising Coronavirus cases in the country. Apart from byelections in some parts of the country, Bihar would be the first state to go to polls during the pandemic to elect a new Legislative Assembly.

As part of its stringent

conditions, the Election Commission has severely curtailed the number of persons allowed to go on a door-to-door campaign to five, including the candidate and his or her security personnel. It has limited the number of vehicles and people accompanying the candidate at the time of filing nomination to only two persons and two vehicles.

Apart from ensuring social distancing, the ECI said thermal scanners, gloves, sanitisers, face

shields and PPE kits will be used during the electoral process. Hand gloves will be provided to all electors for signing on the voter register and pressing the EVM button for voting. The maximum numbers of voters inside the polling centre premises at any point of time shall be 1,000, instead of the existing limit of 1,500 electors.

The voters will be scanned at every stage of the polling. If the temperature of a voter is found to be above speci-

fied limit, he or she will be provided with a token and will be asked to come for voting in the last hour of the poll.

The option of Postal Ballot facility has been extended to those marked as Persons with Disabilities, those aged over 80 years, and Covid-19 positive patients or suspects.

The ECI said public meetings and road shows shall be permissible with suitable instructions subject to containment instructions.

Are all surfaces in your home germ*-free?

FLOOR

KITCHEN COUNTER

DOOR KNOB

FLOOR CLEANER

SURFACE SANITIZER

Maxkleen Kills 99.9%* Germs*

Cleaning everything you touch is as important as cleaning your hands.

Maxkleen kills 99.9%* bacteria and kills viruses* across surfaces keeping your home safe.

Maxkleen Disinfectant Range

*As per standard laboratory test protocol on select bacteria and fungi. When used diluted as per "How to Use Wipro Maxkleen Floor Cleaner" on the product pack. *For Floor Cleaner, Effective against viruses, protozoa etc based on active ingredient when used undiluted with approximate 10 min contact time. *As per standard laboratory tests on select bacteria and fungi, when sprayed directly on contaminant surface. *For Surface Sanitizer, on select viruses, based on active ingredient, when sprayed directly on contaminant surface with approximate 15 min contact time. ~Free Santoor 75g soap worth ₹20 with every 500ml Maxkleen floor cleaner worth ₹93 (inclusive of all taxes)

IN BRIEF

HC order to pay due salaries

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court directed the state government and ESI Corporation to pay the pending wages to part-time employees like sweepers and Class-IV employees. Their wages have not been paid since the ACB unearthed the multi-crore rupee financial irregularities in the supply of medicines and surgical kits to dispensaries and ESI hospitals. The part-time employees approached the court stating that they had not been paid for 16 months. Government counsel contended that their services were with dispensed from March 31, 2020. The court directed that the employees be paid within six weeks.

BRAOU STARTS ONLINE DIRECT ADMISSIONS

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) has opened its online direct admissions for undergraduate, post-graduate, PG diploma and certificate programmes for 2020-21. The university said candidates who had passed BRAOU's eligibility test in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 can take direct admission into UG courses.

Students of undergraduate courses for second and third year, PG second year, MBA programmes, and old batch (2011 to 2019) students of UG second and third year will have to pay tuition fee through TS/AP Online or credit/debit card. The last date for all payments is September 10.

The admission prospectus has been made available on the university portal www.braou.ac.in and at UG/PG study centres. For more information or guidance, students can contact the university help desk numbers on 7382929570, 7382929580, 7382929590, 7382929600 and the information centre on 040-23680333/555.

Victims didn't know the escape route

No regular fire drills were carried out, said an official

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC
KURNOOL, AUG. 21

Of the nine persons who died in the fire accident at the TS Generation (Genco) Corporation power plant at the Srisaillam dam past midnight on Friday, seven were engineers.

The eight persons who survived were from the non-engineering cadre. Though a fire station is located in the plant, no regular fire drills were carried out, said an official.

Lack of knowledge about escape routes could have cost the lives of the engineers. The official said labourers at the power plant were well aware of the escape routes. They appear to have rushed to safety on noticing the fire, he said.



Smoke billows from a fire at Srisaillam Left Bank power station late on Thursday night.

Engineer warned others of fire

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

All the nine persons who died in the fire accident at the Srisaillam hydel power station spoke to their family members even as they tried to escape from the flames and thick smoke.

Mohan Rao, an assistant engineer and resident of Jeedimetla in Hyderabad,

spoke to his family and one of his colleagues Venu and told them that his chances of escaping were bleak. He was among the nine victims.

Assistant engineer Mohan saved many lives by calling from inside the power station and telling the others of the danger, sources said.

Deputy engineer

Srinivas Goud spoke to his family around 11.30 pm over phone and told them that there was no chance for him to escape from the death trap as the smoke had engulfed in the plant. "If the rescue teams do not reach us in 30 minutes, we will not survive," he said, according to sources. He is suspected to have died shortly afterwards.

TECHIE HAD JUST RECOVERED FROM COVID-19

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

Dharavath Sunder Naik, 32, an assistant engineer of Genco who died in the Srisaillam power plant fire, had recovered from Covid-19 one month back and had reportedly returned to duty only on Thursday, sources said.

Naik, a native of Jagani thanda of Chivemla mandal of Suryapet district, returned to Srisaillam on July 25 after being treated at home and completing the quarantine period at his native home. Sunder was a resident of the Genco quarters at Srisaillam along with wife Prameela and two daughters, Mansavini and Nihawli.

CM declares ₹25 lakh ex gratia to victims

From Page 1

Firefighting units and rescue teams were immediately deployed but they did not succeed in saving the lives of those who could not escape to safety.

The victims, employees of TS Genco, were identified as deputy engineer Srinivas Goud (Hyderabad), assistant engineers Venkat Rao (Palvoncha), Mohan Kumar (Hyderabad), Dharavath Sunder Naik (Suryapet) and Uzma Fathima (Hyderabad), plant attendant Rambabu (Khammam) and junior attendant Kiran (Palvoncha).

Two employees of Amara Raja Batteries, Vinesh Kumar and Mahesh Kumar, were killed in the mishap.

A 39-member fire rescue and disaster management team led by Commandant Siddharth Raha of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) recovered the bodies with the help of the fire brigade of the power plant on Friday evening.

According to the rescue

team, the bodies were found in the emergency escape tunnels. Energy minister G. Jagadish Reddy and TS Transco and Genco chairman and managing director D. Prabhakar Rao, expressing grief at the mishap, said, "All of them tried to come out of the escape tunnel, but they did not succeed due to the thick smoke in the tunnel."

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao expressed deep shock over at the mishap. Describing the accident as the most tragic, the Mr Rao conveyed his condolences to members of the bereaved family. He wished speedy recovery of injured.

Mr Rao ordered a CID inquiry into the mishap and CID additional DGP Govind Singh has been appointed inquiry officer. The Chief Minister also ordered Prabhakar Rao to constitute a high-level committee with experts to probe into the reasons for the mishap.

The Chief Minister announced ₹50 lakh ex gratia to the family of the deceased deputy engineer

Srinivas Goud and ₹25 lakh each to the family of the other victims including the two employees of Amara Raja Batteries.

President Ram Nath Kovind led the nation in mourning for the dead. "Pained by the loss of lives in the tragic fire accident at Srisaillam hydroelectric plant in Telangana. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved families. I wish speedy recovery for the injured," Kovind posted on Twitter.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered condolences to those who have lost their lives wished early recovery for those injured. In a tweet, he said "Fire at Srisaillam hydroelectric plant is deeply unfortunate. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. I hope those injured recover at the earliest."

Union home minister Amit Shah, Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and state BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar expressed grief.

SOP for exams won't help, say students

From Page 1

"There should be no hurry to conduct the exams when college admissions will be delayed," Mohammed said. The government had earlier released the standard operating procedures to be followed by exam centres during and before the exams.

Students believe that it will not serve the purpose. Ummal, a JEE aspirant, said, "The pressure and nervousness among stu-

dents will be so high that we can't expect everyone to follow the SOPs. They don't guarantee everyone's safety. Even if youngsters are more immune to the virus, who will guarantee the safety of our old parents and grandparents if we carry the virus back home after the exam?"

Students pointed out that during the times of pandemic, transportation is another big challenge with many students being allotted centres far away.

To add to the woes, Bihar and Assam and parts of Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh apart from several parts of the country are fighting floods. With all these students fear that many of them would not be able to reach the exam centres.

The National Testing Agency has, however, assured the Supreme Court that it will make sure that the exams are conducted with all the precautions against Covid-19 pandemic.

LEISURE

BRIDGE | Susanna Gross

Dealer South **Neither side vulnerable**

♠ K J 4 3 2
♥ A Q 10 6
♦ 5
♣ 7 6 2

♠ A 5
♥ J 9 7 5 4
♦ Q J 10 9 3
♣ 8

♠ 10 9 8 7 6
♥ 8 2
♦ A 8 7 6 4
♣ 10

♠ Q
♥ K 3
♦ K 2
♣ A K Q J 9 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	All pass	

There are some experts — like my friend Sally Brock — who think Blackwood is an overrated convention, and that slams can be bid just as well without wheeling out 4NT to ask for aces. That's often true. At the Portland Club, Blackwood isn't even allowed, and players don't seem to have much trouble bidding slams.

However, I'm firmly in the camp that believes Blackwood is indispensable in some auctions; there's no other way of finding out whether partner holds the precise cards you need. It does have to be used with care though. One of the dangers of Blackwood is that it can take you too high: you check for aces, find you're missing two and — whoops — are forced to bid trumps at the six level. There is an emergency break for this situation, and here's how it works (see diagram).

This hand comes from a mixed pairs tournament I played in with Espen Erichsen some time ago. I opened a club; Espen responded 1♠ and I rebid 3NT, promising a strong hand with long solid clubs. Espen's 4♣ was a slam-try. I cue-bid 4♦, he cue-bid 4♥, and now I bid Roman Key Card Blackwood. Disappointingly, 5♦ showed just one ace. I needed to stop at the 5-level, but how? Playing Key Card, 'step one' — 5♥ — asks for the trump queen; 5NT asks for kings. 5♠, however, has no meaning — and is therefore used to say: we can't be in slam, please bid 5NT. And that was how we came screeching to a halt in a making spot.

