



WINDOWS



Workers prepare Tricolors ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, in New Delhi, on Sunday

740 ton ammonium nitrate to be moved to Hyd from Chennai

Chennai: Ammonium nitrate weighing 740 tonnes stored in 37 containers at a container freight station (CFS) here is being moved to Hyderabad in a phased manner, said an official of the CFS. "The first 10 containers of ammonium nitrate have left the CFS on Sunday and the balance will be moved over the next two days. All one has to do is to load the containers onto a truck as the ammonium nitrate was imported in containers and impounded by the customs," an official told IANS preferring anonymity.

Adidas, Puma vie for Team India kit sponsorship

New Delhi: Sports apparel companies Adidas and Puma are set for a head on battle to gain the rights to become Team India's next kit sponsors as Nike's 14-year deal with the 'Men in Blue' comes to an end in September 2020. "Adidas and Puma have shown interest in becoming Team India's kit sponsors. The entire process will be transparent and any deal that will be done will be in the interest of Indian cricket," a BCCI functionary said. ▶ **P8**

11 of Pak migrant family found dead in Jodhpur

Jaipur: Eleven members of a family that had migrated from Pakistan were found dead on Sunday morning at a farmhouse in Lodta Achlawata village in Dechu police station area in Jodhpur district, officials said. Police officials told IANS that the incident came to light when they received information around 10 am from the villagers.

BUSINESS



MKTS LOOK TO INFLATION, IIP DATA

P6



Delhi to have own board of education by next yr: Sisodia

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: Delhi's own school education board is likely to be operational from next year. However, unlike other states, it will not be imposed on government schools.

Giving details of the plan to set up the state board of education, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the board will be in line with the proposed reforms in the National Education Policy (NEP) and the focus will be on continuous assessment and not on examinations at the end of the year.

"We have recently set up two committees for working on the proposed board as well as curriculum reforms. An ideal situation would be that we make it operational by next year. Initially, around 40 schools will be affiliated to the board, which could be either government or private," Sisodia said.

"What happens in other state boards is that the private schools are free to make their choice whether they want to opt for CBSE, ICSE or state board, while government schools follow the state board. We will have no imposition. It



will be optional for both government and private schools. We want to make the board so enriching and

useful, that there is demand for it," he added.

The Delhi government had last month consti-

tuted two committees to prepare the scheme and framework for the formation of the education board and curriculum reforms.

The AAP dispensation had announced the plan to set up a separate board of education for the national capital in its annual budget in March.

Sisodia, who is also Delhi's Education Minister, said his government is studying the recently announced new education policy in detail. "We are studying the policy in detail. We have already been working on some of the reforms proposed in it.

There are a few anomalies but there are a few good things too. I have told the two committees that our board will be in sync with the NEP because as a nation we are together but the focus will not be on evaluating students once a year and encouraging rote learning in process," he said.

Asked about teaching in mother tongue or regional language proposed by the NEP, Sisodia said, "I totally agree that the medium of instruction should be the home language in the initial years so that foundation is strong but I believe it

should be limited to foundation years or pre primary stage. Taking it up to class 5 is not a good idea."

Sisodia also came down heavily on the proposal of a common entrance exam for universities to be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). "Why do we need this duplication? We already have so much focus on board exams and immediately after that we will have another exam? The focus only on exams will not take the emphasis away from the rote learning. In my view, it has to be either of the exams," he said.

PM LAUNCHES ₹1L CR AGRICULTURE INFRA FUND

Public transport to take electric mode in TS

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana Government has evolved a ten-year action plan to convert all Government vehicles into electric vehicles (EVs). This will be announced in the new policy that is to be announced soon. It aims at transforming the entire public transport into electric mode. It will also announce sops to encourage use of electric vehicles by individuals. Some sops for the organisations and cab operators would also be included in the policy.

According to sources, a slew of sops like exemption of registration charges on personal vehicles, interest-free loans to buy electric vehicles and allowing only the electric vehicles in IT zones are among the notable decisions to be included in the Telangana's first EV policy. It may be mentioned here that the state cabinet had cleared a decision to attract huge investments in the EV segment. As a followup, the draft policy is being prepared in consultation with international agencies mainly the automobile industry and electric battery manufacturing companies in the state. A senior official said that the EV policy will make the Telangana state the preferred destination for electric vehicle and component manufacturing by 2025. Road tax exemption and permits for the corporate sector to utilise corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds to buy electric vehicles for employee transportation will be some of the important incentives likely to be announced in the policy.

Continued on Page 5

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a financing facility of Rs 1 lakh crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for agri-entrepreneurs, startups, agri-tech players and farmer groups for post-harvest management and nurturing farm assets.

The Prime Minister launched the new Agriculture Infrastructure Fund through video conference. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and senior ministry officials were present on the occasion.

The fund is aimed at building community farming assets across the country by enhancing India's ability to compete globally in the agri sector. The farm infrastructure will enable farmers to get higher value of their produce as they would be able to store and sell their produce at better prices as per market conditions, reduce wastage, and increase processing and value addition.

Modi also released the sixth installment of Rs 17,100 crore to more than 85.5 million farmer beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. The cash benefit was transferred directly to the farmers' Aadhaar-verified bank accounts with the press of a button. With this transfer, the scheme has, so far, provided over Rs 90,000 crore in the hands of over 10 crore farmers since its launch in February last year.

Addressing the occasion through a video conference, Modi said the country has a huge opportunity to invest in post-harvest management solutions like warehousing, cold chain, and food processing, and build a global presence in areas such as organic and fortified foods.

He said this scheme would provide a good opportunity for start-ups in



Releases
₹17K cr
to 85 mn
farmers
under
PM-KISAN

agriculture to avail the benefits and scale their operations, thereby creating an ecosystem that will benefit farmers and create new jobs in every corner of the country.

The Fund, announced as part of the Centre's economic stimulus package in

May, is a medium-long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee.

Under the 10-year scheme, Rs 1 lakh crore will

be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage for loans up to Rs 2 crore for a maximum period of seven years. There will be a moratorium for repayment from 6 months to 2 years.

Agri Fund will develop rural economy: Shah

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching a Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and said it will generate new employment opportunities and strengthen the rural economy. In a series of tweets in Hindi, Shah said agriculture is the foundation of the Indian economy and the Modi government has been striving to strengthen it for the last six years. Shah said many unprecedented steps have been taken to double the income of farmers and for the development of the agriculture sector. "I am confident that due to the



untiring efforts of PM Narendra Modi, Indian agriculture will become world class in the times to come," he said. The Home Minister said the agriculture infrastructure fund will accelerate creation of many infrastructure projects such as cold storage, collection centres, processing units

so that the hardworking farmers can get the true value for their produce. Shah expressed his gratitude to the prime minister for launching the fund and transferring Rs 17,000 crore in the accounts of 8.5 crore farmers under 'PM-KISAN' for the development of agriculture sector and rural areas.

10 patients die in Covid care fire accident in AP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: In a ghastly incident on Sunday morning at least 10 Covid patients, including three women died and nearly 20 others injured when a fire broke out in Swarna palace hotel, which was converted into Covid care centre in Vijayawada.

This centre is being run by Dr Ramesh hospitals in Vijayawada for the Covid-19 treatment and quarantine. According to the Fire department officials and eyewitnesses, fire broke out in the ground floor of the five-storey building at around 4.30 am. What is intriguing is that why did the hotel staff took 30 minutes to call the fire brigade.

According to the Fire department, they received the

call at 5 am and reached the place in 15 minutes. The fire was extinguished in 30 minutes. Thick smoke engulfed up to fourth floor. It is being said that oxygen cylinders and sanitizers could have been the cause for rapid spread of fire. Police and fire service personnel rescued 33 persons from the hotel and they have been shifted to Ramesh hospital.

At least seven patients panicked and jumped from the terrace as the flames spread to the upper floors. Two others died due to asphyxiation as thick fumes enveloped the hotel. A lot of activity followed the incident with several ministers visiting the hotel turned hospital and making statements that the guilty will be punished. **Cont'd on Page 5**

AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT

India bans import of 101 defence items

New Delhi: To make the Indian defence industry self-reliant and boost indigenisation, the Ministry of Defence banned the import of 101 items on Sunday.

The MoD has also bifurcated the capital procurement budget for 2020-21 between domestic and foreign capital procurement routes. A separate budget head has been created with an outlay of nearly Rs 52,000 crore for domestic capital procurement in the current financial year.

With the latest embargo on import of 101 items, it is estimated that contracts worth almost Rs 4 lakh crore will be placed upon the domestic industry within the next five to seven years. Of these, items worth almost Rs 1.3 lakh crore each are anticipated for the Army and the Air Force while items worth almost Rs 1.4 lakh crore are

anticipated by the Navy over the same period.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, "The Ministry of Defence is now ready for a big push to the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. MoD will introduce an import embargo on 101 items beyond the given timeline to boost indigenisation of defence production." The minister pointed out that the decision to ban import of 101 defence items came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a clarion call for a self-reliant India. Modi in his address to the nation on May 12 called for a self-reliant India based on the five pillars, i.e., economy, infrastructure, system, demography and demand and announced a special economic package for a self-reliant India named 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

Continued on Page 5

Etah artisans make 2,100kg bell for Ram temple

Etah (Uttar Pradesh): A team of artisans at Jalesar town in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh have forged a bell weighing a whopping 2,100 kg for the new Ram temple in Ayodhya and are preparing to give it final touches before sending it to the holy town.

While Dau Dayal, 50, was primarily responsible for making the 'ashtadhatu' bell, Iqbal Mistri, 56, was in charge of the designing, grinding, and polishing work. Both pointed out that it was the first time in

their lives that they were working on a bell of this size. "When you work on a bell of this size, the challenges are greater. It is really hard to ensure you do not make a single mistake in the process," said Dau Dayal.

Explaining the process, he said: "What is unique is that the bell is in one piece -- no multiple pieces welded together. This is what makes the task much more difficult. The whole effort will go to waste even if there is a delay of five sec-



onds in pouring the molten metal into the mould." The casting of the bell involves many lengthy steps -- de-

termining the shape and measurements painstakingly, cutting out wooden templates to make the

mould, preparing metal, tuning, grinding, and fitting the clapper. A crane was used to pour the alloy into

A craftsman gives final touches to bells at a workshop at Jalesar of Etah district of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. Craftsman Dau Dayal has been making bells of varied shapes and sizes for more than 30 years, but this time he and his team have surprised everyone by crafting a bell weighing 2,100 kilograms for the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The bell is not just brass but is made of 'Ashtadhatu', a combination of eight metals -- gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, tin, iron and mercury.

the mould. The 'ashtadhatu' bell is a combination of eight metals -- gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, tin, iron, and mercury.

A team of around 25 workers, both Hindus and Muslims, worked for a month for eight hours a day to make what would be 'among the largest bells' in the country. "This piece, one of the largest bells in India, will be donated to the Ram temple," said Vikas Mittal, Chairman of Jalesar Municipal Council and owner of the workshop

where the bell has been made.

The Mittals got the order to prepare the bell from the Nirmohi Akhara -- one of the litigants in the Ayodhya title dispute -- immediately after the matter was decided last November by the apex court, paving the way for the construction of the temple. "We believe there is some divine reason that this work came to us. So, we decided to donate it to the temple," says Aditya Mittal, a brother of Vikas.

Continued on Page 5

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



PREITY G ZINTA
@REALPREITYZINTA

I know I have a future in Hairdressing when my husband allows me to give him a haircut Again
#Patiparmeshwar #Ting ♥



Mentoring startups to sustain

POOJA TERWAD THROUGH HER STARTUP 'POOJA TERWAD & ASSOCIATES (PTA)' PROVIDES EVERY SERVICE WHICH A STARTUP WOULD REQUIRE UNDER ONE ROOF

TEJAL SINHA

Realising that, proficient startup advisory is very expensive and there was a clear lack of access for smaller, non-funded startups, Pooja began a legal consultancy firm in 2015 to provide affordable, proficient and quick legal advisory along with business consultancy.

She believed that not every lawyer took interest in startups and only advised on the legal aspects. PTA is not only limited to legal advisory, but an end to end startup advisory and consultancy firm. They are a team of lawyers, CAs, CSs, business advisors, mentors, IP attorneys, CFO's and fund advisors.

Pooja said, "Pooja Terwad & Associates (PTA) is a startup focused law firm and business advisory. I love conversing with entrepreneurs, startup founders and innovators. I engage with innovative minds through events, workshops and keynote speeches. After com-

ing back from the US, in 2015, and understanding the dynamic startup ecosystem there, I was inspired to build a consultancy firm in India for upcoming startups."

However, this year started with new hopes, set milestones and a tragedy in the form of Corona hitting the world. They decided to fight back and continue from their homes. The growth has reduced, but, determination and passion for entrepreneurship has not ceased a bit.

"I have travelled and seen the brilliant innovators in India, particularly in smaller cities. However, these innovators lack access and the knack to monetize their product. They are not a part of the glamorous ecosystem which is focused in the metro cities. We have reached and worked with such innovators. I aim to set up a virtual incubation for 10 brilliant innovators, every year, from every nook and corner of the country and give them the



access to venture funding and other essentials. We are currently in process to filter and shortlist these startups," adds Pooja.

Women are as good as men

When it comes to return on investment (ROI), women can be as good as men or maybe even outperform them big time. Women with extreme potential, too, do not come out and take the leap of faith. This issue is so prevalent that it stands in the way of their achievements.

Pooja believes that women in India are very capable, they

just have to stop whining about all the fear and potential risks of entrepreneurship.

Social responsibility arm

She says, "We need to build points of contact and help centers for entrepreneurs, whereby finding a solution to their problem would be easier. A simple and accessible system, where entrepreneurs can ask for help and the entire community does whatever it can to resolve the problem. We have built one such community, whereby most of our startup clients have volunteered to mentor budding entrepreneurs."

Pro-bono consultation booth

They provide colleges with the support system to build an active Entrepreneurship Cell. They screen students from time to time and map their skills and development. Students with a scalable idea are provided support to convert their idea into a business. They have a team which consistently works towards content building for workshops we conduct for entrepreneurs.