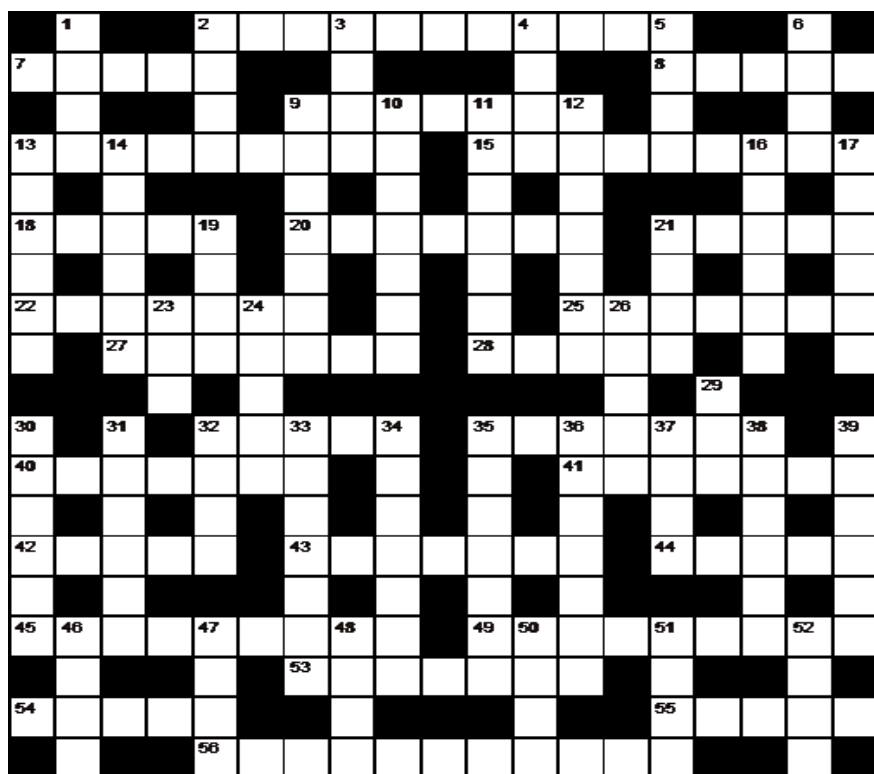
SUNDAY CROSSWORD — 948

ACROSS

2 Epicurean (11)
7 Unit of light (5)
8 Off the eye (5)
9 Temporary (4-3)
13 Analyses structurally, interprets (9)
15 Not kindred (9)
18 Not external (5)
20 WWII commando in Burma (7)
21 Municipal (5)
22 Adriatic port (7)
25 Quieted or calmed? (7)
27 Behind schedule (7)
28 weight: become fatter? (3,2)
32 India's cricket trophy (5)
35 Eyelashes cosmetic (7)
40 Display of daring (7)
41 Arctic deer (7)
42 Took effect (5)
43 Small seedless grape (7)
44 Afterwards (5)
45 Sailor (9)
49 Depose (9)
53 Stands or bears (7)
54 Armada (5)
55 A slow-to-heal wound (5)
56 Accepting, signing up or complying (11)

DOWN

1 Wife of Jupiter (4)
2 Midge (4)
3 Art gallery (4)
4 Algerian port (4)
5 Nonchalant (4)
6 Conflagration (4)
9 Come after (7)
10 Small bone or piece of hard substance in animal structure (7)
11 Jelly-like sweet (7)
12 Raise an objection (7)
13 A printed cotton fabric used for draperies (6)
14 Papal representative (6)
16 Copenhagen gardens (6)
17 A period of time spanning ten years (6)
19 Flower of England (4)
21 Metal money (4)
23 Adam's mate (3)
24 Group of three (5)
26 Puccini opera (5)
29 Ministry of Radio Industry (3)
30 Office or jurisdiction of a high ranking



SOLUTION FOR CROSSWORD - 946

LUSTRE OSAKA FRILLS
UW E E T A B A I I
G R A N D I U L T E N C A M P S
M B A D I M R H C A T
E D Q U I T P S I A T O P A E
D L L E E N L O S R
R S L R R R G
A N E C D O T E S D E C E P T I V E
B R E A D E A E A K E
A T T A C H I N G O D O U R L E S S
T I O O O E
I N A C C O R D E M P H A T I C
T G O R E N A D L M
A I L I A A I D D O V E O
R A L L N D O D I O R
M U S T A N G S O W L A S A G N A
A H R E E E E O R L
C R E A S E E T U D E O R D E R S

WIN A PRIZE

Here's your chance to win a cash prize of ₹200 each. All you need to do is rush in your completed crossword entry to us by Wednesday with your full name and address. Mark the envelope to:

Sunday Crossword-947
Sunday Magazine, 36, S.D. Road,
Secbad-03

WINNERS OF CROSSWORD 945

Poonam Singh and
Ch. Srivani,
Secunderabad

CROSSWORD JIGSAW

B R O N X B A B E
M A I D A O E A S E
A B A D A N N A G E D
B E T C A B S L A O
L A C E R D A S P E N
I E R U D I T E R
N A W A B E A C C R A
C S I B E R I A E
L E E C H A N N A L
P A R A I D E B U N
T U N I N G I D E A T E
O D E R A A A C E D
S A L T N A R K S

STRIKE OUT

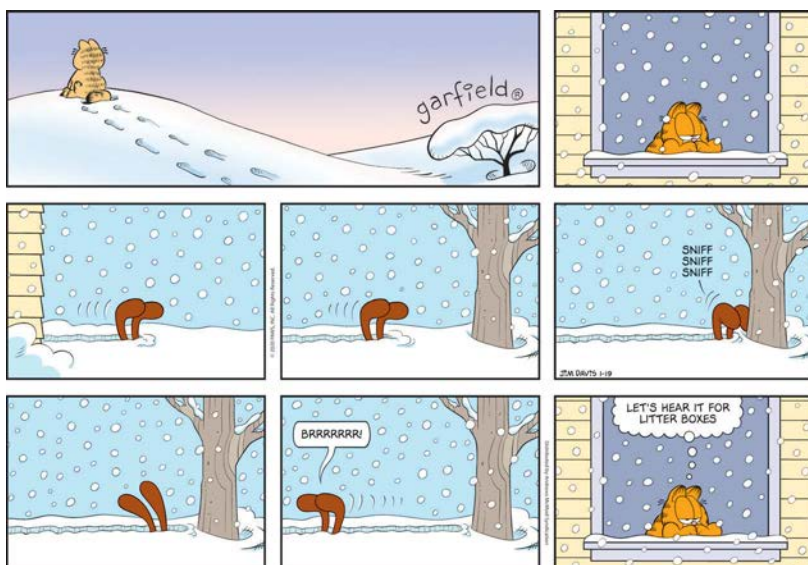
W E E K L Y S E A D O G
A D E E P E N D A A
D R A W E R A G A R D
D M K E D G E I A F
L D S S A N I L
E A G A N M A N G R Y
B C O L U M B A E
R E A C T D S N I D E
A L F A D L D D
B E E V O C A L G I
B A B A T N A B O B S
I S L E A D S I N O
T A T T E D S H O G U N

Answer for last week's

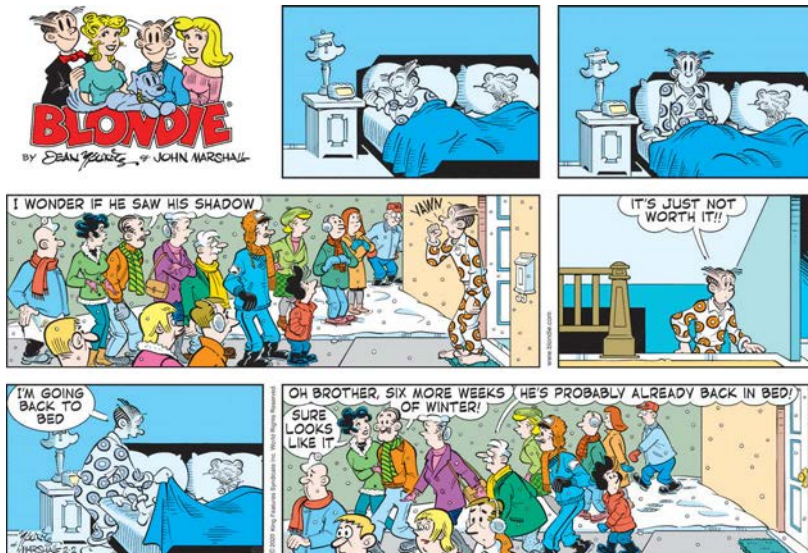
PHANTOM



GARFIELD



BLONDIE



IN BRIEF

Class IV kid donates masks

Kurnool: Akarshana Satish, a Class IV student, donated 100 masks, 24 sanitisers and five face shields to the police on Friday, with the money she had been saving. Akarshana on August 9 wrote to Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar seeking his appointment to give the donation. Appreciating the girl's kindness, the commissioner donated her a Ganesh idol made of seeds.

3 Nigerians held for drug peddling

Kurnool: Three Nigerian nationals involved in smuggling narcotic drugs were held by the Excise enforcement wing on Friday. The officials seized 6 gm cocaine, a car, one bike, four mobiles from Samuel Smith Nelson, 32, of Tolichowki, James Morrison, 27, and Marwan Abdul Kareem Abdullahi Taher, 32, both from Malakpet. Officials said the drugs were supplied to them by one Immanuel Ummudu, a resident of Mumbai, who was earlier arrested by the Excise team and the Raidurgam police for supplying drugs.

Raped by 143 persons: Woman

Kurnool: A 25-year-old woman, hailing from Miryalguda and residing in the city, lodged a complaint with the Punjagutta police on Thursday alleging that she had been raped by 143 persons. She also named some women. The police registered a case and sent the victim for medical examination at a government hospital. The victim claimed she had married in 2009 and divorced her husband a year later for physical and sexual harassment by her husband, in-laws and 20 others. She alleged that she was being sexually assaulted for about a decade. She named student activists, film personalities, personal assistants of politicians. The police said a case has been registered against 139 persons named by the alleged victim and four others whom she does not remember. "The questioning of the suspects would reveal more information," said a Punjagutta police official.

Couple arrested for fraud

Hyderabad: A couple who cheated people on the pretext of providing high returns and collected ₹13 crore was arrested by the Hyderabad Central Crime Station (CCS) police on Friday. Accused P. Padmaja, 42, and her husband P. Venkata Subramanya Varaprasad, 47, of Motimagar were booked for duping 20 persons. Claiming to be directors of Runadhara Financial Services, the couple offered five to 10 per cent interest. They collected the money from April last year to June this year and absconded.

SCB GETS 31st SPOT IN SWACHH RANKING

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

The Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) has secured the 31st spot in the Swachh Survekshan ranking released on Thursday out of 62 cantonments in the country. It scored 2,277.04 points out of 6,000. Last year, the SCB was rated the worst performing cantonment.

The criteria for the ranking includes, direct observation, service level progress, citizen feedback and certification. The Jalandhar cantonment topped the category with 3,670 points. The SCB is the second largest cantonment in the country. "This year, we were able to get participation, from all the stakeholders. Unlike, last year this time there was active participation from the people. We had a lot of attention garnered for the survey," Ajith B. Reddy, SCB CEO, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

● **THE CRITERIA** for the ranking includes, direct observation, service level progress, citizen feedback and certification. The Jalandhar cantonment topped the category with 3,670 points.

Rare documents in danger
Week-long rains caused damage to roof, walls of State Archives

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

Over 50 million documents in the TS Archives and Research Institute (TSARI) are at risk as rainwater has entered the stacks.

The week-long rains caused damage to roof and walls of the building. Mould and mildew have sprung up on the dampened walls. The 55-year-old building faces collapse.

Foreign and Indian scholars visit the TSARI, though the facilities are appalling. They have to go through dark passages to access dusty stacks

with documents falling apart. There is no computerised record to help the seeker find books, documents and papers.

The Kiran Kumar Reddy's government had sanctioned ₹20 crore to digitise the records but only ₹2 crore has been released so far. This institution could not get any special budget since the formation of the state for the preservation and maintenance of records. The TSARI has 50 million archival documents and historical records. Only two outsourced employees have been engaged to manage the entire stack area.



Water leaks in a room of State Archives on Friday

Before bifurcation, it had the cadre strength of 180. Of them, 102 employees were allocated to AP and 78 retained in TS, but only 40 employees have remained, including those posted at the interim depository, a part of the secretariat, so far. Boasting records from Shah Jahan's time and

about 1.5 lakh documents depicting the rule of Aurangzeb from 1658 to 1708, particularly related to his administration in the Deccan, the oldest documents in the TSARI belong to the Bahmani farman (royal decree) of 1406 AD.

The TSARI has close to one million records

about the Hyderabad state, especially of the Asif Jahi dynasty, depicting political, administrative, socio-economic conditions during the period.

The documents related to Andhra Pradesh, mostly of Madras presidency, have been transferred to AP, but it still has 80 per cent of all the documents and records.

About 90 per cent of the documents are in Persian and Urdu.

The neglect of this treasure only shows the indifference of the state to its own history as the rains destroy it with impudence.

18 Nagarjunasagar dam gates opened

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

In view of the heavy inflows from the Srisaillam dam, 12 gates of the Nagarjunasagar project were opened on Saturday to a height of five feet to release water. Six more gates were opened later in the day.

Water is fast reaching the full reservoir level, necessitating the opening of gates.

Nagarjunasagar is receiving 3.6 lakh cusecs and the water stood at 585.70 feet against the FRL of 590 feet. The outflow is 1.2 lakh cusecs.

Along with NSP chief engineer Narsimha, Nagarjunasagar MLA Nomula Narasimhaiah opened four crest gates by pressing a switch on the control board at 11.40 am.

With the increase of inflows, the engineers opened another eight gates. The district police imposed Section 144 at the project to prevent people gathering at the site to watch the water release. The apprehension is that many people will use the weekend holidays to travel to the dam site to see the sight.



Twelve gates of the Nagarjunasagar dam were opened on Friday. Another six gates were opened later.

— TEJO ROY

Srisaillam near full capacity

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI I DC
KURNOOL, AUG. 21

The Srisaillam project discharged 3.12,260 cusecs of water into the Nagarjunasagar dam by opening 10 gates to a height of 12 feet on Friday evening.

The dam received 3,77,549 cusecs of water from the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers. The Priyadarshini Jurala project discharged 3,42,606 cusecs while the Sunkesula barrage on the Tungabhadra river discharged 33,936 cusecs.

Srisaillam reservoir is now brimming with water, which has received nearly 200 tmc ft of water this year. The dam has 206.5365 tmc ft of water now, against its capacity of 215.8070 tmc ft.

AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was expected to visit the project but it was put off due to inclement weather as well as the fire at the power house located on the left side of Srisaillam reservoir in the Telangana state.

HC curbs on structures near Ameenpur lake

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

The Telangana High Court directed authorities not to sanction permission for buildings and layouts within the full tank level of Ameenpur lake in Sangareddy district.

A division bench of Justice A. Rajasheker Reddy and Justice B. Vijayasen Reddy was dealing a PIL pertaining to the conserva-

tion and rejuvenation of Ameenpur lake, the first water body to be recognised, in 2016, as a biodiversity heritage site in India for its resident and migratory birds.

The PIL filed by Hyderabad Birding Pals stated that the authorities were not concerned about the preservation of the lake and its surrounding lakes, which host more than 166 bird species, both resident and migratory from

different places of the world. The Ameenpur lake was built during the reign of Ibrahim Qutub Shah (1550-1580). The lake was now being encroached upon and illegal constructions were coming up in the full tank level. Water channels and weirs were being blocked, the PIL said.

The court sought information from the government about the FTL marking and fencing of the lake.

OBITUARY

"But, God will redeem my life from the grave; He will surely take me to himself," Ps. 49:15



Mrs. CH. LEENA SAMSON
DOB: 29-10-1957 DOD: 14-08-2020 (You are irreplaceable Ma!)

Inserted by: CH. Samson Godfrey, Children and Grand Children
Ph: 9393867555, 9542471125

(B/2021/D00042)

OBITUARY

I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Ps. 23:6



Mrs. AMRUTHAVANI SAMSON
S.C. Ry.

W/o Late Malle Samson Pradeep Kumar Promoted to Glory on 18-08-2020. Committal was done on 19-08-2020.

A righteous Mother remembered as a Blessing. Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS
Ph: 9247415567/ 9989448749

(S/2021/D00470)

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Those who are righteous will be long remembered. Psalm: 112:6



MADDELLA DANIEL
Retired Veterinary Doctor

DOB: 21-11-1936 DOD: 18-08-2020 Memorial Service will be held on 22-08-2020, Time: 11.30 a.m. Wesley Church, Rankote, Hyderabad. Ph: 9573010678

"Without you, life will never be the same again. We miss you. We cherish your memories forever."

Inserted by: - Wife: MADDELLA AMRUTHA Daughters, Sons-in-law and Grand Children

11th DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE



THALARI STEVEN RAJ KUMAR

DOB: 15-04-1970 DOD: 12-08-2020 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. You will always be in our hearts.

Inserted by: Mother, Sons, Sisters, Brothers-in-law, Nephews and Nieces

(S/2021/D00474)

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Smt. TORUPUNURI BHAGYAMMA

W/o Late Torupunuri Sudershan Goud DOD: 22-08-2019

Ammma, you left us but your fond memories linger in our hearts forever. Sons, Daughters, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children & Great Grand Children.

Inserted by: Torupunuri Srinivas Goud & Pavani Torupunuri Punith Raj & Vineeth Nag Goud

(S/2021/D00464)

SAD DEMISE

We grievously inform that



Mr. SHAIK MUSTAFA HASAN JUNAIDI

(Electrical Engineer)

S/o Late Shaik Abul Hasan Junaidi R/o Red Hills, Hyderabad

Expired on: 19th August 2020 We request every one to please pray for his Maghfarah & Allah May place him in Jannah ul Firdouse Ameen.

Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS
Call: 9705149039

SAD DEMISE



SATISH KUMAR DUBEY

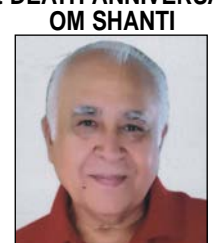
DOD: 14-08-2020

10th Day Ceremony on 23-08-2020 13th Day Ceremony on 25-08-2020

From: DUBEY FAMILY, Sitalfalmadi. Ph: 984908470

(S/2021/D00469)

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY OM SHANTI



LALCHAND V. GULRAJANI

DOB: 30-09-1942 DOD: 22-08-2019

You will always be remembered in our thoughts and hearts.

Inserted by: - Wife: Pramila L. Gulrajani Daughter: Geeta L. Gulrajani Son & Daughter-in-law: Kishore, Ria

Grand Children: Ashwariya, Kareena, Ranveer.

(B/2021/D00038)

Birth Anniversary



P.M. GANPATH REDDY

(Gunfoundry)

Your memories are in our hearts forever. We miss u.

Inserted by: Family Members
Ph.: 9849162637, 9908117556

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The memory of the just is blessed. - Prov 10:7

IN EVER LOVING MEMORY OF



Mr. HOSEA BUNYAN

(Retd. Branch Manager - Parry & Co)

S/o Late Bishop Bunyan Joseph 08-07-1921 - 23-08-2015

- Family Members

(S/2021/D00472)

20th ANNIVERSARY

Many a trouble you have seen for each of us you did your best.



Mr. S. SAMSON SOMA SUNDER RAO

DOB: 22-07-1943 DOD: 22-08-2000

Your fragrance of love, righteous guidance, Godly principles are still guiding us day by day.

Inserted by: Children & Grand Children

(S/2021/D00462)

FARMER KILLS FRIEND OVER SUSPICION

Hyderabad: Hours after having dinner together, a farmer killed his friend over suspicion that the latter had stolen ₹1,000 from his home at

Chowdariguda in Shadnagar. The police arrested the accused who chopped the body of his friend and dumped it in an a well.

4th ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

"I fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" 2 Timothy 4:7



Dr. P.P. WILLIAMS IAS (Retd)

16 MAY 1943 - 22 AUG 2016

WE MISS YOU

— In Loving Remembrance —

MRS. NIRMALA WILLIAMS CHILDREN & GRAND CHILDREN

INTEQAL



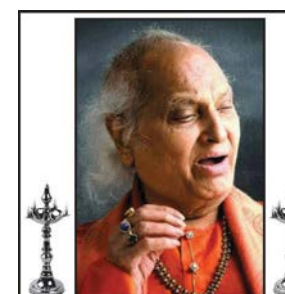
MIR AZHER HUSAIN

S/o. Late Mir Mazhar Hussain Rtd. Executive Engg. Irrigation Dept.

Govt. of Telangana. Expired on 13th August 2020, Laid to rest at Takhi Jail Qabranston, Nimboiladda

Inserted by: Mir Amer Hussain, Mir Arshad Hussain, Sameen Hussain, Ambreen Azher & Other Family Members.

Contact: 8239017978



1930 - 2020

SURMANDAL HYDERABAD

pays Homage to Sangeet Marthand Pt. JASRAJ

OBITUARY



MEKALA RAGHUMA REDDY

Wife: Sujana, Son: Mekala Prabhakar Reddy, Daughter-in-law: Mekala Samyuktha Reddy,

Daughter: Anupama, Son-in-law: Srinivas Reddy, Grand sons: Dr. Bharath & Rohit,

Grand daughter's: Tanvi & Minathi

Date of the 10th Day Ceremony 23-08-2020 @ 1:00 pm

VENUE: H. no 2-1-86, Laxmireddy colony, sub registration Office Lane, Uppal

Ph: 9866658503, 9959638734

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

"The memory of the righteous is Blessed" Prov. 10:7



Late Kattakola Vimalabai Baburao

Retd. Teacher, H.M. C.S.I Schools Medak, Jagtial & Karimnagar

Born: 22.08.1918, Entered into Glory: 07.01.2011

Inserted by: Late Kattakola Vimalabai Baburao

Retd. Teacher, Jagtial & Karimnagar Born: 03.09.1925, Entered into Glory: 26.07.2016

Fondly Remembered by: Sons, Daughter, Daughters-in-law, Son-in-law

Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren 9849084865 - Francis 9963820599 - Nicolas

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6



E. GEORGE

(Retired IDL Employee)

DOB: 09.04.1944 DOD: 22.08.2018

Your sweet memories will remain in our hearts forever and ever.

Inserted by: Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law and Grand Children.

Tel.: 23210503, 6301253825

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"The memory of the just is blessed." Prov. 10:7



Mrs. CHILUKA ARUNA

w/o Late, Chiluka Sadanand Rao

D.O.B: 22-08-2017

Inserted by: Brothers: Konka Ramakrishna

Konka Raghu Mohan Rao & All Family members.

REMEMBRANCE

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalms 23:6



M. SAMSON PRADEEP KUMAR

DOB: 9.11.1957 DOD: 22.8.2017

S/o Late Malle Prakasham H/o Mrs. M. Amrutha Vani

Inserted by: Family Members

(S/2021/D00471)

15th ANNIVERSARY



LATE MEKALA KESAVULU

Retired Tasildar, Mahabubnagar Exp.: 21-08-2005

Your memories always in our hearts forever

Inserted by: - Wife - MEKALA LAXMI DEVI & Family Members

Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad, Ph: 940-23750418, 9849010377

22nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"The Memory of the Just is blessed." Prov. 10:7

SHORT TAKES

RAJIV KUMAR
APPOINTED EC IN
PLACE OF LAVASA

New Delhi, Aug. 21: Retired bureaucrat Rajiv Kumar was on Friday appointed as election commissioner in place of Ashok Lavasa who resigned.

President Ram Nath Kovind cleared his appointment with effect from the date he assumes office.

His appointment is in place of Lavasa who resigned with effect from August 31.

"In pursuance of clause (2) of article 324 of the Constitution, the president is pleased to appoint Shri Rajiv Kumar, (IAS retired) as the election commissioner with effect from the date he assumes the office vice Shri Ashok Lavasa, election commissioner who has resigned with effect August 31," an official notification of the Ministry of Law and Justice said.