"We have so far mentored (pro bono) over 4000+ innovators & founders in the last 5 years, since our inception," concludes Pooja.

Easy work hairstyles for long hair

We've all been there, you woke up with absolutely zero time to even run a comb through your hair and you have to be somewhere in a flash. Or maybe you simply want no part of getting into a wrestling match with your hair. Don't sweat it—just try one of these crazy-fast (and chic!) hairstyles, and you'll be out the door in no time.



Scarf braid

This runway-ready style looks so incredibly chic and it's surprisingly easy to recreate. Secure a low ponytail with one end of a silk scarf. Split the ponytail into two sections on either side of the remaining tail of the scarf and start braiding the scarf with the two sections of hair until you reach the bottom. When about an inch or two of scarf remains, tie it around the hair that's left. You can leave the braid hanging loose or twist the scarf braid around itself to secure it in a low bun.

Easy sweep with hair pins

Another glamorous style that's so chic and easy: just sweep some of your hair behind your ear and secure the section with hair pins. You can use two pins in parallel fashion or execute a runway-ready "X" shape for an upgraded look. It's one of the truly easy work hairstyles for long hair.



Knotted ponytail

Girls with length know how to pull hair into a ponytail and a bun in seconds flat, so combining the two moves will give you a whole new angle on your favorite go-to hair moves. Pull hair into a ponytail, then twist the base a couple of times as if you're going to twist it into a bun. Pull the ends through the middle of the bun and secure it for a knotted ponytail with a twirled base with loose, free-flowing ends.



Casual fashion style

This is a more formal style and is best if we call it business casual. Casuals are still perfectly fine for business meetings and office events. While men wear a blazer with matching pants with a formal shirt and sometimes a tie, women can wear pants and skirts with matching tunics or blouses with a matching jacket. Keep enough business casual clothes in your collection for every occasion, as they won't fail to impress onlookers wherever you go.



Groom-in artsy style!

ARTSY IS A STYLE THAT HAS A LOT TO DO WITH CREATIVITY

Saying in does not mean you should dress like you don't care anymore. Clothes and accessories can act as mood boosters. Artsy is a style trend, that make women who like to wear things that make a style statement of their own. One can create something in unconventional away from the traditional style. This can involve some very bold and bright colours, with exaggerated prints. The clothes generally had unusual silhouettes and some strangely unique shapes.

This trend stays away from conventional fashion styles and resembles the fashion sense of a creative thinker who wants to make a statement.

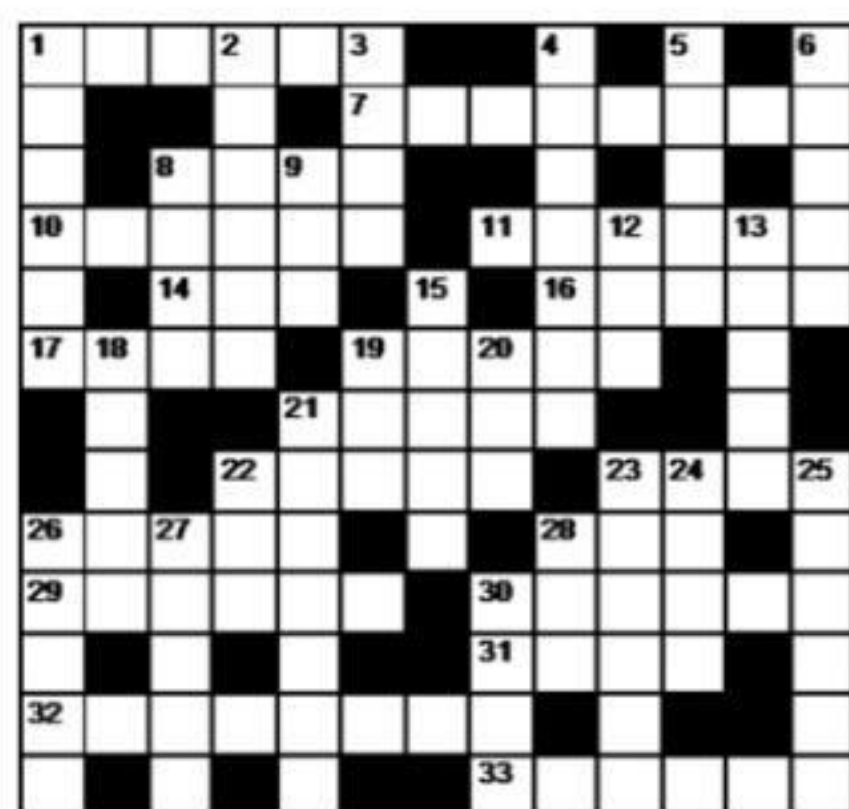
Leggings and asymmetrical tunic

The first way is to wear leggings or even skinny jeans to pair it with an asymmetrical tunic. Asymmetrical tops provide the expressions of creativity in progress compared to a boring normal blouse due to their high and low hems. One of the best ways to style your asymmetrical tunic is to pair it with a pair of pretty black or grey leggings. Tall, flat boots, along with some jewellery, add to the wow factor of the overall style.



Dramatic and creative jewellery

One of the best ways to increase the artistic feel of your journal is by wearing some creative jewellery. Just forget about the diamond necklace and the precious pearl earrings and instead some of the unique accessories, such as a handcrafted piece that is initially handcrafted with materials of the highest quality than a pure object or art. Be bold and creative at the same time to let your personality express itself in the way you dress.



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 8

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Ex-President of India (1,1,4)
- 7 A flattened third or seventh in music (4,4)
- 8 Shrek was one (4)
- 10 Expiration (6)
- 11 Sidesteps or circumvents (6)
- 14 Marsh (3)
- 16 City in Japan (5)
- 17 Investigate (4)
- 19 Misbehave or become temperamental ? (3,2)
- 21 Former (5)
- 22 Hinder (5)
- 23 Be very angry (4)
- 26 Of a city (5)
- 28 Fine hair (3)
- 29 Freeload (6)
- 30 Doctrines to be accepted without question (6)
- 31 Wild party (4)
- 32 Nourishing ingredient (8)
- 33 Moved furtively (6)

Down

- 1 Electors (6)

- 2 Fireplaces (6)
- 3 Alpine goat (4)
- 4 Ardour (7)
- 5 Dutch cheese (5)
- 6 High-IQ society (5)
- 8 Switch options (4)
- 9 Make a dash for it ! (3)
- 12 Deadly snake (3)
- 13 ___ out : making living or supporting with difficulty ? (5)
- 15 More chilly or colder (5)
- 18 Encroach (5)
- 19 Paintings and such (3)
- 20 Rocky height (3)
- 21 Flightless aquatic bird (7)
- 22 Author ___ Brown (3)
- 23 Severe (6)
- 24 Host (4)
- 25 Came next (6)
- 26 Employing (5)
- 27 They move on water (5)
- 28 In favour of (3)
- 30 Morse code signals (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 8

NEWS ROUNDUP

VAANI KAPOOR: FEAR IS THE BIGGEST ROADBLOCK

Actress Vaani Kapoor says she is working at busting fear. "I am working very hard on myself to not live in fear, and that (fear) is one thing that everybody needs to disown," Vaani told.

She calls fear a roadblock. "Fear is our biggest enemy and it's the biggest roadblock for all of us. So, I think that's one thing we should all just disown," she added.

On the work front, Vaani has a great line-up coming up. She will be seen opposite Ranbir Kapoor in "Shamsher" and Akshay Kumar in "Bell Bottom".

She also recently signed Abhishek Kapoor's untitled next film opposite Ayushmann Khurrana.



Idukki landslide toll rises to 42, 16 more bodies recovered

Kochi: The death toll in the massive landslide that destroyed a row of 20 houses of tea estate workers in the high range Idukki district of Kerala rose to 42 on Sunday evening after 16 more bodies were retrieved from the debris.

“Three days after the settlements were swept away by devastating landslides at Pettimudi near Rajamala, authorities have now decided to take help of sniff-

dog dogs to trace the persons buried under the debris,” news agency PTI quoted officials as saying.

According to officials, 78 people were staying at the spot where the tragedy occurred. While 12 were rescued, 42 bodies were found. Officials said efforts were on to find the rest.

The picturesque landscape of Pettimudi was flattened into a rough patch of boulders and



mud with parts of asbestos and tin sheets seen scattered around.

The incident is said to have occurred in the wee hours of Friday when a huge mound of earth fell on the “row houses” and two children and five women were among the deceased, most of whom were plantation workers from neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

NDRF chief in charge of south Indian state, Rekha Nambiar is

leading the 55-member team which is entrusted with the search and rescue mission. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Idukki, Malappuram and Wayanad districts on Sunday.

Incessant rains, landslides and opening of shutters of dams across rivers have caused rise in water level in rivers and streams in central Kerala. Normal life of

people living in low lying areas of Kottayam and Alappuzha has been affected with flood waters entering their homes.

Low-lying areas in Kottayam and Alappuzha districts are heavily impacted due to flooding. Hundreds of families have been shifted to relief camps from low lying areas including Kumarakom and Kuttanad regions of Kottayam and Alappuzha districts, they said.

Over 50 scribes get anti-India audio msgs

Lucknow (IANS): A case has been registered against unnamed persons after about 50 scribes in the state capital received audio messages regarding protests against the construction of Ram temple on Independence Day and demand for a separate nation for Muslims. ADG law and order Prashant Kumar said that a case had been registered under Sections 505(1)(B), 505(2), 153A, 153B, 124A, 295(A), 298, UAPA Act and IT Act.

The FIR was registered on charges of sedition, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), IT Act, vilification or attacking religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, speaking words against national integration, deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings, and whoever, with the deliberate intention of wounding religious feelings.

“We have initiated a probe in the matter and will nail the culprits,” the ADG said. The FIR was registered on the complaint filed by sub-inspector Mahesh Dutt Shukla. Lucknow Police commissioner Sujeet Pandey said that



the cyber cell has been entrusted the task to trace the senders of the messages. The messages were sent from different numbers having codes of Malaysia, Canada and different states of the United States.

The audio message, in male voice, urges people to protest against the coming up of Ram Temple in Ayodhya and says it is a step towards making the country a ‘Hindu rashtra’. The message further instigates people of one faith to demand a separate country on the lines of Khalistan.

Joint Commissioner of Police, crime, Nilabja Choudhury said, “All the numbers from which the audio messages have been sent seem to be Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and are being tracked by experts.

CISF officer asked me if I'm Indian: Kanimozhi

Chennai: Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader Kanimozhi on Sunday said a Central Industrial Security Force officer asked her if she was an Indian, when she asked the woman official to speak in Tamil or English.

“Today at the airport a CISF officer asked me if I am an Indian,” when I asked her to speak to me in Tamil or English as I did not know Hindi.

I would like to know from when being Indian is equal to knowing Hindi. #hindimposition,” Kanimozhi who is also the DMK’s women’s wing secretary said on her Twitter handle.

A number of social media users replied supporting her, with one of them saying, “I am an Indian and Hindi has nothing to do with it! #hindimposition Pass it on!”

Rajnath promised a bang, but ended with whimper: PC

New Delhi (IANS): After Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced an import embargo on 101 defence items, senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram took a dig at him on Sunday and called his announcement a “whimper”.

“The Defence Minister promised a ‘bang’ on a Sunday morning and ended with a ‘whimper’!” Chidambaram said in a statement.

Earlier in the day, Rajnath said: “The Ministry of Defence is now ready for a big push to the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The MoD will introduce an import embargo on 101 items beyond the given timeline to boost indigenisation of defence production.”

Chidambaram pointed out that the only importer of defence equipment in India is the Defence Ministry. “Any import embargo is really an embargo on oneself.”

“What the Defence Minister said in his historic Sunday announcement deserved only an office order from the minister to his secretaries!” he added.

SWR’s museum on Malgudi Days

Bengaluru (IANS): The South Western Railway (SWR) zone’s Mysuru Division has created a museum themed on ‘Malgudi Days’ at one of its stations, recreating scenes and ambience from the famous television serial, an official said on Saturday.

“The old dilapidated station (Arasulu) building which is a few meters away from present station building has been restored and recreated as Museum Malgudi,” told an official to IANS.

“It is to be recalled that the famous Television serial ‘Malgudi Days’ was filmed in these environs during the 80’s,” said the official.

As part of the museum, the railway zone has created neighbourhoods similar to the ones featured in the famous serial.



One of the houses features an elephant shaped skeleton gate with a compound wall made out of metal bars salvaged from railway tracks.

Likewise, another structure in the museum sports paintings of the main characters from the serial, along with the images of a peacock and a life sized tiger replica.

A kitchen from the Malgudi Days has been created for the museum, including a street and neighbouring houses. A makeshift railway coach named as Malgudi Chai has also been arranged, including some more images of animals.

Cong must find full-term president, says Tharoor

Jodhpur: Eleven members of a family of Pakistan Hindu migrants were found dead at a farm in Rajasthan’s Jodhpur district on Sunday morning, police said. A person of the family, however, was found alive outside the hut they lived at Lodta village of Dechu area, an officer said.

“But he claimed to have no idea about the incident, which believed to have happened in the night,” said Superintendent of Police (Rural) Rahul Barhat. “We are yet to ascertain the cause and means of death. But apparently, all the members appeared to have committed suicide by consuming some chemical in the night,” Rahul Barhat said. He said there was a smell of some chemical around in the hut, suggesting that they consumed something.

50 per cent drop in deaths of security men in J&K in 2020

Srinagar (IANS): There has been a 50 per cent decline in incidents of security forces killed in Jammu & Kashmir during operations this year so far compared to last year’s corresponding period, data has revealed.

As per the data compiled by the Jammu & Kashmir Police, a total of 36 security personnel were killed this year between January and July while the number was 76 last year during the same period. However, the data said, injuries to security forces have increased this year.

A total of 138 security force personnel were injured this year so far compared to last year’s 107 cases during January to July, the data says, adding the number was more than 3,300 during the Burhan Wani incident in 2016.

More than 3,300 security personnel from Jammu & Kashmir Police and central paramilitary forces were in-



A woman shows mortar shells fired by the Pakistani forces on a residential area along the Line of Control, at Mankote Sector in Poonch district

jured while maintaining law and order in the valley in over 1,000 violent incidents in Kashmir since the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in an encounter with security forces on July 8, 2016, the J&K Police said.