Rajiv Kumar is a retired IAS officer of 1984 batch of Jharkhand cadre.

Earlier last week Lavasa had resigned. He will be joining the Asian Development Bank as vice-president.

Lavasa was next in line to head the poll panel.

● **RAJIV KUMAR'S** appointment is in place of Lavasa who resigned with effect from August 31. Rajiv Kumar is a retired IAS officer of 1984 batch of Jharkhand cadre.

MENTAL HOSPITAL
PATIENTS INFECTED
WITH VIRUS

VRUSHALI PURANDARE | DC
MUMBAI, AUG. 21

As many As 21 patients and 50 staffers at state-run four Mental Hospitals of Maharashtra got infected with Covid-19 till date. The four hospitals in the state are at Thane, Nagpur, Pune and Ratnagiri. The BJP has filed a petition with the Human Rights Commission accusing the state government of completely ignoring these hospitals.

The hospital management has suspended group therapy and called off family visits to prevent the virus from spreading further. The health officials also mentioned that maintaining social distance and making the mentally ill patients wear a mask is difficult. Restrictions on travel during the lockdown, meanwhile, have also forced a large number of patients, declared fit for discharge, to continue to wait at the facilities inducing restlessness in some, they said.

At the Thane mental hospital, which houses 807 patients, so far 17 patients and 22 staffers have been afflicted by the coronavirus disease. In May, a female staffer had succumbed to the virus, while two patients died in June.

According to staffers, at least 40 patients share a ward at the hospital, sleeping within a foot of one another, some on mattresses others on the floor, which makes maintaining three-foot distance impossible.

'MARKET
SHANKAR' KILLED
IN ENCOUNTER

SINDHIYA SAMUEL | DC
CHENNAI, AUG. 21

The Chennai city police gunned down Shankar alias 'Market Shankar' in an encounter on Friday morning at New Avadi Road. The drug peddler also involved in murder cases was shot dead when he made an attempt to escape by attacking a police officer with a machete.

Shankar, a 48-year-old 'A category rowdy' hailing from Ayanavaram in Chennai had 51 criminal cases pending against him, including four murder, four attempts to murder, sale of ganja and extortion. He had five non-bailable warrants pending against him and had been detained under the stringent Goondas Act nine times in the past. According to the police, he was supplying drugs and had been threatening local vendors for money.

According to police sources, a special team of officers led by Ayanavaram police inspector Natarajan went to arrest Shankar in connection with a murder case and for possession of ganja. At around 6:30 am on Friday, he was taken to the dump yard in New Avadi Road, where he had hidden his stash. When the police officials were recovering the contraband, Shankar attacked constable Mubarak with a machete that he has hidden in the debris and made an attempt to escape. The police said that the team headed by Natarajan opened fire on him in self-defence and shot him down.

Risky gamble



People, violating social distancing norms, step out for shopping on the eve of Ganesha Chaturthi festival at Dadar market in Mumbai on Friday. — PTI

SSR's case: CBI
recreates scene

CBI grills Rajput's cook, house manager

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, AUG. 21

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) swung into action on Friday in connection with the probe in Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide and began recreating the scene at the actor's residence in Bandra. The CBI also questioned Rajput's cook Neeraj and house manager Samuel Miranda in connection with suicide, as they were present in the residence when the actor hanged himself to death on June 14.

Multiple teams of the CBI are probing separate angles involved in the suicide. Ahead of the probe, the CBI officials met their counterparts in the Mumbai police and collected the set of evidences including the statement copies, electronic devices of the actor, case findings, CCTV camera DVRs and other documents along with the pictures and panchnama of the suicide spot.

The CBI teams consist of forensic experts who would revisit the electronic gadgets and analyse them in light of the suicide spot not having been left untouched.

"The cook and house manager were questioned and the facts of the incident, as they were in the house, are being collected while also comparing them with their statement given to the Mumbai

ED questions
Sushant's sister

New Delhi, Aug. 21: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday questioned and recorded the statement of Priyanka Singh, elder sister of Sushant Singh Rajput, in connection with a money laundering case probe linked to the actor's death, officials said. The statement of Priyanka Singh was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Delhi, they said. It is understood that the ED wants to obtain information related to Rajput's finances, personal and professional deals that Priyanka Singh was

police," said CBI officials.

The officials grilled the two at the DRDO and Indian Air Force guesthouses in Santacruz where the visiting team has set up their base. The officials will also grill others, including Rajput's housemate Siddharth Pithani and locksmith who was also one of the first persons to visit the house soon after the actor was found hanging.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday recorded the statement

of filmmaker Rumi Jaffery. They are probing into the alleged money laundering as per the actor's father. The family alleged that at least ₹15 crore was fraudulently transferred from his bank account.

The ED is investigating the companies that were floated with the actor, Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik being appointed directors in it. The criminal case has named Chakrabortys as the main accused in it.

Congress-AIUDF likely
to join hands in Assam

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, AUG. 21

With preparation for 2021 Assembly polls gaining momentum in Assam, former chief minister Tarun Gogoi has started exercise of stitching a new political alliance between Assam Congress and All India United Democratic (AIUDF) that may turn out to be a formidable combination to take on the saffron party in the state.

However the foundation of this alliance was laid during the last Rajya Sabha elections when Gogoi walked hand-in-hand with AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal to ensure the victory of journalist Ajit Kumar Bhuyan. Bhuyan won, along with two others supported by the BJP-led alliance.

Now, Congress-AIUDF alliance for the upcoming state elections early next year is likely to be officially announced soon. The formation can give rise to a polarisation of votes besides containing the division of anti-BJP votes in the state. The U-turn of veteran

Congress leader and three-time Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi, from his remarks like — who is Ajmal, AIUDF is a communal party and for that matter defining AIUDF as B-team of BJP, has certainly come as surprise to many but a large section of political observers, consider the move of the veteran Congress leader as masterstroke to regain its footholds in minority vote bank to which the party had started losing to AIUDF.

Though, perception of a section of state leaders was still that in Assam, which is fragmented by raging identity issues, any alliance with the AIUDF might be perceived as communally polarising, thereby helping the BJP.

Perfume baron Badruddin Ajmal had floated All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) in 2005 and since then it has strengthened its hold among the minority. The AIUDF in its first elections in 2006 captured a large support base among Muslims of Bengali descent, and

won 10 seats out of the total 126, and became a force to reckon with.

While justifying the need of an alliance AIUDF general secretary Aminul Islam, said, "We have to forget differences of the past, and work towards securing the future of the Assamese people and Assam through a common minimum programme. We are hoping that Akhil Gogoi-led Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, the Left parties, and the new front launched by newly elected Rajya Sabha MP Ajit Bhuyan, will come with us."

To what the former chief minister is defining as "grand alliance", has also been backed by Assam Congress chief Ripun Bora who said, "The AIUDF believes in the Assam Accord and supports its implementation. The AIUDF is against the CAA. They are in the interest of the people of Assam. They are not communal — they are not anti-Hindu, but the BJP is anti-Muslim. Of course, they are working for the community they represent, and that is not a crime."

India records highest single
day Coronavirus recoveries

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 21

India's overall cases of Coronavirus crossed 29 lakhs officially on Friday after 68,898 new cases were detected in the last 24 hours. Out of these new cases, the highest were detected in Maharashtra where close to 15,000 persons were found to be infected with the deadly virus. Fresh cases in Andhra Pradesh were close to 10,000 while Karnataka had nearly 8,000 new cases in the last 24 hours, according to the Union health ministry.

The overall fatalities due to Covid-19 so far are 54,849 with 983 new deaths in the last one day. As per covid19india.org, the total deaths were past 55,000.

At the same time, India logged the highest single day recoveries as 62,282 were discharged in the last 24 hours taking total recoveries to nearly 21.59 lakhs.

"The gap between recovered patients and active cases has increased and reached 14,66,918 today. As a higher number of patients recover, their percentage rate continues to steeply rise along with steady decline in percentage active cases.

With such a high level of recoveries, India's Recovery Rate has soared past 74 per cent (74.28 per cent) ensuring more and more patients are recovering. This is bolstered by 33 states and UTs reporting Recovery Rate more than 50%," said health ministry officials.

Officials underlined that the current active cases (6,92,028) compose the actual case load of the country.

"It is 23.82% of the total positive cases today, registering further drop in the last 24 hours," they added. India's Case Fatality Rate is now at 1.89 per cent.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

सं. ईसीआर/सीएओ/कॉन्/डब्ल्यू टी/ई/निविदा/ जलर/ 27-20-21 दिनांक 20.08.2020. E-Tender Notice No.-ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-27-20-21. E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.

1. Name of work with it's location : Construction of Major Bridge No. 97A (2x30.5m OVG) on well foundation, Minor Bridge No. 97B (2x5.00+1x5.00m RCC Box), Bridge No. 98 (2x4.00m RCC Box) along with construction of permanent diversion, linking of track and supply, fabrication, erection, launching of OVG, between Km 41.4 to 42.6 in Jhunjharpur-Tamuria section in connection with gauge conversion of Sakri-Nirmali section of Samastipur Division. 2. Approx. cost of the work : ₹20,13,19,243.91. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹11,56,600/-. 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 11.09.2020 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document along with full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Note : In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> at least 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender. CAO/Con/North/PR/0546/CON/Engg./T/20-21/44

ECR/Mahendrughat, Patna

CAO/Con/South/PR/0543/CON/Engg./T/20-21/48

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. ECR/ CAO/CON/TS/2020-21/03. E-TENDER NO. 04/20/0265/TS (e-open). Sealed open tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.

1. Name of work with it's location for OPEN TENDER NO. 04/20/0265/TS (e-open) : Fabrication & Supply of assembly for Improved Switch Expansion Joint (ISEJ) to RDSO Drg. No. T-6902 (Alteration-3) for long welded Rail with 80 mm max. gap BG, 60 Kg. UIC on PSC Sleepers. Conforming to IRS Specification No. T-10-2000 with Corrigendum No. 1 of Dec-2016 and Technical specification for Improved SEJ: Provisional 2008. Corrigendum No. 1 of Dec-2016 Complete in all respect with Fittings as per drawing. (Fittings List as per Annexure - A. Latest alternation to RDSO Drg No. T-6902 and latest corrigendum to IRS specification/Technical specification as applicable 10 days before the date of closing of e-tender will be applicable.) 2. Approx cost of the work for OPEN TENDER NO. 04/20/0265/TS (e-open) : ₹14,41,460/-. 4. Date & time of closing of e-tender : At 15.00 hrs. on 09.09.2020. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The complete details of tender document is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. CAO/Con/South/PR/0543/CON/Engg./T/20-21/48

ECR/Mahendrughat, Patna

CAO/Con/South/PR/0543/CON/Engg./T/20-21/48

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Block A/1, HMDA Complex, Tarnaka, Hyderabad - 500 007. Public Notification U/s. 15 (3) of HMDA Act-2008. Lr.No.MIC06058420951MP/Plg-3/TS-4PASS/HMDA2019 Dt: 01.07.2020 In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008, it is proposed to make the following changes to the land use in the Notified Master Plan MDP 2031 vide G.O.Ms.No.33, MA & UD, dated 24.01.2021. The site in Sy.No.715, 716,722/A & 722/A/1 situated at Nandigama (V), Nandigama (M), Range Reddy District, to an extent of 5338.39Sq.mtrs, which is presently earmarked for residential use zone is now proposed to be designated as manufacturing use zone for setting up unit of Warehouse under 'Green' category. The details of the above are available in Web sites <http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/> and <http://hmda.gov.in/>. Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections / suggestions in writing either to the M.C. HMDA or to Principal Secretary to Government, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this Notice. R.O. No.: 819-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2019-20 Sd/- for Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION &
BROADCASTING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Law College Road, Pune - 411004

Applications are invited for award of Research Fellowships, Monographs and Audio-Visual History Projects on Indian Cinema.