Speaking on the trend, Jammu & Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh told IANS that casualties of security forces during operations have been very low this year

compared to previous years following strategic action against active anti-national groups and banning of several organisations like Jamaat-e-Islami by the Centre.

The officer said that 504 separatists have been freed after signing a ‘Good Behaviour Bond’ and they will be caught soon if they violate law and order and instigate youths to get involved in stone pelting and other anti-government activities. A total of 104 people of Jamaat and Hurriyat were booked last year and 13 this year under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), said the DGP, adding that “top separatist leaders like Ashraf Sehrai and Amir Hamza were arrested when we came to know that they are expected to succeed Syed Ali Shah Geelani as Chairman of the headline faction of All Parties Hurriyat Conference.”

LESSON FROM BEIRUT BLAST Ammonium nitrate near Chennai gets ready to be moved out



to ensure all safety checks are done before the consignment is moved to the neighbouring state.

An import consignment of the Karur-based Amman Chemicals was seized at the Chennai Port after its application for a key licence was rejected. It was seized in November 2015 and the company was later engaged in a legal battle to continue its business.

A panel consisting of environ-

mental engineers and senior police officers visited the Container Freight Station operated by company Sattva in Tiruvotiyur after the Beirut blast. The multi-disciplinary panel tasked with inspecting the consignment off Chennai had recommended that the Customs Department “clear” the stock from the warehouse, read an August 6 report by the panel.

According to the report, the customs department had already begun the process of allowing bids for the Ammonium Nitrate and beneficiaries would be short-listed. The report submitted by TNPCB stated that close to 12,000 people live closer to the place where 740 tonnes of ammonium nitrate is stored.

“The nearest habitations are namely Manali new town at a distance of 700m in the northern direction with a population of about 7,000 and Sadayankuppam village at a distance of 1500m in the eastern direction with a population of about 5,000,” the report said.

The devastation at a port in Beirut in Lebanon due to inadequately secured ammonium nitrate has set off alarm bells in Chennai. After news emerged that the port at North Chennai too has stores of nearly 740 tons of the same highly inflammable chemical, pressure is building on the Tamil Nadu government to act soon.

Stand with truth, Raj CM writes to MLAs

Jaipur (IANS): Ahead of the Rajasthan Assembly session scheduled to begin on August 14, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday wrote a letter to all MLAs, appealing to them to listen to the people’s voice to save democracy and to stand by truth.

The Chief Minister sought cooperation from them to what he called fulfil the promises of development and prosperity of the desert state.

“Victory and defeat are the part of elections. However, as a leader, you should stand with people. I hope you shall stand with truth. People’s mandate remains over and above everything. You should extend full cooperation in fulfilling promises made to the people. Leaders like Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and Atalji also faced defeat in elections. However, they never weakened the democratic traditions and constitutional values,” he added.

Gehlot alleged that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, a few of Congress MLAs along with the opposition lawmakers were engaged in a con-



spiracy to “destabilise our elected government, which is quite unfortunate”.

Gehlot recalled that in 1993-96, attempts were made to topple the state government led by BJP leader Bhairon Singh Shekhawat by buying and selling MLAs.

“At that time, as Union Minister of State and state Congress President, I met then Governor Baliram Bhagat and Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and opposed the very idea of toppling the elected government, stating that this is against our democratic values. Even the people of this state would never want such a tradition to be established in Rajasthan,” he added.

Official callousness led to Vijayawada blaze

It is time the State administration learnt a lesson from the ghastly fire accident that took place at Hotel Swarna Palace in Vijayawada on Sunday which claimed ten lives. Since the country is passing through testing times and is battling hard to fight the corona pandemic with no State having enough infrastructure facilities, many hotels across the country have been converted into quarantine centres. In Andhra Pradesh alone, 134 hotels have been given on hire to various hospitals to overcome the shortage of beds. Of them, Vijayawada has 20 hospitals. This could have been perhaps averted if the administration was alive to what was happening elsewhere. On Friday, a major fire broke out in Shrey Hospital in Ahmedabad which claimed eight lives. Thanks to the 'Bureaucratic Cholesterol', officials in AP never thought of waking up and never tried to find out whether the hotels which have been turned into quarantine centres and hospital rooms were safe or not. None of the Ministers and a whole lot of political party leaders who visited the hospital had any infor-

mation about this issue. All they could say was investigation was on. It is unbelievable that the State administration does not know how many hotels have taken NOC from fire department. The hotel associations claim that they have obtained NOC and that the administration had permitted to convert hotels into hospitals only after verification by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation officials. The Fire Department says as per the rules, NOC is not necessary for Swarna Palace building when it was a hotel because its height is less than 18 metres. This, again, is a funny reasoning. A hotel generally has a restaurant as well. How come it does not require NOC from the Fire Department? Secondly, even if we agree that this argument is true and that laws are archaic and no Corporation or Mayor or for that matter the State government ever bothered to have relook into the rules, the big question is why did not the Fire authorities take fresh look into the issue of NOC when the hotels were converted into hospitals. It is mandatory for hospitals to have NOC and also emergency exit routes in case of fire. Did they not know that inflammable material like spirit, sanitisers, masks, oxygen cylinders would be there? This is nothing but a classic example of extreme callous attitude. The only logical statement that came initially was that the fire could be due to short circuit. But many others came up with illogical statements saying that the fire took place be-

cause oxygen cylinders and sanitisers were stocked in the hotel and that sprinkling of sodium hypochlorite is also done as part of sanitisation activity. But no one could explain how they could spark fire. The Vijayawada fire incident also brought to fore another dirty angle. It showed that many people who are active on social media have become insensitive. They seemed to be blinded with love for one political party. Comments were posted on some social media that the hospital belonged to a person from a particular community and the previous government needed to be blamed for the incident as they never bothered to check the hotels. Let's agree for argument sake that the previous government was corrupt and negligent. But what was the present set up doing? Is it not their responsibility to correct the omissions and commissions committed by the previous regime? Why no official was able to give the list of hotels which have violated fire safety measures? Does it mean that all hospitals in Vijayawada are safe? At least that they should claim. Another aspect which needs to be investigated is the real time response of fire department. It is said the fire broke out at 4.30 am and the fire brigade was informed at 5 am and they took another neat 15 minutes to reach the place. Why this delay? Announcing ex-gratia is not the solution. The government should immediately review the situation, check all hotels turned into hospitals in the State

Challenges of Centre's new national education policy

DR RAMESH CHENNAMANENI

The recent National Education Policy (NEP) approved by the Central government is promising sea changes in the education system of the country. Though some intellectuals lost no time in praising this 484-page policy framework, others have cautiously but strongly expressed their objective view that not all changes proposed are desirable and may not be able to be implemented in the present politico-economic set up. However, it should be mentioned that there has been no in-depth brainstorming on this policy by the educationists, social scientists and political stakeholders in Telangana State. In the wake of the announcement of the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao that a new policy for Telangana is in the offing, this issue has definitely gained new importance.

The NEP only provides a broad direction and is not mandatory to follow. Since education is a concurrent subject (both the Centre and the State governments can make laws on it), the reforms proposed can only be implemented collaboratively by the Centre and the States. The proposal to increase allocations to education sector from the present 1.7% to 6% of GDP is highly appreciable, which has to be implemented by both the Centre and the State governments. The incumbent government has set a target of 2040 to implement the entire policy.

Concerning higher education, the proposed 4-year course, measuring the students' performance by credit points, providing exit possibility from courses or partially taking part in them, choice of curriculum incorporating humanities, social sciences, scientific and technical subjects etc. are in line with globalisation trends. This facilitates number of foreign universities to work in India.

There is indeed a strong necessity of integrating vocational education in the system, however, if skills and technology are one pair, study and research are the other pair. One cannot ignore them. This is also a big challenge before us. One can visualise the emerging contradictions between the objectives of Right to Education and National Education Policy. The conflicting interest of the State and the market in higher education is essential to understand the functioning of a university. For example, there is no attempt made in the NEP to control the private education sector. On the contrary, it has suggested freehand for them to decide about the fee structure. Given this background, it becomes very necessary to study and analyse the objectives, methods, implementation strategies of the privatisation of the education sector and its implications on our children and the society as well as systems which promote this sector from the politico economic perspective.

In a letter to Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore compared his educational experiment at Santi Niketan to a vessel carrying the cargo of his "life's best treasure." He spent forty years of his life establishing Vishwa-Bharati, which had wide influence in Europe, Japan and the United States. It was a unique educational institution, which emphasised the education as holistic and of the whole person. Sadly, in today's India, his ideas about education do not find an appropriate place.

The commoditisation of higher education has gained acceptance in the last decades. In India, there has been a paradigm shift in the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017) of higher education for "For-Profit Institutions". The Twelfth Five Year Plan has favored an approach that has endorsed private capital in higher education with an eye on profit generation. Many States, including Telangana have endorsed it and have even granted permissions for private universities.

It is astonishing to see today an array of individuals and societies such as corporate companies, religious organisations, hoteliers, realtors, and liquor barons offer private higher education in the country. In India, the so-called "meritorious" students endowed with cultural capital are admitted to subsidised public institutions of learning, which are relatively of higher quality, while the rest join in low-quality mass private institutions that charge huge fees, also known as self-financing. Unfortunately, the development of differentiated or stratified higher education system is not challenged at a significant level in a democratic country like India. Instead, the government is encouraging and partly supporting through affirmative action policies of entry of the market in higher education such as through fee reimbursement. The user pay principle which has led to the dominance of the freedom to choose the product over the freedom to choose the provider partly explains the mushrooming of private institutions offering market-oriented professional courses. If education ceases to be supported by the government, then education no longer can serve the larger interests of people. How come that though we have presently excellent long-term strategic programs such as Mission Kakatiya (Resource Economics), Haritha Haram (Environmental Economics), Revenue and Administrative Reforms (Institutional Economics), Rytu Bandhu & Rytu Samanvaya Samiti (Political and Social Science), Mission Bhageeratha & irrigating one crore acre through Kaleshwaram (Sustainability) which are neither integrated in education nor in research programmes at our colleges and universities?

The conflicting interest of the State and the market in higher education is essential to understand the functioning of a university. The motive of the former is to serve society while the objective of the latter is to serve the private interests of students/consumers/clients. Earlier, in the sphere of teaching, learning used to be across the spectrum of disciplines without a perfect symmetry or homogeneity. Today's situation is that students and parents show strong favoritism for profit-oriented homogenous curriculum, which will make their children employable. In this way, market shapes the popularity and availability of courses to the students such as short-term vocational and specialised courses to draw lucrative fees. Likewise, market drives the research agenda of the universities as resources for research in life sciences, medicine, engineering or economics are abundant while resources for research in philosophy, linguistics, history, sociology, environment and literature are scarce. The current international debate on "21st-century skills", also in the backdrop of current corona pandemic, between (a) purely knowledge-oriented view of education and oppose recent shifts towards (b) competency-based approaches in education gains high importance. That means, in solving problems that are usually complex, humans have to apply knowledge—often incomplete knowledge—in contexts where the conditions are often uncertain in order to offer a practical solution to a real-world challenge. Problem-solving is often referred to as a cross-curricular competence in the sense that solving problems in the real world obliges people to draw on deep levels of knowledge and outstanding analytical capabilities from different fields and disciplines.

The new trends of "philanthropic consultants" and "volunteerism" practices fit into the neoliberal economic system. New ways of organising the gifting of time and money are growing at an extraordinary rate. These legitimise the neoliberal economic and political system by providing the "human face" of the market. It looks as though the conventional leaders have perfected the art of concealing the outward appearance as real. Philanthropic involvement appears as voicing the aspiration to cut the State involvement from welfare, whether education or health: this makes the State not to provide certain basic fundamental services to its citizens and explain that there is no need for it to do so as private agents will take care of them. In this neo-philanthropic era, philanthropy has become a welfare part of market activities, thus making partial withdrawal of the State in education or health legitimate. However, experience from all the world and our own experience convincingly shows that education as also health should be considered as public goods and not private goods and the vital services arising out of them have to be provided by a modern welfare state in the more accessible form to all its people. Given this, are we in a position to mold the national education policy to achieve these objectives?

(The writer is member of Telangana Legislative Assembly and Humboldt expert in Agriculture, Environment and Cooperation. Views expressed are personal)

Could collective dips help prevent Covid-19?

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala

The two areas of the Union government's expenditures on healthcare are curative and preventive. Let us consider the curative first. According to the National Health Accounts Estimates for India, 2018, published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), the government spent Rs 9,134 crore in 2015-16 on the 31 lakh government employees; or about Rs 7,000 per person if we include their families. In comparison, the expenditure on the non-government citizens was Rs 38,794 crore on 131 crore persons or a meagre Rs 296 per person. This includes expenditures on government-financed health insurance. The primary objective of MoHFW has, howsoever unwittingly, become to serve the government employees and, by default, not the public.

Secondly, in the Budget for 2020-21 MoHFW, which promotes the allopathic system of medicine, has been allocated Rs 63,000 crore; while the Ministry of AYUSH, which promotes alternative systems like Ayurveda and homeopathy has been allocated a meagre Rs 2,100 crore. No doubt, the allopathic system is doing a great service to the country by brining certain cures such as placing stent in the heart that are not available in the AYUSH system. At the same time, the AYUSH system is more oriented at providing systemic treatments. Thus, while MoHFW provides cure for heart patients replacing one stent with the another; the Ministry of AYUSH prevents the need for a stent. Yet the Union government allocates more money to cure and less to prevention. The reason for this lopsided allocation appears to be that Multinational Health Companies (MNCs) supply the instruments and medicines that are promoted by MoHFW.

Thirdly, within the MoHFW budget, there is a lopsided allocation in favour of hi-tech treatments like stents that are called 'tertiary', and less on primary and secondary treatment. In a paper titled 'Health Care Financing Reforms in India' published in 2012, Govinda Rao of the National Institute of Finance and Public Policy pointed out that the National Health Policy had placed a target of 10 percent expenditures on tertiary care, but the actual is 28 percent. Once again, the MNCs are the beneficiaries of these expenditures.