Please see website www.nfai.gov.in for application forms and further details.

Applications may be forwarded to: The Director, National Film Archive of India, Law College Road, Pune-411004 on or before 15-09-2020.

davp 22211/11/0001/2021

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL)
Chandrayanagutta, Hyderabad - 500005

Website: <https://drdo.gov.in/labs-and-establishments/defence-electronics-research-laboratory-dlrl>

Advertisement for the Award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)

(Last date for receipt of application: 21 days from date of Advertisement in Employment News)

Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL), Hyderabad, one of the Premier Research Laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is engaged in Research & Development of Electronic Systems for Indian Armed Forces. DLRL Invites applications from young and meritorious Indian Nationals, who desire to pursue defence related research as Junior Research Fellow (JRF).

Sl No.	Fellowship	Subject / Discipline	No. of Vacancies	Essential Educational Qualification
1	Junior Research Fellow (JRF)	Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)	7	➤ Graduate Degree in professional Course (B.E/B.Tech) in first division with NET/ GATE (or)
2		Mechanical Engineering (ME)	3	➤ Post Graduate Degree in professional course (M.E./M.Tech) in First Division both at Graduate and Post Graduate Level. [In case a particular Institute does not have any criteria for First Class or Equivalent 60% marks will be taken a equivalent to First Class for that Institute, in such cases where conversion formula is not available. CGPA/ CPI of 6.75 (For a 10 point scale) will be taken as equivalent to 60%]

- * **Stipend (Monthly):** JRF will receive a stipend of Rs. 31,000/- + HRA as per DRDO Rules.
- * **Age Limit:** The upper age limit is maximum of 28 years as on the closing date of advertisement. The upper age limit shall be relaxable by 5 years for the candidates belonging to SC/ST and by 3 years for the candidates belonging to OBC
- * Eligible candidates may send their duly completed applications (downloaded from the website), within 21 days from the date of advertisement, to "The Director, Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL) Chandrayanagutta Lines, Hyderabad-500 005" through speed post only. Candidates are required to pay application fee of Rs. 10/- in Indian Postal Order (IPO) in the name of Director DLRL. However, candidates belonging to SC/ST/PwD categories and women candidates are exempted from the payment.
- * The offer of Fellowship will under no circumstances confer on candidates any right of absorption in DRDO.
- * Candidates will be required to produce certificates / Testimonials in original along with two passport size photograph at the time of Interview. Candidates in Government service or in Government owned Organization will be required to produce 'NOC' from their respective Department / Employer at the time of interview. Persons called for interview will be reimbursed actual Train / Bus fare by the shortest route limited to sleeper class railway fare from the place to which interview letter is issued.

For further details and application form, please log on to <https://www.drdo.gov.in>.

Davp 10301/11/0049/2021

DECCAN Chronicle

22 AUGUST 2020

Democrats' message is clear: Get Trump out

The hoopla may have been missing as the four-day Democratic Party convention had to go virtual in the time of the pandemic but the message rang loud and clear. In just over two months, when the fate of the battle for the White House will be sealed on November 3, it will be most of America versus the Republican President Donald Trump and his running mate who could be his Vice-President Mike Pence. More than seeking votes, Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden made it a mission to capture the heart and soul of the USA. In a pitch perfect speech launching his bid for the most coveted place in the Oval Office, the former vice-president to Barack Obama aspired to be the white knight on a charger looking to take back America at a difficult time.

A country overrun by three crises all at one time — the worst pandemic in a century, the harshest economic crisis since the Great Depression and the most compelling need for racial justice since the emancipation — seems ready enough for plucking at what is seen as an inflection point in contemporary history. Mr Biden's appeal for an "American moment" rather than a "partisan moment" could not have been better timed as the Black Lives Matter movement has galvanised USA into examining its racial attitudes and its systemic prejudices against sections of the population that are African-American, non-White Hispanic or of Asian descent.

Sharing his Democratic ticket in a changing nation that has become even more of a melting pot of races, cultures and aspirations is the first person of colour and semi-Indian American senator, Kamala Harris, who seems poised to enhance Mr Biden's candidature with her appeal to that section of Americans identified as racial or ethnic minorities. And, with an endearing reference to her aunts as "*chithis*", she may have won over not only 2,40,000 Tamil Americans but also a majority of the 1.8 million Indian Americans with a vote that may count more than ever.

The war is just beginning against a candidate who showed that he would be using every trick in the book, including slowing down the postal service to cast doubts on mail-in voting that people of colour may intend to use because of their fear of going to the ballot booth. Mr Trump's support for QAnon, an ultra-Right group that believes in theories like all Democrats are Satanic and into sex trafficking of children, is just the tip of the iceberg as he falls back on his White Conservative vote bank. As Kamala Harris said so pertinently — "There is no vaccine for racism."

Global interest seems extraordinary already and not only in India because of the presence of a person on the ticket with roots in Chennai. The election may redefine the very fount of modern democracy where deep-rooted covenants with freedom seem to be in peril from the machinations of an authoritarian President. If Mr Obama was withering in putting down a succeeding President, it only showed the extent of the dubious contributions to a nation in crisis of the most divisive leader who is now fanning the flames of racial hostility as an election strategy.

Strong-arming the Opp.

The BJP targeting parliamentary standing committee on IT chairman Shashi Tharoor for speaking publicly on the controversy involving Facebook betrays its desperation at the development. Panel member Nishikant Dubey has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla that Mr Tharoor, a Congress leader, runs the affairs of the committee "unprofessionally" and he be replaced with any other member. Both Mr Tharoor and Mr Dubey have moved breach of privilege notices against each other.

Mr Tharoor had recently announced that the committee would seek the views of the officials of the US company on the report by the *Wall Street Journal* that it turned a blind eye to hate speeches by individuals and organisations associated with the BJP to protect its business interests. The Congress had demanded that a joint parliamentary committee investigate the veracity of the report.

Those who have a stake in Indian democracy can rightly be upset by the allegation that a multinational corporation sought to further its business interests in India with acts that can undermine the nation's political process. Promoting violence and instigating a communal divide are punishable as per Indian laws, too. Facebook is accused of providing a platform for committing such crimes, and hence of being complicit in it.

This is not a BJP versus Congress issue; it's about the survival of India's democratic and political processes, and a proper investigation into the claim is what is called for. The government, however, has been silent on the issue except advancing lame excuses. The BJP and the government must stop targeting leaders who demand investigation into a contention and instead take early steps to ensure that we have systems in place to stop MNCs from manipulating our systems. "Off with his head" does not reflect a democratic mindset, and the ruling party must avoid it.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Printer & Publisher

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Gram: CHRONICLE Postel registration no: No. HSD-348/2006-08

Subhani



In search of Idealistic India: It will rise again



Shobhaa De

Last week, just after listening to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address, I met a fine young man at a friend's home. Why "fine"? Let's start with the lineage. Impeccable. Education? Top rate. Attitude? Awesome. Not only was he an engaging and impassioned speaker, he made a lot of sense. Representing old money and coming from an affluent South Mumbai business family, the good-looking, stylish young man was exactly the kind one could glibly dismiss as a "dandy" or a "dilettante". At best (and only if one were to be in an exceptionally generous mood), one might have a second glass of wine with such a person, just to indulge him. I did just that and asked idly what he had been doing during the lockdown... did he have any specific plans for the immediate future? Yup, as a matter of fact, he did! He had arrived at an important decision — and he seemed very happy with it. Check out what he did! A few weeks ago he had received a coveted letter of acceptance from Harvard University. He sensibly figured that it was going to be way too much money to spend on virtual classes. But... he still lusted after that Harvard degree. Tough. So, he went ahead and asked if his admission could be deferred by a year — he was certain he'd be turned down. But hey — he wasn't! That left him with another question: what to do during these trying times while waiting for the world to get back on its feet? He applied for and got into a top corporate house, thanks to his impressive academic

credentials. As a passionate environmentalist, civic issues were a top priority. He had put in four slog years teaching underprivileged children in Mumbai. He was not a resident of La La Land — Mumbai's grotty ground realities did not faze this young man. And his new assignment brought him a little closer to what he dreams of doing eventually — working to improve basic living conditions for those with little or zero access to almost every little thing he himself has taken for granted his entire life.

There are many, highly motivated young people like him. They want to use their privileges and education to "make a difference" — even if that is an overused cliché. They are aware of the countless challenges — especially in an increasingly vitiated political environment — but they remain undaunted. This young man has taught himself to understand the system and work with it, not against it. Yes, there are frustrations galore, especially when one is up against bureaucratic hurdles that seem designed to discourage anybody from attempting change. He spoke with feeling about the shrinking space for freedoms, big and small. He

Are we shortchanging this generation of intelligent, capable young people? We refuse to pay attention when they voice their concerns. We are not willing to co-opt them in the decision-making process.

This is the perfect time to reimagine India, with all its fault lines... how does one tell the youth of our country that their dreams do matter? That they matter? That idealism and imagination are what will finally redeem us all?

talked about the power of dissent in a democracy and how it is being systematically stifled. He has realised that the might of the State can silence anybody who does not fit into a grid decided by authority. Despite that, he is full of constructive ideas which aren't OTT. But as in most such matters —where does he find the funding? It's back to boring money! Isn't it always? Then comes the question of infrastructure and getting like-minded people together — he assures me there are hundreds more like him, in his locality alone, who are eager to participate in activities that can transform the city and make Mumbai shine. But for that dream to materialise, he will need to play ball with badudom — and nothing can kill a young man's enthusiasm as much as *sarkari* hurdles.

In a country as young as ours, we are failing to harness our greatest asset — the youth. Most are directionless and adrift, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Those who have put themselves out there and engaged in community work, speak about the immense sense of satisfaction they derive from seeing projects big and small getting off the ground, despite the odds. The common lament is over the absence of moral leadership, and the increasingly authoritarian atmosphere that is being imposed in subtle and not-so-subtle ways. Are we shortchanging this generation of intelligent, capable young people?

We refuse to pay attention when they voice their concerns. We are not willing to co-opt them in the decision-making process. This is the time for some long-overdue introspection, when the world has hit the pause button.

Especially in our cities, where we have ample opportunities to motivate people like the young man I met, whose commitment to India cannot be in doubt. He has the brains and the vision to contribute in a meaningful way to remake India. Will we continue to be foolish enough to destroy his idealism? By way of contrast, I am looking at the bold decision taken by a couple in their forties (who are friends of friends), who have relocated to Canada recently and are willing to start from scratch. "We're done with India!" they announced jauntily, and off they went. Come on you two — it's not all that easy to be "done with India"! Instead, this is the perfect time to reimagine India, with all its fault lines. Unfortunately, an idealised "leader" is nowhere in sight. In such a scenario, how does one tell the youth of our country that their dreams do matter? That they matter? That idealism and imagination are what will finally redeem us all?

The vaccine to battle the Covid-19 pandemic may be around the corner. Of course, it will save countless lives. Only then will the real battle to recapture the minds of young India begin. Let's hope someone will also discover a vaccine for hate by then. Through centuries, the pandemic of hate has killed far more people than the coronavirus ever could. Sad, but true... *Jai Ho!* All is not lost... Prashant Bhushan has shown the way. Idealistic India lives on... to rise another day.