Fourthly, as pointed out by Govinda Rao, most of the government health expenditures are used up in paying salaries to government health workers. I have not been able to access the share of salaries in the health expenditures of the Union government. However, the share was 83 percent in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

One step towards the correction of these anomalies in MoHFW, as suggested by Advisor to Niti Ayog Rakesh Sarwal, is that the Central government health service should be converted into a universal health service so that the expenditure on government employees and people becomes equal. The second step is to increase the allocations of AYUSH and reduce those of tertiary treatment. The third step is to fix a maximum ratio of salaries in the health budget and, in case of a budget crunch, reduce the salaries of government health workers. No purpose is achieved by paying them salaries without any medicines to dispense and beds to treat.

The second area of our health system is preventive care which includes vaccinations. A problem here—in respect of Covid—is that the virus is changing rapidly. Therefore, a vaccine against Covid of yesterday may not be effective against Covid of tomorrow. Another problem is that the performance of our preven-



A paper by Vaidya Vachaspati Tripathi published on the Uttar Pradesh government website says that taking bath in the rivers in during the Kumbh leads to development of immunity. Large numbers of pilgrims spread miniscule amounts of various disease-creating viruses and bacteria in the water. These enter the bodies of other pilgrims during the dip and prompt the body of the healthy pilgrim to fight these viruses and bacteria and develop immunity. In his words, as told to me, "one dip is sufficient for good health till the next Kumbh." Such festivals lead to community transmission of immunity just as we fear community transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Subject to advice from the AYUSH Ministry, the government can announce a particular day when all citizens may be requested to take a dip in their nearby river or pond. The transmission of miniscule amounts of Covid-19 virus can develop collective immunity.

tive health within MoHFW is unsatisfactory. Govinda Rao says that only seven percent children do not get measles' vaccination in South America as against 30 percent in India. I think MoHFW will not be able to deal with Covid-19 by the vaccination route for both these reasons. The second issue in preventive care is our people need to change their lifestyles like partaking of garlic, giloy, ginger and turmeric; undertaking yoga and meditation; and getting more exercise and sunlight. The MoHFW has successfully launched campaigns in favour of iodine-laced salt and breast feeding of infants. A similar campaign can be launched by Ministry of AYUSH for promoting abovementioned changes in lifestyles; and, perhaps, providing free packets of garlic, giloy, ginger and turmeric to every household.

As said above, the total expenditure of the Union government on health of non-government citizens was Rs 38,794 crore in 2015-16. Of this, only Rs 12,000 crore was made on preventive health which included vaccination; information, education and communication; anti-smoking campaign; free distribution of masks; and testing for diseases like Covid-19, diabetes and cancer. The government must increase these expenditures drastically and cut those on hi-tech tertiary treatment. Such a measure will improve the immunity of our people, reduce the spread of Covid-19 and ultimately reduce the burden on MoHFW for providing curative care.

The third issue is to explore a different social paradigm. A paper by Vaidya Vachaspati Tripathi published on the Uttar Pradesh government website says that taking bath in the rivers in during the Kumbh leads to development of immunity. Large numbers of pilgrims spread miniscule amounts of various disease-creating viruses and bacteria in the water. These enter the bodies

of other pilgrims during the dip and prompt the body of the healthy pilgrim to fight these viruses and bacteria and develop immunity. In his words, as told to me, "one dip is sufficient for good health till the next Kumbh." Such festivals lead to community transmission of immunity just as we fear community transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Subject to advice from the AYUSH Ministry, the government can announce a particular day when all citizens may be requested to take a dip in their nearby river or pond. The transmission of miniscule amounts of Covid-19 virus can develop collective immunity.

The main difficulty in implementing these measures is the interests of the MNC suppliers of hi-tech curative medicine and the well-meaning and, at the personal level, very kind team of doctors who unwittingly get focused on treating the individual high income patients not realizing the resulting exclusion of the majority. The MoHFW is focused on eating the dessert not realising that the body will collapse without nutritious dal and roti.

The Covid-19 pandemic is not going away anytime soon. We certainly need to provide curative treatment to those affected but even more we need to put in place preventive measures of a campaign to effect a change in lifestyles, free distribution of garlic, giloy, ginger and turmeric and developing creative solutions like community bath as is done during the Kumbh and as was perhaps done in the Great Bath of Mohenjo Daro. The doctors treating Covid-19 patients are forced to make a choice between who will live and who will die. The choice before the government is whether the few will live and many will die?

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

Modi and his Hindutva agenda

The foundation was laid for a huge Ram Temple in Ayodhya on August 5. The ceremony was live streamed in all channels for hours together. It shows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's power is indeed nearing absolute, now that much of the media serves as the horses on his chariot, now that the Election Commission of India is so willing to overlook his and his party's violations of ECI rules; and now that courts so often return judgments that turn out to be favourable to his cause—for example in awarding the temple property to the party who committed and/or supported a crime there; for example in repeatedly putting off hearings related to the forceful takeover and dismemberment of Jammu and Kashmir; for example in propping up long and poorly explained detentions of anti-CAA-NRC protestors and activists. Picking August 5 for the temple ceremony did not erase the fact that it was also the first anniversary of the democratic death of J&K—it deliberately highlighted it, in the most menacing way possible. It was a reminder to the Muslims of India that Hindutva is in charge, and that they should know their place in the new order. The country cheered Modi's repression of Muslims in J&K, and silently accepted the verdict on Ayodhya. What more could Hindutva possibly want?

Dr Nazneen Begum, Hyderabad

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AP govt should act fast to prevent hooch tragedy

This is with reference to reports on the growing number of deaths due to consumption of sanitizer in AP and also seizure of cartons of liquor bottles being smuggled from the neighbouring Telangana. Even more horrifying was the report of hooch tragedy in Punjab. The police and the excise staff are being blamed for the Majha tragedy that has claimed many lives. While the Punjab government has ordered the formation of two special investigation teams, a parallel magisterial probe has also been ordered. Police officials have been asked to furnish a detailed report on the investigations, recoveries, arrest of bootleggers, FIRs lodged and the statements of victims and witnesses. A list of the excise officials deputed in these areas and a record of the production and ownership of the distilleries have also been sought. The liquor business had gone underground during the lockdown. Shutting down of shops and vends affected not only sales, but also the revenue of States. With hotels and bars out of bounds, sales seem to have got diverted to black alleys, that too of spurious stuff. The tragedy in Punjab is being blamed on the leakage of de-natured alcohol from distilleries. Taking all these developments in view, the AP government should bring erring officials and racketeering liquor operators to book. It may require political will, but the loss of lives should be reason enough to ensure that the governments act resolutely.

Ankit Anumolu, Eluru, WG dist, AP



LETTERS

NEP ushers in a new era in education

By introducing 5+3+3+4 system of school education that foregrounds the inclusion of mother tongue as the medium of education and vocational education, the NEP has made far-reaching changes in educational pedagogy. School education in India has been very oppressive for children in utter disregard of child psychology.

When a child should be flexing and developing his/her muscles and imaginal buds, our system has been caging him in pigeon-holes of chairs and desks so that he/she may satisfy our whim of becoming a topper in the class. The NEP does well by liberating the pre-primary students from this tortuous ordeal. Education, they say, is an adventure of consciousness. The NEP 2020 rightly lays emphasis on the use of mother tongue in early school education. It is an acknowledged fact that a child learns best in his/her mother tongue.

By imposing a foreign language on him/her, we ask him to make a double effort: one to grapple with a foreign tongue, two, to learn something new. This is too much to ask even for adults, what to speak of a child.

Jaideep Bhosle, Tolichowki, Hyderabad

VIJAYAWADA MISHAP

Fire dept personnel save lives of 20 patients

- Two fire tenders from the fire station near police control room, located just about a distance of 1 km from the site of mishap rush to the hotel
- Fire tenders from Ajit Singh Nagar, Kotha Peta and Auto Nagar also pressed into service
- Personnel utilise ladders to climb on to first and second floors and rescue trapped Covid patients
- Case registered against hotel management for violating fire safety norms

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: Death toll in the fire accident could have been more if the accident site was far away from the fire station and the fire personnel reached the site late at the Swarna Palace hotel, which was transformed into a Covid care centre in the heart of the city on Sunday morning.

In all, 10 Covid patients lost lives due to suffocation in the fire accident which turned into a Covid care centre. Fire broke out at about 4.30 am from the ground floor and thick smoke engulfed the hotel up to fourth floor. About 30 Covid patients were in the first and the second floors and the rest were staff.



Rescue teams help the trapped Covid patients to scale down from the ladder in Vijayawada on Sunday

Luckily, two fire tenders were located at the fire station near the police control room, which is barely one km away from the accident site, rushed to the hotel and rescued more than 20 persons.

The fire and police personnel swung into action and climbed the first and second floors with the help of ladders and rescued more than 20 persons. The fire department personnel successfully extinguished the fire in 20 minutes and controlled the intensity of the mishap and property loss. Consequently, the external damage to the hotel building was very less. In the meantime, four more fire tenders from Ajit Singh Nagar, Kotha Peta and Auto Nagar rushed to the spot.

If the fire tenders were located far away from the hotel, the casualties would have been very high, felt a fire department staff who participated in the rescue operation. Panicked with the unexpected fire accident, two persons jumped from the second floor to the ground on the road and sustained fractured injuries.

Fire department staff who took part in the rescue operation said the panic struck persons broke open the glass windowpanes and jumped to the ground to save their lives. They were shifted to the hospital. Meanwhile, the fire department registered a case on the hotel management for violation of fire safety norms.

7 of the deceased are from Krishna dist

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: The police have identified the 10 deceased persons in the fire accident that took place on Sunday morning at the Swarna Palace hotel here, which was converted to Covid care centre in Vijayawada.

Among them seven are from Krishna district, two are from Prakasam district and one from Guntur district. Dokka Siva Brahmaiah (59) from Machilipatnam was admitted at the Covid care centre after he tested positive for Covid-19 three days back. Potluri Purnachandra Rao (80) of Kodali village in

Ghantasala mandal of Krishna district. Sunkara Babu Rao (80), retired Sub inspector of police, Ajitsingh Nagar, Vijayawada. Majji Gopi (54) from Machilipatnam, Krishna district.

S Ratna Abraham (48) and S Rajakumari from Jaggaiahpet of Krishna district. Mad-dali Raghu from Moghalrajapuram, Vijayawada. Among the 10 persons who died in the mishap, three are women.

G Venkata Jayalakshmi (52) and Venkata Narsimha Pavan Kumar of Kandakuru, Prakasam District. Kosaraju Suvarnalatha (42) a housewife from Nidubrolu of Guntur district.

Minor fire in shipping boat at VPT

No casualties reported

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: A minor fire broke out from a coastal shipping boat at Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) on Sunday.

Initially, smoke emanated from West Q5 berth where the BD51 ship from Chennai was anchored. The coastal ship is used to shift crew to cargo ships.

The staff observed smoke emanating from the ship cabin room and immediately alerted the port fire brigade who responded swiftly to put off the smoke thus averting any mishap.

VPT Chairman K Rama Mohan Rao said that there's a possibility of a short circuit in the vessel. "The smoke was detected and con-



Smoke emanating from BD51 ship at Visakhapatnam Port Trust on Sunday

trolled immediately as the firefighters stepped in to bring the situation under control. The smoke originated from oil-soaked waste jute and cotton and boiler suits left at the cabin. However, the vessel

is safe as there is no damage recorded," said the Chairman of the VPT.

According to the port officials, no casualty or injury was reported for any person at the vessel.

10 patients die in Covid care fire accident in AP

Continued from P1

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy announced Rs 50 lakh ex gratia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the situation with Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy. "Anguished by the fire at a Covid Centre in Vijayawada. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover as soon as possible," tweeted the PM. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to those who lost their lives in the Hotel Swarna fire accident and Rs 50,000 to each of those who suffered injuries due to the fire. The government has constituted two teams to investigate the accident. One by Medical and Health department and the second committee was formed by Home department. The deceased were shifted to the Government hospital for the postmortem.

Health Minister Alla Nani, who visited the Swarna hotel, briefed media that 43 persons, including 30 patients and 13 staff of hotel and Ramesh hospital were at the time of mishap.

Swarna Palace hotel, which is one of the oldest hotels in the city, is located in the heart of the city. Due to Covid lockdown the hospital was closed since March. Recently, Dr Ramesh hospitals took the hotel for lease and changed to Covid care centre.

Home Minister Mekatoti Sucharita said that the hotel had violated safety norms and sought officials to submit a report in 48 hours. DGP D Gautam Sawang visited the Swarna hotel and spoke to the commissioner of police B Srinivasulu and Fire department officials. District collector Md Imtiaz and others supervised the rescue operations.

Covid spread touches new heights in pilgrim city

- The district tally nearing 17,500 mark in which Tirupati accounts for about 9,000 cases
- The death toll is increasing rapidly with 52 deaths are reported since August 1

V PRADEEP KUMAR

Tirupati: The Covid-19 spread is intensifying in Chittoor district and more so in Tirupati with the tally has been reaching 17,500 mark. The indications strongly predict that the cases in August will be of no match to previous

months as the daily cases have been almost nearing 1,000 continuously for the last three days. Up to July 31, there were 11,789 positive cases out of which 10,177 have been reported in July itself.

Since August 1, around 6,000 cases were registered till now. The government has been saying continuously that the cases will skyrocket to unimaginable numbers in August which may take the district tally to somewhere around 30,000 mark by the end of this month.

The pilgrim city has started its Covid journey rather slowly but gained momentum within no time to occupy top place in the district with no other mandal can come

closer to it soon. The City and its rural segment together account for about 9,500 cases which is about 54 per cent of the district total.

The death toll has also been maintaining the pace with the increasing number of cases. As against 10 deaths up to June 30, July month alone witnessed 106 deaths whereas during the first eight days in August as many as 52 deaths were registered taking the total deaths to 168.

Though many officials were of the view that people have been ignoring the norms and moving freely without any hesitation and precaution which is causing the severe spread of the deadly virus.

When community spread of virus has started people should be more cautious and maintain self-restraint in moving around, they opined.