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com

LETTERS

OIL SPILL CAPTAIN

It was embarrassing to learn that the captain of the oil tanker that caused the oil spill in Mauritius was an Indian (*Mauritius arrests Indian captain, DC, Aug. 20*). With all the technological advances, nothing could be done to prevent the oil spill. The damage will take years to repair. While everyone is aware of the urgent need to protect the ecosystem, not much is done to advance technology to handle disasters that ravage nature. What is the use of funding outer space explorations when Earth is in shambles?

Joyce Carvalho
Hyderabad

BEST MEGA CITY

Happy to note that Hyderabad has been adjudged as best mega city (*Hyd best mega city: Swachh Survekshan, DC, Aug. 21*). However, overflowing garbage bins, clogged and overflowing drains and filthy roads are still seen in the city giving a different picture. It is advisable to get the feedback from citizens again through a non-governmental agency to support the award.

Dr O. Prasada Rao
Hyderabad

MERCY ON BHUSHAN

The right course of action for the SC is to withdraw the politically motivated contempt proceedings (*I do not ask for mercy: Bhushan, DC, Aug. 21*). It looks like the judges have realised their mistake. The nation is against arbitrary and whimsical exercise of power in the case.

S. Chandrasekaran
Hyderabad

Soviet maps of India to be banned

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21 The Central Government will prohibit the entry into India of the Soviet encyclopedia which contained maps showing large chunks of Indian territory, including

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

and Kashmir as Chinese. An official spokesman said the Government had promulgated laws prohibiting entry into India of publications which showed India's boundaries incorrectly.

In Bihar, JD-U, BJP, LJP pull in different directions

Desertions galore

All is not well in Bihar's JD(U)-BJP coalition. The Lok Janshakti Party has conveyed to its central leadership its reservation about the BJP's Bihar in-charge, Bhupender Yadav. The party complained that both Yadav and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi are biased towards Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and they work in favour of the JD(U). The LJP's discomfort is growing with the expected return of former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi back to the NDA fold. Bringing Mr Manjhi back was Nitish Kumar's calculated move to squeeze the LJP out, as Chirag Paswan has been behaving more like an Opposition leader than an alliance partner.

The Bihar poll dates have not been announced but Nitish Kumar and the BJP have unleashed a "demolish Mahagathabandan" campaign. Every day, someone or the other deserts the RJD or the alliance. First it was Jitan Ram Manjhi, then former Union minister and senior RJD leader M.A.A. Fatmi's son Faraz Fatmi; and then Lalu Yadav's *samdhi* Chandrika Rai announced his decision to join the JD(U). Ram Lakhan

Singh Yadav's grandson Jaivardhan Yadav too left RJD. The Congress is also under pressure from its upper-caste lobby to stay away from the RJD's Tejaswi Yadav but Rahul Gandhi is said to be keen to stay on in the Mahagathabandan.

Shah's 'WFH'

The sudden shifting of Union home minister Amit Shah from Medanta hospital to Delhi's AIIMS led to a bout of concern in the corridors of power. Thankfully there was nothing serious or problematic. Shah's wife travelled from Ahmedabad to Delhi to look after her husband who is said to having issue with steroid-based medicines. At AIIMS, the home minister has been given a VIP room reserved for the Prime Minister, President etc. Last heard, a heavy load of government work was done from the hospital as the minister has been Covid-19 negative.

Old guard vs Turks

It's panic time in the Congress, too. News of La Congress Working Committee over the



By WAQYANAWIS

weekend turned out to be a false alarm. Those responsible for arranging the video calls were not even alerted when a section of the media announced its date and time. The CWC has the crucial agenda to attend to,

which basically amounts to passing the baton of leadership from Sonia Gandhi to Rahul. The seemingly smooth transition has now developed hiccups. The old guard of the party wants Rahul to recognise and establish a functional hierarchy in the CWC and the AICC secretariat. Some want the revival of the Congress Parliamentary Board, which has not functioned since May 1991. The younger lot wants sweeping changes in the organisation. Problem is neither Rahul nor Sonia have authorised anyone to look into these issues.

Divided house

The Pawar clan in Maharashtra is busy immersed in differences. When the Supreme Court sanctioned a CBI probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, deputy CM Ajit Pawar's son Parth roared "*Satyamev Jayate*" prompting grandpa Sharad Pawar to publicly chasten him. Patriarch Pawar's patronage to Rohit, a challenger to Parth, is said to have upset Ajit. A photograph of Ajit *dada* sitting in his enclosed chamber with gloves and mask,

and his cousin Supriya Sule sitting more than a normal social distance away, is doing the rounds. In the photograph, Sule is surrounded by others while Ajit Pawar is seen as treating her just as any other person.

Kalraj's dream

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra has a coffee-table book on himself. It has been sent to all who matter in Lutyens' Delhi. The Governor's office has reportedly been calling up recipients seeking their response and feedback. Those praising Mishra's ancestry and his past political achievements, have gently been encouraged to send an email or put their appreciation in words. Perhaps a second edition of the coffee table book is on the cards. Or is the Rajasthan Governor looking for a career outside of Jaipur's Raj Bhavan ahead of the 2022 vice-presidential nomination?

The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,434.72	0.56
Nifty 50	11,371.60	0.53
S&P 500*	3,390.17	0.14
Dollar (₹)	74.83	-1.07
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.77	-0.68
Euro (₹)	88.45	0.22
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,990▼ 94	0.17
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	43.70	-1.20
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.140	0.140
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.643	-0.001

* As of 9:30 PM IST

NTPC gets nod to set up renewable energy biz arm

NTPC said it has received the approval of Niti Aayog and the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management to set up a wholly owned company for its renewable energy business. The development assumes significance because the NTPC targets to generate nearly 30 per cent or 39 GW of its overall power capacity from renewable energy sources by 2032. NTPC is planning to have 10GW of solar energy by 2022.

SBI to issue Basel III bonds, raise over ₹8,900 cr



SBI said its board has approved a proposal to raise Rs 8,931 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant bonds to investors. The committee of directors for capital raising at its meeting held on Friday gave its approval to allot 89,310 Basel III-compliant non-convertible, taxable, redeemable, subordinated, unsecured, fully paid-up debt instruments aggregating to Rs 8,931 crore to bond subscribers on August 21, SBI said in a regulatory filing.

Max Healthcare lists on stock exchanges

Shares of Max Healthcare Institute debuted on the bourses following a demerger scheme and later closed with 5 per cent gains. After listing at Rs 107, the stock rose 5 per cent to Rs 112.35, its upper circuit limit, on the BSE. The listing is the final outcome of the amalgamation of erstwhile Max India into Max Healthcare and demerger of healthcare businesses of Radiant Life into Max Healthcare.

Kia Motors Sonet gets over 6,500 bookings in a day

Kia Motors India said it has received 6,523 bookings on the first day for its upcoming compact SUV Sonet. Prospective customers were able to book the car online and through company's sales network by paying an initial booking amount of Rs 25,000, the firm said. The response to the all-new Sonet proves that there is never a bad time to launch a good product, Kia Motors India MD & CEO Kookhyun Shim said.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd., #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg NO.APEN/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle © is prohibited.

Up to ₹31,500 to be paid after 30 days of losing job Jobless benefit under ESIC doubled to 50%

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, AUG. 21

Workers who are covered under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme will now receive 50 per cent of average wages of three months as unemployment benefit if they have lost jobs during the pandemic period of March 24 and December 31 this year.

The ESIC has relaxed the norms of Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyana Yojna, which provides unemployment benefits to the workers covered under the ESI scheme. For the pandemic period between March-end and December-end, the unemployment benefit has been enhanced to 50 per cent of average wages, from 25 per cent earlier, payable up to maximum 90 days of unemployment. The payment will be



made after 30 days of unemployment instead of 90 days earlier.

The insured person can submit the claim directly to the ESIC Branch Office instead of the claim being forwarded by the last employer and the payment shall be made directly to his bank account.

The benefit will be available for those with insurable employment for a minimum period of two years before his/her

unemployment, which means freshers are not eligible for the benefit. S/he should have contributed for at least 78 days in a 'contribution period' (six-month period either during April-September or October-March) immediately preceding unemployment and minimum 78 days in one of the remaining three 'contribution periods' in two years before unemployment. The ESIC also has

extended the recently expired Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyana Yojna for one more year up to June 30, 2021. Post-December 31, 2020, the scheme will be available with original eligibility conditions till June next year.

The ESIC provides cover to about 3.49 crore of workers. The ESI scheme covers employees with a monthly salary of up to Rs 21,000. Hence the benefit under the unemployment scheme will be capped at Rs 31,500 per beneficiary.

Labour minister Santosh Gangwar said on Friday claims under the scheme will be settled within 15 days from the date of an application.

The decision would be helpful to the workers, said Tirupur Export Association president Raja M. Shanmugham, hailing the government decision.

India Inc wage bill sees lowest growth in 18 years

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, AUG. 21

Wage bill of listed companies has seen the lowest growth in 18 years. Among the worst-hit sectors, tourism saw wage bills declining by 30 per cent and textiles by 29 per cent, indicating huge job losses.

The wage bill of 1,560 listed companies analysed by private think-tank CMIE recorded a 2.9 per

cent increase in the June 2020 quarter compared to the same quarter a year ago. This is the lowest growth in wages recorded by listed companies in the past 18 years.

While manufacturing companies saw a 7 per cent fall in their wage bill, the services sector was a mixed bag.

Within manufacturing, the textile sector has seen the biggest hit with the

wage bill falling by 29 per cent. Being a labour-intensive industry, this sharp fall in the wage bill implies a very sharp fall in employment in textiles. The same holds true for leather, another labour-intensive industry. Leather recorded a 22.5 per cent fall in its wage bill in the June 2020 quarter. Automobile ancillaries reported a 21 per cent decline in its wage bill and

the automobiles' wage bill was down by 18.6 per cent. These are also labour intensive sectors.

In the services sectors, the wage bill of the tourism industry was down 30 per cent, hotels and restaurants down by 20.5 per cent, road transport down by 27.6 per cent and education by 28 per cent. Wage bill of the real estate sector was down by 21 per cent.

However, the wage bill of the telecom sector increased by 10.7 per cent. Banks saw a 16.6 per cent increase in their wage bill and securities broking companies saw a 13.5 per cent growth.

"What is revealing in this data is the stark difference between industries. A caveat before we discuss these is that these are still preliminary results and a better pic-

ture will emerge only after a month as companies have been allowed time till September 15 to publish their financial statements due to the Covid crisis. Nevertheless, these results indicate a pattern which is worth noting even with these preliminary data," said Mahesh Vyas, managing director of CMIE.

The data indicates big job losses in many indus-

tries in the first quarter of 2020-21. Salaried jobs have been stagnating in recent times. In 2017-18 they grew by 1.6 per cent and in 2018-19 they grew by a meagre 0.1 per cent before contracting by 1.8 per cent in 2019-20. As a result, salaried jobs in 2019-20 stood at 86.1 million. This fell to 68.4 million in April 2020. By July 2020, their count had fallen further to 67.2 million.

Healthcare steals Q1 sectoral show

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, AUG. 21

Healthcare and technology sector stood out in the first quarter (Q1) of FY21 while aggregate performance decline was led by the automobiles, metals and capital goods sector, according to brokerage firm Motilal Oswal.

The healthcare sector showed strong revenue and operating leverage along with sharp margin improvement due to cost savings. However, subdued US market performance impacted overall profits of select companies.

Among the IT companies, Q1 performance led to upgrades for most of them.