Even after containment norms were imposed in Tirupati and various other places, the cases are going up unabated due to careless attitude of people during relaxation hours as there was no enforcement mechanism. The officials have been concentrating on providing more infrastructure to meet the ever-increasing requirement. They have taken up the process of recruiting more doctors, nursing staff and data entry operators among others keeping in view the increasing needs.



743 TTD employees test Covid +ve; Of them 402 discharged after treatment

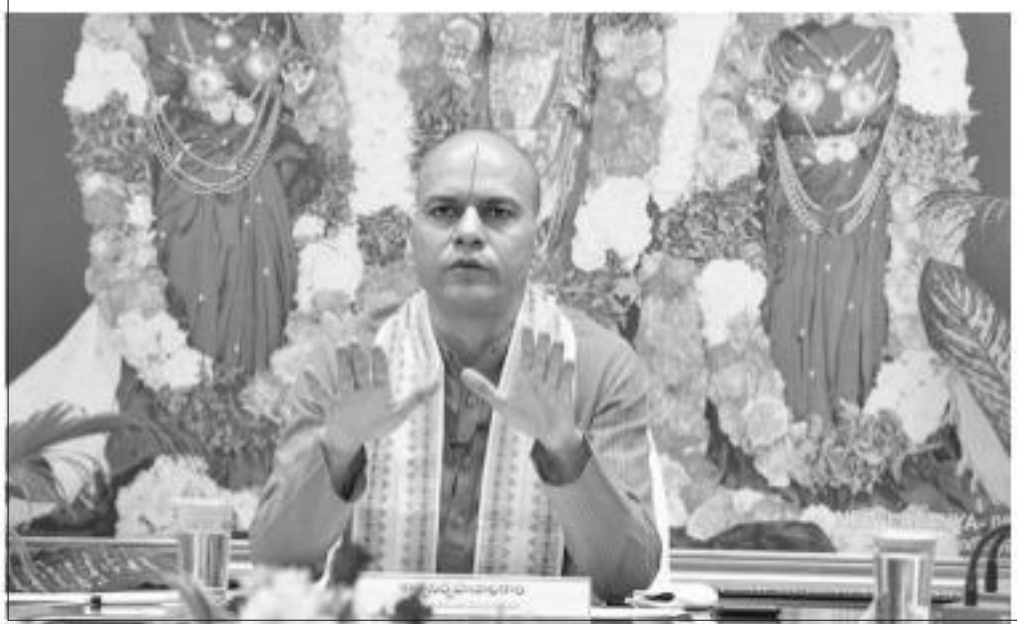
- EO Anil Kumar Singhal says the TTD is strictly following Covid guidelines in allowing darshan for pilgrims
- Trust Board meeting scheduled to be held this month end to take a call on conduct of Srivari Brahmotsavams next month

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: Now it is official. As many as 743 TTD employees were infected with Covid 19. Among them, 402 were discharged after they fully recovered from the virus after treatment. The remaining are undergoing treatment in various hospitals in the city, according to TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal.

Speaking to the media after the monthly 'Dial Your TTD EO' programme held at the TTD administrative office here on Sunday, Singhal said the infected include the religious staff like Archakas involved in Nithya Kaikaryams (daily rituals) in TTD temples including the famed Sri Venkateswara temple, Tirumala and also other than religious staff like security personnel, health and sanitation staff and employees at reception and government SPF police etc.

Three employees died of Covid-19 while a former chief priest of Tirumala temple and a



TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal addressing the media at the administrative office in Tirupati on Sunday

relative of an employee also fell prey to coronavirus.

The TTD on its part is extending all support for the treatment of the corona infected while senior officials including a Joint Executive Officer and three deputy executive officers who are specially deputed for Covid affected employees care are looking after prompt admission, treatment in hospitals and monitoring the positive patients condition on daily basis to ensure their speedy recovery, Singhal explained putting at rest the reports including on social media indicating the number of affected employees are much more and TTD neglecting the employees.

Most of the cured employees resumed duties, he said and added that best possible arrangements are in place at all places where pilgrim movement is more

like temple, reception counters, Annadanam complex and tansure centres to prevent the spread of virus.

Resenting the criticism on social media against the TTD for continuing darshan amidst rapid increase of Covid cases in the districts more so in Tirupati city where the positive cases are nearing 10,000 only with an eye on revenue, Singhal said it is not for income the temple is being opened but only to fulfill the ardent desire of devotees longing for darshan of the Lord for long.

The TTD trust board and management resolved to open the shrine for darshan following the Centre relaxing Covid curbs nationwide in June and darshan is going on strictly adhering to the government guidelines, he asserted.

"The TTD is continuing the

darshan facing heavy odds, involving huge men and machinery to ensure safety of pilgrims," he observed.

The revenue TTD is getting after darshan resumed is insignificant compared to about Rs 150-200 crore it (TTD) has to spend monthly towards wages, maintenance, conduct of daily rituals, Utsavam and other expenses. Irrespective of darshan, he pointed out.

In the same breath the EO said the TTD is able to meet this big expenditure so far without touching its corpus fund.

The TTD had netted an income of Rs 20.66 crore through Hundi offerings in July. This includes the cash offerings in the Hundi in Tirumala temple which was Rs 16.69 crore and Rs 3.92 crore received in e-hundi that is offered by devotees through electronic fund transfer.

A total of 2.38 lakh had darshan of Lord Venkateswara and 11.35 lakh laddus were sold in July this year.

On the conduct of annual Brahmotsavams in September, he said the TTD Trust Board which will meet this month end will take the call on the conduct of the fete.

Replying to a question on the issuance of off line Sarva Darshan tokens which was suspended since July 21 here, Singhal said the TTD will consider resuming the issuing of tokens in view of the Municipal Corporation relaxing the curbs in the city.

10,820 new cases reported in AP

- Total cases rise to 2.27 lakh
- Over 24.87 lakh Covid tests conducted so far
- Positivity rate increases from 2.16 % in June to over 16 % now

Amaravati: Yet another record high per day cases of 10,820 saw Andhra Pradesh's Covid-19 tally rocket further up to 2.27 lakh on Sunday.

The coronavirus toll crossed the 2000-mark as 97 fresh fatalities were reported in the last 24 hours, the latest bulletin said.

The total number of recovered patients touched 1.38 lakh as 9,097 got cured in the last 24 hours, leaving 87,112 active cases in the State. The recovery rate improved to 60.88 per cent.

After 24.87 lakh sample tests, the cumulative positivity rate climbed up to 9.16 per cent against the national average of 8.93 per cent. The current positivity rate is over 16 per cent over the past few days as the State has been reporting cases in excess of 10,000 per

day in the last five days. "What we are witnessing is a peak curve. Our infection positivity rate was less than one per cent till May (during lockdown), which increased to 2.16 per cent in June and 12.33 per cent in July (post-lockdown)."

Now it is about 16.24 per cent," Special Chief Secretary (Health) K S Jawahar Reddy pointed out.

East Godavari and Kurnool districts continued to report new cases at an alarming rate while West Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Anantapur and Guntur too are witnessing a high surge.

In the last 24 hours, East Godavari reported 1,543, Kurnool 1,399, West Godavari 1,132 and Visakhapatnam 961 coronavirus cases.

Guntur reported 12 fresh Covid-19 deaths, Prakasam 11, Chittoor and West Godavari 10 each, Anantapur, Kadapa and Srikakulam eight each and Kurnool seven in the last 24 hours.

East Godavari and Visakhapatnam had six fresh fatalities each and Krishna and SPS Nellore four each, with Vizianagaram rounding up with three deaths.

Public transport to take electric mode in TS

Continued from P1

As a first step, the Government is considering to set up 100 charging points to promote electric vehicles in GHMC limits with the involvement of state Energy department. In the next step, private players will be invited to offer electric charging services to the EVs across the state. Officials said that availability of abundant power and strong transmission network in Telangana state will be an added advantage to encourage the EV manufacturing industries. "Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is keen to enforce EV policy under TSIPASS industrial policy. The CM is likely to hold a high-level meeting with energy, industry and other stakeholders to finalise the sops to EV industry under the new policy soon," revealed an official.

Etah artisans make 2,100 kg bell for Ram temple

Continued from P1

The bell cost them Rs 21 lakh. From the initial plan to design finalisation to manufacture, the entire manufacturing process took around four months. "Final touches are needed before it is sent to Ayodhya," said Shubham Mittal.

The Mittals had also presented a 51-kg bell to Yogi Adityanath, when he came to Etah to address his first public meeting after becoming the Chief Minister. Earlier, Dayal had cast a 101-kg bell put up at the Kedarnath temple in Uttarakhand. "This is the largest and the heaviest bell we have worked on, so far. We had also cast a 1,000-kg bell for the Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain," he said. Dayal, a fourth-generation bell-maker, said that making bells for schools was a part of his business. He said that the bells cast in Jalesar's soil ring better. The sound of the bell, prepared for the Ram temple, can be heard up to 15 km, he claimed.

India bans import of 101 defence items

Continued from P1

Taking a cue from that, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) prepared a list of 101 items for which there would be an embargo on the import beyond the timeline indicated against them. This is a big step towards self-reliance in defence. It also offers a great opportunity to the Indian defence industry to rise to the occasion to manufacture the items in the negative list using their own design and development capabilities or by adopting the technologies designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to meet the requirements of the armed forces in the coming years.





Market is above individuals. The market is rational. An individual can never be smarter than the market

– Rakesh Jhunjhunwala



HANS INVEST

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IN SHORT

IndusInd picks stake in Eveready

IndusInd Bank has acquired more than seven per cent stake in both Eveready Industries India and McLeod Russel India by invoking pledged shares. The bank invoked pledge on more than 56.83 lakh equity shares of Eveready Industries to pick up 7.82 per cent stake in the battery maker. “The equity shares of Eveready Industries India Ltd held by Williamson Magor and Co Ltd were pledged with the bank for securing the outstanding dues of Seajuli Developers & Finance Limited (Seajuli), the borrower company. The bank has invoked the pledge held on aforesaid shares for recovery of its dues from Seajuli,” IndusInd Bank said. The company is in the business of manufacturing and marketing of batteries, flashlights and packet tea under the brand name of Eveready. The bank also invoked the pledge on more than 78.32 crore equity shares for recovery of its dues from Seajuli. The shares of McLeod Russel India held by Williamson Magor and Co Ltd were pledged with the bank.

Sebi rejigs norms for clearing corps

The markets regulator Sebi has amended international financial services centre (IFSC) guidelines pertaining to eligibility criteria and shareholding limit for clearing corporations that wish to operate in such centres. The decision, aimed at streamlining the operations of IFSC, has been taken after consultation with stakeholders, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said. Under the norms, any Indian recognised stock exchange or clearing corporation or any recognised stock exchange or clearing corporation of a foreign jurisdiction, will form a subsidiary to provide the services of clearing corporation in IFSC wherein at least 51 per cent stake is held by such exchange or clearing corporation, Sebi said. The remaining share capital may be acquired or held by any other person, whether Indian or of foreign jurisdiction. Besides, such person will not at any time, directly or indirectly, either individually or together with persons acting in concert, acquire or hold more than five per cent stake in a clearing corporation in IFSC, subject to applicable laws.

Forex reserves surge by \$11.9 bn

While announcing the monetary policy on Thursday, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said the reserves at \$534.6 billion are equivalent to 13.4 months of imports. The country's foreign exchange (forex) reserves hit an all-time high of \$534.568 billion after surging by massive \$11.938 billion in the week ended July 31, the RBI data showed. So far in FY2020-21 (up to July 31), the reserves rose by \$56.8 billion. In the week ended July 24, reserves had increased by \$4.993 billion to \$522.630 billion. The reserves had crossed the half-a-trillion mark for the first time in the week ended June 5. In the week ended July 31, the reserves rose due to gains in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves. FCAs were up by \$10.347 billion to \$490.829 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Mkts look to inflation, IIP data

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

On the back of additional measures for stressed sectors by RBI, positive global cues and 'green shoots' in economy, markets rebounded smartly from lows of the early part of the week ended to close on a positive note. During the last week, the benchmark indices -the NSE Nifty and the BSE Sensex advanced by 141 points and 433.68 points to close at 11,214 and 38,040 respectively. The broader market continued to outperform the frontline benchmarks; evident by 4.1 per cent rally in the NSE Nifty Mid-cap Index. Fiscal stimulus has been a key driver in the stock market's dramatic recovery from its March lows; and in its latest policy meeting exercised a pause in its monetary policy, deciding to use future rate cuts judiciously to maximize the beneficial effects, but gifted corporate India and individuals the respite of loan restructuring to ease the pandemic stress. Near term direction of the markets will be dictated by the US stimulus package, macroeconomic data, the rise and fall of Covid-19 cases, course of monsoon, crude oil prices, rupee movement and FII flows.

CPI inflation data for the month of July and industrial output (IIP) of industrial production (IIP) for June will be released on August 12 and 11 respectively, while on August 14 - WPI inflation and balance of trade for July, deposit and credit growth for week ended July 31, and foreign exchange reserves for week ended August 7 will be announced.

Liquidity

The gold market is far more liq-

MARKET Khabrein



CPI inflation data for the month of July and industrial output for June will be released on August 12 and 11 respectively, while on August 14, WPI inflation and balance of trade for July, deposit and credit growth for week ended July 31, and foreign exchange reserves for week ended August 7, will be announced

uid than the silver market. It also is larger in terms of the value of its annual supply. In 2019, the gold market was valued at \$24.5 trillion, more than five times the \$4.4 trillion value of the silver market. The relative lack of liquidity in the silver market could make some large-scale precious-metals buyers choose gold instead. This liquidity difference shouldn't be a problem for those wishing to trade smaller volumes.

Volatility

The silver market is more volatile than the gold market, which can be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on the type of investor involved. For traders wanting to make money from a run-up in prices, silver's additional volatility is helpful because more volatility means larger price swings that traders can try to exploit. Why is silver more volatile? One reason, as noted, is the size of the market. What's more, much of the

STOCK PICKS

across the states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Gujarat and Delhi. Buy for medium term target price of Rs70.