The Q1FY21 corporate earnings came in above our muted expectations. Cost control and cash preservation were effectively deployed as tools to offset the headwinds from the lockdown-induced volume declines, Motilal Oswal said in its Q1FY21 result review.

Just 6 per cent Ebitda decline in the Nifty-50 companies despite a 30 per cent revenue decline happened on account of the ability of India Inc to drive cost control when needed, the review said.

"The healthcare universe had a spectacular run this quarter with profit before tax/profit after tax registering growth of 29 per cent and 27 per cent year-on-year versus our estimated decline of 6 per cent/5 per cent YoY," Gautam Duggad, research analyst, Motilal Oswal, said.

"This was largely led by significant cost savings in the domestic formulation segment and market share gains by API companies. However, the benefit was offset to some extent by subdued performance in the US," Duggad said.

Healthcare and Technology earnings stood out both in absolute and relative terms – and these sectors would show continued strength ahead, Duggad said.

Aggregate US sales of pharma companies declined 8.3 per cent yoy in Q1FY21.

MEIL wins tunnel project in J&K

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd (MEIL) has emerged as the lowest bidder for the prestigious Zojilla pass tunnel in Jammu Kashmir-Ladakh. The National Highways and Industrial Development Corporation (NHIDCL) opened the bids on Friday.

The project is to be constructed in two sections totalling about 33 kilometres. The first section is to develop an 18.5-kilometre road.

In the second section, the Zojilla tunnel is to be built in the shape of a horseshoe of 14.15 km with a two-road lane. It is to be 9.5 metres wide and 7.57 metres high.

This project will have to be carried out innovatively in the most critical conditions, the company said in a release.

The Central government had floated tenders to complete this long-pending road tunnel. MEIL quoted ₹4,509.5 crore for the 14.15 km tunnel, the lowest among a total of three firms.

Ch. Subbaiah, director,

MEIL said that "A two-lane road with bi-directional traffic would have to be constructed on the Zojilla route, which is called a single tube tunnel. The road consists mainly of shafts as well as portal structures and excavated areas. This complex project would have to be completed in 72 months."

He said the first part of the work is to widen the existing road from Judd-Morha to Zojilla tunnel, about 3.018 kilometres. A new road of 13.842 km is to be constructed. Of this, one section has a tunnel of 2.36 km and another 2.39-km section consists of five bridges. Two snow galleries are to be built with 300 metres and 150 metres each.

Subbaiah said, "In addition to these, retaining walls, breast walls, gabion structures and mud wall will have to be constructed by MEIL for a total of about 10 kilometres. Catch dams, air blast, protection walls and deflector dams are constructed over a distance of about 6 km without any risk of snowstorms."

Personal bankruptcy case against Anil Ambani could set a precedent

UPMANYU TRIVEDI & P. R. SANJAI
AUG. 27

The Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has agreed to hear a petition by the State Bank of India seeking to initiate personal bankruptcy against tycoon Anil Ambani after the former billionaire failed to repay debt.

A two-member panel of the NCLT has appointed a bankruptcy administrator to verify a claim by SBI that Ambani offered about \$160 million of personal guarantees while seeking loans in 2016 for his now insolvent Reliance Communications Ltd and Reliance Infratel Ltd, according to an order on the court's website. The tribunal can admit Ambani into bankruptcy process or reject the case based on the report.

"The NCLT order directing appointment of the resolution professional does not constitute an admission of SBI's insolvency application," Ambani's spokesperson said in an emailed response. The court also rejected "SBI's request for a restriction on Ambani from dealing or appropri-



Anil Ambani

ating his assets," the spokesperson said.

The ruling is the most high-profile insolvency case against a founder who pledged to pay loans on behalf of their companies, which have since been dragged into bankruptcy, and can set precedent for future law suits. Still, the legal case puts a moratorium on attempts to recover dues from Ambani and may hurt a group of Chinese banks' ability to enforce a separate London court's order asking Ambani to pay \$717 million.

Ambani is taking advice on challenging the verdict in an appellate court, his spokesperson said. "The order of the NCLT will have no bearing on the operations of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd.,

Reliance Power Ltd. and Reliance Capital Ltd.," Ambani's spokesperson added, listing out the tycoon's other companies.

As per the rules, if the Mumbai court admits Ambani into the bankruptcy process, a list of all claims against him will be compiled and a repayment plan will be worked out. Lenders can agree on a plan that may include payouts from his businesses or monetizing his assets.

Ambani had also offered a personal guarantee on the banks' loans to Reliance Communications in 2012, Judge Nigel Teare said in a ruling on May 22 in London handing a victory to three state-controlled Chinese banks, including Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd.

State Bank of India filed the latest petition on concerns that the Chinese banks will attempt to seize Ambani's assets after the UK court's ruling.

"Such action would have an adverse effect on the recovery rights," SBI said, according to the verdict on Thursday.

The NCLT ruling can be challenged in an appellate court and then the Supreme Court.

—Bloomberg

Pfizer vaccine on track for regulatory review in Oct.

JEFF SUTHERLAND
AUG. 27

Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE said the Covid-19 vaccine they are jointly developing is on track to be submitted for regulatory review as early as October, as they released additional data from an early-stage study. The companies said the vaccine was well tolerated with mild to moderate fever in fewer than 20 per cent of the participants. The companies are continuing to analyse data from the Phase 1 trials in the US and Germany, they said.

The confirmation of their October goal, first announced in July, helped lift S&P 500 futures early on Friday as part of a drumbeat of positive news on inoculation efforts that have the potential to end the threat of lockdowns.

Johnson & Johnson also confirmed it plans to test its Covid-19 vaccine in as many as 60,000 people, twice the number of other big trials being conducted in the U.S. The company first posted the design for the trial on August 10.

—Bloomberg

SKODA MAINTENANCE PACKAGE REVAMPED

Hyderabad, Aug. 21: Skoda Auto India has revamped and rechristened its Ser-vice Maintenance Package as the SKODA SuperCare, which entails preventive maintenance as well as wear-and-tear repair work for four years, or 60,000 km.

In addition, Skoda has introduced an extended warranty programme for up to six years or 1,50,000 km, which can be availed of anytime for cars purchased after September 2016. New Skoda Auto customers can avail the SuperCare, which starts at Rs 29,999, among standard, enhanced and comprehensive options, within a timeframe of a year from the date of purchase.

Business NOTE

SHORT TAKES

No Arjuna for Sakshi, Mirabai

New Delhi: The Sports Ministry on Friday decided against bestowing the Arjuna award on former Khel Ratna winners Sakshi Malik and Mirabai Chanu, pruning the list to 27 but accepted an unprecedented five recommendations for the country's highest sporting honour this year.

Last week, the Justice (retd.) Mukundakam Sharma-led selection committee had recommended 29 names for the Arjuna Award to the Sports Ministry.

The list also included Rio Olympics bronze medal-winning wrestler Sakshi and 2017 weightlifting world champion Mirabai, but the decision on bestowing the Arjuna on them was left to the discretion of Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju. The five Khel Ratna winners for this year would be star cricketer Rohit Sharma, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, Paralympic gold-winner Mariyappan Thangavelu, TT player Manika Batra, and women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal, the ministry confirmed in a formal press release.

— PTI

United captain in jail for assault

Athens: Manchester United captain Harry Maguire has been arrested on the Greek tourist island of Mykonos for an alleged assault and attacking officers, police said Friday. United said in a brief statement they were "aware of an alleged incident involving Harry Maguire in Mykonos last night. Contact has been made with Harry, and he is fully co-operating with the Greek authorities." "At this time we will be making no further comment," the club added.

A police officer in Syros, the capital of the island group that includes Mykonos, confirmed that the suspects are "three British men, including a British football club player" but did not name Maguire. The Syros officer said four Mykonos officers had sustained slight injuries in the fracas. The suspects are also accused of resisting arrest and verbally insulting and threatening the arresting officers, he said. He said Mykonos police had been called to break up a fight between two groups late on Thursday. — AFP

Indians struggle at British Open

Troon, United Kingdom: Indian trio of Aditi Ashok, Tvesa Malik and Diksha Dagar endured a rough start amidst brutal conditions at the Royal Troon on the first day of the AIG Women's British Open.

Strong winds, which went as high as 40 miles per hour, unsettled the golfers which resulted in Ashok (78) tottering at Tied-107 while debutant Malik (79) and Dagar (79) who had an eagle on par-4 18th, were T-125.

With the cut likely at 8-over or even more, the Indians would need a good second round to make the cut. But the predictions for weather say the conditions will be tough once again in the second round.

Scotland's Catriona Matthew (71) rolled back the years on the links, but it was American Amy Olson who led after the opening round.

Ashok had two bogeys and one double bogey on the front nine and three bogeys on the back nine in her card of 7-over 78. — PTI

INDIA NOTCHES UP THREE EASY VICTORIES

Chennai: A dominant India notched up three easy wins against Zimbabwe, Vietnam and Uzbekistan respectively in the the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad on Friday.

India defeated Zimbabwe 6-0 and rolled over Vietnam 4-2 but the highlight certainly was win against Uzbeks by 5.5-0.5 margin.

Winning each round got India two pointstaking them on top of the pool with six points while they also have the best game points 15.5 after 18 matches. India is on top of the standings followed by China. — PTI

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

Printed and Published by

K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan

Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at

Deccan Chronicle Press situated at

Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Valajah

Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri

Dist. Telangana and Published at 36,

S.D. Road, Secunderabad-53.

RNI Registration No. 3081-1987.

Editor: Aditya Sinha

Touchdown Dubai
Top sides land in UAE for glitzy league

Dubai, Aug. 21: IPL's star-studded teams including Chennai Super Kings, Royal Challengers Bangalore and defending champions Mumbai Indians arrived in the UAE on Friday for the world's biggest T20 league, beginning on September 19.

All three teams posted their departure photos on social media. The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK held a brief training camp in Chennai before flying out and was the only team to do so.

RCB skipper Virat Kohli, who made his own arrangements to reach Dubai directly from Mumbai following all BCCI SOP, also posted a photo from the team hotel after touching down.

Both CSK and RCB are based out of Dubai while the Rohit Sharma-captained Mumbai Indians are camping in Abu Dhabi.

The players are not allowed to venture out of their rooms during the six-day isolation period.

The players, who were already tested multiple times before departure, will now undergo a six-day isolation period with testing on day 1, 3 and 6. If they clear all the tests, they will be eligible to enter the tournament's bio-bubble and start training.

Subsequently, the players and support staff will be tested every fifth day of the tournament.

Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals will land over the weekend.

Sixty games will be played over 53 days across three venues — Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. In 2014, UAE had hosted the IPL partially due to the general elections in India. — PTI

JINX'S FOCUS IS ON MENTAL HEALTH

New Delhi, Aug. 21: Ajinkya Rahane is focused on maintaining his physical as well as mental health ahead of a challenging Indian Premier League (IPL) even as Delhi Capitals teammate Prithvi Shaw wants to make the most of training sessions in the next three weeks.

"There is no doubt that it will be a challenging trip for everyone involved. But like everyone else, I've spent these last few months focusing on my physical and mental health, and taking care of my family," he said.

"So the time I've managed to spend with them has put me in a positive frame of mind."

"This IPL will be a very different experience for all of us, and we need to make sure that we are all very positive when we hit the ground running. The key is to take one step at a time," he added. — PTI



Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma (from left) wife Ritika Sajdeh and daughter Samaira pose for a photograph ahead of their departure to Dubai from the Chhatrapati Shivaji International airport in Mumbai on Friday.