Mangalam Drugs and Organics Ltd is engaged in the manufacture of drugs, medicines and allied products. The company's geographical segments include domestic and export. It also manufactures active

silver supply is produced as a by-product of the mining of other metals such as copper and lead. That means higher prices for silver don't necessarily result in extra supply, which would tend to dampen a rally. Silver outperformed gold significantly in the most-recent two bull markets for gold. From 2001 to 2011 gold rose 636 per cent, while silver rallied 904 per cent over the same period. From 1993 to 1996, gold rose 28 per cent, while silver surged 63 per cent, again over the same time.

Diversification

Many investors add precious metals to their portfolio because prices of these assets tend to be uncorrelated to those of other securities such as stocks and bonds, thus reducing overall portfolio risk. When stocks zig, precious metals may zig, zag or do nothing at all. But when it comes to

diversification, gold has the edge over silver. Silver is more linked to the business cycle. When the economy is doing well, there is more industrial demand for silver and that can influence prices. There is little industrial use of gold.

Storage costs

Investments in silver or gold are

pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), intermediates and specialty chemicals.

Its API products include allopurinol, amodiaquine HCl and artemether. Its intermediates include 2-Aminodiphenyl Ether/2-Phenoxyaniline and 6-chloro-5-fluoro-1H-indole. Its specialty chemicals include L (+)-Menthol, 2, 3-Dihydrophthalazine-1 and 4-dione OR Phthalazine-1.

associated with certain expenses—specifically storage and insurance expenses—that most securities aren't. If stolen, precious metals are largely untraceable, so investors typically place their holdings in vaults or other secure facilities. The gold and silver ETFs mentioned above, for example, have annual expenses of 0.4 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively.

F&O/ SECTOR WATCH

Mirroring the underlying cash market, derivatives segment witnessed heightened activity in mid-cap stocks. The options data indicates aggressive put writing at 11,000 and 11,100 strikes with the maximum Open Interest also placed at 11,000 strike. This level could act as an immediate support in the coming week. Fresh Call writing was seen at 11,500 strike, which also

held the maximum OI followed by 11,300 strike. The overall option data indicates positive bullish undercurrent and Nifty may trade in a broader range of 11,000 - 11,500. The volatility index India VIX declined by 7.5 percent for the week to end at 22.38. It is pertinent to observe that the NSE Nifty 50 index price-to-earnings (PE) multiple reached an all-time high of 30.4 times its trailing 12-month earnings per share (EPS). The current valuation is 38 per cent higher than the 10-year average of 22x and over 50 per cent higher than the 20-year average of around 20x. Polarization remains the persistent theme - the top 15 stocks within the Nifty 50 are reflecting index levels of around 15k, while the next 35 stocks are languishing near the 8,400 levels.

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

Investors need to be stock-specific



K Naresh Kumar

Undoubtedly, we've to thank the US Fed for the extraordinary sharp reversal in equity assets across the world since the dip in March. Of course, it was followed and accompanied by the unparalleled fiscal response by the government's across the globe. Except the EU, which made a deliberate coordinated act, the rest of the world just coincided their response to the raging pandemic first with lockdowns of their economies then with monetary and fiscal measures. The unprecedented liquidity infusion ever in the history of mankind concurred with a never ever event of voluntary productivity closures.

After being awed by the steep crash in the global equities, the way they recovered is nothing short of stunning, something that almost none had anticipated. As the lockdowns gave way to gradual unlocking of economies, the markets began to perk up.

The negative interest rate regimes in a few countries, zero in many other and historic lower interest rates across the rest of the nations have increased the flows towards the riskier assets by investors trying to earn higher real

returns. This was one of the critical reasons for the hardening up of gold into historic highs.

Even as the economies warmed up to measured opening, many businesses are ground to a halt and the rest are only trying to get back to normalcy. Though, there're a few sectors/businesses which are thriving in this pandemic, those remain a minority. While people await the news of vaccines, the developments are only the beginning of the hope, as the actual administration would take a lot of time. This makes many advisors and investors to point out the disconnect of equity markets with the actual economy.

Is this insouciance or are we misreading the markets? A further analysis of Nifty 50, we could break the current market performance and the sectors on how they're doing. The sectoral weightages of the indices as on the Feb-20 when the markets are at historical highs, the largest contributor was from the Financial services (Fin Serv) which stood at 37.21 per cent, the next bigger weightage was from Information Technology (IT) at 13.28 and that of the Consumer Goods (FMCG) stood at 11.94 per cent while the other larger sector by weightage was Oil & Gas with 11.69 per cent.

The next month i.e. the march-end data shows that the Fin Serv was trimmed to 36.51 per cent and that of Oil & Gas down to 11.69 per

cent, while the composition of the FMCG and IT respectively were at 13.58 per cent and 15.04 per cent. The contribution of pharma to the broader index has increased to 2.72 per cent. The situation was grim at that time and traditionally defensive sectors of FMCG, IT and pharma turned favorites, thus reflecting their improved contribution to the index.



Combinedly, these five sectors have taken up a lion's share of 79.01 per cent by end-March in the index. Now, if we check the latest composition of the Nifty-50, Fin Service which still is the largest sector by weightage stands at 33.16 per cent down by little over four percentage points or a negative 10.89 per cent from the Nifty all-time highs. During the corresponding period, Oil & Gas sector has managed to grow by 42.94 per cent (though largely due to the price rise of Reliance Industries), while the pharma had an across the board participation with a whopping 52.89 per cent,

the composition bettered at 3.18 per cent.

The mid-March market low was a massive 37 per cent fall from the all-time highs of the NIFTY in mid-Feb of 2020. The liquidity driven market has given a fillip of about 45 per cent from the march-lows to the end-July index levels. While this looks like unreal for the market participants, what needs to be seen is that the market has been discounting the various changes happening to the market and also building the future cashflows of those sectors.

Though the entire experience was surreal for the investors, it also highlights the importance of staying in the market. Only those investors, who were vigilant to the change and had decent exposures to the rotating sectors, were benefited. Of course, in the hindsight everybody could be correct, while there's no guarantee that these sectors continue to outperform, only those who've read the situation better made profits. This also emphasizes the role of having a good advisor. In conclusion, the markets are not completely incorrect in their approach, maybe we weren't farsighted enough.

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

Swings turn narrower as volumes decline

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

The last week began with a weak note with a significant decline on Monday. However, the market recovered, closing higher in the remaining four days. Finally, Nifty settled with 142 points or 1.3 per cent gain at the end of the week. The BSE Sensex rose by 1.2 per cent. The broader indices were outperformed with Nifty Midcap-100 and Small-cap-100 advanced by 4.1 per cent and five per cent respectively.

On the sectoral front, Nifty Metal index gained most by 7.8 per cent and followed by auto with 3.8 per cent. The FMCG, pharma and realty sectors gained 1.5 to 2 per cent. The Pharma index closed above the prior swing highs and proved our bullish stance on the sector.

The Nifty support levels increased from 10,550 to 10,882 as it formed another higher low at the 200-DMA. As long as this support is protected, the market will consolidate furthermore time. In any case, it moves above the 11,341 or a recent swing high, the next level of resistance is placed at the channel resistance around 11,600. After a failed breakdown of the rising wedge, it moved into the rising channel. For the last three days, the Nifty is trading in the small range and forming indecisive can-



dle. This indecision or an oscillation within range is because of valuation worries. As it protected every bottom, the current nature of the market is to buy on the dips. In the consolidation phase, we may see high altitude swings or faster retracements. It may move upside, but the rise may be limited to around one per cent. As the 78.6 per cent retracement is at 11,377, first the Nifty needs to take out this level with higher confidence with a high jump kind of move. After Tuesday's move, it remained within 200 points range for the last three days during the week. The scrip-specific activity and the sector rotation is happening in the market. On the divergent indicators, including fundamental structure market, we need to be cautiously optimistic.

On the 75 minutes chart, the Nifty is oscillating around the channel resistance line. Even though it has broken out of the channel, post-breakout move is missing the confidence. It was sustaining above the

20-period average and forming an ascending triangle. A close above 11,257, will lead to at least 200 points up move. The Swings are becoming narrower and narrower. The volumes are declining for the past month. The

institutional participation is limited. In this condition, it isn't easy to trade index. The 20-DMA was acting as short term support, and incidentally, it is at the channel support line of 11,035. The 200-DMA and the swing low are at 10,850 and 10,882. Now, the market has to protect the 11,035-10,850 zone. Use this zone as trailing stop loss and be positive on the market. Once this zone support is violated, the Nifty may take support at the previous swing low of 10,550. Only below this level, the market turns bearish. As markets are trading at near lifetime high valuations, it is the right risk management that will be key for protecting the capital. The pharma is outperforming in the current market. NIFTY IT and the Metal indices are near breakout. Identify the outperformers and leaders in these industries to invest or trade.

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

Consolidation likely with marginal positive bias

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

The highest Open Interest (OI) is seen at 11,500CE and 11,000PE after the trading hours on last Friday (August 7). The NSE Nifty recovered from the crucial level of 10,800 and is expected to consolidate more above 11,000 for the week ahead (August 10-14). From the Monetary policy, the markets were expecting fresh triggers. The domestic stock markets consolidated around 11,200 in the first week of the August derivatives series as both FIIs and DIIs remained on the sidelines. If global markets continue to trade with a positive bias, similar reactions would be seen in Indian markets as well.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives), SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "From derivatives front, short covering was witnessed by Call writers at

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

11,000 strike, while Put writers added nearly hefty Open Interest at the same strike."

The 11,500 strike, which also recorded maximum Call OI addition of 12.37 lakh contracts, has highest Call OI of 23.30 lakh contracts followed by 11,300 strike, which witnessed Call OI addition of 11.28 lakh contracts, with 21.83 lakh contracts, 11,200 strike with 18.86 lakh contracts and 11,600 strike with 11.16 lakh contracts.

Coming to Put side, 11,000 strike, which added Put OI of 11.34 lakh contracts, has highest Put OI of 26.97 lakh contracts followed by 11,100 strike with 20.44 lakh contracts and 10,500 strike, which



recorded highest Put OI of 11.93 lakh contracts, with 19.98 lakh contracts.

Bisht adds: "After witnessing a pull back towards 11,000 level, Nifty witnessed a sharp recovery from lower levels and once again reclaimed 11,200 level last week on back of sharp short covering. Rally was supported by heavyweights like HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries along with metal counter." BSE Sensex closed at 38,040.57, a

net gain of 433.68 points or 1.15 per cent, from the previous close of 37,606.89 points. Similarly, NSE Nifty too moved up by 140.6 points or 1.26 percent, and closed the week at 11,214.05 points as against last week's 11,073.45 level.

"From technical front, still Nifty is trading well above its short and long term moving averages, while Bank Nifty would face strong hurdle at 21,950 to 22,000 zone. In coming sessions, we believe that volatility

will likely to grip the markets and bias would remain 'bullish' as far Nifty is trading above 11,000 levels. On higher side a break above 11,250 levels would once again add follow up buying into the index, so any dip into the prices should consider as buying opportunity," forecasts Bisht.

In the F&O space, the trading activity was relatively sluggish on the FII front as they offloaded Rs1,391 crore in index futures and also sold to the tune of Rs2,654 crore in the stock futures segment during the week. However, FIIs bought Rs2,895 crore in index options, according to data from ICICI Direct.com.

Global indices also continued their positive momentum as US markets are inching towards their life-time highs seen in February this year. The Dollar Index has breached its major support at 95

levels. It is currently hovering around 93. A round of reversal from these levels is expected in the dollar index.

India VIX declined by 6.7 per cent to 22.58 level. "The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 17.04 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 21.75 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 22.57 per cent and is expected to remain sideways. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.22. In stock futures on weekly basis there is a short covering seen in Tata Consumer, Chola Finance, Torrent Pharma and Bajaj Finance whereas a long build up seen in RBL bank, Sail, Apollo Tyres and Tata Motors. Next week, the stock should be on radar is Bandhan Bank where highest Open Interest addition seen in last week. If the stock sustain at the current level then we can expect a relief rally in the stock," remarked Bisht.

Bank Nifty

Recovering by 113.95 points or 0.52 per cent for the week, Bank Nifty closed at 21,754 points as against previous week's closing of 21,640.05 points. Bank Nifty continued to trade in a range where concentration of OTM Call writers and Put writers was more as 21,000 acted as support and 22,000 acted as a hurdle. The August futures and options (F&O) series had started with higher premiums, but as the series was progressing, premiums declined on the back of short formation at 22,000. This could be a positive trigger as for past few weeks, major rally was seen on the back of short covering.

As per ICICI Direct.com, major Call OI short formation level was at 22,000. Analysts forecast a close above these levels would open the gates for higher target of 23,000. However, the Bank Nifty witnessed major support near 21,000 for three times recently. Hence, analysts expect that this would provide a cushion.



Kashmir doc who treated patients for 4 months, dies

Srinagar: A doctor at the forefront of the battle against the coronavirus in Kashmir died on Sunday morning after contracting the virus that has infected over 21.5 lakh people across the country, so far, and killed more than 43,000.

Dr Mohammad Ashraf Mir, who health authorities said had been treating COVID-19 patients for the past four months, was admitted to the Shere Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar after testing



positive for the virus. He died this morning and his death has been widely mourned in Kashmir.

The Valley is seeing a spike in infections with 463 new Covid cases in the past 24 hours, according to data this morning. Of these, 382 are from Kashmir and the rest from Jammu.

Overall more than 24,000 cases have been reported, including 470 deaths linked to the virus. The number of active cases in the territory is around 7,000.

The administration has introduced RATs (rapid antigen tests) to detect the virus among people

entering the region via Lakhimpur in Kathua.

"We were using RT-PCR method earlier but recently the administration introduced rapid antigen test. We get the results in about half an hour using this method," Ashok Choudhary, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), told news agency ANI on Saturday. Although RATs produce quicker results, they are widely seen as less accurate than the RT-PCR method, which takes a longer time to produce a result.

Across the country nearly 200 doctors have died after contracting the virus, the IMA (Indian Medical Association) was quoted as saying by news agency PTI this week. A majority of whom were general practitioners (GPs). "As per the latest data collected by the IMA, our nation has lost 196 doctors, out of which 170 of them are above the age of 50 years, with general practitioners attributing to around 40 per cent of it," the IMA said in its statement.