No quarantine for Eng, Oz cricketers: RCB CEO

New Delhi, Aug. 21: Cricketers from Australia and England might be able to feature from the start of the Indian Premier League despite a series between their countries ahead of the Twenty20 tournament, according to chairman of the Bangalore franchise.

Top stars including England's Ben Stokes and Steve Smith of Australia will be involved in the limited-overs series that ends three days before the start of the IPL in the United Arab Emirates on September 19.

But Sanjeev Churiwala of the Royal Challengers Bangalore feels the three will already be in a bio-bubble in England.

"For the players landing after the England and Australia series, on September 17, that is very close to our matches," Churiwala said.

"The BCCI have also issued very detailed SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) and procedures to be followed by these players in terms of their participation.

PACER MALINGA SET TO MISS INITIAL MATCHES

New Delhi, Aug. 21: Veteran Sri Lankan pacer Lasith Malinga is likely to be unavailable for the first few games of Mumbai Indians in the upcoming IPL due to personal reasons.

According to a report in *ESPNcricinfo*, the 36-year-old Malinga will not be travelling to the UAE, where the cash-rich league will be played from September 19 to November 10, as his father has not been keeping well for some time and may require surgery in the coming weeks.

The seasoned fast bowler, who has produced match-winning efforts for both Sri Lanka and his IPL franchise, wants to be around his father while training in Colombo.

Malinga, who will turn 37 next week and was the captain of the side that won the T20 World Cup, last featured for Sri Lanka in a T20 International during the home series against West Indies in March this year, with his last ODI appearance coming more than a year ago. — PTI

"What the SOPs say very clearly (is) that they can participate without quarantine, provided they satisfy certain very stringent conditions," the RCB CEO added.

"Right from the bio-secur bubble, they have to go straight to the charter flight without getting into the extensive migration procedures, and without getting in touch with the general public," he added.

A total of 29 players from England and Australia are part of the eight IPL squads. — PTI

ENGLISHMEN CRAWL OUT OF TROUBLE

Southampton, Aug. 21: Zak Crawley held one end together after Pakistan saw off England captain Joe Root on the opening day of the series finale at Southampton on Friday.

Crawley, 97 not out at tea, took two down to fine leg off Mohammad Abbas before an offside glide off the paceman saw him to a 171-ball hundred, including 11 fours in what was his eighth Test.

This was just the fourth first-class century of the 22-year-old right-hander's career and it was an especially valuable innings, with no other England batsman having made more than Root's 29 as they reached tea on 184-4.

Yasir Shah had interval figures of 2/60 from 19 overs — a fine return for a leg-spinner on the first day of a Test. England, 1-0 up in a three-match contest, need to avoid defeat if they are to win their first series against Pakistan in 10 years.

They suffered an early setback when Rory Burns nicked a ball from Shaheen Afridi. — PTI

Brief Scores: England 184/4 in 56.0 overs (at Tea) (Z. Crawley 97 n. o., J. Buttler 24 n. o., Y. Shah 2/60) vs Pakistan.

NARINE SHINES AS TRINBAGO KNIGHTS WIN

Tarouba (Trinidad & Tobago), Aug. 21: Sunil Narine's allround display which included a second straight half-century propelled Trinbago Knight Riders to the top of the Caribbean Premier League table with a seven-wicket victory over Jamaica Tallawahs.

In another rain affected game, St Lucia Zouks beat Barbados Tridents by seven wickets courtesy the Duckworth-Lewis method.

After the first set of two matches each, only Trinbago have two wins, while Guyana Amazon Warriors, Zouks, Jamaica Tallawahs and Tridents have one win each and St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots have lost both matches.

Trinbago electing to field had Jamaica Tallawahs struggling from the start as Ali Khan and Jayden Seales and then Narine (1/19 in 4 overs) regularly chipped away at the line-up. — PTI

BRIEF SCORES

■ **Trinbago Knight Riders 136/3** (Narine 53, Munro 49 n. o., D. M. Bravo 14) bt **Jamaica Tallawahs 135/8** (Phillips 58, Russell 25, Asif 22, Seales 2/21, Ali Khan 2/25).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Maria, Gnabry to highlight title tie

Lisbon, Aug. 21: A couple of lesser-known players could prove decisive in the Champions League final on Sunday.

While most will be watching Paris Saint-Germain forwards Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, or Bayern counterparts Thomas Muller and Robert Lewandowski, the title could come down to the likes of Angel Di Maria and Serge Gnabry.

They don't carry the same hype as some of their teammates, but they have been crucial for their teams this season. Both made an impact in the semifinals, with Di Maria leading PSG over Leipzig and Gnabry helping Bayern get past Lyon. Di Maria had a goal and two assists in PSG's 3-0 win over Leipzig. — AP

Live on TV

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

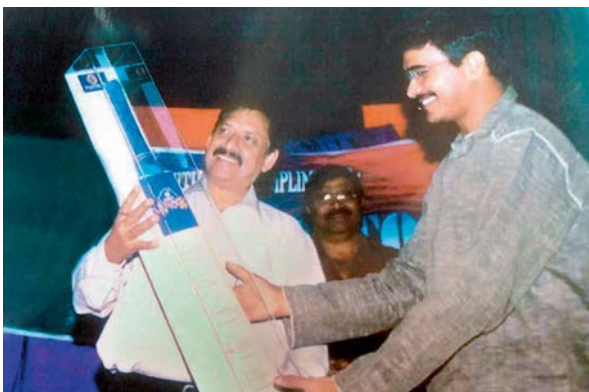
Paris Saint-Germain vs Bayern Munich
from 12.30 am (Monday)
on Sony Ten 2, HD

CARIBBEAN PREMIER LEAGUE

St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs St Lucia Zouks from 7.30 pm;
Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Jamaica Tallawahs from 11.45 pm. Both matches on Star Sports 1, 2, HD

NBA PLAYOFFS

Houston Rockets vs Oklahoma City Thunder from 3.30 am (Sunday); **Portland Trail Blazers vs Los Angeles Lakers** from 6.30 am (Sunday). **Brooklyn Nets vs Toronto Raptors** from 4 am (Monday); **Utah Jazz vs Denver Nuggets** from 6.30 am (Monday). All matches on Sony Six, HD



C. V. Anand (right) with Chetan Chauhan in this file pic.

Chetan was top, says cricket cop

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 21

Former cricketer and IPS officer C. V. Anand recollected his association with former Indian opener Chetan Chauhan who passed away last week, hailing him for his contribution to veterans cricket.

"Mr Chauhan had taken keen interest in reviving veterans (+35) cricket in India and had mobilised lot of ex-players all over the country to form state veterans cricket associations and play local tournaments to select the state teams to participate in the zonal championships, to be held by rotation in each state. In 2005, Hyderabad won the South Zone championship at Trivandrum and I collected my Man of the Series award from him. Mohammad Azharuddin too had played in two matches of this tournament," Anand, who played veterans cricket from 2004 to 2010, said.

"Mr Chauhan was instrumental in organising the Friendship Series between India and Pakistan veterans in 2006-07. He selected me in the side which had stalwarts like Dilip Vengsarkar, Syed Kirmani and Azharuddin as we squared up against Waqar Younis and many others on the Pak side. However, with no encouragement from the BCCI, sponsorships becoming difficult after 2010 and Mr

Chauhan also having a bout of ill health at around that time, veterans cricket closed shop. But I continued to call on him whenever I visited Delhi," Anand, who played for Hyderabad U-19 and U-22 teams between 1984 and '88, said.

A product of Nizam College, Anand left the game in 1989 to study for Civil Services exam and cracked it at the first attempt in 1990 with a rank of 77. He is now director of National Industrial Security Academy, Hyderabad. The 52-year-old is still active in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's one-day (Sunday) league, in which he plays for the Secunderabad Club side.

Anand is also good with the racquet in hand — he's the All India Police champion in tennis.

Speaking about Chauhan, Anand says "He used to keenly follow my son (Hyderabad Ranji Trophy player) Milind's career and would say that one day he would make it."

Anand said Chauhan's end was abrupt. "It was very shocking for me to learn that he had fallen ill due to Covid-19 and even as I tried to wish him a quick recovery, fell prey to it. He was a noble soul and very humble. A determined fighter, his battles for India in facing fearsome fast bowlers in (Dennis) Lillee and (Lenny) Pascoe are well known. India will miss you Chauhan sir!"

Too young to retire, PM Modi to Raina

New Delhi, Aug. 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi distinctly remembers Suresh Raina's elegant cover drives during the epic 2011 World Cup quarterfinal against Australia in Ahmedabad, something that, he feels, the all-rounder's numerous fans will miss after he followed Mahendra Singh Dhoni into international retirement.

The 33-year-old Raina, a member of the 2011 World Cup winning India team, announced his retirement on August 15, minutes after Dhoni decided to call it quits internationally. The two players, who are close friends as well, will turn up for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL now.

"I do not want to use the word 'retirement' because you are too young and energetic to 'retire'," PM Modi, who also wrote a letter of appreciation to Dhoni, said a two-page note to Raina.

"During your cricketing career, you sometimes faced setbacks including injuries but every time you overcame those challenges, thanks to your tenacity," he said.

Raina, on his part, thanked the Prime Minister.

"When we play, we give our blood and sweat for the nation. No better appreciation than being loved by the people of this country and even more by the country's PM. Thank you @narendramodi ji for your words of appreciation & best wishes. I accept them with gratitude. Jai Hind," the former Indian cricketer put out on his Twitter handle.

In the letter, Modi recollected how much he enjoyed Raina's most famous innings of 34 not out in a tricky run-chase against a formidable Australia in the 2011 World Cup quarterfinal at Motera.



Former Indian cricketer Suresh Raina (from left), Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Raina's wife Priyanka Chaudhary in this file photo.

"India can never forget your inspiring role during the 2011 World Cup especially during the later matches. I saw you live in action at the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad,

your elegant cover drives, one which I was lucky to witness that day," said the PM, who was back then the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

The PM also described Raina as the perfect team-man who enjoyed others' successes.

"...Suresh Raina will always be synonymous with team spirit. You played not for personal glory but for the glory of your team and the glory of India.

"Your enthusiasm on the field was infectious and we could all witness that you would be among the first and most animated players to celebrate the fall of opposing team's wicket," the PM wrote.

A bonafide IPL legend, Raina was praised by the Prime Minister for his prowess in the T20 format.

"As a batsman, you especially distinguished yourself across all mediums and particularly in the

newest form of the game, the T20 cricket. This is not an easy format.

"In tune with our times, it requires quick fixes in double quick time. Again your promptness and speed were assets for this form," the Indian Prime Minister said, lavishing praise on the IPL's most prolific batsman.

His sharp fielding was also acknowledged in the Prime Minister's appreciation letter.

"Your fielding was exemplary and inspiring. Some of the best catches in recent international cricket have your distinctive imprint. It would take days to count the number of runs you saved with your alertness on the field."

The PM also praised Raina for his participation in social initiatives like 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' and the cause of women's empowerment.

— PTI

BUCKS, LAKERS BOUNCE BACK TO EARN WINS

Miami, Aug. 21: The Milwaukee Bucks stepped it up on Thursday, bouncing back from a humbling loss to beat the Orlando Magic 111-96 and knot their NBA playoff series at one game apiece.

Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 28 points and 20 rebounds as the Bucks brought the defensive intensity that carried them to the league's best regular-season record.

Meanwhile, Anthony Davis had 31 points and 11 rebounds and the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers bounced back from an opening loss to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 111-88 on Thursday night in Game 2 of the first-round Western Conference playoff series.

— Agencies

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