Candidates appearing for B-Ed entrance examination undergo thermal screening while entering the centre, in Lucknow, on Sunday

44 PAC constables infected

Pratapgarh (IANS): Forty-four Constables who attended a passing-out parade on July 30 at the Reserve Police Lines in Pratapgarh district have now tested positive for coronavirus, an official said on Sunday. The parade was held after the newly recruited Constables completed their training at the Recruitment Training Centre at Reserve Police Lines. The samples of 199 constables who participated in the parade were later got tested at a special Covid-19 camp organised at the Reserve Police on Thursday. Pratapgarh SP Abhishek Singh said: "The newly recruited PAC Constables were asked to stay back after the passing-out parade for tests ahead of their postings. Of the 199 samples, 44 were found positive through an antigen rapid test." Apart from the Constables, Singh's driver and gunner have also been diagnosed as corona positive.

'Situation in Delhi under control'

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Covid-19 situation in Delhi is under control and the recovery rate is improving. Speaking at the inauguration of a hospital in Ambbedkar Nagar, he said in case the situation takes a turn for the worse, the government is fully prepared to deal with it. "The hospital was conceived in 2013. It is a 600-bed hospital. We are inaugurating the first 200 beds which will be used for the treatment of COVID-19 patients," Kejriwal said at the launch event. On the COVID-19 situation in Delhi, the chief minister said, "The situation is under control, all parameters good, recovery rate is improving, positivity ratio reducing and deaths have reduced." "I hope these 200 beds remain unoccupied... we never get to a situation where we have to use these beds. But even if the situation becomes bad again, we are fully prepared to deal with it," he added.

India gives 10 ventilators to Nepal

New Delhi: Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, India on Sunday handed over 10 ventilators worth Rs 28 million to Nepal. "India hands over ten ventilators worth Rs 28 million to Nepal. It was handed over to Chief of the Army Staff General Purna Chandra Thapa by Indian Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra in a ceremony at Grand Hall, Army Headquarters on Sunday," said Indian Embassy in Nepal. According to a statement issued by the embassy, "These ventilators are designed for a broad range of applications to include advanced invasive or non-invasive respiratory support. They can be used in support of secondary care in hospitals with ICU, tertiary multispecialty hospitals and dedicated ICUs. Further, due to their compact nature, they are portable and handy in the transportation of patients requiring intensive care."

Brazil surpasses 100K deaths

Rio de Janeiro (IANS): Brazil has registered over 100,000 deaths and more than 3 million cases of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), the government has reported. The Ministry of Health on Saturday stated that in the last 24 hours, 905 more deaths and 49,970 new cases were reported, bringing the national death toll to 100,477 and total caseload to 3,012,412, Xinhua reported. The state of Sao Paulo, the most populous in the country, has been the most affected during the pandemic, with 25,016 deaths and 621,731 cases, followed by Rio de Janeiro, with 14,070 deaths and 178,524 cases. Brazil is one of the countries hit the hardest by the pandemic, second only to the US, both in terms of the caseload and death toll.

Amit Shah recovers

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who had tested positive for Covid-19 and admitted to Gurugram's Medanta Hospital, has reportedly tested negative for the virus, party colleague Manoj Tiwari announced on Twitter. Shah, who is diabetic, was admitted to Gurugram's Medanta-The Medicity around 4:30 on Sunday evening. Ten minutes later, he put out a tweet in Hindi confirming that he was coronavirus positive. The 55-year-old leader said that he was swabbed for the novel virus after he presented initial symptoms. "My health is fine, but am being admitted to hospital on the advice of doctors. Requests all those who came in contact with me these last few days to self-isolate and get themselves tested," Amit Shah said.

Record cases in US

The United States set a record for coronavirus cases on Saturday, with more than 5 million people now infected, as the country's top infectious diseases official offered hope earlier this week that an effective vaccine might be available by year-end. With one out of every 66 residents infected, the United States leads the world in COVID-19 cases, according to a Reuters analysis. The country has recorded more than 160,000 deaths, nearly a quarter of the world's total. The grim milestone comes as President Donald Trump signed executive orders intended to provide economic relief to Americans hurt by the coronavirus pandemic after the White House failed to reach a deal with Congress.

J&K to appoint 200 nursing orderlies

Srinagar (IANS): The J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has directed to appoint 200 nursing orderlies to attend COVID patients, J&K Government Spokesperson Rohit Kansal said. In a tweet Kansal said the move came after J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on a visit to the SMHS hospital in Srinagar noticed the shortage of staff. Of the 200 nursing orderlies to be appointed, 100 will be for the Kashmir valley and 100 for the Jammu region. "Hon LG visits SMHS hospital; reviews COVID situation. On noticing a shortage of ward staff in isolation wards, directs immediate appointment, on a short term basis, of 200 nursing orderlies (100 each for Kashmir and Jammu) to attend to COVID patients in isolation," J&K Government Spokesperson Rohit Kansal tweeted. Deaths in



Bengaluru plasma donor plays saviour, saves 6 lives

Bengaluru (IANS): Kunal Ganna, a 21-year-old city-based businessman who recovered from coronavirus has emerged as a saviour, with his three plasma donations saving the lives of six infected patients, an official said on Sunday.

"Kunal's plasma has already saved three lives. He is looking forward to donate once more... he had donated three times to save six lives," said HealthCare Global (HCG) hospital associate dean Vishal Rao to IANS.

One of the recipients of Ganna's plasma was B H Natesh, a cardiologist from Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences.

On Saturday, Natesh met Ganna virtually on a zoom call and thanked him for donating the plasma and sharing his immunity to save his life.

The senior cardiologist tested positive for coronavirus on July 16.

"As his health deteriorated, Natesh was admitted in the ICU



of Apollo hospital on Bannerghatta road on July 21. He received high flow oxygen, Remdesivir and other standard treatments for Covid," said Rao.

Despite all these efforts, Natesh's health started deteriorating, prompting his doctors to consider plasma therapy.

On July 28, the cardiologist's colleagues and friends contacted HCG hospital plasma bank, managing a plasma donation from

Kunal Ganna. "Natesh received Kunal's plasma on July 28 while he was still in the ICU. Within three quick days, he made a recovery and was shifted to the ward after spending nearly five days in the ICU," said Rao.

On betterment of health, following the plasma injection, Natesh was discharged from the hospital in a stable condition on Wednesday.

According to Rao, Natesh at-

tributes his recovery from coronavirus to the administration of plasma and the unrelenting efforts of doctors.

Back in April, city-based HCG hospital had received the Central government's nod to conduct clinical trials to evaluate the efficacy of convalescent plasma therapy in Covid treatment.

Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI), V G Somani, the licensing authority for the therapy, listed 19 conditions in his sanction order for HCG to be met for executing the therapy evaluation while giving the permission.

"The idea behind this therapy (plasma) is that immunity can be transferred from a healthy person to a sick patient using convalescent plasma. This therapy uses antibodies from the blood of a recovered coronavirus patient to treat another critical patient," added Rao.

Rao and some of his colleagues collaborated with state-run BMC Victoria hospital in the city centre to commence clinical trials.

Karnataka Health Minister infected

Bengaluru: Karnataka Health Minister B Sriramulu tested positive for Covid-19 on



Sunday, barely a week after Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa tested positive for the viral infection last Sunday. Taking to Twitter, Sriramulu said that he was tested after he went down with flu-like symptoms. He added that he was hospitalised because he had been visiting the states 30 districts amid the spike in coronavirus cases in the state.

From the time of coronas appearance, I have had the opportunity to visit the 30 districts and work in harmony with the governments desire to treat people well. It is in this backdrop that I am going to be hospitalised and treated, he said in Kannada in a series of tweets. All those who have been in contact with me recently have been requested to take precautionary measures, he added. To reassure the people of Karnataka, the health minister said, under the leadership of the chief ministers, all the departments of the state government, including the health department, have been working hard against the Covid-19 pandemic.

KERALA PLANE CRASH

Those involved in rescue ops to be tested

Kochi: The Kerala government will conduct COVID-19 tests of all the people involved in rescue operations at Kozhikode Airport as part of the precautionary measure, said K K Shailaja, Kerala Health Minister adding that they should go into self-quarantine. "All those who were involved in rescue operations at Kozhikode Airport should go into self-quarantine. State Govern-



ment will conduct COVID-19 tests of all," said K K Shailaja.

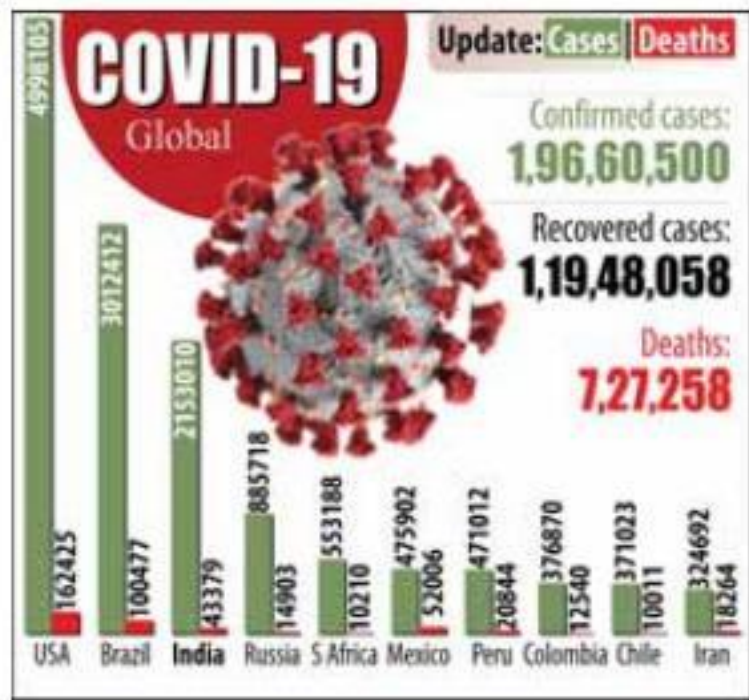
"All those who have participated in the rescue should inform the health department. Either contact the tollfree

numbers--1056, 0471 2552056, or control rooms--0483 2733251, 2733252, 2733253, 0495 2376063, 2371471, 2373901. The health department is making a list of all those who participated in the rescue operations," she added.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DG), Civil Aviation Ministry senior officials, Airports Authority of India, and Air Navigation Service

members will meet in Delhi on Saturday over the crash-landing of an Air India Express flight in Kozhikode on Friday.

Two special relief flights from Delhi and one from Mumbai for rendering humanitarian assistance to all the passengers and the family members of the Air India Express crash-landing incident reached Kozhikode earlier on Saturday.



Vitamins, minerals rich diet to fight virus

New Delhi (IANS): During a session held at the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), the health experts stressed the need for inclusion of vitamins and minerals in daily diet to build immunity for the battle against the COVID-19.

The present pandemic has brought the focus back on the role of vitamins as part of nutrition going beyond popular proteins and carbohydrates, they said on Saturday. The experts weighed in that traditional Indian foods and natural herbs are a potent combination to avert threat from the deadly virus. "There are several foods which are rich in natural minerals and nutrients, but we destroy their nutritional value in the course of our cooking and consumption prac-

tices. Wheat, which in its original form is Dalia, it has important

minerals like phosphorus. Still, in our strange wisdom we powder it into a refined maida which is nothing but starch and increases weight and risk of diabetes," said Dr Shikha Sharma, founder and managing director of Dr Shikha's Nutri-Health.

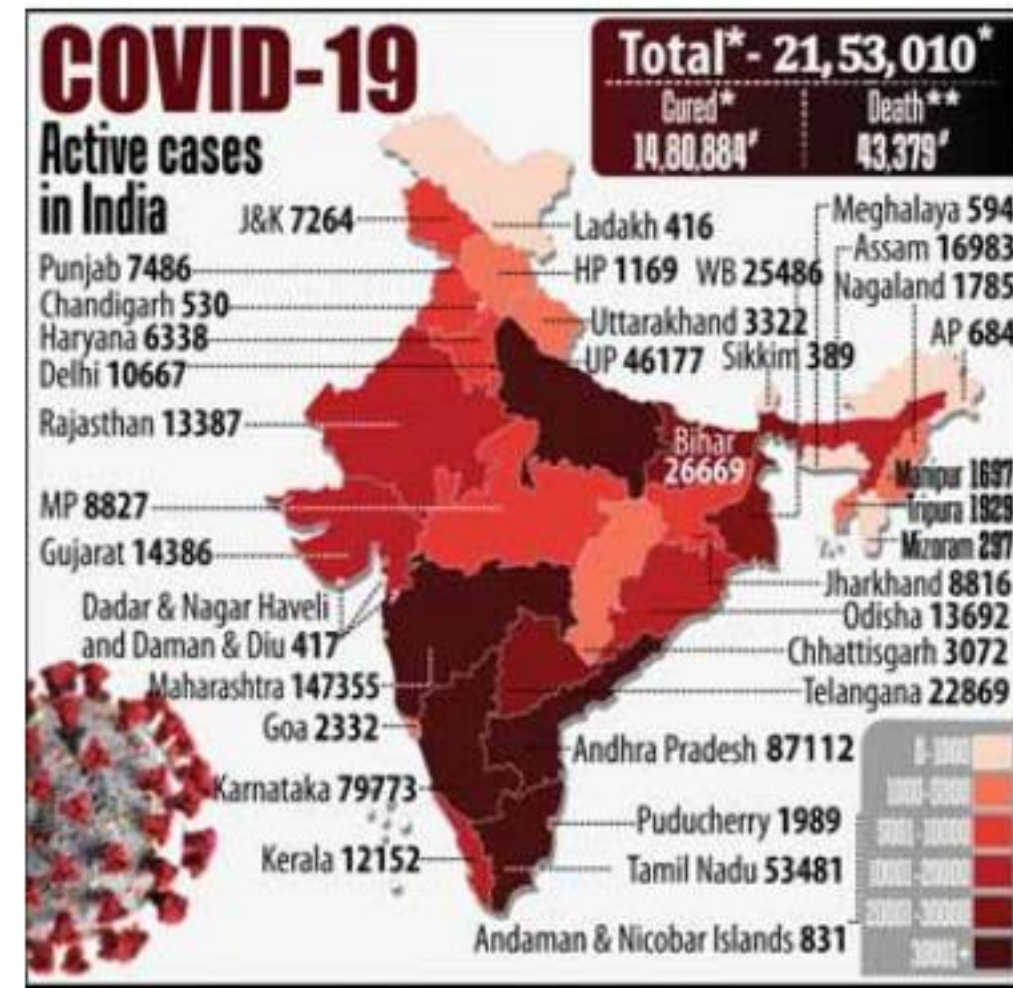
Dr Sharma named traditional food items and Ayurvedic herbs that can increase immunity level in the body. "Barley, Channa, Sattu, seeds - pumpkin, sunflower, chia and flax among others that can be included in diets for a nutrition boost across all age groups. Ashwagandha and Giloy are potent herbs that can be given to both seniors and children.



They purify the blood, build the body's immunity, reduce stress and keep intact, healthy pH

level in the body," she added. The session was held while concluding the second edition of the 'Illness to Wellness' series themed 'Building immunity through nutritious food during COVID-19' by ASSOCHAM.

The experts also dismissed the need for a protein or carbohydrate-rich diet, instead advocated for a wholesome, balanced diet especially in times of Corona. "The beauty of Indian traditions during COVID times is that we need the support of this amazing knowledge of Indian Ayurveda and traditions to beat it," Dr Sharma said.



‘Woakes England’s most under-valued cricketer’

Manchester (IANS): Former England captain Naseer Hussain feels Chris Woakes is the most under-valued England cricketer and he would have the all-rounder in the side for the second Test against Pakistan over veteran James Anderson.

Woakes stormed back to form with the bat as he hit a match-winning 84 not out for England against Pakistan in the first Test at Old Trafford. With England 117/5 chasing a target of 277, Woakes joined Jos Buttler in the middle and changed the tide of the game by taking the attack to the charging Pakistan outfit.

He ended up putting on a stand of 139 runs for the seventh wicket and while Buttler eventually departed on 75 off 101 balls, Woakes saw them over the line. This coupled with the two wickets he picked in each innings, including that of Babar Azam in the second, was enough to earn him the player of the match award.

“Chris Woakes is probably the most popular man in that dressing room, probably the most under-valued cricketer by England really,” Hussain said on Sky Sports.

“He always does it, he always goes under the radar and he is always the one who is left out because the superstars in that side - the 500-wicket boys, the nearly 600-wicket boy - but he is always there for England. He said on interview last night that he could do with a few more runs and he certainly delivered today!

“The other lad, Jos Buttler, he is in that inner-circle, in that think-tank. He’s had three difficult days, he’s dropped a couple of chances and with all the pressures of being on the field for virtually every moment, to go out and at the situation they were win



England’s Chris Woakes celebrates their win on the fourth day of the first cricket Test match between England and Pakistan at Old Trafford in Manchester, England

‘Pak can still win series despite Manchester loss’

Karachi (IANS): Former captain Inzamam-ul-Haq believes Pakistan can still go on to win the series against England despite suffering a heartbreaking defeat in the first Test at Old Trafford in Manchester.

Inzamam feels Pakistan have a better squad than England and can still go on to win the series. He, however, urged the players to not let their heads drop during matches when things aren’t going their way. “I think Pakistan team is better than England and we should have won the first

and play like he did - that will be a very popular partnership from Buttler and Woakes,” said Hussain, one of the most respected voices in world cricket.



Test. It’s very disappointing but I believe Pakistan can still win the series,” Inzamam said in a video uploaded on his YouTube channel ‘The Match Winner’. “When you are going through a rough phase, team’s body language should not change. This was clearly the case in the first

“These things don’t happen very often and that is why the Woakes innings is phenomenal. Jos Buttler in a run chase, he said they went into one-day mode a

little bit uneven, a little bit of spin, two wrist-spinners, a bloke who is struggling for runs - can’t buy a run - dealing in binary digits, to go out and be 80-odd not out and win the game with his batting, that is the bit that surprised everyone.

“On top of that, England were not playing the extra batsman, they left out Zak Crawley so everyone is saying is Woakes good enough to bat at seven? That was the innings that turned the game, it was Woakes.”

Hussain said if star all-rounder Ben Stokes is fit to bowl in the second game, England could go with Woakes over Anderson.

“If Ben Stokes is fit to bowl then England have got some

CAPTAIN MISSED A TRICK: AKRAM

Manchester (IANS): Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram feels current skipper Azhar Ali missed a trick during the team’s defeat in the first Test of the series against England at Old Trafford in Manchester.

Chris Woakes and Jos Buttler led the hosts to a thrilling three-wicket win over Pakistan on Saturday.

Following the defeat, Akram pointed fingers at Pakistan’s strategy and said they didn’t trouble Woakes much and he took the game away from them.

“It will hurt the Pakistan team and the cricket lovers in Pakistan,” Akram was quoted as saying by Sky Sports.

“Winning and losing is part of cricket, but I think our captain missed a trick quite a few times in this game, as far as his leadership is concerned.

“When Woakes came in, there were no bouncers, no short deliveries, they let him settle down and runs were coming easy,” he added

“Once the partnership got going, nothing happened - the turn didn’t happen, swing didn’t happen - and Buttler and Woakes just took the game away.”



“When Woakes came in, there were no bouncers, no short deliveries, they let him settle down and runs were coming easy,” he added

tough selections decisions to make ahead of the second Test and, I think this is the first time I have said this in my career as a broadcaster, I would have Woakes in the side ahead of James Anderson.

“Before this game I had Anderson ahead of Woakes but I think the way Woakes has played in this game, he has out-bowled Anderson and he’s obviously out-batted Anderson so he has the edge.

“If Woakes is fit, he plays. Stuart Broad plays and Dom Bess plays. I’ve always said, have two English type seamers - so I’d probably go Broad and Woakes - and then one tearaway. So that is between Jofra Archer and Mark Wood.”



Chhetri all praise for Messi after wonder goal against Napoli

New Delhi (IANS): India captain Sunil Chhetri was all praise for Barcelona talisman Lionel Messi after the Argentine turned it on once again in the UEFA Champions League to help his side stroll past Napoli in their Round of 16 fixture.

“Messi,” tweeted Chhetri with three folded hands emojis right after the Barcelona captain scored an outrageous goal in the 23rd minute to make it 3-1 in his team’s favour. “Stayed late after ages to watch live football - completely worth,” he tweeted later.

The second leg that was played at Camp Nou started at 1-1 with Barca having the away goal advantage. Defender Clement Lenglet took advantage of some poor marking to head in from Ivan Rakitic’s corner and gave Barcelona the outright lead.

Messi in the 23rd minute got the ball in the right hand corner



of Napoli’s penalty area, wriggled past three defenders and then lost his balance for a moment. He however picked himself up and managed to curl the ball into the far corner. He doubled their lead seven minutes later but the goal was disallowed by VAR.

Luis Suarez made it 3-1 on the night with a penalty while Lorenzo Insigne pulled one back for Napoli with another penalty. Both goals came in stoppage time of the first half as the second half was goalless.

Qatar stadiums look amazing for 2022 World Cup: Jung

Doha (IANS): South Korean footballer Jung Wooyoung stated that 2022 World Cup stadiums in Qatar look in top shape. Jung started his professional experience overseas, playing for clubs in Japan and China PR from 2011 to 2018 before joining Al Sadd of Qatar, where he is in his second season.

Having spent two years in the country that will host the next edition of the global showpiece, he is already well adapted to life in the Gulf.

“I never thought I’d love life here,” he told FIFA.com “Everyone is friendly and that has helped me adapt to this new lifestyle. In fact, I was delighted to find some Korean restaurants in Qatar. That said, I still share traditional Qatari meals with club-mates when we have our training camps. I love

eating lamb,” he said.

With two of the eight Qatar 2022 stadiums already opened, Jung has had the chance to play in both of them. “It’s wonderful to drive by the stadiums. Right away you feel a desire to play in them. We had several games at the Khalifa International Stadium and Al Janoub Stadium in Al Wakrah. It’s amazing. I can imagine how the players who will be coming to the World Cup in two years’ time are going to feel. I hope I’ll be in top form then so that I can keep my spot in the national team and take part in this big tournament.”

Jung has helped Al Sadd to win the Qatar Stars League, the Sheikh Jassim (Super) Cup and the Qatar Cup. The AFC Champions League, however, remains the team’s ultimate goal. “Unfortunately, luck hasn’t been on our side at conti-

mental level. We exited at the semi-final stage in the last two editions, but we aim to go all the way and lift the trophy. I think our chances improved when it was confirmed that we’ll play our remaining games in Doha and won’t have to travel. We’re determined to get back to winning things.”

Having shared the dressing room at Al Sadd with Spanish legend Xavi Hernandez, who is now the team’s head coach, Jung considers himself lucky. “I remember I used to watch him when he played at the 2002 World Cup. I continued to watch him as one of the stars of Barcelona and Spain. He had a fantastic career. It was great playing alongside him at Al Sadd, where we learned a lot from him. He is a great person and has a bright future as a coach.”

ADIDAS, PUMA LOOK TO FIGHT IT OUT FOR TEAM INDIA KIT SPONSORSHIP

New Delhi (IANS): Sports apparel companies Adidas and Puma are set for a head on battle to gain the rights to become Team India’s next kit sponsors as Nike’s 14-year deal with the ‘Men in Blue’ comes to an end in September 2020.

“Adidas and Puma have shown interest in becoming Team India’s kit sponsors. The entire process will be transparent and any deal that will be done will be in the interest of Indian cricket. This apart from Dream XI could also be a player,” a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) functionary told IANS. As per reports, Nike coughed up around Rs 370 crores to renew the kit sponsorship with the Indian team in 2016 that will finish on September 30 this year. It is believed that they paid around Rs 87,34,000 per game.



Andrea Pirlo announced as new Juventus head coach

Turin (IANS): Italian midfield great Andrea Pirlo has been announced as the new head coach of SerieA champions Juventus. Pirlo will replace Maurizio Sarri in the role, who was sacked after the Champions League exit and the 41-year-old former World Cup winner was announced as his successor.

“Andrea Pirlo today signed a two-year contract until 30 June 2022,” said Juventus in their statement.

The decision also comes just nine days after Pirlo was announced as the coach of the side’s under 23 squad. This will be the first managerial job for Pirlo, who retired from football



in November 2017.

Juventus was the last club Pirlo played for in Italy after a highly successful 10 years at AC

Milan. He won two Champions League titles, two UEFA Super Cups, two SerieA titles, a FIFA Club World Cup, a SupercoppaItaliana, and a Coppa Italia before joining Juve on a free transfer in 2011.

With the Turin giants, Pirlo won four more consecutive SerieA titles along with two SupercoppaItaliana titles, and a Coppa Italia. His final game for Juventus and in Europe was a 3-1 defeat to Barcelona in the 2015 Champions League final.

Pirlo is also the fifth-most capped player for Italy with 116 appearances. He played an instrumental role in their victory at the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

KXIP will be aided by Kumble’s knowledge and experience: Lee

Mumbai (IANS): Former Australia speedster Brett Lee heaped praise on former India captain Anil Kumble and stated the latter will do well as head coach of India Premier League (IPL) side Kings XI Punjab (KXIP).

Kumble, last year, had signed a two-year deal with KXIP and will take charge of the team during the 13th edition of the IPL, which is scheduled to be played from September 19 to November 10 in the UAE.

Lee, who played for Kolkata Knight Riders and Kings XI Punjab in the IPL, stated players will be helped by Kumble’s vast experience of the game as they search



for their maiden title. “Having someone like that (Kumble) in terms of the mix of the team and certainly the squad will be invaluable,” Lee said on Star Sports show Cricket Connected.

“The knowledge, the experiences, will definitely help. Kings XI need to win, they have got a great squad, they have got a wonderful team that can definitely get close and close but they have not got over the line yet, so, I’m actually waiting for that to happen. “A great franchise to play for, I put up my hand-up and say that was a lot of fun to play for that franchise,” he added.



Former Indian footballer Mani Tombi Singh passes away

Kolkata (IANS): Former Indian footballer Laishram Mani Tombi Singh passed away on Sunday. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) condoled the death of Mani Tombi.

He was a member of the Indian squad that triumphed the LG Cup at the Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam in 2002. The former international player was 39 when he passed away.

The right full-back came off the bench against hosts Vietnam on August 6, 2002 to make his international debut. Besides representing India in that tournament, he played in two friendlies against Jamaica at Watford and Wolverhampton.

Praful Patel, President, All India Football Federation, sent his condolence message: “It is sad to hear that Mani Tombi Singh is no more. I share the grief.” He represented India in the 2002 Asian Games in Busan as well. Kushal Das, general secretary, AIFF said, “Mani Tombi was a talented footballer and full of energy. May his soul rest in peace.”

At the club level, he captained Mohun Bagan to win the Airlines Gold Cup in 2004. He donned the green and maroon colours for consecutive two seasons (2003-2004) wherein he scored three goals. He was part of Mohun Bagan’s triumphant IFA Shield campaign in 2003.



2022 CWG organisers begin search for training camp hosts

London (IANS): 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games organisers have started searching for locations for competing nations to set up their training camps as part of the build-up to the event.

“We have frequently said that the whole region and even the whole country will benefit from Birmingham 2022 and pre-Games training camps are a really great example of how that’s possible,” Birmingham 2022 Chairman John Crabtree was quoted as saying by Inside the Games.A

“We are expecting 6,500 athletes and officials to come to Birmingham and the region to compete in the Games and many of those teams, especially from the larger Commonwealth nations, will be looking to arrive early, acclimatise and fine tune their preparations, before moving into the official Games time accommodation.”

The 2022 Commonwealth Games was originally scheduled to start on July 27 and end on August 7. However, in early June, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has announced a 24-hour change to the dates due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Games will now start on July 28 and end on August 8.

“In unprecedented circumstances, I am delighted that we have been able to work in partnership to ensure that the Commonwealth Games will take pride of place in what will be a fantastic summer of sport,” said CGF President Louise Martin.

“The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all areas of life, including the international sporting calendar, has been huge. In adversity, I have been proud to work closely alongside partner International Federations and governing bodies to help shape a spectacular six-week period of elite sport. It demonstrates the very best of sport working at the service of athletes.”